

Charmouth Parish Council

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ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY POLICY

1. Introduction

Charmouth Parish Council recognises its responsibility to protect and enhance the local environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support biodiversity and build resilience to climate change. This policy provides the framework through which environmental considerations will be embedded within Council activities and decision-making.

2. Vision

Our vision is for Charmouth to continue to be a clean, resilient, sustainable and nature-rich parish, protecting its unique Jurassic Coast setting, River Char catchment, landscapes, heritage and biodiversity for future generations.

3. Policy objectives

- 3.1 Reduce the environmental impact of Council operations.
- 3.2 Support national and local net-zero ambitions.
- 3.3 Protect and enhance biodiversity and natural habitats.
- 3.4 Promote sustainable transport and active travel.
- 3.5 Reduce waste and encourage circular economy principles.
- 3.6 Increase environmental awareness and community participation.
- 3.7 Consider environmental implications in all significant Council decisions.

4. Climate change and carbon reduction

The Council will seek to reduce Scope 1, Scope 2 and relevant Scope 3 emissions arising from its operations, procurement, buildings, transport and contracted services.

- Scope 1 which covers all direct emissions physically released by a company's owned or controlled sources. In the case of the Parish Council this will include emissions produced by maintenance equipment and vehicles and all office equipment, building facilities such as heating/cooling systems, office equipment, lighting and refrigeration systems.
- Scope 2 which covers all the indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the generation of purchased or acquired energy. This will be supplier dependent.
- Scope 3 covers all other indirect emissions usually representing 70–80% of total emissions. It includes staff commuting, business travel in private vehicles, embodied carbon in purchased goods including office supplies, playground equipment, or construction materials and equipment, and contracted-out services e.g. outsourced waste disposal or any other maintenance aspect.

Taking into account these scopes will help to identify areas for reduction, such as retrofitting village halls, switching to renewable electricity tariffs, or enforcing sustainable procurement policies.

5. Biodiversity and the natural environment

The Council will support habitat creation and restoration, protection of trees, hedgerows, pollinators, wildlife corridors and environmentally sensitive management of Council land.

6. Coast, flooding and resilience

The Council recognises the importance of coastal adaptation, flood resilience and climate preparedness and will support measures that reduce risks to the community.

7. Energy, water and buildings

Energy and water consumption will be reduced where practical. The Council will support renewable energy, energy efficiency improvements and low-carbon technologies.

8. Transport

The Council will encourage walking, cycling, public transport, remote meetings where possible and the adoption of lower-emission vehicles where appropriate.

9. Procurement

Environmental considerations will form part of procurement decisions. Local suppliers, services and materials will be used where practical and economically appropriate.

10. Waste and resources

The Council will apply the principles of reduce, reuse, repair, recycle and recover and seek to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastics from Council activities.

11. Community engagement

The Council will work with residents, schools, businesses, community organisations and environmental groups to promote positive environmental action.

12. Environment representative

A representative from the Parish Council will be appointed each year at the Annual Council meeting in May. The role of the representative will be to

- ensure community engagement is carried out as specified above, including the management of volunteer groups to support Parish council projects such as tree planting, street weeding, recycling marine waste etc.
- support the implementation of this policy within the Parish Council activities by liaison with the Clerk, other Councillors and the inclusion of experts.

13. Committee meetings

Environmental impact of decisions will be embedded into decision making at each meeting and a section will be created within the agenda for the Foreshore Committee and the Street, Playing Field and Cemetery Committee meetings to ensure this.

14. Annual environment action plan

An annual Environment Action Plan will identify priorities, projects, targets and responsibilities.

15. Monitoring and review

Progress against this policy and the annual action plan will be reported to Council at least annually.

Adopted by Council:	July 2026
Review due:	July 2028