



Town and Parish Council – Climate and Nature Survey

We're eager to learn how we can best collaborate with Dorset's town and parish councils in tackling the climate and nature emergencies.

This survey aims to gain an insight into your current climate and nature initiatives, identify any challenges you face, and celebrate your success stories.

By taking part, you can help us understand how we can better support the efforts of your organisation and your community.

Please note, any data collected follows Dorset Council's [privacy policy](#).

For more information on Dorset Council's climate strategy, please visit: [Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy 2023 to 25 Refresh \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Introduction to Climate Sector Support

This survey has been created by Dorset Council's Climate Sector Support Officer. This role is dedicated to collaborating with stakeholders—including town and parish councils, schools, public sector organisations, and climate-focused charities—in achieving their net zero and broader sustainability goals.

Next Steps

Upon receiving the completed surveys by February 28th, 2025, the Climate Sector Support Officer will:

- develop a climate mitigation and adaptation toolkit for town and parish councils
- invite town and parish councils to become sustainability ambassadors
- organise the first Dorset Sustainability Ambassador workshop
- share survey responses with our Local Nature Recovery Officer to ensure we link up climate and nature support where possible

Why your views matter

Addressing the climate and nature emergencies is vital for current and future generations: to protect lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. And whilst this is a huge global and national challenge, many solutions are local.

Here in Dorset, we have a role to play in helping tackle climate change and support nature recovery. In doing so, we can strengthen community resilience and stimulate economic growth.

Read more about Dorset Council's climate and nature ambitions in its draft Council Plan: [Responding to the climate crisis - Dorset council plan 2024 draft - Dorset Council](#)

Survey

Introduction

Please ensure that this survey is completed by only one representative from your council, ideally the Town or Parish Clerk. We encourage collaboration, so feel free to gather input from other council members or relevant staff before submitting your responses.

Q1. What is your name?

Q2. Are you associated with a Town or Parish council?

(Required) *Please tick one option*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Town council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parish council

Q3. What is the name of your council?

(Required)

Q4. What is your role at the council?

Your Current Position

This section looks at how your council is currently progressing on the climate and nature agenda. Please bear in mind that these are questions to be answered by both larger more resourced councils and smaller parish councils.

Q5. Is addressing climate change, adapting to its impacts, and helping nature recover a priority for your council?

Please tick one option

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, they are top priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, they are important but not top priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, they are not priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)

If other, please specify here:

Q6. Has your council declared a climate and nature emergency?

Please tick one option

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – climate emergency only
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – nature emergency only
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – climate and nature emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q7. Does your council have any of the following strategies?

Please tick all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate change/sustainability strategy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biodiversity or nature strategy
<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't Know

Q8. Does your council have any of the following action plans?

Please tick all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate change action plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biodiversity or nature action plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't Know

Q9. Do you complete a yearly carbon calculator?

Please tick one option

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

If yes, how do you calculate your carbon footprint?

Q10. Have you had any wildlife or ecological surveys done in your area?

Please tick one option

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes (please provide details)
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

If yes, please provide details here:

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Q11. Do you have a dedicated officer or group within your council working on climate/nature?

Please tick all that apply

	Dedicated officer
	Group/committee
	No
	Don't know

Challenges

Q12. Does your council face any challenges in addressing climate change?

Please tick one option

	Yes
	No – if selected, go to Q14
	Don't know – if selected, go to Q14

If you have answered 'No' or 'Don't know', please skip to Q14.

Q13. If yes, what are the main challenges?

Please tick all that apply

	Lack of funding
	Insufficient staff or expertise
	Limited public support or awareness
	Regulatory or policy barriers
	Competing priorities
	Lack of data or information
	Difficulty coordinating with other agencies or stakeholders
	Technological limitations
	Other (please specify on the next page)

If other, please specify here:

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Q14. Does your council face any challenges in helping nature recover?

Please tick one option

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

If yes, please specify here:

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Successes

We would like to share good news stories between councils, and it would be great to hear of any successes you have had with environmentally positive actions. E.g. recycling schemes, community engagement, rewilding, energy improvements.

Q15. Do you have any climate or nature success stories you would like to share?

