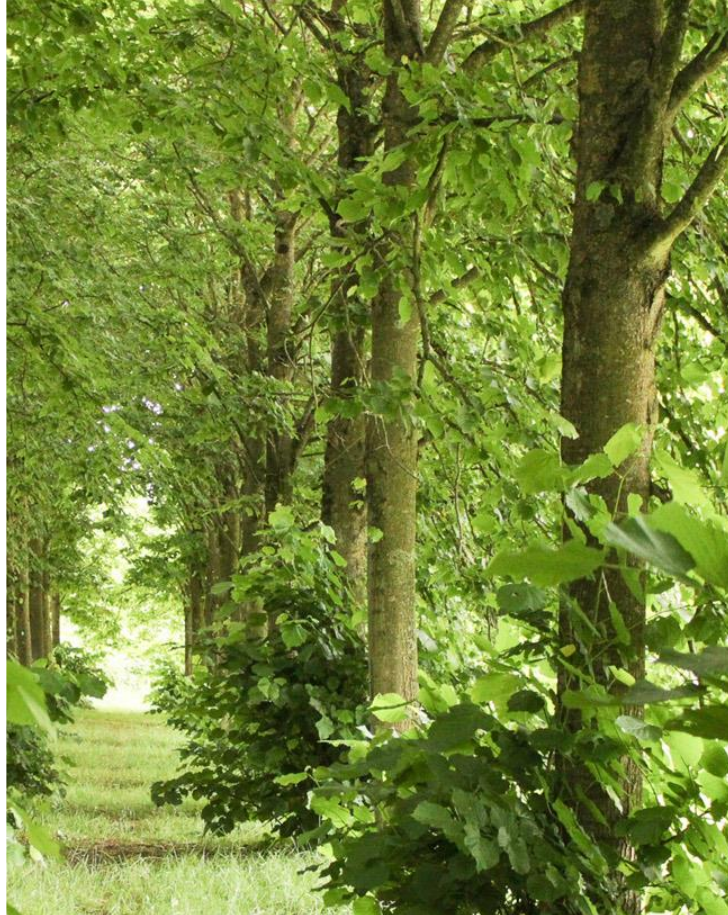


Emersons Green Local Climate & Nature Action Plan

2026-2030



Emersons Green Town Council
Climate and Nature Working Group



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Executive Summary

Emersons Green Town Council's Climate and Nature Action Plan sets out a coordinated, long-term approach to tackling the climate and ecological challenges facing the parish between 2026 and 2030.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are interconnected crises that are already affecting communities locally, through increased flood risk, habitat loss, declining species, and pressure on natural resources. While these challenges are global, meaningful action at the local level is essential and effective.

This plan builds on Emersons Green Town Council's strong track record of environmental action and community engagement. It combines practical, evidence-led projects with community participation, partnership working, and policy integration to deliver real environmental benefits.

The plan focuses on:

- Reducing the parish's carbon footprint and waste
- Protecting, restoring, and connecting habitats
- Strengthening biodiversity and ecological resilience
- Embedding climate and nature considerations into council decision-making
- Supporting residents, businesses and landowners to take action
- Protecting Green Belt and valuable open spaces

Delivery will be supported by strong partnerships with community groups, South Gloucestershire Council, environmental organisations, schools, businesses, and volunteers. Progress will be monitored through measurable indicators and reviewed regularly to ensure the plan remains responsive and effective.

By acting locally, Emersons Green Town Council aims to contribute meaningfully to regional and national climate and nature goals while supporting a healthier, more resilient parish for current and future generations.

Introduction

Emersons Green Town Council recognises the importance of responding proactively to environmental challenges that affect the quality, and sustainability of the local area.

Scientific evidence shows an ongoing decline in biodiversity, with ecosystems under increasing pressure from a range of factors including land-use change, pollution, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and the over-exploitation of natural resources. These pressures provide a clear rationale for coordinated and informed local action.

Town and parish councils are well placed to influence land management, support community-led initiatives, and encourage more sustainable practices. Local action can be shaped by local knowledge and delivered effectively through partnerships and community involvement.

By taking action locally, Emersons Green Town Council also contributes to wider environmental goals. Local initiatives can help support and influence regional, national and international efforts by demonstrating practical approaches, sharing learning, and building momentum for meaningful, long-term change.

This Local Climate and Nature Action Plan has been developed by the Climate and Nature Working Group, with support from local volunteers and guidance from South Gloucestershire Council's Local Nature Action Plan. It builds on existing work across the parish and provides a framework for continued action over the coming years.

Get involved

If you'd like to learn more or get involved in local climate and nature initiatives, please contact Paul Kearsley (Environmental Services Manager) on paul@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk.

Aims and Objectives

Emersons Green Town Council has developed this Local Climate and Nature Action Plan to guide action that protects and enhances the natural environment, supports biodiversity recovery, and contributes to a more resilient, lower-carbon community.

The **aims** of the plan are to:

- Respond positively to climate change and nature decline at a local level
- Embed environmental considerations into Town Council decision-making
- Support and enable community-led climate and nature action

The **objectives** of the plan are to:

1. Reduce carbon emissions and waste

Support and encourage actions that contribute to reducing local carbon emissions, including improved energy efficiency, more sustainable transport, waste reduction, and encouraged behaviour change.

2. Protect, restore and enhance habitats

Improve the condition, diversity, and resilience of local habitats through nature-friendly management, habitat creation, and restoration.

3. Increase ecological connectivity

Create and strengthen wildlife corridors and stepping stones across the parish to support species movement and ecosystem resilience.

