



Peterborough Climate Commitment
Protecting the future of Peterborough by acting responsibly now

Peterborough's Climate Commitment

Promoting Peterborough's response and action to urgently tackle climate change

Peterborough has pioneered environmental initiatives over many years, but time is quickly running short.

In July 2019, the city council declared a climate emergency. This is because it was clear the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage to our city, region and world, and we need to take urgent action.

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has brought this into sharp focus ahead of the United Nations climate talks (COP26) in November 2021. Human activity is changing the climate in unprecedented ways, with temperatures likely to rise by 1.5°C within the next 20 years, breaching the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

Only urgent and significant reductions in greenhouse gases will prevent further climate breakdown.

Peterborough has already set out ambitious plans to become a net-zero carbon city by 2030.

However, the warning from the IPCC is clear that collective action and leadership is needed to prevent further climate breakdown.

Peterborough's businesses and city leaders must come together to take action to achieve this.

By doing nothing, the city will continue to experience more extreme weather events, such as flooding, rising temperatures and water shortages.

Peterborough's Climate Commitment sets out the ambitions of leaders across all sectors in the city to take simple and clear actions within their own organisations to help achieve this ambition, act urgently to tackle climate change, and enhance our local environment.

The Climate Commitment will also lead, challenge, educate, celebrate, and unite the efforts being made across the city.



Key Commitments

Protecting the future of Peterborough by acting responsibly now

Our Vision

Organisations across the city and Greater Peterborough region to be united in our response to the urgent need to take action to tackle climate change, become a net-zero carbon city by 2030, and improve our environment.

We want to create a better place to live, work and play for us, our families and future generations – protecting the future of Peterborough by acting responsibly now.

Key Commitments

All supporters of the Peterborough Climate Commitment are committing to implementing a climate commitment plan so they:

1. Have a clear understanding of their environmental impact
2. Routinely monitor their processes to understand how they are reducing their environmental impact
3. Continuously take further action to become more sustainable and reduce their environmental impact

While we recognise the actions taken will need to be specific to the needs of each business or organisation, we would like to see a clear focus on three key areas:

1. Reducing emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions in the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire region are approximately 25% higher per person than the UK average.

We only have about 6 years remaining before we will have exhausted our 'allowed' share of emissions to 2050 to play our part in delivering the UK's critical net zero target.

Organisations can contribute to Net Zero targets by taking simple steps, such as:

- Developing travel plans that encourage sustainable travel and working practices (e.g. virtual meetings)
- Assessing the fabric of their buildings and taking action to improve their energy efficiency
- Moving to renewable energy sources and/or supply



Key Commitments

Protecting the future of Peterborough by acting responsibly now

2. Improving our natural environment

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have some very attractive landscapes and many special areas designated for their rich wildlife. Nature needs to be at the heart of our commitment – focusing on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.

We would like to see all organisations to help ‘double nature’ (the area of rich wildlife habitats and green-space) in their businesses, communities or wider region by 2050 by:

- Creating and maintaining diverse and wildlife friendly spaces for employees (e.g. urban gardens)
- Planting appropriate tree species on sites, in the community
- Choosing and supporting biodiversity-related volunteering opportunities or charitable support

3. Reducing the consumption of resources

Peterborough is ambitious and has pioneered environmental initiatives over many years. However, time is short and to meet Net Zero we must all act now. If we continue to use resources at the same rate, we will need three planets worth of resources to be sustainable.

Therefore, we would like to see all organisations reviewing and reducing their consumption of resources by:

- Adopting locally focused supply chains
- Eradicating single-use materials and waste from all areas of operation (e.g. reduce, reuse, recycle, recover)
- Rethinking and redesigning processes to reduce reliance on energy and resources
- Maximising the value of ‘waste’ at the end of its life (e.g. energy recovery)