

CLIMATE CHANGE

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?



THE NEW FOREST IS CHANGING

The New Forest has always been defined by weather, water and seasons. But the climate is changing those rhythms. The Met Office predicts more extreme heat, heavier downpours, prolonged dry spells and growing strain on coastal and flood-risk areas.

WHAT THIS CAN AFFECT

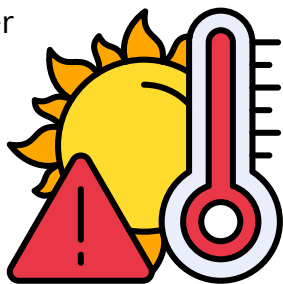
These changes touch everything: people, wildlife and the infrastructure daily life depends on. Heavy rain strains drains and cuts off travel routes. In some places, flooding and coastal change are no longer distant threats.



CLOSER TO HOME

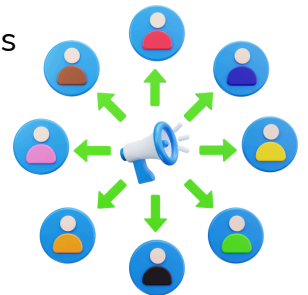
DAILY LIFE AND WELLBEING

Extreme heat and poorer air quality makes everyday life harder for some people, especially children, older adults and those with existing health conditions.



AWARENESS AND RESPONSE

Knowing what changes are expected locally helps communities notice risks early, protect important places and respond in practical ways.



SMALL CHANGES IN CLIMATE CAN HAVE REAL EFFECTS ON EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE NEW FOREST.



CLIMATE CHANGE

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



PRACTICAL WAYS TO PREPARE

Understanding local risk helps people make calm, informed decisions. Some households may be more affected by flooding, coastal change, overheating or poor air quality than others.

AT HOME

Small changes at home can make day-to-day life more comfortable and reduce disruption.

- Improve insulation where possible. It slows heat movement in both directions, keeping warmth out in summer as much as it keeps it in during winter
- Use shading or efficient cooling on hotter days
- Ensure good ventilation for heat management and airflow



LOOK OUT FOR OTHERS

Preparing is not only about buildings and equipment. Checking in on neighbours, relatives and anyone who may need extra support can make a real difference during very hot weather or severe conditions.



BE READY FOR EMERGENCIES

A little preparation can help households feel more confident if conditions change quickly.

- Sign up for relevant alerts or priority services
- Make a simple home emergency plan
- Keep an emergency kit in an easy-to-reach place
- Know your local flood or coastal erosion risk

PRACTICAL PREPARATION HELPS PEOPLE, HOMES AND COMMUNITIES COPE BETTER.

