

**Ilkley Sustainability Plan**

# **Ilkley 2030 and Beyond**

*A proposal to create a just transition to a  
sustainable zero carbon community*

**October 2020**



**Ilkley Town Council**

## Foreword and endorsements

This document was commissioned in November 2018 by the Ilkley Neighbourhood Development Plan (INDP) working group of Ilkley Town Council. There are strict limits on the scope of neighbourhood plans and the group saw the need for a wider vision for the town based on tackling the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. Drafting was led by Climate Action Ilkley and Ilkley Clean River Campaign with contributions from Friends of Ilkley Moor, Wharfedale Naturalists and Wharfedale Tackles Plastic.

Ilkley Town Council declared a Climate Emergency on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 and resolved *'to do everything within the Town Council's power to make Ilkley carbon neutral by 2030, by reducing net carbon emissions year-on-year towards a target of zero carbon emissions from the town'* .

This Ilkley Sustainability Plan document has the support of many local groups and its aims and actions are ongoing. In order to become effective, the plan needs the continued support and engagement of the wider community. Many initiatives involving the community in critical activities to reduce carbon emissions are already underway.

A community meeting held on Saturday 26th September demonstrated both the support and need for a co-ordinated response to climate change.

Many of the proposed developments will require discussion, raised awareness, as well as the agreeing and monitoring of progress to achieve the common goals. Other objectives will require investment and working closely with local businesses.

The aim is to involve all Ilkley stakeholders (including residents, businesses, those who work and go to school here, and occasional visitors) to share aspirations, concerns and expectations, and to help everyone understand the issues involved in making the transition required. We plan to continue developing a consensus around what we need to do to make a just transition to a sustainable zero carbon future for our community.

Councillor Mark Stidworthy, Mayor of Ilkley.  
Councillor Ros Brown, Deputy Mayor.

October 2020

This document is endorsed by:

- Churches Together in Ilkley
- Climate Action Ilkley
- Fairtrade Ilkley
- Friends of Ilkley Moor
- Ilkley Clean River Campaign
- Wharfedale Naturalists
- Wharfedale Tackles Plastic

# Introduction

In recent years Ilkley has experienced both more frequent and extended spells of dry, hot weather, as we saw in the Ilkley Moor fires in 2019, and changing and more intense patterns of rainfall, such as we experienced in the 2015 Boxing Day floods. It is clear that our environment is changing. Fires in the Amazon, the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, and activism led by Greta Thunberg and Extinction Rebellion has helped put climate change at the forefront of the news agenda.

We know we must change and build a more sustainable future, in Ilkley, our region, across the UK, and globally (see appendix). The climate and biodiversity emergencies are the most urgent and pressing issues of our time and yet, for most of us, they provide little focus to our lives - either at work or in the personal choices we make.






However, acting on the climate crisis doesn't mean we have to compromise our quality of life. We can make changes that will help to build a happier, healthier, more secure, socially just and better-connected community. Making a just transition to a sustainable zero carbon community is not only vital for all of our futures, it is also likely to be good for our economy.






Politicians and businesses need to make a step change and we must lobby them to do so. However, the scale and urgency of the problem is such that we cannot wait for these bodies to act; we must take it upon ourselves both to reduce the impact of our community on the environment, and to make it more resilient to the changes ahead. In so doing, we can help put pressure on our politicians and businesses but also enable our community to take advantage of the opportunities offered by a low carbon economy.

This plan seeks to provide a route toward creating a sustainable future for Ilkley, a first step in working together to build a sustainable Ilkley, and to play our part in influencing change on a national and global scale. The proposals are shaped by the principles of 'One Planet Living', which provides a vision of the world where everyone, everywhere can live happy, healthy lives within the limits of our planet, leaving space for wildlife and wilderness, and not compromising the lives of future generations. One Planet Living is a tried and tested framework that has been adopted by local councils across the UK including Brighton, Oxfordshire and York.

