Our plans to slow down climate change

Easy Read

Contents

In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.

Some words are blue and underlined.

These are links that will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction

Leicestershire County Council has written these plans to explain how we want to slow down **climate change**.

Climate change is all about big changes in the weather. For example, storms getting worse than they used to be, or having less rain in some places.
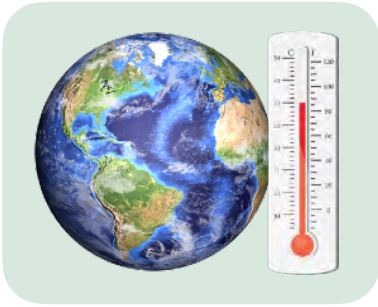
These plans explain:

- How climate change will affect us.

- What we can do to slow down climate change.

Understanding climate change

The weather all around the world is changing.

This is because the Earth is getting warmer.

It is getting warmer because we have been putting certain gases into the air.

A lot of these gases have come from burning fuel like:

- Coal.

- Oil.

- Gas.

For years we have been burning this fuel to:

- Heat our buildings.

- Make electricity.

- Run transport, like aeroplanes, trains, lorries and cars.

Climate change is likely to lead to more:

- Heatwaves – times when it is very hot.

- Droughts – times when there is no rain and not enough water.

- Floods – times when there is very heavy rainfall.

Around the world, climate change will lead to:

- Millions of people having to leave their homes and find somewhere else to live.

- Damage to roads, electricity cables, water pipes, drains, train tracks and many other services.

- Difficulty with growing enough food.

- Loss of wildlife.

We need to change

We need to change how we do things in our everyday lives to help slow down climate change.

Changing how we do things can be good for people in Leicestershire.

By changing how we do things, we can:

- Be healthier.

- Create new businesses and new jobs.

- Spend less on transport and keeping warm.

Removing the gases

Plants take the gases that cause climate change out of the air.

Large plants, such as trees, do this best.

We can remove the gases in the air that are causing climate change by planting more trees.

Net zero

Net zero means the amount of gases we take out of the air is the same as the amount of gases that we put into it.

To reach net zero, we must:

- Reduce the amount of the gases that we put in the air.

- Plant trees and other things that take the gases out of the air.

This will be a lot of work. But we can reach net zero.

Leicestershire County Council wants us all in Leicestershire to reach net zero by the year 2045.

If the whole world reaches net zero by 2045, the effects climate change has on the world will not be as bad.

The council wants to reach net zero on all the work that we do as an organisation by the year 2030.

How you can help

You can help us to reach net zero by doing these things.

Walking and cycling

If you walk or cycle instead of travelling in a car, you will:

- Save money.

- Put less gas into the air.

Throw less away

We want you to:

- Reduce how much you use.

- Reuse things. You could use things again and again instead of throwing them away.

- Repair things, instead of throwing them away.

- **Recycle** things.

  Recycle means turning something that you don't want anymore into something that is useful.

  We have a guide on how to recycle, which you can find online here: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/ environment-and-planning/waste- and-recycling/how-do-i-dispose-of

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Save water

Turn off your taps to save water.

Water your garden with **waste water**.

Waste water is water that you have used for something else.

Eat less meat

Cows, sheep, chickens and pigs all put gases into the air that cause climate change.

You can help by eating less meat.

Try eating food which is just made from plants.

This is better for your health and will help to slow down climate change.
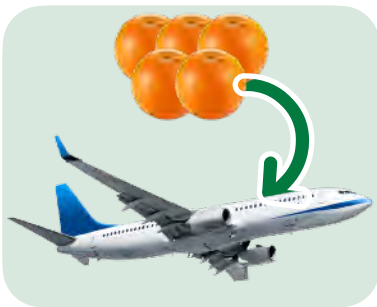
Waste less food

Think about food before you buy.

Plan your meals better so you don't waste so much food.

Shop in your local area

Buy food that has been grown in your local area.

Food that has travelled a long way makes climate change worse because of the gases given off by the transport.

Recycle your old clothes

Instead of throwing away your old clothes you could:

- Swap them with your friends, for other clothes.

- Let someone borrow them.

- Let someone rent them.

Buying clothes that have been owned by someone else is better for the planet than buying new clothes.

You could wash your clothes at a lower temperature. This will make them last longer and save energy and money.

Take fewer flights

Aeroplanes give off a lot of the gases that cause climate change.

Take the train instead of flying when you can. Trains give off less of the gases that cause climate change.

Switch off and unplug

You can save money and help to slow down climate change by switching off and unplugging equipment like computers and televisions.

Don't use things that can only be used once

Certain things can only be used once - like:
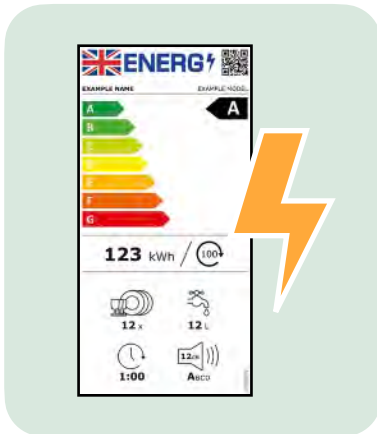

- Some plastic bags.

- Some food containers and bottles.

Use things that can be used again and again. This will save you money and help to slow down climate change.

Check energy labels

Many bits of equipment that you buy will have an **energy** label.

Energy is electricity.

An energy label tells you how much electricity the bit of equipment uses.

Buy things that use less electricity. This will save you money and help to slow down climate change.

Keep up to date

People will be thinking of new ways to save money and slow down climate change.

You can keep up to date with new ideas for slowing down climate change by searching for: *#NetZeroLeicestershire* on social media.

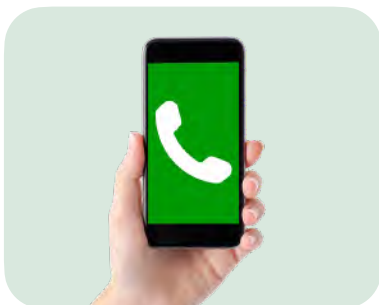#NetZeroLeicestershire

For more information

You can look at our website here:
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/netzero

If you need more information please contact us by:

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