

Appendix One: Further Background Information

1 International and National context

1.1 United Nations

Secretary-General António Guterres on December 12 2020 delivered a speech at the United Nations Climate Ambition Summit 2020 taking place virtually with world leaders invited to make pre-recorded statements outlining their new and ambitious commitments.

World leaders should declare a "[climate emergency](#)" in their countries to spur action to avoid catastrophic global warming, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in opening remarks at a climate summit on Saturday. On the fifth anniversary of the [2015 Paris Agreement](#), more than 70 world leaders are due to address the one-day virtual meeting in the hope of galvanizing countries into stricter actions on global warming emissions.

Guterres said that current commitments across the globe did not go "far from enough" to limit temperature rises. "Can anybody still deny that we are facing a dramatic emergency?" Guterres said. "That is why today, I call on all leaders worldwide to declare a State of Climate Emergency in their countries until carbon neutrality is reached."

"So far, the members of the G20 are spending 50% more in their stimulus and rescue packages on sectors linked to fossil fuel production and consumption, than on low-carbon energy," Guterres said. "This is unacceptable. The trillions of dollars needed for COVID recovery is money that we are borrowing from future generations," he said. "We cannot use these resources to lock in policies that burden future generations with a mountain of debt on a broken planet," he added.

China and India vowed to advance their commitment to lower carbon pollution at the summit. President Xi Jinping was one of the first leaders to address the virtual conference and he said China will boost its installed capacity of wind and solar power to more than 1,200 gigawatts over the next decade. Xi also said China will increase its share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25% during the same period.

1.2 European Union

European Union leaders meeting in Brussels on 10 December 2020 agreed to make the currently 27-member bloc carbon neutral by 2050. This equates to a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next decade by 55% in order to be able to achieve zero carbon by 2050.

The European Green Deal includes:

- A €100bn Just Transition Mechanism to help countries still heavily dependent on fossil fuels and "carbon-intensive processes" to move to renewable energy sources
- Proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 50% of 1990 levels or even lower by 2030 - instead of the current target of a 40% cut

- A law that would set the EU "on to an irreversible path to climate neutrality" by 2050
- A plan to promote a more circular economy - a system designed to eliminate waste - that would address more sustainable products as well as a "farm to fork" strategy to improve the sustainability of food production and distribution

2 Community Green Grants: Successful Projects

1. Community Garden and Bike Project, Apex

Project overview: "Community Garden / Get on your bike" is a two-stage project to help Active Dacorum Hub become a 'greener' venue and for Apex and its partner organisations to reduce their carbon footprint.

Stage 1 will be to create a 'Community Garden' outside the Active Dacorum Hub – originally starting with two planters but hopefully growing over time. This would provide an opportunity for the surrounding community to grow local food.

Stage 2 involves installing a shipping container by the Hub which would be multipurpose – it would provide a secure storage space for visitor's bikes as well as community bike hire, an area to host a bike repair scheme, and an area to store community garden equipment.

The shipping container would be stored next to an existing shipping container and modified so that it can harvest rainwater, have a grass roof, living walls and big hotels. Lessons learned from this could then be supplied to the existing shipping containers.

As part of the condition of funding, we proposed that Apex also offer bike confidence classes, which they have agreed to.

2. Mixed Meadow Grazing Project, Sunnyside Rural Trust

Project overview: A 1.5-acre plot of land that will be converted into an area of high biodiversity value through a variety of conservation management techniques – such as grazing and using scythes. Community partnerships with various local groups and schools would be carried out, along with regular volunteer surveying.

3. Allotment wilding project, Chaulden Allotments

Project overview: Working with Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, this group plan to support plot-holders through a variety of educational methods in order to help them learn more about eco-friendly gardening, how to improve the biodiversity of their plots, encourage crop-sharing and improve plot-holders overall gardening knowledge.

The group are keen on establishing a blue-print that can be rolled out to other local allotment groups. The work will involve educational resources and interactive sessions.

4. Community Fridge, Viking Fitness

Project overview: The Community Fridge project will involve a team of

volunteers regularly collecting food from local supermarkets and other food businesses that is still good to eat but would otherwise be thrown away. This food is then brought to a central location and be made available for anyone who wants it.

Food waste is a high source of carbon emissions and so this has a high environmental benefit, as well a strong community-focused one also.

5. Planters and local active travel engagement, Boho Boxmoor

Project overview: There are two elements to this project...

- To install two planters on Boxmoor high street which will provide an opportunity for communal gardening initiatives, as well as improve the aesthetics of the area.
- To have QR code signage in these planters, as well as throughout the local area which will direct towards the community group's website and encourage people to discover a variety of local walks. These routes will be updated regularly in order to tie in with seasonal activities. The aim is to encourage the Boxmoor community to explore the local environment through active travel and learn about its ecology.

6. Wildflower verge, Northchurch Parish Council (NPC)

Project overview: To convert the 700m roadside verge that runs between Dudswell and Cow Roast into a wildflower verge and associated management related to this. This area is maintained by NPC and the project would be in partnership with Sunnyside Rural Trust and involve a number of local volunteers.

7. '56 Club' - Gardening Club, Wigginton Parish Council

Project overview: The goal of the project is to encourage 56 households in Wigginton (10% of the areas population) to sign up to the gardening club. Seeds would be provided to each family that signs up, and information and resources would be shared also. Project plans include educational talks, a seed swap, a produce exchange stand and use of a spare allotment plot for those with no growing space at home.

3 Corporate Progress

3.1 Sustainability Officer

Approval has been provided for the recruitment of a Sustainability Officer who will report to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme Lead Officer. The new role will provide support for the delivery all future CEE projects and work-streams.

3.2 Staff Update Session

In November, during a virtual staff update session, a presentation was delivered to give all staff members an overview of the Climate and Ecological Emergency work stream. It is envisioned that this update will happen several times a year to increase staff engagement with the work being carried out.

3.3 Carbon Literacy Training (CLT)

Local authority specific Carbon Literacy Training sessions were offered to the Corporate Officers Group, all members of the CEE sub-groups and any other members of staff put forward by COG. This training was to ensure that our key decision makers are sufficiently equipped with an understanding around the causes and impacts of climate change, as well as solutions from a local authority perspective.

The Carbon Literacy Project was recognised by the UN at COP21, in Paris, where it was awarded as a TAP100, one of 100 worldwide Transformative Action Programs. The training is a certificated 8 hour all-day course split into four units. It was delivered via APSE virtually using Teams.

Unit 1 - The science behind climate change

Unit 2 - Global Climate Change Impacts: Understand policies globally, nationally and locally: the scientific consensus; the role of Local Councils; the policy position.

Unit 3 - Climate Change Action

Unit 4 - Influence from the frontline

In December, over 40 members of staff took on the training, including Dacorum's new CEO. Claire is the first CEO from a local borough council to have received this training. Due to high demand a third date has also been added for April which will bring us up to over 60 staff members trained. As a substantial percentage of the workforce will have been trained, this means we can explore getting the accreditation of a 'carbon literate organisation'.

The Carbon Literacy Project are currently developing a Councillor tailored version of this training and once this is developed we will work with APSE to offer these sessions to Members.