## Summary of Key Points

The right hand column shows where the aims of the Ilkley Sustainability Plan find support from objectives within the Ilkley Neighbourhood Development Plan (INDP).

|   |                                 |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <p><i>One Planet Living, a vision of the world where everyone, everywhere can live happy, healthy lives within the limits of our planet, leaving space for wildlife and wilderness, and not compromising the lives of future generations.</i></p> |                                 |  | <p><i>INDP supporting policies</i></p> |
|    | <p>Health and Happiness</p>     | <p>We want people in Ilkley to live active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing. Actions include encouraging walking and cycling, community projects that promote social cohesion, better communal green spaces and community buildings for all, and initiatives to promote good mental health and resilience to shocks from the changes ahead.</p>  | <p>INDP Objectives 1 - 9</p>           |
|    | <p>Equity and Local Economy</p> | <p>We want to create a vibrant, resilient and circular economy, where goods and materials are reused, repurposed, repaired, and recycled, and where we promote fair international trade. Actions include engaging with businesses; support for local, small-scale enterprises; affordable and sustainable housing; promoting the sharing economy such as car shares; the introduction of the Living Wage throughout Ilkley; and a local currency to retain wealth locally.</p> | <p>INDP Objectives 1 and 8</p>         |
|    | <p>Culture and Community</p>    | <p>We aim for a culture of sustainability, community and a sense of place to foster a sense of community cohesion. Actions include conserving the natural heritage of the area; supporting organisations to develop sustainability strategies; embracing inclusivity; Ilkley as a desirable sustainable destination; community sharing initiatives; and building networks with other communities.</p>  | <p>INDP Objectives 3 and 9</p>         |
|    | <p>Land and Nature</p>          | <p>We want to conserve and enhance Ilkley's natural, managed and farmed environments to improve their capacity to absorb greenhouse gases, and to increase biodiversity. Actions include increasing carbon capture and restoring biodiversity; maintaining and replacing street trees; improving the river's water quality; and promoting an agro-ecological approach to farming.</p>  | <p>INDP Objectives 2 - 4</p>           |
|    | <p>Sustainable Water</p>        | <p>We want our water to be managed carefully to provide a reliable supply for human use without causing pollution or damage to freshwater ecosystems. Water flow needs to be controlled to protect homes and businesses from flooding.</p>   | <p>INDP Objective 4</p>                |

|   |                            |   |  |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|
|   |                            | Actions include reducing water demand; reducing flooding through natural and urban flood control measures; protecting water quality; and restoring freshwater ecosystems.   |  |
|    | Local and Sustainable Food | We want to support diets that are better for people's health, the health of the planet, and far less food wasted. Actions include schemes to redistribute, reuse, and recycle food; awareness-raising of the impact of food choices; support for Fairtrade and low environmental impact food; a community orchard; more allotments; and a food co-operative.  | INDP Objective 2<br><br>Policy INDP4                           |
|    | Travel and Transport       | We want to promote low carbon transportation and improve mobility for all while reducing the use of private cars. Actions include making it easier for those who are able to walk and cycle; 'Open Streets' events where streets are closed to cars; better public transport; disincentives for private cars; electric car- and cycle-sharing clubs; new developments to be near existing public transport; and work to improve air quality.  | INDP Objectives 2, 5, 6<br><br>Supporting Town Council Actions |
|  | Materials and Products     | We want to create a circular economy where products and materials are reused, repurposed, repaired, and recycled by design. Actions include supporting the sustainable manufacture and provision of products and services; community initiatives to promote reuse; reducing energy loss from existing properties; and lobby the Councils for higher building standards, including energy generation and electric vehicle charging.  | INDP Objectives 2, 3   |
|  | Zero Waste                 | We want to reduce waste and support reuse wherever possible. Actions include kerbside collections of food waste for anaerobic digestion; working with businesses to remove surplus food and packaging; the introduction of reuse/deposit schemes; and the reduction of plastic waste.   | INDP Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8                            |
|  | Zero Carbon Energy         | We want to reduce Ilkley's carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2030. Actions include setting carbon reduction targets; carbon footprinting for Ilkley; using LEDs for lighting; increased use of high efficiency appliances; switching to 100% renewable energy suppliers; installing insulation; examine the use of hydrogen; encourage behaviour change; cease investing in fossil fuels; renewable energy generation targets; and very high energy efficiency standards for new buildings. | INDP Objectives 1 - 9  |