4. Improve understanding of local biodiversity

Increase knowledge of species and habitats through mapping, monitoring, ecological surveys, and citizen science.

5. Engage and empower the community

Encourage residents, schools, businesses, and volunteers to take part in climate and nature initiatives through events, education, and hands-on action.

6. Strengthen partnerships and collaborative working

Work closely with landowners, community groups, statutory bodies, and environmental organisations to deliver shared outcomes.

7. Embed climate and nature into council operations and policy

Ensure environmental considerations are incorporated into Town Council decisions, policies, land management, and procurement.

8. Protect Green Belt and valuable open spaces

Actively safeguard Green Belt land and other important open spaces from inappropriate development and promote their role in climate resilience, biodiversity, and wellbeing.

Progress against these objectives will be reviewed regularly and reported through the Council's governance and monitoring processes.

Governance, Accountability and Review

Emersons Green Town Council retains overall ownership of this Local Climate and Nature Action Plan. Strategic oversight is provided by the **Open Spaces Committee**, which is responsible for monitoring delivery, approving projects and expenditure, and ensuring alignment with council priorities and policies. Final approval of the Action Plan and any significant amendments rests with **Full Council**.

The **Climate and Nature Working Group** acts as the principal advisory and delivery body for the Plan. The Group develops project proposals, coordinates delivery with partners and volunteers, monitors progress against agreed actions, and reports formally to the Open Spaces Committee in line with the agreed remit approved by the Town Council.

Operational delivery is supported by Town Council officers, led by the **Environmental Services Manager**, who coordinates day-to-day implementation, contractor management, partnerships, data collection, and funding applications. This officer-led approach ensures continuity despite changes in councillors or committee membership.

Routine actions are delivered under delegated authority where appropriate. Projects with financial, land management, or policy implications are presented to the Open Spaces Committee for approval, with significant changes escalated to Full Council to ensure transparency and accountability.

Progress is monitored using the indicators identified within each project. Annual progress reports will be presented to the Open Spaces Committee and shared publicly via the Council's website and communication channels to support transparency, grant reporting, and audit requirements.

This Action Plan covers the period **2026-2030**. A **mid-point review will take place in 2028**, with a full refresh completed by 2030, informed by monitoring data, community feedback, and updated ecological and carbon evidence.

Stakeholders

Community groups and clubs	Local schools/pre schools	Local faith groups	Local organisations & charities	Doctor surgeries/ dentists	Local businesses
Local police	Environment organisations	Neighbouring councils	Emersons Green Residents	South Glos Council Eco officers	Local landowners & farmers
Allotment holders	Housing developers	Local MPs	Council land management contractors	Town council officers	Site users

Stakeholder Communications Plan

STAKEHOLDER	ACTION	MESSAGE CONTENT	DELIVERY METHOD	TIMELINE
Residents	Regular updates on climate nature projects	Proposed projects, feedback requests, actions taken	Socia media, Newsletter, Emersons Green Voice, Council website, noticeboards, meetings, events.	Minimum monthly online updates
Community groups/committees e.g. Members of Community Nature Reserve	Involve and collaborate on projects	Update on projects that connect to their group, impact, involvement, collaboration potential.	Climate and nature Working group meetings. Community Nature Reserve email subscribers	Minimum monthly online updates
South Glos Council	Keep informed of action taken	Updates on nature projects	Contact nature@southglos.gov.uk	Every 6 months
Local businesses	Support businesses in making eco friendly changes	Suggest ideas and involvement in campaigns i.e. reducing single use plastic.	Email, leaflets in person or social media.	Annually/ project specific contact
Volunteers/potential volunteers	Keep informed of opportunities	Upcoming climate and nature projects	Email existing volunteers. Consider	As and when opportunities

		e.g. Litter champions	e-newsletter sign up. Information at stall events.	arise.
Local services & organizations	Keep informed of relevant projects	News on projects they can support, help with or inform on.	Email	Before new relevant projects begin
Local landowners & farmers	Support businesses in making eco friendly changes.	Seek information on current projects	Email	Annually/project specific contact

Engaging the Community in Climate and Nature Initiatives

Throughout the year, residents participate in a series of themed communications and activities centred around climate and nature-related projects. Wherever possible, these themes are aligned with national campaigns to amplify their impact and relevance.

The goal is to raise awareness, share knowledge, and inspire action on environmental issues, including sustainable lifestyle choices and individual contributions to climate solutions.

Other Councils and community groups are welcome to adopt or adapt the plan outlined below to support stronger shared messaging. Coordinated communication – where multiple groups share similar information at the same time- the greater the reach and impact.

Mapping Emersons Green

A map of Emersons Green's environmental and climate-related features is available via Google My Maps: [Emersons Green CNAP - Google My Maps](#)

This interactive tool helps visualise key natural assets and opportunities across the area, supporting efforts to enhance biodiversity, climate resilience, and community engagement.

