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## LOCAL COUNCIL'S INITIATIVE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE



*Source: Paul Wynne at Town Parish Council*

Frome Town Council is one of the 200 plus local (town and parish) councils that have signed up to The Tree Charter. On 5 December 2018 Frome declared a climate emergency and committed to going carbon neutral by 2030. The 17 councillors also unanimously agreed to sign-up to the Covenant of Mayors to track progress and link with towns around the world that are also cutting emissions. This vital work in helping the local community to combat the key signifiers of climate change tie into the 10 principles of The Tree Charter and ensure that the community is consistently climate conscious. This also promotes switching to cleaner energy, reducing energy use, improve air quality, minimise fuel poverty and boosting the local economy through jobs and training.

Frome has highlighted a multitude of ways that other town councils can follow their lead. They have introduced a solar funding project which helps local residents install solar panels at a significantly discounted rate. Cllr Rob Collett said: "So far 15 Frome homes have had solar installed under the solar streets programme and more are in progress. However, although the solar panels save households money and cut carbon, many households don't have £3,000 spare to

fund the upfront costs. It's fantastic that Wessex Resolutions are able to potentially support these households in accessing low interest finance for solar". Additionally, in 2017 the council signed a pledge to stop using single-use plastics in the town hall. They have made a clear impact within their community and have made it easy for other town and parish councils do the same.

Frome Town Council also look after 16 parks and green spaces within their community. The care of these green spaces is imperative to the health and wellbeing of local residents. By addressing climate emergency issues, such as the use of carbon; the lack of clean energy sources and the over use of single-use plastics, Frome is directly ensuring the longevity of our planet and green spaces. This work therefore directly ensures the future of trees and the relationship between people and trees within communities."

Have you done something similar? Get in touch with NALC and let us know by contacting Claire Goldfinch at **[claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk)**.

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