

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

PURPOSE

Corpusty and Saxthorpe Village Hall is committed to following a plan of continuous improvement to achieve the best standards of environmental performance while serving the local community. As a community facility serving Corpusty and Saxthorpe villages, we recognise our responsibility to protect and preserve the environment for current and future generations.

PRINCIPLES

In recognition of this commitment, we will record and monitor our utilities usage, and any Scope 3 emissions where possible including waste, water figures, and visitor travel patterns. We will measure our emissions through annual carbon footprints and maintain an updated Carbon Reduction Action Plan that we will act upon to reduce our emissions on our journey to Net Zero.

(Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions from activities not directly controlled by our organisation but related to our operations, i.e. waste disposal and treatment; travel by users of the village hall; purchase of goods and services; water supply and treatment).

MONITORING

Our carbon footprint for 2023 has been calculated to be 2.1 tonnes of CO₂e from grid electricity consumption.

We aim to reduce our carbon footprint by at least 10% by our next Carbon Charter submission (February 2027), and we will continue to act to reduce our energy use and the associated emissions from our operations. (We will enlist the help of Groundwork East to calculate our carbon footprint).

ACTION PLAN

To achieve this reduction target, we are committed to:

Carbon Footprint Monitoring

- **Calculate carbon footprint annually** to track our progress against reduction targets
- **Continue monthly monitoring** of electricity usage through regular meter readings
- **Include petrol consumption** for grounds maintenance equipment in future carbon footprints
- **Aim for a minimum of 10% carbon reduction** every two years (5% per year)

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Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

- **Install solar panels** to generate renewable electricity onsite and reduce our reliance on grid electricity
- **Complete the transition to LED lighting** throughout all areas of the village hall, including any external lighting
- **Maintain efficient heating practices** by only using heating when the hall is occupied and switching off when ambient temperatures are reached
- **Investigate upgrading to air source heat pumps** to replace current heating systems
- **Evaluate thermal efficiency improvements** including any additional insulation or draught-proofing opportunities

Transport and Accessibility

- **Collect information on visitor and trustee travel patterns** to understand our transport-related emissions
- **Promote sustainable transport options** including walking and cycling for local community members
- **Investigate provision of cycle parking facilities** to encourage cycling to village hall events
- **Encourage car sharing** among trustees and regular hall users for events and meetings

Waste Management and Resource Efficiency

- **Monitor waste levels** by recording volume and types of waste generated from hall activities
- **Minimize waste generation** from all village hall activities and events
- **Continue recycling practices** with trustees taking recyclables home where onsite facilities are unavailable
- **Use the local bottle bank**, with proceeds supporting the village hall
- **Consider environmental factors** in future playground equipment purchases, prioritizing recycled plastic options
- **Use environmentally friendly or recyclable** packaging where possible.

Water Conservation

- **Monitor water usage** and include consumption data in future carbon footprints
- **Implement water-saving measures** where practical in kitchen and toilet facilities

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MONITORING AND REVIEW

We will closely monitor our consumption by taking regular meter readings and analysing energy, water, waste, and other relevant data to ensure effective resource management. This policy and our Carbon Reduction Action Plan will be reviewed and updated annually, or sooner if our activities change significantly.

Our commitment extends beyond compliance to active environmental stewardship, recognizing that as a community facility, we have the opportunity to demonstrate sustainable practices and inspire positive environmental action throughout our villages.

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

Signed: _____

Chair of Trustees

Date: _____

Policy Review Date: [Annual review - next due May 2026]