FIND OUT MORE

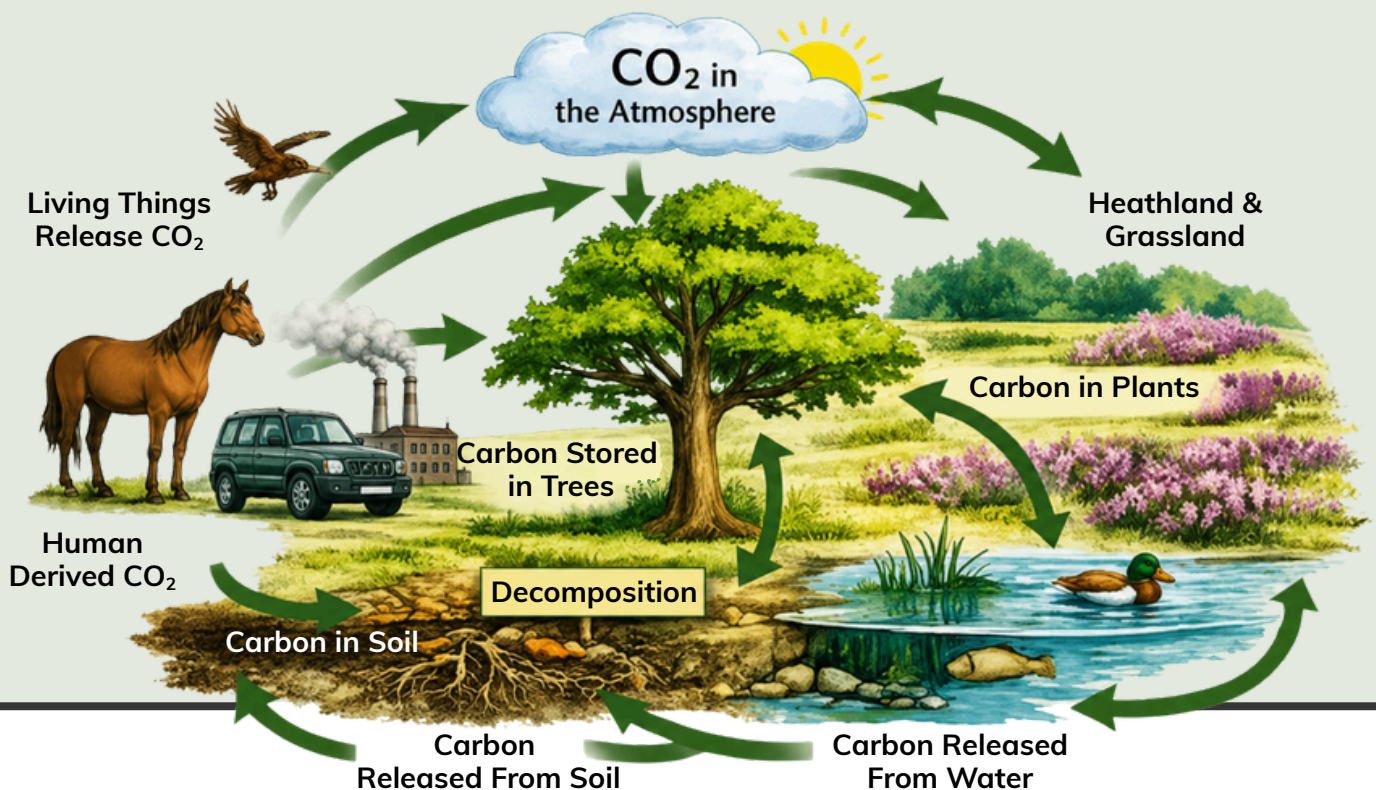


CLIMATE CHANGE

CARBON MATTERS

HOW CARBON CYCLES

Carbon moves through mediums like air and water, where it collects in plants and fossil fuels



Carbon moves continuously between the air, plants, soil, water and living things. In the New Forest, trees, heathland, grassland and soils all play a part in storing and moving carbon. People and animals are part of the cycle too. We breathe out carbon dioxide, plants take it in, and everyday emissions from things like energy use and travel add more carbon to the atmosphere.

WHERE EMISSIONS COME FROM

Many emissions come from everyday activities such as heating buildings, using electricity, travelling, industry, and buying new things. Small choices can add up over time.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Use electricity carefully, especially when it is not needed
- Improve insulation and reduce wasted heat at home
- Walk, cycle or share journeys where possible
- Repair, reuse and waste less when you can

CLIMATE CHANGE

NATURE HELPS THE NEW FOREST

MORE THAN A LANDSCAPE



The New Forest is not only a place people enjoy. Its woods, heathland, grassland, wetlands and coast all play an important role in supporting climate resilience.

These habitats store carbon, provide cooler spaces during periods of extreme heat, and help regulate the movement of water through the landscape.

WHAT NATURAL SYSTEMS CAN DO

Trees and woodlands absorb carbon and help cool local places. Soil stores large amounts of carbon and Vegetation slows rainwater runoff which reduces pressure during heavy rainfall.

WHY THE NEW FOREST MATTERS

The New Forest boasts many different types of habitats within its landscape creating a mosaic of ecosystems which is home to lots of unique or rare species for both animals and plants, earning parts of the New Forest the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status.

This strong biodiversity benefits the climate, local wildlife, and our communities.

BENEFITS FOR US AS WELL

Healthy natural spaces support wellbeing, offer shade on hotter days, improve air quality and create opportunities for recreation and enjoyment. They can make places feel calmer and more comfortable, and help people feel more connected to where they live.

WHEN THE NEW FOREST IS CARED FOR, IT CARES FOR US TOO.

GET INVOLVED



Supported by
New Forest
DISTRICT COUNCIL