# One Planet Living in Ilkley

---



## Health and Happiness

*Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.*

---

### Where we want to get to

We want Ilkley to be a community which makes it easy for residents, workers and visitors to keep healthy and active at all ages. Ilkley can be a place where residents feel part of a safe, inclusive, neighbourly and supportive community. The key determinants of health and happiness include diet, exercise, interpersonal relationships, meaningful work, involvement in community and civic life, a safe and clean environment, opportunities to interact with nature, equal access to services and goods, opportunities for spiritual and artistic practice, and a sense of shared values.

Public spaces should be safe by design, where neighbourliness is easy and natural, there is no danger from cars, where people can meet, children can play, and where greenery and nature are abundant. Pedestrian and cycle routes are prioritised as are community and civic spaces. There should be space for physical activity and easy access to those spaces. Community facilities and activities offer multiple benefits to physical and emotional health; for example, growing food can increase contentment, provide physical activity, as well as support a healthy diet. Happiness and well-being is supported through sport, spiritual practice, mindfulness, and yoga.

We need to recognise that radical changes to the environment and society brought about by climate change could have significant impacts on mental health. Much of this will depend on political and social responses to the challenges ahead but climate change is likely to result in losses and damage to property and the local landscape, impacts on wildlife, changes to social norms and practices, and increased mortality rates from heatwaves and other extreme weather events. These may all induce reactions of grief, anger, and stress. Enabling resilience in both physical and mental well-being is crucial in being able to withstand future upheavals, shocks, and rapid social change within a harmonious community.

The sustainability initiatives elsewhere in our plan such as reducing air pollution, and encouraging active transport, sustainable co-housing, community green spaces and open-street events also have the benefit of enabling active, sociable, and meaningful lives through good health and wellbeing.

---

## What we can do

- Promote more sustainable and energy efficient new homes and upgrade and insulate existing buildings. These help to reduce fuel poverty, as well as provide a healthier domestic environment through less humidity, ambient temperatures and better air quality.
  - Encourage active transportation options, such as walking and cycling.
  - Invest in community projects and schemes that promote social cohesion (e.g. through the sharing economy) and the maintenance and use of green spaces, which are shown to benefit mental and physical health.
  - Ensure ready access to shared community buildings for all such as health centres, toddlers/early years centres, and community centres.
  - Increase the use of outdoor space for exercise and activity by, for example, creating outdoor gyms.
  - Develop initiatives to promote good mental health and resilience to withstand the impacts and shocks resulting from significant social and environmental change, and to address anxiety and loneliness.
- 
- 



## Equity and Local Economy

*Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.*

---

## Where we want to get to

We want to create a vibrant, resilient and circular economy where a significant proportion of money is spent locally, where goods and materials are reused, repurposed, repaired, and recycled, and where we promote [fair international trade](#) without exploitation

We want to celebrate diversity and foster a sense of inclusion. Ilkley will recognise the needs of all people, including the elderly, young, those with disabilities, those who live alone, and those with families. The needs of low-income groups should be considered through the provision of affordable housing and employment opportunities in the green economy.

A key challenge for Ilkley is to foster local prosperity which is environmentally sustainable, socially just and incorporates principles such as safety, community cohesion and the inclusion of diverse groups. For example, children will only be encouraged to walk and cycle to school if this is considered a safe alternative to the car school run.

The challenge of social justice is to create an economy where opportunity and advantages are more evenly distributed amongst all, and the prosperity and opportunity of Ilkley residents does not come at the cost of the environment, or the health, opportunities and livelihoods of people elsewhere and in the future.

