



Supporting Our Community

## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

### **Godalming Town Council Continues Climate Commitment**

Following the May local elections, Godalming Town Council unanimously agreed to continue to recognise the global climate and ecological emergency and to facilitate the reduction of carbon emissions. Godalming Town Council is committed to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030, to cover scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, with an earlier target of 2025 for scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Godalming Town Council's 2022/23 Carbon Audit Report highlighted a 53.6% reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions against the 2018/2019 datum. Not only has this saved 83,920 KgCO<sub>2</sub>e over the last 4 years, but it has also made a comparative saving of approximately £19,000 in energy costs over the same period.

The steps taken so far by the Godalming Town Council have been relatively easy and could be achieved by most organisations. These have included replacing fluorescent and incandescent lights with LEDs, installing PIR sensors to make sure lights are off when not required and upgrading heating controls to match heating with occupancy. The cost of these changes has been minimal, with some, such as changing to LEDs and fitting PIR sensors having been part of ongoing upgrade programmes. Others such as switching to 100% UK certified renewable electricity have been at no additional cost. There is no doubt the reduction of 53.6% has been achieved by picking the low hanging fruit, with the next challenge being to reach higher. This is being achieved by a 3-year work programme that will see the total decarbonisation of the Council's buildings. This starts with installing PV panels and battery storage at the council-owned Broadwater Park Youth & Community Centre, alongside changing from gas heating to air source heat pumps. There is obviously a capital cost to this, which should be considered against the longer-term Return of Investment. For this project the energy saving is in the region of 36,400 KW/h of energy per annum and 6,767 KgCO<sub>2</sub>e, with approximately 7 years for the revenue savings in energy bills to equal the capital costs of installation. With a 20-to-25-year operational lifespan, this is seen as a medium to longer term invest to save model.

Ends:

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For more information on this release or images, please contact: Suzie Gortler

Email: [community@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:community@godalming-tc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01483 523075

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Notes for Editors:

“Scope 1 and 2 cover direct emissions sources (e.g., fuel used in company vehicles and purchased electricity), scope 3 emissions cover all indirect emissions due to the activities of an organisation.”

[www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions/](http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions/)

CO<sup>2</sup>e stands for "Carbon Dioxide Equivalent" and measures CO<sup>2</sup> plus all other greenhouse gases including methane, nitrous oxide, and more. CO<sup>2</sup>e gives us a better view on the total environmental impact of our actions and operations.

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