Current Map Layers Include:

- Habitat map – Showing key natural areas and biodiversity zones
- Climate map – Highlighting climate-related risks and opportunities
- Parish Council owned/leased land – Identified as *high-impact zones* (green)
- South Gloucestershire Council owned land – Identified as *medium-impact zones* (orange)
- Opportunities for climate and nature – Areas where new projects or interventions could be implemented

Mapping Wishlist (not yet added to map):

- Trees with preservation orders
- All ponds/wetland zones
- Wildlife homes such as bird and bat boxes
- South Glos Council's Call for sites land
- Native hedgerows
- Hazards for wildlife
- Existing woodlands
- Public open spaces
- Highway verges
- Wildlife corridors
- New Tree planting locations
- Proposed new woodland areas
- Wildflower meadows
- Fauna tower locations
- Hedgehog and wildlife corridors, runs and fence holes

Emersons Green Town Council owned/leased land includes:

Buildings

Town Council Office

Common Land

Emersons Green Common (Including Green Lane)

Rodway Common

Blackhorse Road Common

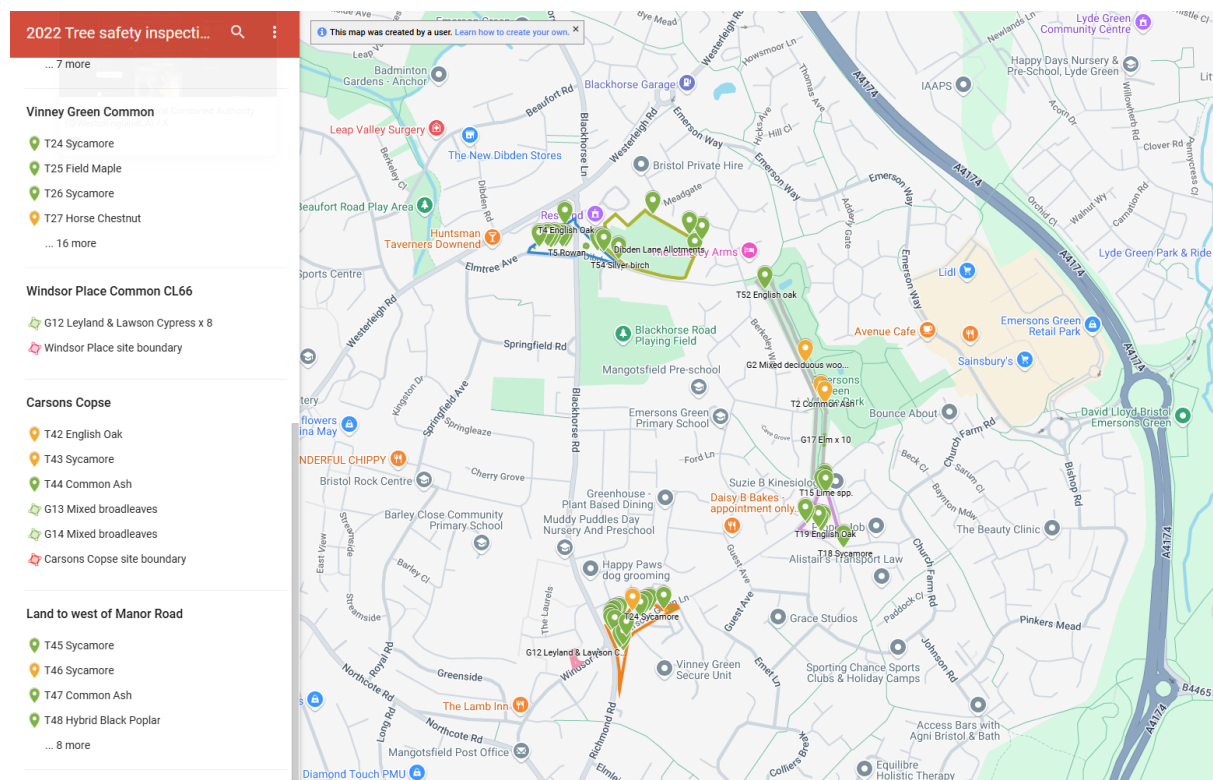
Carsons Copse

Vinney Green Common

Windsor Place Common

TREE SURVEY MAP

A tree survey map has also been created by Ian Monger (2022) as part of an inspection and risk assessment with Barton Hyett Arboricultural Consultants, using Google maps. [Click here](#)



Emersons Green Carbon Footprint

The Centre for Sustainable Energy's (CSE) *IMPACT* carbon footprint estimator (2024) provides an approximate assessment of the carbon emissions associated with Emersons Green. Both **territorial** and **consumption-based** carbon footprints have been calculated:

- **Territorial footprint:** Covers all emissions generated **within** the geographic boundary of Emersons Green.
- **Consumption-based footprint:** Includes all emissions resulting from the **lifestyle and consumption habits** of Emersons Green residents, regardless of where those emissions occur.

According to the latest data, Emersons Green has an estimated **territorial carbon footprint of 64,641 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e)**. The primary contributors to this footprint are:

- **Road transport**
- **Industrial activity**
- **Housing and energy use**

These sectors represent the key focus areas for local climate action and emissions reduction efforts.

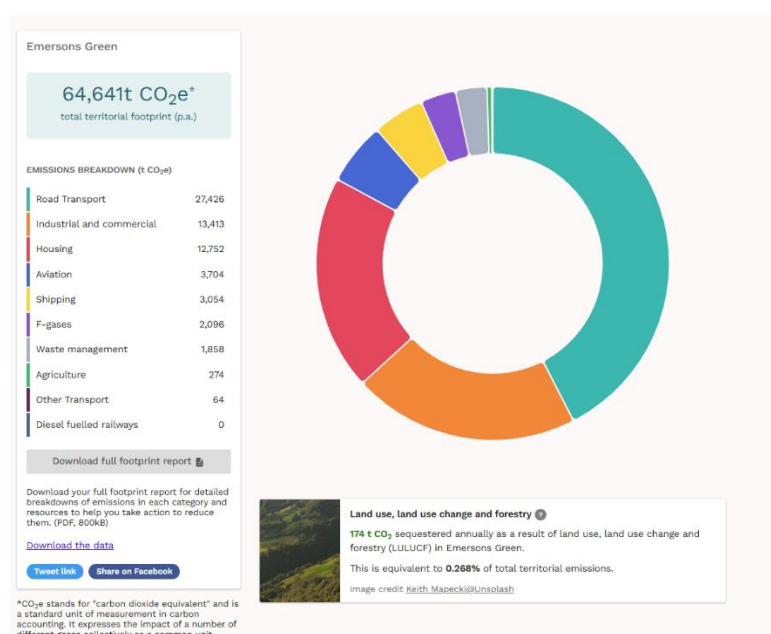


Figure 1: Estimate of total territorial footprint in Emersons Green. Estimation from Centre of Sustainable Energy's IMPACT carbon footprint tool (CSE, 2024)