A circular economy is restorative and regenerative by design. It replaces our current ethos of 'take, make, throw away', with an emphasis instead on reuse, repurposing, repair and recycling through holistic design of materials, products, systems, and business models; restoration of our environment and use of renewable energy; and the removal of toxic and harmful substances as ingredients and by-products of manufacture and use. A circular economy aims to 'design out' waste through approaches such as leasing rather than buying goods, and products optimised for disassembling and reuse of component parts and materials.

---

### **What we can do**

- Engage with businesses through organisations such as the Ilkley BID (Business Improvement District).
  - Promote sustainable local prosperity, safety and equity alongside regional, national and global inter-generational justice.
  - Foster local, small-scale enterprises that focus on the sustainable manufacture and provision of products and services (such as in a circular economy approach) through start-up grants and sustainable enterprise competitions in local schools.
  - Promote energy use reduction, efficiency strategies and renewable energy for low-income households, council homes and rented properties (e.g. via subsidies or grants for landlords).
  - Specify quotas for affordable and sustainable housing through approaches such as co-housing (where private homes are clustered around shared spaces and amenities), self-build, and a community land trust.
  - Promote the sharing economy (e.g. car and tool sharing, co-housing), which also enhances social inclusion, cohesion, emotional well-being and affordability.
  - Support the introduction of the Living Wage throughout Ilkley.
  - Develop local community wealth building initiatives including local financial instruments to promote investment in local sustainability projects.
  - Encourage residents, businesses, councils and other organisations to cease investing in fossil fuels.
  - Investigate the potential of a local currency that retains wealth within Ilkley and surrounding areas.
  - Support and promote Ilkley as a [Fairtrade](#) town
-





## **Culture and Community**

*Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living.*

---

### **Where we want to get to**

We aim to nurture a culture of sustainability, community and a sense of place which builds on local cultural heritage to foster a sense of identity and connectedness. At the heart of achieving our sustainability objectives are empowered and knowledgeable communities.

A sense of belonging and community is not only a valued end in itself. Community cohesion can promote health and well-being, a sense of ownership and care for our local natural and built environment and enhance participation in building a shared vision for a healthy, safe, and sustainable Ilkley. Our challenge is to build a shared community and identity that is sustainable, embraced by all, and that is open to visitors and tourists. We will continue to promote pride in Ilkley's cultural assets and activities and strive for high levels of environmental sustainability at all community events.

All local plans and developments in Ilkley will include improvements to environmental sustainability and carbon reduction initiatives. Ilkley will develop a participative inclusive culture which positively engages with all sectors of the community.

### **What we can do**

- Empower the local community to promote a sense of belonging and an inclusive culture of sustainable living that seeks to conserve the natural heritage of the area.
- Encourage and support schools, community, leisure, religious, cultural and business organisations to develop their own One Planet Living strategies and have significant input and ownership of the Ilkley Sustainability Plan as it is implemented and develops.
- Embrace a commitment to inclusivity within development plans and community facilities, and so tackle all forms of discrimination, including those based on age, gender, sexual orientation, race and disability.
- Work with rail and bus companies, local businesses and tourist agencies to promote Ilkley as a sustainable low-carbon holiday and 'staycation' destination. Initiatives in other dimensions of this plan will contribute to this aim, such as the electric car club rental scheme that will offer low-carbon transport for visitors and increase the desirability of Ilkley as a destination by reducing congestion.
- Develop sustainability criteria to support decision-making by Ilkley Town Council.
- Encourage school and community groups to devise sustainability projects.

- Support the development of community sharing initiatives ranging from a 'Library of Things' to co-housing and community land trusts.
  - Build exchange and support networks with other communities beyond Ilkley both nationally and internationally.
- 
- 



## Land and Nature

*Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife*

---

### Where we want to get to

We want to conserve and enhance Ilkley's natural, managed and farmed environment, to improve its capacity to absorb greenhouse gases that cause climate change, and to increase biodiversity.

