

Sustainability Guide



Contents

- Welcome 2
- Climate Change 3
- LHP's Ambitions 4
- What can you do? 5
- Our 10 Actions to Change 6
- Useful Resources 7
- Key Terms 11





Welcome!

Thank you so much for virtually picking up our Sustainability Guide! We hope that this booklet will act as a 'one-stop-shop' for everything you need to know about sustainability, climate change, net zero and everything else connected to these topics.

Here at LHP, we recognise that we are in the midst of a climate emergency and that urgent action is needed to secure a positive future for society. We also recognise that in order to ensure changes are fair and effective, we need to bring everyone on this journey with us, including our colleagues, customers and supply chain.

This booklet is one step we are taking to make our action on sustainability inclusive for all. A full list of key terms with definitions can be seen on page 11.

If you have any questions about the content of this guide, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email at info@lincolnshirehp.com

Climate Change



What is climate change?

Climate Change is the long-term shift in the Earth's average temperatures and weather conditions. The world is now 1.2 degrees warmer than it was in 1880. Which we know doesn't sound like a lot, but when it comes to climate every degree makes a huge difference. Average temperatures in the last ice age were only 6 degrees cooler than today!



What is causing climate change?

The climate has always changed throughout earth's history, but natural cycles cannot explain the rapid warming we have been experiencing over the past century. Scientists can now prove that humans are responsible for the warming we are experiencing, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas).

When fossil fuels are burnt for energy (to power our homes, transport and businesses) they release Greenhouse Gases, with the most common gas being Carbon Dioxide (CO₂). These gases trap energy in our atmosphere, acting like a blanket to keep earth warm. Since humans increased our use of fossil fuels in the industrial revolution (1880), levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have increased by 50%.

This excess carbon dioxide means that more energy is being trapped in our atmosphere, heating up the planet.

Some impacts of climate change

Globally:

- Rapid melting of icesheets, contributing to sea level rise.
- Extreme weather such as droughts, wildfires and hurricanes.
- Losses in wildlife. Animals are struggling to adapt to the increased temperatures and extreme weather events taking place across the world. Many scientists now believe that we are in the 6th mass extinction, with extinction levels now being quicker than those experienced when the dinosaurs went extinct.

Locally:

- In the UK, we are seeing milder and stormier winters, alongside hotter and drier summers.
- Flooding has increased due to rising sea levels and more frequent storms, putting regions such as Lincolnshire at much greater risk.
- Seasonal weather changes mean that farmers are struggling to grow food efficiently. For regions like ours, this creates a huge economic risk.
- It is estimated that 9 in 10 homes may be at risk of overheating by 2050.



What are we doing about it?

In 1995, governments came together for the first COP (Conference of the Parties). These annual climate change conferences bring global leaders together to encourage action on climate change. The most groundbreaking COP took place in Paris (COP15), where the Paris Agreement was agreed. The Paris Agreement binds countries to keeping warming below 1.5 degrees, and definitely no higher than 2 degrees (remember, earth has already warmed by 1.2 degrees since the industrial revolution).

In order to meet this 1.5-degree target, countries around the world are developing Net Zero Targets. The UK have the ambition to reach Net Zero emissions by 2050.

Net Zero

So, what does 'Net Zero' actually mean? Net Zero can be defined as when the amount of greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere are equal to those being removed from the atmosphere. For an organisation to be 'Net Zero', they must reduce emissions in line with the latest climate science, and balance remaining residual emissions through eligible carbon offsets.



LHP's ambitions

At LHP, we also have the ambition to be Net Zero by 2050.

As a social housing landlord with 12,000 properties, we have the responsibility to reduce our impact as much as possible.

We started calculating our carbon emissions back in 2019 and have made brilliant progress in improving this data and setting meaningful targets. The breakdown of our carbon emissions as a business looks like this:



(New Build, Homeworking, Waste, Supply Chain)

Some steps we have taken so far:

- Launched our Net Zero Roadmap, outlining the steps we need to take to reach our target.
- Started energy efficiency programmes on our customers' homes. Our Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Project is installing external wall insulation to cover 730 homes!
- We have started working with local charities and our supply chain to introduce biodiversity sites, ensuring that our green spaces are enjoyable places for customers and local wildlife.
- We have invested in an environmental data dashboard, allowing us to track emissions and improve our data.