Figure 4 presents the **consumption-based carbon footprint** for Emersons Green, estimated at **98,283 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e*)**. The largest contributors to this footprint are:

- **Consumption of goods**
- **Travel**
- **Food**

The Town Council is committed to working in partnership with **residents, community groups, local businesses, and other stakeholders** to drive down emissions and accelerate progress toward a lower-carbon future.

Because elevated carbon emissions contribute significantly to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, this action plan aims to:

- **Reduce the town’s long-term carbon footprint**
- **Mitigate the current impacts of CO₂ on nature and the environment**

This dual focus supports both climate action and the restoration of local ecosystems.

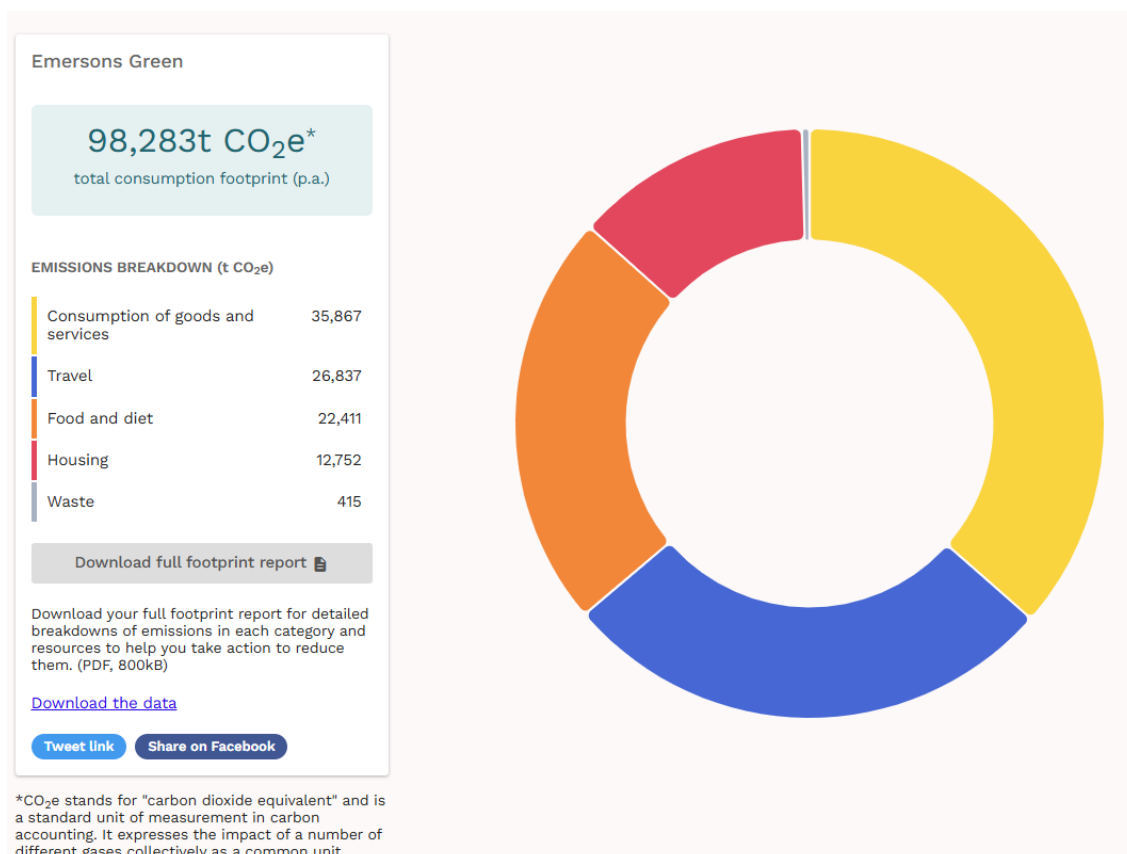


Figure 2: CSEs IMACT tool showing the total consumption footprint for Emersons Green as a town (CSE, 2024).

Current carbon-footprint figures provide a valuable high-level indication of where emissions arise, but they are based on modelled estimates derived from national datasets and assumptions about average behaviour.

While these figures help identify broad priorities, they cannot fully reflect local conditions or capture the impact of specific actions delivered through this Action Plan.

By improving how operational and environmental data is collected and linked across the town, it is the hope that the Council will be able to move towards progressively more accurate, locally grounded measurement of environmental impact. This includes tracking changes such as:

- Reduced waste-vehicle miles and associated emissions
- Changes in tree canopy cover and habitat extent
- Biodiversity net gain on council-managed land
- Environmental performance indicators linked to council operations

This shift from approximation toward measured outcomes is likely to allow the Council to better understand what is working, demonstrate progress with confidence, and strengthen its position when seeking external funding for climate and nature initiatives.

