



# The countryside charity Hampshire

**VERSION 1 as at Sept 2021**

## CPRE Hampshire Position Paper

### Climate Change

#### **The Issue**

CPRE Hampshire recognises that Climate Change is an emergency that demands radical changes in the way we implement local plans and support initiatives to mitigate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions. CPRE Hampshire does not have expertise in many of the initiatives that will be needed to arrest climate change but does have very specific recommendations that should be included in the formulation of local plans. The countryside is and must remain a key source of biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

#### **Guidance**

The key recommendations that are specific to climate change are as follows:

All local plans must recognise the climate emergency. Local plans must establish action plans to mitigate climate change. Action plans must set ambitious targets that are measurable against a baseline that must be clearly set out in the local plan and monitored at least once a year to ensure that the target progress is being achieved. The Hampshire County Council plan sets a good example but highlights some of the difficulties in measuring both current carbon emissions and the difficulty of recording improvements that have been made. The following are key areas that CPRE Hampshire believes that must be an integral part of local plans:

- a. Housing developments should be concentrated in areas that are sustainable. Sites should not be car dependent for travel to work. Good public transport and existing infrastructure is desirable as this will reduce emissions from transport and new build for infrastructure. Greenfield development should be avoided if possible.
- b. As always sites must not be at risk from flooding. It is important to emphasise that flood risks are likely to increase with climate change. Drainage must be consistent with SuDS.
- c. All development proposals (housing industrial and infrastructure) must maximise the opportunities to install renewable energy.



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- d. All housing development must be built to the highest standards of insulation and use renewable energy such as solar panels and heat pumps wherever possible.
- e. Proposals for “solar farms”, should not be approved on valuable agricultural land. Carbon emissions would be adversely affected if solar farms reduce domestic food production and result in more imported food. Solar farms should not be approved in National Parks, AONBs and areas designated as Valued Landscapes.
- f. Local councils must work to maximise the opportunities for recycling so that the use of landfill and incineration is minimised.
- g. Plans that do involve development on Greenfield sites must minimise lighting emissions at night. Light emissions at night use energy and are a significant but often overlooked driver in the decline of insect populations. Permanent lighting at night should always be avoided.

### **Project Support**

There are many ways in which carbon emissions can be reduced. Some of the areas that CPRE Hampshire support are:

- a. Initiatives to improve recycling. CPRE nationally supports the deposit return scheme that would help to maximise recycling of food and drink containers.
- b. Projects in the countryside that will improve biodiversity and carbon capture. One example of this is the restoration of hedgerows, which is being actively supported by the branch.
- c. Community energy projects that work both for the benefit of the community and to reduce transmission losses from long distance power transmission.