Ilkley and the surrounding area has superb environmental assets. Most celebrated of these is [Ilkley Moor](#), greatly loved and heavily used for recreation by residents and visitors. The River Wharfe is also hugely valued, as are the local woodlands, notably Middleton Woods with its outstanding annual display of bluebells. There are several other green corridors such as Mill Ghyll, Parish Ghyll, St Margaret's Woods (formerly The Riddings) and Wheatley Rakes which together with an abundance of trees and shrubs in private gardens help to link the town with the surrounding environment.

Natural assets must be conserved and farms need to produce food, but they could do even more, not only to enhance the beauty of the town but also to help reverse declines in biodiversity and mitigate climate change, for example by instigating practices that absorb carbon and lessen the release of other greenhouse gases.

### What we can do

- Protect and enhance the moor, woodlands and river habitats to restore biodiversity through appropriate management plans.
- Increase carbon capture and minimise emissions from the natural environment. For example, on [Ilkley Moor](#) restore degraded blanket bog to peat-forming sphagnum mosses that absorb carbon; favour cutting of heather and bracken rather than burning; allow increased numbers of trees where it will not conflict with other conservation priorities.
- Encourage wildlife gardening in private and public spaces including: (preferably native) species and varieties that provide accessible pollen and nectar for insects from spring to autumn; varied vegetation allowing some 'untidiness';

wildlife ponds, nest and hibernation sites for invertebrates, birds, mammals and other vertebrates.

- Discontinue any use of peat compost in public parks and gardens.
  - Maintain existing street trees and where they have to be removed replace them.
  - Retain the colour and impact of public flowerbeds and containers whilst seeking varieties that provide a pollen and nectar resource.
  - Remove invasive species where possible or contain them where not.
  - Raise understanding among residents and visitors of the importance of our natural environment and of the local, national and international impact of our choices including their benefits to human health. Examine measures to help reduce the impact on wildlife of domestic pets.
  - Promote the use of the moor, river and woodlands by young people for environmental education.
  - Promote an agro-ecological approach to farming, better understanding between farming and non-farming residents and incentivise the provision of public and educational access to farmland.
  - Expect our district Bradford MDC and Ilkley town councils to protect our environment in their planning decisions and resourcing of countryside and parks services. We also expect them to strongly support community environmental groups including [Friends of Ilkley Moor](#), [Wharfedale Naturalists](#), [Ilkley Clean River Campaign](#), [Ilkley in Bloom](#), [Friends of Ilkley Riverside Parks](#), [Wharfedale Tackles Plastic and Climate Action Ilkley](#).
- 



## **Sustainable Water**

*Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought.*

---

### **Where we want to get to**

Water needs to be managed carefully to provide a reliable supply for human use without causing pollution or damage to freshwater ecosystems. Water flow also needs to be controlled to protect homes and businesses from flooding. We need to take action so that we can reduce water consumption, protect water quality and restore freshwater ecosystems.

### **What we can do**

- Reduce demand for potable water in order to maintain groundwater levels, protect the River Wharfe from over exploitation and minimise the production of grey-water requiring treatment.

- Reduce flooding through slowing the flow of storm water from Ilkley Moor, from agricultural land, and from the built-up area of the town itself using natural flood control measures and sustainable urban drainage systems.
  - Protect water quality on agricultural land and in urban areas by raising awareness about the causes of water pollution, encouraging residents to reduce flows of surface water from impermeable surfaces using sustainable urban drainage systems.
  - Work with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water to improve the water quality of the river, particularly downstream from Ashlands Sewage Treatment Works to enhance freshwater life, and working with the Ilkley Clean River Campaign to make the River Wharfe fit for swimming.
  - Restore freshwater ecosystems to allow native wildlife to recover and flourish by improving habitats and controlling invasive species.
- 
- 



## **Local and Sustainable Food**

*Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein.*

---

### **Where we want to get to**

We want to support diets that are better for people's health and the health of the planet. We will support public, community and private organisations to have healthy, ethical and environmentally responsible food procurement policies and practices.