Ongoing Town Council Projects

Since declaring a Climate Emergency in 2021, Emersons Green Town Council has a very active Climate and Nature Group, comprised of Councillors and members of the public. The aims are to encourage appreciation of nature, increase biodiversity and reduce our impact on the environment. This is supported by Full Council and part of our Strategic Plan. We work through campaigns, events and a focus on building community to foster lasting change.

In 2024 the Council appointed a full time Environmental Services Manager to support the growing portfolio of climate related projects and to support the Open Spaces Committee, which manages all the green spaces.

In 2022 We launched our annual **photographic competition** to capture the beauty of the natural world in our Town Council Area. The winning twelve photos are then included in the Emersons Green Town Council Calendar. The Calendars are donated and then sold by local voluntary groups to raise funds.

The calendar raises awareness of the natural world, gives the Council the opportunity to include information about our current environmental initiatives and encourages creativity.

In 2023 we launched the **Emersons Green Community Nature Reserve**. It encourages people across the Town Council Area to register their gardens, to be cared for in a way that welcomes wildlife. As we approach the 3rd anniversary we have 262 gardens in the scheme. Members are invited to regular events and workshops and can share things happening in their gardens on our Facebook Group, **EGTC Community Nature Reserve**. South Gloucestershire Council have used this initiative to encourage other areas to set up CNRs.

In 2023 We launched **Open Gardens**, where once a year a number of the Community Nature Reserve members open their gardens to the public.

In 2024 We launched **Litter Champions**. People volunteer to litter pick in a specific area in their own time. The Council provide the litter picking equipment. We currently have 23 litter pickers, along with a number of Dof E volunteers.

In 2023 we revised our **Allotment Tenancy Agreement** to ban the use of pesticides and herbicides and to encourage nature friendly practices, including collecting water where possible.

In 2024 we reduced the number of **grass cuts** on the verges in the area from eight, to three per year, to encourage pollinators. We worked with SGC to plant 84,000 spring bulbs along Emersons Way.

In 2025 we had a community **Bulb Planting** session at Blackhorse Meadow. We hope to make this an annual event around the area. This year we also worked closely with ARAG <https://groups.arguk.org/arag> to improve habitat at Rodway Common.

In 2025 we launched our **Sustainable Fashion** initiative with a Sustainable Fashion Show. This has been followed up by two Clothes Swaps. At the last Clothes Swap we introduced a team of sewers to mend and alter peoples' clothes. We hope this is the beginning of our plans to open a Repair Café. Events include presentations to help people appreciate the damage done by

fast fashion, including how much water is consumed or polluted by the fashion industry.

Emersons Green Town Council is working with Wessex Water towards becoming a **Watermark Town**, supporting improved water efficiency, reduced surface water runoff, and healthier local water environments.

A community workshop held in March 2026 helped identify local priorities through a co-design approach. A programme of activities has since been approved in principle, with funding discussions ongoing.

Initial actions include installing water butts at council offices and developing online guidance to help residents access discounted water-saving measures. Further activity will be coordinated through the Climate and Nature Working Group.

We hold regular events including our **Spring and Autumn Gatherings** where we have plant and seed swaps and a whole host of stalls and contributors all around the theme of caring for the environment, building community and learning.

The Town Council has investigated the installation of solar panels on the office roof, installed motion-sensor lighting at the Westerleigh Road offices to reduce energy use, switched to a green energy tariff for all Council buildings, implemented paperless Council agendas to cut paper waste, and established full recycling systems with boxes and bins throughout the Council offices.

The Town Council has collaborated with the Friends of Emersons Green Park on activities including the Earthfest festival, workshops such as tree grafting and nature film screenings, partnered with local schools to support wildflower planting, bird box installations, and planter donations, and worked with the local McDonald's to organise community litter picks.

Future Project Planning:

Emersons Green Town Council is proud of its long-standing record of climate and nature initiatives. However, with growing environmental challenges and

opportunities, much more remains to be done. The Climate and Nature Working Group is therefore developing a forward-looking, **project plan** to address these needs and to deliver on the objectives of this Action Plan. An initial project list is included below, though it remains **non-exhaustive**, as additional opportunities are expected to arise. Projects will be **evaluated, costed, and discussed** in detail at future meetings of the Climate and Nature Committee and **impact assessed** to ensure environmental and social benefits outweigh any potential drawbacks.

Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
AIM: Reduce our local carbon footprint and promote waste reduction			
Live – Interactive mapping	Establish and maintain a live, interactive, map-based data platform to replace the existing static mapping approach.	Ongoing until 2030	Update automatically, removing reliance on manual edits and ensuring councillors, officers, and partners are working from a consistent and up-to-date evidence based system.
Fly-Tipping Reduction Initiative	Deliver a coordinated approach to reduce fly-tipping, including targeted signage in hotspot areas, improved reporting systems, physical deterrents where appropriate, community awareness campaigns, and partnership working with SGC	Ongoing until 2030	Track reported incidents, hotspot locations, response times, and community engagement levels.
Solar Energy Promotion	Install solar panels on council-owned buildings where feasible to lead by example, while promoting wider uptake across community and commercial buildings. Engage with property owners, including major landowners, to explore opportunities for renewable energy generation.	Ongoing until 2030	Track feasibility, installations on council buildings, and wider stakeholder engagement.
Become a Plastic Free Community	Partner with local businesses and groups to gain <i>Plastic Free Community</i> accreditation and reduce single-use plastics at events and venues.	Ongoing until 2030	Use the Plastic Free app to track local participation. Highlight participating businesses using Refill window stickers. Monitor engagement.
Sustainable food initiatives and community growing	Promote sustainable food practices by supporting local food growing and reducing food waste. Deliver initiatives such as community growing, produce sharing, and seasonal fruit	Ongoing until 2030	Track participation, uptake of initiatives, and community feedback

