

National Park & Government Climate Change Policies

The Friends of the South Downs support the South Downs National Park's policy covering climate change:

'Strategic Policy SD48: Climate Change and Sustainable Use of Resources'

However, there is strong justification for more ambitious climate change planning conditions because of the commitment in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of Feb 2019, and Government policy:

- It is important that the National Park sets out its determination to follow government policy and law with regard to achieving 'net zero' carbon. The SDNPA should go further and condition any permission by referring to policies by the UK Government on climate change.
- Permission should make specific reference to the government's decision that, for instance, gas fired central heating will be banned from 2025 and that petrol and diesel powered cars will be banned from 2040.
- In summary, any permission should require the developer to submit a '*zero carbon & renewable energy scheme*'.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - relevant paragraphs are:

- Para 2: "Achieving sustainable development" in item c) 'an environmental objective' – which requires planning authorities to include measures "to mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy".
- Para 20: "Strategic policies" in item d) which requires planning authorities to include "measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation".
- Para 14. "Meeting the challenge of climate change" etc., which requires planning authorities to "support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate" etc., and "reductions in greenhouse gas emissions", "and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure".

In the section on Planning for climate change:

- Para 149. "Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change", "and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures".
- Para 151. "To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should: a) "provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development".

Planning Update

UK Government's Climate Change policies:

- House of Commons passed motion to declare an 'environment and climate change emergency' on 1st May 2019.
- The law for net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in the UK has been passed at the House of Commons. The UK is amending the 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target in the Climate Change Act from at least 80% to 100%. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 came into force on 27th June 2019 introducing a target for at least a 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990 levels) in the UK by 2050. This is otherwise known as a net zero target.
- 25 Year Environment Plan launched in January 2018: A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment.
- Road to Zero Strategy: Next steps towards cleaner road transport and delivering our Industrial Strategy. New cars to be ultra-low emission by 2030 (Published 9 July 2018).
- Clean Air Strategy 2019 (Published 14 January 2019).
- Plans to end the sale of all new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040. There will also be a new Clean Air Fund established as promised by the government in July 2017.
- Plans for tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (Published 26 July 2017).
- The Chancellor's announcement in the Spring Statement on Wednesday 13 March 2019: Gas boilers will be banned in new homes from 2025 to tackle climate change. Measures will be included in a Future Homes Standard Policy.
- Advice from the UK Government's Committee on Climate Change.
- Commitment to: The Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future (Published December 2011).

See also our strategic approach to tackling climate change: *SEEC* – [Sustainability](#), [Environment](#), [Education](#) and the [Carbon challenge](#) and [our planning policy documents](#).