Selsey Community Forum
Mitigating Climate Change Policy

Responding to Climate Change

Climate change mitigation (or decarbonisation) is action to limit climate change. This action either reduces emissions of greenhouse gases or removes those gases from the atmosphere. The recent rise in global temperature is mostly due to emissions from burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. There are various ways that mitigation can reduce emissions. These are transitioning to sustainable energy sources, conserving energy, and increasing efficiency.

The Selsey Community Forum recognises the need to look at ways to help mitigate climate change, support the global effort to transition to a low-carbon economy and enhance the environmental sustainability. Climate change affects us all. It is not only an environmental issue; it also affects society and the economy, because it impacts on the poorer and more vulnerable people. It is a local issue, as it is in our own communities that we will experience climate change, but it is also where people and organisations can take action to address it.

How we live and work together in communities can have a huge impact in tackling climate change. Energy efficient buildings, low carbon public transport and encouraging cycling and walking are essential to cutting CO2 emissions. Greening towns with parks and gardens reduces CO2 and helps cool urban areas and reduce flooding. Thinking and acting at a local level helps communities fight climate change and build resilience to climate impacts. Producing goods and food locally can lower the cost of transportation, reduce waste and help local economies.

The health benefits from climate change mitigation are significant. Potential measures can not only mitigate future health impacts from climate change but also improve health directly. Climate change mitigation is interconnected with various health co-benefits, such as those from reduced air pollution. Mitigation policies can also promote healthier diets such as less red meat, more active lifestyles, and increased exposure to green spaces, access to which provides benefits to mental health as well.

Reducing our Carbon Footprint

In general, Selsey Community Forum will aim to address the carbon footprint of our operations by ensuring the buildings we use are as 'green' as possible and reducing our waste production through reuse, recycling and disposal initiatives. We will procure environmentally and socially responsible goods and services and use quality local suppliers and services where possible. **Appendix 1** lists pointers we will endeavour to adopt. We also recognise we have a wider role to encourage others to take climate action, through partnership working and in the support we provide to the community.

Our Ongoing Actions

The Hidden Garden - we support biodiversity through planting, organic gardening, composting and sharing produce in The Hidden Garden

Selsey Community Food Hub - we accommodate, support and work with the Community Food Hub to help reduce food going to waste

Selsey Greenway Cycle Route - we are at the forefront of seeking an off-road cycle route from Selsey to Chichester working with the Selsey Cycle Network

Community Lunches - we provide weekly lunches at some of our activities as well as the Community Christmas lunch

which not only helps combat loneliness, creates wellbeing and social interaction, but also helps to reduce carbon emissions and utilise home grown food

Ferry Farm Community Solar - we work with Ferry Farm Community Solar in helping to decide on the best use of surplus income from the solar farm to support local community projects with an energy, environmental, and education focus. We manage their small grants element and coordinate community projects supported by them

Selsey Buddy Support - we have a network of volunteers who can be contacted and utilised in the event of a community emergency

Charity Environmental Regulation and Responsibilities

The Charity Commission has statutory objectives both to promote the effective use of Charities' resources and to increase public trust and confidence in Charities. As part of their work to deliver these objectives, the Commission encourages Charities to take environmental responsibility and to carry out environmental activities, consistent with their purposes.

Under Charity law, all Charities are required to act within their objects. This means that all their assets must be used to further these objects, either directly or indirectly. Charity Trustees also have a general duty to preserve and manage the Charity's property in a way which furthers their Charitable purposes.

The official guidance is in Charity Commission RS17 (Charities And Environmental Responsibilities). There is also legislation governing waste and the environment: the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2013 and Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2012, the latter of which requires all buildings to have an Energy Performance Certificate whenever they are built, sold or rented out.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed periodically and may be amended to reflect changes in legislation, guidance, organisational requirements or best practice.

Version Control

Version Number	Date of Update	Amendments
1.0	October 2025	Policy reviewed
2.0	October 2026	Reviewed and updated in line with current guidance

Appendix 1

The waste hierarchy identifies ways to be more environmentally friendly:

1. **Eliminate -** Avoid producing waste in the first place
2. **Reduce -** Minimise the amount of waste you do produce
3. **Re-Use -** Use items as many times as possible
4. **Recycle -** Recycle what you can only after you have re-used it
5. **Dispose -** Dispose of what's left in a responsible way

Materials and Resources

1. Install recycling bins in the office and at events.
2. Order stationery, fundraising resources in bulk as it costs less and reduces transport costs.
3. Where practicable buy products manufactured from recycled waste.
4. Rather than printing leaflets and posters, create digital versions as this is not only more eco-friendly, but easier to share and cost less.
5. Unused or single copied paper be recycled as scrap paper.
6. For sensitive or confidential information, use a crosscut shredder, then recycle it.
7. Double sided printing and back-to-back photocopying be undertaken where practicable.
8. Don't automatically print e-mails and documents as retaining them on the hard drive reduces toner and paper usage
9. E-mail in preference to hard copy mail such as distribution of minutes of meetings. This not only avoids wasting resources but is cheaper and quicker.
10. Where possible use rechargeable batteries as this is both economical and is better for the environment.
11. Buy UK, ideally local, produced food (and other materials) and try to buy in-season foods – it's cheaper, healthier, reduces air miles and supports local businesses.
12. If you do need to use disposable plates/cutlery at an event, buy cardboard, not plastic.

Managing Waste

1. Every effort should be made to recycle waste, such as cardboard, glass, paper and plastics.
2. Mobile phone, and toner and cartridge recycling can generate some income.
3. Include energy efficiency in purchasing electronic equipment - you'll use less energy, when you use them, and less waste when you dispose of them.
4. Hazardous items, such as oils, chemicals, fluorescent tubes, batteries etc, and electrical items must be disposed of properly and not simply dumped in the bin.
5. Use battery recycling boxes available at local supermarkets and take electronics to appropriate waste sites.
6. Encourage the use of effective environmentally friendly cleaning products and other products such as e-cloths.

Energy Use

1. When reviewing utilities, consider purchasing renewable energy.
2. Ensure that staff are aware of the benefits of energy efficient systems including benefits to themselves in their own homes.
3. Energy efficient lighting should be used to replace any tungsten bulbs.
4. People should be encouraged to turn off lights, monitors and other equipment when not in use. Do not leave electrical appliances on stand-by. It's more environmentally friendly, saves money and helps reduce fire risk.
5. Where practicable, heating should be turned down or off in unoccupied rooms or areas, with heating reduced to 'frost protection' levels when unoccupied.
6. Ensure that doors and windows are not left open after work to save on heating costs and improve security.
7. Doors and windows should be draught proofed where practicable, loft spaces checked to ensure insulation is adequate, and pipes and hot water tanks lagged.

Water Use

1. Turn off or repair dripping taps, which can waste up to 10,000 litres of water a year.
2. Cut down on the amount of water in toilet cisterns by placing a water-filled bottle in there or a bag filled with stones.
3. In hot weather turning the tap on to gain access to colder water can be wasteful; a jug of water can be filled and placed in the fridge.

Emissions and Transport

1. Encourage drivers to not hard accelerate and brake, which wastes petrol.
2. Ensure that staff, where practicable, make use of the public transport system.
3. Encourage shared transport use by staff where it is practicable.
4. Source goods and services locally, where this is cost effective.
5. Coordinate meeting timings and locations to minimise travel.
6. Review the work of meetings to reduce committee sizes and frequency of meetings and use online facilities. It cuts travel and can save wasted work time.
7. Avoid automatic attendance at meetings on every occasion and, instead staff should only attend when an active role is required.