	and plant giveaway schemes to increase local food resilience and biodiversity. Hubbub community fridge . Harvest food festival event?		
Promote Composting	Education and advice: How to. Wormery. Dangers of plastic.	Ongoing until 2030	Invite feedback and promote composting best practices.
Encouraging 20mph Zones	Expanding 20mph zones reduces vehicle emissions, noise, and roadkill, improving air quality and protecting wildlife. Safer streets also encourage walking and cycling, supporting greener, healthier communities. Public awareness, smart signage, and data-led pilots ensure lasting environmental and safety benefits.	Ongoing until 2030	Monitor via speed sensors, air quality monitors, wildlife incident reports, and traffic counters. Track changes in accidents, public health, and walking/cycling rates. Use surveys to gather local feedback
AIM: Improve Water Management and Conservation			
Watermark Town initiative (including Water Butts Scheme)	Work towards becoming a Watermark Town in partnership with Wessex Water. Deliver a coordinated programme of water-saving and drainage initiatives, including a community water butts scheme, reducing runoff, and providing residents with guidance and access to discounted systems.	Ongoing until 2030	Track uptake of water butts and other measures, resident engagement, and delivery of agreed Watermark actions.
Sustainable Drainage Awareness Campaign (Rain Gardens & Permeable Surfaces)	Rain gardens absorb runoff, reducing waterlogging and boggy ground. Public education encourages permeable surfaces, improving drainage and reducing runoff from driveways. Community involvement and model sites help spread awareness and promote long-term flood resilience.	Ongoing until 2030	Monitor via soil moisture sensors, runoff tracking, flood incident logs, plant health checks, photo records, and resident feedback surveys. Track online engagement.
“Refill Emersons Green” Scheme	Launch a local refill initiative to reduce single-use plastics by encouraging residents and businesses to offer free water refills. (More info: refill.org.uk)	Ongoing until 2030	Promote via social media, website, and newsletter. Track number of refill points registered. Encourage public feedback through surveys.
Install Water Refill Station	Install a public water refill station to reduce plastic bottle waste.	Ongoing until 2030	Conduct regular cleaning (3–4 times/week). Monitor usage via

			feedback surveys. Promote availability through community channels.
Pond and stream habitat Restoration and Creation	Restore and create ponds for biodiversity. Create opportunities for community involvement, education, and habitat creation events.	Ongoing until 2030	Partner with local groups Monitor water quality, plant cover, biodiversity and wildlife activity over time.
AIM: Strengthen Climate Resilience and Adaptation			
Warm & Cool Community Spaces	Use community buildings to support vulnerable residents during extreme weather. Encourage businesses to register their building as a <u>Community Welcome Space</u> Can we lead by example at the Town Council offices?	Ongoing until 2030	Usage and feedback
Urban Cooling Through Green Infrastructure	Increase tree cover and green space to reduce urban heat.	Ongoing until 2030	Tree data and feedback
AIM: Increase connectivity through the creation of wildlife corridors and habitats			
Habitat Creation and Planting in Public Spaces	Deliver habitat improvements through planting native and drought-resistant species in key locations such as sports field edges, paths and verges, schools, community spaces, and residential areas. Include wildflower areas, trees, and wildlife-friendly planting to support biodiversity and connectivity.	Ongoing until 2030	Collaborate with local groups for planting events. Conduct 5-year impact surveys. Monitor biodiversity improvements and community feedback
Take ownership of developer residual land	Conduct a strategic review of all leftover or unadopted parcels of land following developments. These often face issues such as overgrowth, fly-tipping, or misuse. The review will map, assess, and prioritise these sites for ownership, adoption, or active stewardship by the Town Council in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council.	Ongoing until 2030	Map produced and reviewed annually. Monitor land status changes. Assess maintenance quality and impact on local environment.
Allow scrub to grow	Scrub provides critical habitat for insects, invertebrates, birds, and small mammals—especially during winter. Sallow also offers early nectar and pollen.	Ongoing until 2030	Ensure all maintenance partners are informed. Conduct ecological surveys before implementation and after 5 years.

Sow yellow rattle to manage dominant grasses	This helps to keep grasses in balance with the flowering plants and stops hogweed and grasses forming a 'choking' thatch.	Ongoing until 2030	Monitor yellow rattle establishment and effects on vegetation balance.
Reduce mowing of stream bank (Emersons Green Park)	The bank contains suppressed wildflowers due to frequent mowing. Less mowing would support native species like selfheal, wild carrot, and knapweed. (<i>Consult South Glos Council</i>)	Ongoing until 2030	Inform maintenance teams. Conduct 5-year comparative habitat surveys.
Leave 2m unmown buffer zones around hedgerows and mature trees	These buffer zones support invertebrate populations and protect tree roots.	Ongoing until 2030	Communicate with contractors. Compare ecological data after 5 years.
Cease all chemical usage	Pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides harm native flora and fauna. Avoid all spraying; use manual methods (e.g., shears) for visibility around signs.	Ongoing until 2030	Audit maintenance practices annually. Document vegetation recovery and wildlife activity.
Create log pile habitats	Piles of deadwood provide essential shelter and breeding areas for amphibians, beetles, fungi, and small mammals.	Ongoing until 2030	Build in suitable locations. Monitor biodiversity through wildlife surveys.
Use cut material to create hibernation mounds	Repurpose meadow cuttings into warm mounds for overwintering invertebrates and reptiles.	Ongoing until 2030	Inspect annually for signs of wildlife activity. Conduct 5-year comparison.
Construct large bug hotels	Use wooden pallets, tiles, bricks, and bamboo to create bug hotels supporting bees, moths, ladybirds, earwigs, and beetles.	Ongoing until 2030	Build with community volunteers and encourage collaborative opportunity with schools and youth groups. Monitor insect use with seasonal observations.
Install community-made bat boxes	Provide safe roosting sites for bats, supplementing natural or lost habitats.	Ongoing until 2030	Monitor usage and bat activity with periodic inspections or acoustic surveys.

