

From: [FOI](#)
To:
Subject: Freedom of Information Request NCC-048982-20
Date: 22 February 2021 15:48:00

Dear

Thank you for your request for information about climate emergency declaration, carbon sequestration and off-setting.

We are now able to provide the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Has your council declared a climate emergency and produced an action plan/strategy or policy that covers carbon sequestration and offsetting? If yes, please attached a copy of the policy/strategy or provide a link to the online copy.

It has not declared a climate emergency as such, but has committed to becoming carbon neutral for its activities by 2030 or as soon as possible thereafter. See the [minutes](#) of the County Council meeting held in October 2020, page 10, at which the following was resolved: *In May 2019, a motion calling for Nottinghamshire County Council to set a carbon neutral target, and implement an associated governance structure to closely monitor carbon emissions, received unanimous support from all Members of this Chamber. This Council notes the time that has since passed, and believes it is now imperative to commit to carbon neutrality in all its activities by 2030 or as soon as possible thereafter.*

The Council has also embarked on an environmental strategy which contains relevant ambitions and actions – see [item 5 of December 2020 Policy Committee](#) and before that [item 4 of March Policy Committee](#)

2. Have you, within your existing or planned strategies/policies, considered carbon sequestration and offsetting? If yes, please outline those plans not included in question 1 or attach a copy or link to an online copy.

It will no doubt form part of our plans to achieve the target, but our focus at this stage is more on reducing our emissions through energy saving than achieving our target through offsetting or sequestration. The Council is already extremely active in planting trees – for example, see this [report](#) - para 10 in particular, and refer to the environment strategy, mentioned above. We are not currently counting the carbon benefits of the tree planting we do, whereas programmes to save energy by installing low energy LED lighting in our street lights, to reduce energy use across our property portfolio, and to reduce staff business travel in private cars are all significant in reducing our calculated GHG emissions.

3. What forms of carbon sequestration have you considered, and which have you excluded? What was the basis of that decision?

The Council has not formerly appraised options.

4. How have you or do you plan to quantify the extent of carbon sequestration required to offset your carbon emissions within the council? Please provide any figures and equations you have used. What was the basis for using those figures/equations?

We are at the early stages of thinking about this and asking questions about how many new trees (or indeed hectares of new peatland) might equate to how many tonnes of carbon, but no calculations have been formerly considered.

5. Do you as a council or your contractors use any of the offsetting schemes ie Woodland Trust to offset your carbon emissions? If yes, please list those used.

No, not as far as we are aware.

I hope that you find this information to be helpful, however if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, then please email us at foi@nottsc.gov.uk quoting the reference NCC-048982-20 and we will be happy to review your request

With kind regards

Complaints, Information and Mediation Officer
Nottinghamshire County Council