We want to see far less food wasted through schemes to reduce production or provision where appropriate; redistribution and reuse, for example through food banks or food waste cafes; and the recycling of what's left for other uses, for example composting and energy production.

We want to see more food consumed in Ilkley that is grown, produced and processed locally using methods that protect biodiversity and respect environmental limits. Where we import food, we would like to support producers and suppliers that promote good environmental and labour practices.

We want to see Ilkley with a vibrant food economy of thriving local businesses and restaurants, with locally sourced products, more plant-based options, and good quality local employment opportunities.

## What we can do

- Raise awareness of the impact of food choices on global climate, soil, water and biodiversity. Support retailers and restaurants in offering Fairtrade or other fairly-traded food with low environmental impact, especially plant-based food.
  - Create a community orchard to increase locally-grown fruit, nuts and seeds for use by the community, and to increase biodiversity.
  - Support the use of allotments for local food production including increasing the supply of allotments and creating community allotments.
  - Develop initiatives for preventing food waste, for example a community fridge, and cafes that offer food that would otherwise have been wasted.
  - Support the development of other opportunities for increasing the production of local food.
  - Survey Ilkley for areas suitable for food growing.
  - Promote diets that have a higher proportion of vegetables, fruit, pulses, nuts and whole grains, and a much lower proportion of meat and dairy compared to current diets.
  - Localise food waste collection and develop community composting schemes.
  - Support local food outlets and the development of the Real Food market.
  - Support a food co-operative to supply affordable fairly-traded and organic whole foods.
- 



## Travel and Transport

*Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport.*

---

## Where we want to get to

Transport is the most polluting sector in the UK and carbon emissions from transport make up a quarter of global emissions. Fossil-fuelled transportation is linked to deaths due to pollution, traffic accidents and increasingly sedentary lifestyles. Planning based on the availability and use of private vehicles creates inefficient use of land, which further locks-in the need for yet more vehicles.

We want to promote Ilkley's shift to low carbon transportation and improve mobility for all while reducing the use of private cars. Ilkley needs to shift towards lower-carbon transportation solutions to become a safer, healthier and more attractive place. In order of priority, we need to: reduce the need to travel, reduce flying, shift to active modes of transportation such as walking and cycling, improve and increase the use of

public transportation, and where private cars are the only viable option, promote the sharing and electrification of necessary vehicles.

This will require a joined-up land use and planning strategy that considers how travel is integrated with the planning of new housing and associated retail and other amenities, the location of schools, public transport, and the safety and availability of walking and cycling routes. It also requires considering the needs of very different demographics, including those whose health, age and/or disabilities means access to a private car is essential.

### **What we can do**

- Commission a mobility plan to develop a comprehensive strategy for moving to a low carbon and active mobility town.
  - Make it easier and more attractive for those who are able to walk and cycle rather than use their private vehicle for short journeys, by prioritising the accessibility and safety of pedestrians, those using mobility aids (dropped kerbs, pedestrian crossings, better night-time lighting), and cyclists.
  - Initiate a monthly 'Open Streets' event where streets are closed to cars.
  - Increase the sustainability (e.g. through electrification), regularity, reliability and affordability of public and community transport, particularly for the less active.
  - Create disincentives for private car use (excluding emergency vehicles and for disabled/elderly users) by limiting and charging for parking, creating 20 mph zones, and creating priority for public transport and active travel.
  - Convert the remaining essential vehicular traffic to be electric and shared: make electric car- and cycle-sharing clubs widely available, extend electric vehicle charging points.
  - Use planning legislation (e.g. section 106) to require new housing and business developments to be near existing public transport and to encourage sustainable travel by requiring investment in the above objectives.
  - Encourage local and sustainable tourism, voluntary, and charity work, rather than their international equivalents, recognising the high carbon emissions of air travel and the global justice implications of climate change.
  - Measure local air quality and raise awareness of the sources of air pollutants, both outdoor and indoor, and help residents and schools, local shops and companies understand, for example, that particulate matter is not simply a diesel or even a traffic issue, but has multiple sources that we must all work to reduce.
  - Work with Bradford MDC on initiatives for improved air quality, especially in relation to raising public awareness.
-