Develop 'Fauna Tower'	Provides nesting and hibernation opportunities for a huge range of wildlife including owls, bats and birds. Construction already established so small footprint in re-purposing. How to build a wildlife tower - The Barn Owl Trust Funding Coalfields Regeneration Trust	Ongoing until 2030	Install a solar-powered wildlife camera. Share live feed with the community. Record wildlife sightings.
Collaborate with Avon Reptile and Amphibian Group (ARAG)	Support creation of reptile and amphibian habitats (e.g. Rodway Common). Work with ARAG to monitor and manage these areas.	Ongoing	Form patrol groups for long-term monitoring. Track species presence and habitat health.
Nature-Friendly Street Lighting	Use warmer-toned (<3000K), directional LED lights with full cut-off fixtures to minimize light spill. Dim or motion-activate lights during low-traffic hours to reduce disturbance. Collaborate with ecologists to protect sensitive areas, raise public awareness, and seek biodiversity grants for implementation, benefiting wildlife and energy efficiency.	Ongoing until 2030	Monitor light colour and intensity, wildlife activity, energy use, public feedback, and conduct regular audits to ensure lighting minimises ecological impact while maintaining safety and efficiency.

AIM: Facilitate stronger collaborative working with stakeholders

Engage landowners in rewilding and tree planting	Partner with local landowners and farmers to promote native tree planting, hedgerow restoration, and rewilding on underused land. Provide support via the Climate and Nature Working Group and Friends of Emersons Green Park. Encourage registration with the Community Nature Reserve.	Ongoing	Track number of landowners engaged. Record and map trees planted. Share results publicly to encourage wider participation.
Strengthen partnerships with schools, churches, charities and youth groups	Open opportunities for involvement in environmental projects such as tree planting, litter champions, and habitat restoration. Work collaboratively on planned events and offer resources or support as needed.	Ongoing	Log all partner organisations, nature of involvement, and number of joint projects. Review partnership effectiveness annually.
Support and collaborate with Friends Groups	Continue active support for Friends groups on nature-related projects. Regularly explore and co-develop new	Ongoing	Maintain regular communication. Invite representatives to relevant committee

	initiatives in line with the Climate and Nature Action Plan.		meetings. Record joint project outcomes.
Encourage greener practices in local businesses	Create and distribute a sustainability communications pack for businesses with simple actions to reduce environmental impact (e.g. plastic reduction, energy efficiency, green procurement).	Ongoing until 2030	Track feedback received. Monitor which businesses implement changes or sign up for sustainability initiatives.
Expand the volunteer network for climate and nature projects	Recruit local residents via social media, events, and the Community Nature Reserve to get involved in hands-on conservation, monitoring, and awareness activities.	Ongoing until 2030	Track volunteer sign-ups. Record participation in projects. Evaluate retention and engagement levels annually.
Engaging Businesses in the Plan	Build partnerships with local businesses, including large commercial sites, to support sustainability initiatives such as solar energy, habitat projects, and community environmental activities.	Ongoing until 2030	Monitor engagement and contributions.
Litter Group Network Coordination	Connect and support local litter picking groups to improve coordination, coverage, and community involvement across the parish.	Ongoing until 2030	Track group activity, volunteer participation, and coverage.
Litter Incentive Scheme	Develop partnerships with local businesses and youth groups to provide rewards and recognition for participation in litter reduction activities.	Ongoing until 2030	Monitor Participation levels and feedback
AIM: Understand the Current Species and Habitats Across the Town Council area.			
Arrange a BioBlitz event	BioBlitz Natural History Museum Host a community BioBlitz to record as many species as possible in a short time. Collaborate with experts or the Natural History Museum to add scientific input, including pond dipping, wildlife walks, and field surveys. Use identification guides and digital tools.	Ongoing until 2030	Track species recorded via iNaturalist and community submissions. Record participation numbers and share findings publicly A Community for Naturalists · iNaturalist
Run seasonal bird surveys	Organise community bird-watching events with support from local groups. Use best practices from the British Trust for Ornithology. Birds are an indicator of local habitat health. Recording birds BTO - British Trust for Ornithology	Ongoing	Upload observations to iNaturalist. Compare results between years to assess trends. Share with wider public. A Community for Naturalists · iNaturalist

