

July 2020

Thank you for subscribing to our Carbon Neutral Cornwall newsletter. These unprecedented times have been incredibly difficult and troubling. Once again Cornwall's wonderful community spirit has excelled. We have seen wonderful kindness and ingenuity demonstrated in many wonderful initiatives that have been helping our most vulnerable residents through the pandemic. This marvellous community spirit seen right across Cornwall is also the key to how we can deal with climate change. Just as we have lived through the Covid-19 pandemic together, we can find ways to adapt and innovate together to find solutions to living and working low-carbon lives. As we all begin to head cautiously towards to a new post Covid-19 normal, we wanted to give you an update on what we have been doing during lock-down.

## Introducing the Carbon Neutral Cornwall Hive

**Carbon neutral**  
Cornwall 2030  
HIVE<sub>o</sub>



Providing information to help people understand climate change and inspire them to reduce their carbon footprint, is an important aspect of the Council's work to help Cornwall become carbon neutral. We understand that not everyone knows how to reduce their carbon footprint or how to scale up their ideas and projects to make a bigger difference. We appreciate that some people need support and encouragement. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to hold events during lock-down to help bring people together to help take their own ideas and projects forward. But we have developed the Carbon Neutral Cornwall Hive, a new online engagement platform.

The Carbon Neutral Cornwall (CNC) Hive aims to encourage 'hive mind' thinking with an ideas bank and an interactive map for listing low carbon initiatives and schemes.

It has information about funding to help get low carbon and environmental projects underway. And it has a blog post with articles from guest writers, which we hope will inspire people to try new ways of reducing carbon in the environment. We hope you will visit the site and take part in the online activities and discussions, which will link into the [Cornwall we want for future generations](#) discussion to help shape a safe and fairer for one and all. Let's inspire each to do our bit (or a bit more or loads more) and make a bigger buzz together.

[Read more](#) or **make a beeline to the Carbon Neutral Cornwall**

**Hive:** <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/carbon-neutral-cornwall>

## Striving to be a Carbon Neutral Council

Whilst some things have had to stop for the Covid-19 Pandemic, the climate change clock is still ticking. And our work towards becoming a Carbon Neutral Council has continued as well. The Council's Cabinet have been working remotely and meeting virtually during lockdown. At the [June Cabinet meeting](#) they considered a special report on the Council's emergency Covid-19 response. Cabinet agreed that climate change needed an 'equally targeted and immediate response' to make Cornwall carbon neutral by 2030. They agreed to speed up measures to tackle the climate emergency and prioritise environmental and social benefits for residents as part of the council's Coronavirus recovery plans. The Covid-19 pandemic kick-started some of those changes. With 12 of our 35 core buildings closed and over 4,000 of our staff working from home, we have seen:

- our collective commute as a Council reduce by 42,000 mile a day
- an energy saving of approximately 270 MWh (60 tonnes of carbon)
- a reduction from two million pages printed in March to 200,000 in April.

We will be building on these positives to meet our 2030 carbon neutral ambitions and to encourage and grow new behaviours to reduce Cornwall's carbon footprint. [Read more](#)

## UK100 and Countryside Climate Network



Cornwall has become the one hundredth member of the UK100 network, pledging to work towards 100 per cent clean energy for Cornwall. We have also become founder members of the new Countryside Climate Network. This will further

strengthen our voice in standing up for Cornwall. We have been meeting virtually with the network leaders. And we will be working closely with local authorities across the country, national government and policy experts on climate change to make the transition to clean energy in Cornwall a reality. [Read more](#)

## Council joins forces with sectors across Cornwall to fight climate change

We have launched a Partnership Group that will be exploring new ways across different sectors for Cornwall to address the climate emergency. The group will make recommendations for actions which will have the biggest impacts on Cornwall's ambitious targets. [Read more](#)

## Whole House Retrofit Project



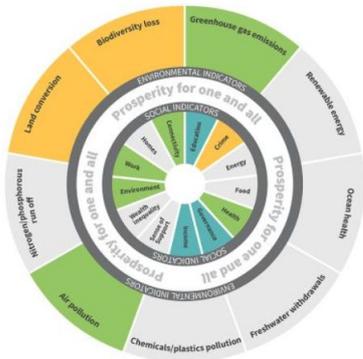
We are one of only three local authorities in the country to secure funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) Energy Innovation Programme for our Whole House Retrofit Innovation project. The £1.051 million government funding is being added to £2.28 million from the Council and £88,000 from SSE. Although we had to postpone work starting on the first homes in the Whole House Retrofit Project, installation work will be able to begin soon. The Carbon Neutral Cornwall team has been working with our partners to identify and put into place safe working methods and measures for the project team and householders to remain safe while the work takes place. So, our first householders will soon be able to benefit from warmer homes and lower energy bills, alongside reduced emissions. [Read more](#)

## Ventonteague smart grid wind turbine

The blades and turbine have been delivered and fitted to our new wind turbine at Ventonteague. This is a big step forward towards being able to generate enough renewable electricity to reduce Cornwall's greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2,800 tonnes over the next 20 years. The 2.3-megawatt turbine will generate enough electricity to power around 1,100 Cornish homes from September. The great

thing is that in being smart grid-connected it will help us to manage Cornwall's energy supply better. [Read more](#)

## Donut economics decision wheel



As well as being used for all Cabinet decisions since September, work to embed our [decision wheel](#) as an integral part of how our services work is progressing. We have been working with other authorities and areas, on how we have introduced the decision wheel, including Amsterdam that has now adopted a similar approach for their response to the economic challenges brought about by Covid-19. [Read more](#)

## CIL grants to help kickstart low carbon community projects

Since January developers have been charged a Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL, to reduce any potential adverse impacts on an area resulting from a development. So far, we have paid over £200,000 to local councils through the CIL. And now we have made a further £500,000 available to help our communities to get their low carbon projects off the ground and encourage greener and healthier lifestyles.

Community groups can apply, through a competitive application process, for grants between £20,000 and £100,000. Applications will be scored using our pioneering decision wheel and will need to enable lower carbon living and show a local need and community support for their project. The application form and guidance are available on the Council's website. [Read more](#)

## Climate Emergency DPD

We would like to thank everyone who shared their views on proposed new planning rules to help Cornwall tackle the climate emergency earlier this year. Like the Local Plan, the Climate Emergency DPD would become a statutory planning document supporting and strengthening the policies that have already been adopted to protect

the environment. The next stage of the public consultation will run from August 10 to September 25. [Read more](#)

## In our next newsletter

We hope to be able to let you know in our next newsletter about new Crowdfunder grants that we will be making available to support low carbon initiatives and projects in Cornwall. You can read about other grants and funds available on the [Carbon Neutral Cornwall Ideas Bank](#).

We hope you have found our update interesting. You can keep up to date with our news on our [Carbon Neutral Cornwall website news page](#).

Tereba nessa – until next time, kind regards

**Carbon Neutral Cornwall | Cornwall Council**



### More information

**Web:** [www.cornwall.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/climatechange)

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