## Materials and Products

*Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption.*

---

### Where we want to get to

We want to create a circular economy where products and materials are reused, repurposed, repaired, and recycled. A circular economy is restorative and regenerative by design. It replaces our current ethos of 'take, make, throw away', with an emphasis instead on reuse, repurposing, repair and recycle through the holistic design of materials, products, systems, and business models; restoration of our environment and use of renewable energy; and the removal of toxic and harmful substances as ingredients and by-products of manufacture and use. A circular economy aims to 'design out' waste through approaches such as leasing rather than buying goods, and products optimised for disassembling and reuse of component parts and materials.

We want to create projects and businesses that support this circular economy and so accelerate reuse, repurposing, and repair in Ilkley. These will focus on the use of renewable or waste resources with low embodied energy and, wherever possible, goods which are sourced locally. This applies to both construction and consumer goods.

We want to adopt the sustainable construction and refurbishment of buildings using the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), an international scheme that provides independent certification of the assessment of the sustainability performance of buildings, communities and infrastructure projects. The highest BREEAM standard should be adopted and, in addition, zero carbon energy usage should be an integral aspect of all designs. Combinations of high thermal insulation, passive heating & cooling, low energy appliances and *in situ* renewable energy technologies will be utilised. We want more Zero Carbon Homes and a new programme to design and install high levels of insulation to existing housing.

### What we can do

- Foster local, small-scale enterprises that focus on the sustainable manufacture and provision of products and services (such as in a circular economy approach) through start-up grants and sustainable enterprise competitions in local schools.
- Develop community initiatives to promote reuse including a Library of Things and a Repair Cafe.
- Identify high carbon content goods and provide advice on switching to low carbon options.
- Establish a reuse depot within Ilkley. This will contribute to our circular economy.
- Support Bradford MDC to improve our waste recycling rates.



- Raise engagement and awareness, embedding the culture of the circular economy in the local community.
  - Work with residents and businesses to reduce energy loss from existing properties with support from local and national government.
  - Lobby the Town and District Councils to ensure that all new developments are considered against these standards, including incorporation of solar panels and electric vehicle charging.
- 
- 



## **Zero Waste**

*Reducing consumption, reusing and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution.*

---

### **Where we want to get to**

Reducing waste and supporting reuse wherever possible. We want to create a community which shares a vision of the efficient use of resources, reducing the need for 'stuff' in the first place, and, where it is necessary, eliminating or reducing the resulting waste. Where waste is created, we want to ensure that the materials and energy embedded in this waste are reused and/or recycled.

We want to move towards a circular economy in which waste does not exist—products are designed so that they can be disassembled and reused. We must also start to change the way we live by using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help reduce consumption. We need to accelerate re-use of goods in Ilkley and focus on the use of renewable or waste resources with low embodied energy and, wherever possible, goods which are sourced locally. It is also essential that we stop using single use plastics and recycle materials where reuse is not possible. We want kerbside collections of food waste so that this material can be used for composting or energy production.

### **What we can do**

- Work with Ilkley businesses, other organisations and their suppliers to publicise and adopt best practices to remove and/or reduce unsustainable products, e.g. surplus food, packaging, bottle reuse/deposit schemes.
- Develop a comprehensive plan to eliminate single use plastics and reduce and eventually eliminate plastic waste.
- Awareness and educational activities to help change behaviours and make this mainstream for residents and organisations.



