Mapping out a response to net zero

BRIEFING

otions

CONSERVATIVE ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

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CEN Councillors: Mapping out a response to net zero motions

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This is not intended to be an exhaustive briefing but an overview of the key facts, figures and information that can help you to respond to the topic. This is written as if the reader is a new Councillor who does not have a background in climate policy. If you are interested in finding out more please see the useful contacts in Section 5.

It is worth stating that it is not possible to set out a fully comprehensive pathway to net zero in your initial plan, as the government has not yet mapped its plans for the country. Decarbonising some sectors, such as heat, will require national policy to direct the relevant technologies and provide a framework for action. Rather, your initial plan should aim to consider short term policies, map out what areas need addressing in the longer term (with more detailed strategies), and consult with relevant stakeholders.

1. Background to net zero

What is net zero

- In 2008, the UK passed the Climate Change Act with huge cross-party consensus (only three MPs voting against), becoming the first country in the world to set a legally binding emissions reduction target to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The target was an 80% reduction by 2050 on 1990 levels.
- <u>Last year</u>, the UK became the **first major economy in the world to legislate for net zero by 2050,** committing to end its contribution to climate change. This target date, which is feasible but very ambitious, was based on advice from the independent expert Committee on Climate Change.
- In many sectors of the economy, technologies exist that can bring emissions completely to zero e.g. electricity (offshore wind and nuclear), surface transport (electric vehicles), and home heating (insulation and heat pumps). However, in sectors such as aviation and agriculture, it may not be possible.
- Therefore some residual emissions from these sectors will likely remain. To offset these emissions, an equivalent amount of CO₂ will need to be taken out of the atmosphere (negative emissions) for instance through planting trees, restoring peatland and developing new technologies (such as direct air capture) that have the same effect. These are called 'carbon sinks' as they sink or suck up the carbon. This is why the target is for net zero emissions rather than zero.
- The 2050 net zero target was adopted following advice from the independent Committee on Climate Change, which you can read in full here. The CCC stated that reaching net zero by 2050 will now cost the same as they expected reaching an 80% reduction to cost in 2008, due to innovation and cost reductions (1-2% of GDP to 2050).

Background information



- The science is clear: if we continue to pump greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, climate change will continue to get worse, and temperatures will continue to rise, along with associated impacts and risks (particularly more severe and frequent extreme weather events including flooding). To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we have to stop adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere urgently.
- Between 1990 and 2017, the UK reduced its emissions by 42% while growing the economy by more than two thirds. This means that we have on a per-capita basis both reduced emissions and grown our economy faster than any other G7 nation. Since 2010, the UK has reduced emissions by 23%.
- The UK reduced the carbon intensity of our economy faster than any other G20 country since 2000 (independent <u>analysis from PwC</u>).

Government progress so far

- The UK's record shows that economic growth is perfectly compatible with reducing emissions in fact, its G7-leading performance would suggest that cutting emissions is good for economic growth. Globally, bold action on climate could deliver £20 trillion (US\$26 trillion) in economic benefits through to 2030 (New Climate Economy).
- A <u>Net Zero Review</u> was launched by the Chancellor to determine how the UK can meet its net zero target in the most cost-effective way, how the costs of net zero should be distributed across the public and private sectors, and how to maximise clean growth opportunities.
- The power sector has been a major success story for decarbonisation, with emissions now down 68% on 1990 levels. Now we need policies in areas like transport (33% of UK emissions) and heat (14%). Last year saw a record amount of power generated from renewable sources with over 30% coming from renewables, and over 50% of UK electricity came from low-carbon sources overall.
- Earlier this year, the UK went **coal-free for a record-breaking 18 days.** And of electricity generated in the second quarter of 2019 (April-June), coal accounted for only 0.6%, a new record low. The UK has pledged to phase out unabated coal completely by 2025 and set up the international Powering Past Coal Alliance jointly with Canada.
- There are currently 400,000 jobs in the low-carbon sector, which is growing at 2-3 times the rate of the mainstream economy. There are huge opportunities for new green jobs and skills as we transition to a low carbon economy.

Local response: Net zero motions and plans

- In response to the UK's net zero target and many climate emergency declarations (along with public pressure), councils also began to adopt net zero/carbon neutral targets. These tend to aim for net zero sometime around 2030. Some net zero targets cover the council's region (eg. WMCA and West Berkshire), or focus on the organisation/council itself (eg. Swindon and Wandsworth). This distinction in the plan's scope should be made clear in your communications, and will likely depend on the council tier. Your plan should also explain the breadth of the council's powers, and when it will instead e.g. use its influence or convening power to encourage others to work together for a net zero district/region.
- Every Local Plan in England already has to have a carbon reduction trajectory in line with the Climate
 Change Act, according to the National Planning Policy Framework 2019. This means plans should
 include an understanding of baseline CO2 emissions within the council area and projected emissions
 from future developments within the plan. Local plans should also demonstrate how they will reduce
 emissions in line with net zero.