Use and update ecological surveys and reports	Follow existing ecological reports to guide land use. Commission a new conservation survey to assess areas beyond Emersons Green Park.	Ongoing	Incorporate recommendations into the 5-year Action Plan refresh. Track completion of follow-up actions from surveys.
Install wildlife cameras for observation	Use motion-activated, weatherproof wildlife cameras to observe species activity in parks and green spaces. Explore solar-powered options.	Ongoing	Create live feed for community engagement. Collect footage and encourage residents to help identify species.
Promote citizen science for ongoing species monitoring	Encourage community involvement in species monitoring, including pond dipping, bird counts, bat walks and the Big Hedgehog Map. Integrate into events like the BioBlitz and through schools.	Ongoing	Track online campaign reach, social media interactions, and number of community members signed up to participate.
AIM: To increase community engagement and communication			
Nature Photography Competition	Continue the community competition with winning entries featured in the annual calendar. Encourages residents to engage with local nature and contribute creatively.	Ongoing	Track number of participants. Share selected images publicly to promote ongoing engagement.
Sustainable Fashion Show	A community-led fashion show to promote reuse, upcycling, and sustainable style. Inclusive of all ages and body types.	Ongoing	Monitor attendance and social media engagement. Collect feedback from participants and attendees.
Community Environmental Campaigns and Events	Support and promote national and local environmental campaigns, including <u>Great Big Green Week</u> , <u>World Refill Day</u> , and <u>Love Food Hate Waste</u> to raise awareness and encourage community action on issues such as food waste reduction, water conservation, and climate change. Work with local partners, schools, and businesses to deliver events and activities.	Ongoing until 2030	Track participation, activities delivered and online engagement. Link back to other initiatives such as litter reduction, refill schemes, sustainable food, and water-saving behaviours.
Seasonal BioBlitz Events	Invite the community to join BioBlitz events using the iNaturalist app to record local wildlife. Engage schools, Friends of Emersons Green Park, and youth groups.	Ongoing	Record participant numbers, species logged, and contributions to the ecological database. Share findings publicly.

Publish and Share Climate & Nature Action Plan	Make the Action Plan publicly available and invite feedback. Encourage community and stakeholder involvement in delivery.	Ongoing	Record feedback received. Note any offers to volunteer or collaborate. Review plan annually based on responses.
Highlight Wildlife Hazards	Share information via social media and Council platforms about common dangers to wildlife (e.g. pesticides, astro turf). Invite residents to report observations.	Ongoing	Monitor engagement on social media and messages received. Use reports to guide future content or interventions.
Install Interpretation Panels and Social Media Notices	Use panels and digital communications to explain why meadows and wild areas are managed in their current state.	Ongoing	Adjust messaging or locations based on community input.
AIM: Ensure Climate and Nature Issues Are Incorporated into the Parish Council Decision-Making Process			
Hold Public Climate & Nature Meetings	Schedule and host open meetings for stakeholders and residents to discuss climate and nature priorities. Invite suggestions and questions to encourage active participation.	Ongoing	Track attendance at each meeting. Review topics raised and feedback received. Use insights to inform future agendas and action planning.
Social Media Communications Plan	Deliver targeted posts based on the communications themes outlined in the Action Plan. Raise awareness, promote engagement, and share updates.	Ongoing	Monitor post reach, likes, shares, comments, and overall engagement. Adjust strategy based on performance data.
Newsletters	Summarise key achievements and share stories of successful climate and nature initiatives. Distribute through Emersons Green Voice, quarterly newsletters, and the Council website. Invite press to larger events.	Quarterly	Track distribution metrics and social media engagement. Record press coverage and media mentions where relevant.
AIM: To protect areas of Green Belt across the Parish			
Development Proposal Document	Collaborate with the Planning Committee to produce clear, consistent responses to development proposals. The goal is to support eco-friendly planning while actively opposing development that threatens green belt or valuable natural spaces.	Ongoing	Monitor all planning applications. Record responses and outcomes. Assess if green belt protections are being upheld. Update strategy as needed.
Local Green Space Designation Campaign	Investigate and apply for Local Green Space (LGS) status for qualifying areas. LGS designation provides protection similar to the Green Belt within local planning policy.	Ongoing	Track sites submitted for LGS designation. Record outcomes and local support. Publish an LGS

			map on the council website.
Community Mapping & Advocacy	Invite local residents to submit photos, ecological observations, and stories tied to green belt areas to build a public record of value. Use as evidence in development objections.	Ongoing	Monitor number of submissions. Use data in development proposal objections and public consultations. Share success stories online.

Funding

Emersons Green Town Council has allocated **£2,000** specifically for Climate and Nature projects during the 2026–2027 financial year. Additionally, the Climate and Nature Working Group has been granted a further **£2,000** to support events.

The Open Spaces Working Group manages a broader budget of **£65,800**, which covers various projects outlined in this plan, including allotment and tree maintenance, litter picking, and other environmental activities. For a detailed breakdown, please refer to the document: <https://tinyurl.com/Budget-2026-2027>

Furthermore, the Town Council holds a **Grants and Awards budget of £91,500**, which has been actively used by local community groups such as SOGS and FOEGP. These funds have supported environmental initiatives including Earthfest and promotional campaigns like “Save Our Green Spaces.” More information is available at: [Apply for a grant - Emersons Green Town Council](#)

Additional Funding Opportunities

We also have access to a variety of other local funding sources, which can be pursued to support projects within the parish:

- [Member awarded funding](#) (MAF)
- Community benefit funds from nearby developments, including solar farms and waste transfer stations
- [Community Infrastructure Levy](#) (CIL)

- Wessex Water – [Watermark Town Initiative](#) offer a maximum of £2,000 to deliver projects or provide practical support such as water butts.
 - S106 contributions (off-site open space contributions secured through the planning process)
 - Sponsorship opportunities from residents or businesses (e.g., “sponsor a tree,” “sponsor a pond,” or “sponsor a square metre of meadow”)
 - External grant providers such as [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)
 - Contributions or partnerships with developers active on nearby sites
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If you have suggestions, comments, or would like to get involved in any projects proposed in this plan, please contact:

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References

Supporting link for help writing this document [Local-Nature-Action-Plans-guidance-for-town-and-parish-councils.pdf](#)