- Encourage the awareness of, and adherence to, local recycling policies and facilities, and encourage these ideas at an early age by working with schools.
  - Work with Bradford MDC to promote an understanding in the community of the destinations of all our recycled materials.
  - Raise awareness in Ilkley of the scale and impact of current levels of food waste.
  - Promote better planning of food purchasing and understanding of food safety.
  - Work with local businesses, asking food retailers and restaurants / cafes to reduce waste, distribute to charities or dispose of sustainably avoiding landfill / incineration and consider the involvement of the Sustainable Restaurant Association locally.
  - Encourage the development of projects to prevent food waste.
  - Develop local food waste collection services for anaerobic digestion.
- 



## **Zero Carbon Energy**

*Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables.*

---

### **Where we want to get to**

We want to create a 'can do' approach to reduce Ilkley's carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from all sources to zero by 2030. This will provide additional local benefits including lower energy bills and improvements in air quality. Renewable energy technologies will feature strongly in this work. For houses and buildings these include solar panels for electricity, solar thermal for hot water and heating, ground and air source heat pumps for heating, and hydrogen and biomass boilers as alternatives to gas. Community projects will also generate electricity from wind and water. Work will be undertaken with schools and local universities for students to bring forward carbon saving ideas in competitions.

### **What we can do**

- Set time bound carbon reduction targets that are equal to or better than UK and agreed international binding targets, reassessed annually.
- Calculate a carbon footprint for Ilkley to measure progress, including residential, education, public, and commercial buildings. This will include direct emissions such as from gas boilers and company vehicles, and indirect emissions from buying electricity or heat from energy suppliers. The analysis will provide a base to set energy/CO<sub>2</sub> saving targets, develop programmes, bring forward proposals and measure progress.

- Reduce energy usage through sharing best practice, focusing on electricity, gas, and transport.
  - Use LEDs for lighting in buildings and streets.
  - Encourage the use of (where possible on a lease model rather than bought) low energy, high efficiency TVs, washing machines, fridges, freezers, and cookers.
  - Encourage switching to energy suppliers that offer 100% renewable electricity.
  - Install insulation: cavity, roof, solid wall, underfloor.
  - Encourage the more efficient use of central heating controls.
  - Reduce the baseline temperature in buildings, and make sure we're not heating buildings at night.
  - Hold regular events to share knowledge and identify new opportunities.
  - Look at the potential to change to the use of hydrogen rather than natural gas for heating homes.
  - Encourage behaviour change, perhaps through competitions, award schemes and pledges, such as 'switch off' campaigns.
  - Adopt renewable energy generation targets, e.g. solar PV, solar thermal, ground and air source heat pumps, hydrogen and biomass boilers. Community projects to generate electricity from wind and water.
  - Commission studies to examine resource potential and scope for installing renewable energy projects at residential, commercial, educational and community wide levels. Hold events and open days to showcase existing renewable energy systems and promote new projects.
  - Lobby and work with the Town and District Councils to ensure that all new buildings are considered against very high energy efficiency standards, such as Passivhaus. Specify quotas for affordable, sustainable housing.
-

## Appendix – The Case for Change

**Sustainable development** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and includes the restoration of natural ecosystems.

**Climate change** is the greatest challenge facing us if we are to live sustainably and realise the Vision for Ilkley stated in the Ilkley Neighbourhood Development Plan. The report of [the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) in October 2018](#) emphasised the need to act NOW to avert major impacts from Climate Change which will be felt locally and globally. A 50% reduction in carbon emissions is needed by 2030, with net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest, in order to avoid catastrophic outcomes. Such developments in the UK require drastic but achievable changes in the way in which we live, especially in the efficient use of renewable energy and of resources generally ([Committee on Climate Change](#)). These requirements must pervade both our planning and the way we live in Ilkley; we must start now. Research shows that such changes can lead to major economic benefits, and improved physical and mental health (e.g. through energy efficiency, reduced air pollution, improved diet and more exercise).

**Biodiversity loss.** The report [on Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES) in May 2019 stressed that the current use of nature by society is unsustainable and that transformative change is needed to reach biodiversity goals for 2030 and beyond. The challenge for national governments is daunting but at the local level such transformation is achievable through the adoption of sustainable approaches to agriculture, the protection of native species of plants and animals and through ecological restoration.