

Education

This is one of four short documents setting out the strategic approach of the Friends of the South Downs to tackling climate change.

The Carbon Challenge! - To mitigate climate change and achieve a zero-carbon impact on our planet.

The purposes and duty of the National Park make it straightforward for us to embody this challenge within our work, as the Environment Act 1995 sets out two statutory purposes for national parks.

- 1. Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.*
 - 2. Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks by the public.*
- When national parks carry out these purposes, they also have the duty to: *Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the national parks.*

By closely adhering to the two purposes whilst having regard to the duty of national parks we can make a difference with the environment in the Park and achieve measures which mitigate or help eliminate greenhouse gases and pollution to help us achieve a sustainable environment for residents and visitors as well as the flora and fauna. Here is what we need to do:

Environment

Health

Promote healthy lifestyles in the context of the National Park. Understand the key issues by working with/learning from the NHS and other expert bodies.

Air

Promote clean air and see ways to tackle pollution. Learn key factors that bring pollution to our atmosphere.

Water

Promote clean water courses. Learn where the vulnerable water courses are and what pollutes them.

Sea Water

The main area in the SDNP is in and near Cuckmere Haven - what plastic pollution is there? What is the water quality?

Soil

Understand what affects soil quality.

Plants & Trees

Understand which species are under threat and why. Promote wild areas, wildflower areas and corridors and replanting of trees/hedgerows, especially where species are under threat.

Wildlife, insects and pollinators

Promote insect and wildlife areas and corridors. Understand which species are under threat and why.

Landscape

Understand where the landscape is under threat and what can be done about it.

Countryside & Communities

Understand what the threats to the countryside are and what can be done about it.

Taking these key areas to protect the environment and achieve sustainability our Society should go on to work with all organisations concerned with or who have an effect on the National Park to educate them, win them over or ask them to redouble their efforts to help achieve alignment with the purposes of the National Park and to tackle climate change. These organisations could include the following:

- National Park
- County Councils & District Councils
- Transport Bodies like Highways England & Network Rail
- Other Societies, such as Sussex Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and the National Trust
- CPRE, SCATE and the South Downs Network
- Organisations such the Countryside Alliance
- River & Water organisations
- Farmers, smallholders & beekeepers
- Universities, Schools & Colleges
- Airport operators
- Businesses
- Walkers, cyclists & horse riders
- The Public

We should work steadily through a series of initiatives to achieve success in all these areas.

See also our strategic approach to tackling climate change in our linked documents: Sustainability, Environment and Carbon.

[See also our planning policy documents.](#)