Please tick one option

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes (please provide details on the next page)
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – if selected, go to Q17

If you have answered 'No' for Q15, please skip to Q17.

If yes, please provide details

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Q16. If yes, are you happy for these to be shared in a future toolkit for town and parish councils?

Please tick one option

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

What support would be beneficial?

Understanding and addressing climate change can be overwhelming. Fortunately, we have lots of specialists across Dorset in various organisations ready to help. By working together, we can make a real difference in our county. To help foster collaborative action, please let us know what kind of support would be most helpful to you.

Q17. Please select things that you feel would be helpful

Please tick all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding opportunities for projects and initiatives
<input type="checkbox"/>	Success stories and case studies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate strategy template
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate action plan template
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk assessment template
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carbon footprint calculation tools
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate change training and information
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nature/ecology information and advice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community engagement resources

List continues on the next page

	Shared campaigns
	Educational materials
	In person or virtual sustainability session for your council
	Other (please specify)

If other, please specify here:

Becoming a sustainability ambassador

Networking and collaboration are key when addressing climate change. We would like to establish a sustainability ambassador network for town and parish councils. You don't need to be a climate change expert to become a sustainability ambassador. You can have zero knowledge, just eager to engage, learn and share.

Q18. Would you or someone in your council be interested in finding out more about becoming a sustainability ambassador?

Please tick one option

	Yes
	No – if selected, go to Q20

If you have answered 'No' for Q18, please skip to Q20.

Q19. If yes, would you or someone in your council be interested in attending an in-person climate workshop?

Please tick one option

	Yes
	No

Help shape Dorset’s local nature recovery strategy

A local nature recovery strategy for Dorset is being created with input from lots of different people and groups. This plan will set priorities and identify the best ways to restore, expand and link nature in our county.

[You can learn more about the strategy and get the latest updates on the council’s dedicated page.](#)

If you’re making space for nature in the county, make sure you’ve signed up to the Nature Recovery Dorset network.

By joining, your council can connect with others taking action for nature, access free resources, and promote your successes.

Sign up online [[Join the Nature Recovery Dorset network - Dorset Council](#)]

Q20. Do any of the following align with your council’s nature strategies, projects or ambitions?

Please tick all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Improving or connecting grassland habitats
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improving or connecting woodland habitats
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improving or connecting heathland habitats
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoring rivers, lakes, and wetland habitats
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhancing or creating coastal habitats
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing the abundance and diversity of local wildlife species (and/or controlling invasive non-native species)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Using sustainable farming practices to produce good quality food in harmony with nature
<input type="checkbox"/>	Making more wildlife-rich spaces in towns and villages (e.g. parks, gardens, streets or recreational spaces)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Using nature-based solutions to help with issues like climate change, pollution, flooding or health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Helping others to get involved in nature recovery
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable

Q21. Does your council have land that is, or could be, managed to help nature recovery in the next 10 years?

Please tick one option

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – if selected, go to Q22
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – if selected, go to ‘Helpful Links’
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don’t know - if selected, go to ‘Helpful Links’

As part of the local nature recovery strategy, we are creating a map to highlight where future efforts and funding should be focussed to best support nature recovery in Dorset. [Learn more about the benefits of having your land featured on the map.](#)

We would like to include any land that your council could manage to help nature recovery in the next 10 years.

Q22. Do you consent to our Nature Recovery Officer contacting you to arrange for this land to be added to the map?

Please tick one option

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, I consent
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, I do not consent

If yes, please provide an email address for this contact purpose

Helpful Links

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey. Your input is invaluable in helping us support and enhance our community’s efforts to address the climate and nature emergencies.

Please find links from the survey with further information listed below.

- [Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Strategy](#)
- [Join the Nature Recovery Dorset network - Dorset Council](#)

- [You can learn more about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and get the latest updates here](#)
- [Learn more about the benefits of having your land featured on the map](#)

If you have any questions or would like more information on Dorset's local nature recovery strategy, please email LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

For any further questions relating to this survey, please email keziah.rookes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Returning your form:

If submitting a paper response, please return your form to Sustainability Team, Corporate Development, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ by 28th February 2025.