What can you do?

So, now you know what climate change is, the causes and the impacts we are already seeing around the world, it often feels a bit daunting, as if nothing we as individuals do can make a difference. However, there are lots of things we can all do, big and small, that will make a huge difference to the global picture.

We have split these actions up into the following categories:



Your Voice



Energy



Waste



Green Spaces



Food



Money



Transport

Our 10 Actions for Change

Your Voice



Action 1: Keep Learning!

Reading this guide is an excellent first step towards this action! One of the best things we can all do as individuals is continue our learning around sustainability. The more we all know the greater chance we have of coming together and finding solutions.



Action 2: Speak Up

Use your voice to encourage positive change. Whether this be by using your vote for those who take climate action seriously, or raising a concern you have within your workplace. We need everyone's ideas to make progress.



Energy

Action 3: Reduce Energy Use at Home

Be conscious about your energy use at home. There are lots of small changes we can make to save energy and money, you can find a full list of these [here](#).



Action 4: Switch to a Renewable Energy Provider

We know this isn't so easy when energy prices are very unpredictable, but gaining advice from a green energy provider can help you make this switch. Make sure to ask if the provider can demonstrate REGO certificates (this proves that the energy being used in your home is coming from a renewable source).



Waste

Action 5: Buy Less and Buy Better

The best way to reduce waste is to avoid buying things you don't need in the first place. When you do need something, consider the following: Is this item going to last, could I buy this second hand, could I borrow this item from a family member?



It is also important to avoid single use plastic wherever possible. There are now over 170 trillion pieces of plastic in our oceans, we can all take action to stop this number getting any bigger.



Food

Action 6: Reduce Food Waste

We waste over 1/3 of all the food we produce. By creating meal plans and being conscious about the food we buy, each household could save up to £491 every year!



Action 7: Dispose of Food Waste Responsibly

If you do have some excess food, make sure that you are disposing it in line with your local authority's process. Alternatively, start a compost pile in your garden or community.



Action 8: Eat a Plant Based Diet

Reducing the amount of meat in our diet (even if this is for just one day per week) can make a huge difference. Meat, especially beef, has a very high carbon footprint, and can often contribute to declines in wildlife across the world due to the intensive farming processes involved.

Our 10 Actions for Change

Money

Action 9: Check the impact of your pension.

Thinktank 'Make My Money Matter' estimate that switching to a green pension is 21x more impactful than never flying, becoming vegan and switching to a renewable energy provider combined! You can learn more about how green your pension is here: [Oblivia Coalmine - Make My Money Matter](#). You can also check the impact of your bank and insurance providers.



Transport

Action 10: Learn to love public transport.

By using public transport, investing in a bike, or electrifying your car, you can help to reduce carbon emissions and tackle local air pollution.



Actions in Order of Impact

1. Check the impact of your pension.
2. Reduce food waste.
3. Eat a plant-based diet.
4. Dispose of food waste responsibly.
5. Speak up.
6. Buy less and buy better.
7. Learn to love public transport.
8. Keep learning!
9. Reduce energy use at home.
10. Switch to a renewable energy provider.



Useful resources

Books



There is No Planet B

Mike Berners-Lee



The Climate Book

Greta Thunberg



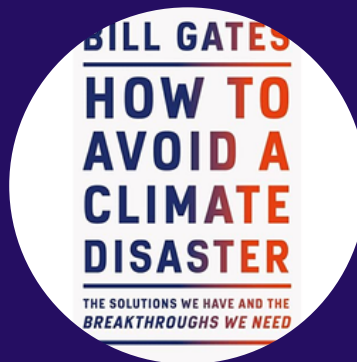
How Bad are Bananas

Mike Berners-Lee



Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming

Paul Hawken



How to Avoid Climate Disaster

Bill Gates

Podcasts

→ Sustainable-ish

→ Sky News Daily Climate Show

→ Local Zero

→ SHRA Podcast

→ Greening the News with IEMA

→ The Climate Daily

→ The Climate Question

→ For What It's Earth

Useful resources

Documentaries



Climate Change: The Facts
BBC



Breaking Boundaries
Netflix



Chasing Coral
Netflix



Don't Look Up
Netflix



The People v Climate Change
BBC



Simon Clark



Climate Adam

Youtube

Useful resources

Newsletters

- Carbon Brief
- Daily Climate Show
- Climate NASA
- Business Green

Apps



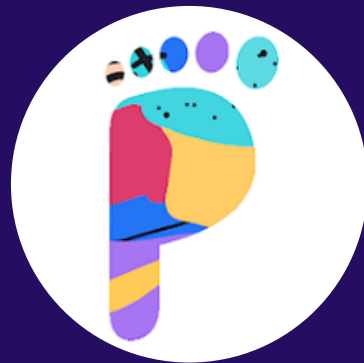
Waterbear

100's of free videos exploring different themes of climate change, sustainability, wildlife and others.



Forest

Helps you stay focussed whilst planting trees



My Little Plastic Footprint

Reduce the amount of plastic you use and find alternatives



Giki

Calculate, track, and reduce your carbon footprint



Too Good to Go

Local businesses advertise cheap food at the end of the day, you can often get a roast dinner for less than £3!



The Tree App

Lets you plant one tree every day for free, it takes less than 1 minute

Key Terms



Net Zero

The amount of greenhouse gasses entering the atmosphere are equal to those being removed from the atmosphere. For an organisation to be 'Net Zero', they must reduce emissions in line with the latest climate science, and balance remaining residual emissions through eligible carbon offsets. (Must cover Scope 1, 2 and 3).



Carbon Neutral

The amount of greenhouse gasses entering the atmosphere are balanced by Carbon Offsets. For an organisation to be 'Carbon Neutral', no level of ambition is necessary. (Must cover Scope 1 & 2).



Climate Change

Long term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. The United Nations say that it is now clear that 21st Century Climate Change is caused by humans, primarily through the burning of fossil fuels



Fossil Fuels

Natural fuels that form in the geological past, made from decomposing plants and animals over millions of years (for example coal and gas).



Carbon Offsetting

The purchase of 'rights' or certificates linked to activities that lower the amount of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere. The idea that carbon emissions generated through an activity can be paid off through a scheme that removes carbon. Examples include tree planting and building renewable energy



Scope 1, 2 and 3 Emissions

Scopes are a way of categorising the different emissions a company creates.

Scope 1: Direct emissions from owned or controlled sources (Fuel for boilers, company vehicles).

Scope 2: Indirect emissions from the purchase of electricity (Purchased electricity, heat, and steam).

Scope 3: All other indirect emissions that are not produced from the company itself (energy used in our customers' homes, business travel, supply chain emissions).



Carbon Dioxide Equivalents

A measuring unit used to compare numerous Greenhouse Gasses based on their Global Warming Potential (GWP). This allows us to express a Carbon Baseline with multiple different Greenhouse Gasses as a single number.



Greenhouse Gasses

Any gas that has the property of absorbing infrared radiation, the main ones are:

- Water vapor
- Carbon dioxide
- Methane
- Ozone
- Nitrous oxide
- Chlorofluorocarbons

Key Terms



Paris Agreement

A legally binding international treaty founded in 2015. It's goal is to keep emissions to well below 2 degrees, preferably to 1 degrees Celsius.



COP

Conference Of the Parties. An annual global climate change summit attending by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



Biodiversity

The variety of plant and animal life in the world or a particular place.



Circular Economy

An all-encompassing view of life and business where everything as value, and nothing is wasted.



Greenwashing

Form of disinformation spread by companies to make it look like their practices are more environmentally friendly than they actually are.



Science Based Target

A carbon emissions target that is in line with the scale of reduction required to keep global temperature increase below 2 degrees above industrial levels (as decided within the Paris Agreement).



Residual Emissions

The emissions that remain after an organisation has done everything feasible to try and reduce them.



The background features a stylized illustration in shades of blue and purple. At the bottom, two hands are shown holding a small globe. On the globe, there are two small plants. Behind the globe, there are several elements representing sustainable energy: a wind turbine, a solar panel array, and a large circular structure with a ladder, possibly representing a water treatment or storage tank. The overall theme is environmental sustainability and green energy.

LHP

Lincolnshire
Housing
Partnership