- <u>Bromley Council</u> passed a motion for net zero emissions by 2029 including tree planting, an energy
 efficiency programme, expanding renewable energy and LED street lighting. They established a
 Carbon Management Programme in 2008 with five yearly programmes following that. The brief falls
 under the Environment and Community Services portfolio.
- Oxfordshire County Council announced plans to meet its net zero by 2030 target on 5 November entitled 'Climate Action for a Thriving Oxfordshire'. The plan outlines how the council will reduce its carbon emissions and support the environmental ambitions of others (including schools).
- Wandsworth Borough Council recently published its plan to become a carbon neutral by 2030, zero carbon by 2050 and the greenest inner-London borough.
- The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) launched a joint Air Quality and Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2021 and set a target to reduce their emissions by 40% by 2020 (from 2007/08 baseline). It then aims to be carbon neutral by 2025 for its own operations for all non-housing stock and 2030 for its own operations and activities including Council housing stock.
- West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) published their action plan to be carbon neutral by 2041, and started a six week public consultation on the plan to gather views. Their plan separates into actions for the first five years, then five to fifteen years, then the last five years. This acknowledges that several of the issues will require lengthier planning processes. They commissioned an independent expert assessment to set their net zero target at 2041.

	2020s	2030s	2040s	
ELECTRICITY	Largely decarbonise electricity: renewables, flexibility, coal phase-out	Expand electricity system, decarbonise mid-merit/peak generation (e.g. using hydrogen), deploy bioenergy with CCS		
HYDROGEN	Start large-scale hydrogen production with CCS	Widespread deployment in industry, use in back-up electricity generation, heaviers vehicles (e.g. HGVs, trains) and potentially heating on the coldest days		
BUILDINGS	Efficiency, heat networks, heat pumps (new-build, off-gas, hybrids)	Widespread electrification, expand heat networks, gas grids potentially switch to hydrogen		
ROAD TRANSPORT	Ramp up EV market, decisions on HGVs	- C - C - C - C - C - C - C - C - C - C	ero-emission vehicles: before HGVs	
INDUSTRY	Initial CCS clusters, evergy & resource efficiency	The second secon	idespread use of ne electrification	
LAND USE	Afforestation, peatland restoration			
AGRICULTURE	Healthier diets, reduced food waste, tree growing and low-carbon farming practices			
AVIATION	Operational measures, new plane efficiency, constrained demand growth, limited sustainable biofuels			
SHIPPING	Operational measures, new ship fuel efficiency, use of ammonia			
WASTE	Reduce waste, increase recycling rates, landfill ban for biodegradable waste		nbustion of non-bio wastes ce emissions from waste water)	
F-GASES	Move almost completely away from F-gases			
REMOVALS	Develop options and policy framework		ious forms, demonstrate direct lovals depending on progress	
NFRASTRUCTURE	Industrial CCS clusters, decisions on gas grid & HGV infrastructure, expand vehicle charging & electricity grids	Hydrogen supply for industry & potentially buildings, roll-out of infrastructure for hydrogen/electric HGVs, more CCS infrastructure, electricity network expansion		
CO-BENEFITS	Health benefits due to improved air quality, healthier diets and more walking and cycling Clean growth and industrial opportunities			

The Committee on Climate Change: how net zero can be delivered in the UK (as shown by Carbon Neutral Cambridge)



2. Structures and how to calculate your emissions

Structures

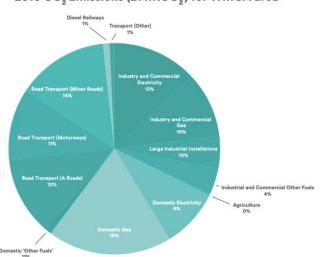
- Oxfordshire ensured that they made climate action a top priority in all decision-making so that no
 new actions undermined progress towards net zero. This may mean adding a new assessment to all
 council decisions and documents. They committed to keep residents informed on their climate
 action plans and progress.
- RBKC plans to set up a 'Climate Change Board' to monitor and report on progress relating to its target.
- Consider a Net Zero Taskforce, Response Group or Climate Commission to bring together relevant stakeholders and partners.
- Is there a Council body or a linked organisation that could carry out the relevant stakeholder engagement needed, for example, a local university or LEP?
- **All Council decisions** should consider net zero, including seemingly unrelated projects. Could they increase your emissions? How can you integrate a climate assessment into all council decisions?
- You know your area best. Even if you aren't responsible for climate change via your cabinet brief, or if you're a lower tier council, you can still help to identify the best places for urban trees, green spaces, new bus stops and electric vehicle charge points based on your local knowledge and feedback from constituents.
- Consider the evidence before setting targets, and ensure the plan is fully comprehensive. When developing a **neighbourhood plan**, you may want to develop or use a <u>checklist like this one</u>.
- Have an individual or small team whose focus is to plan and facilitate action across departments consider a Cabinet Member for Climate Change whose explicit title ensures they consider this. This will increase transparency and accountability.
- Similarly, make sure to set a plan to publish **regular update reports** to ensure transparency these could be every six months or yearly, to account for the carbon reduction measures which have been successful and where delays have taken place. The more independent these are from the cabinet the more the public will trust their findings. Then discuss with your press and communications team how you intend to **communicate** the plan itself, the progress reports and so on.
- Arup advices councils to work with the following steps when putting together a plan: Own (find someone to lead the plan), understand (assess causes and impacts), plan (agree targets and milestones), collaborate (engage with stakeholders), priorities (according to impact), budget, invest (and procure partners), implement, and monitor (with good quality data).
- There are two important aspects for any climate plan adaptation and mitigation. Your plans should consider both aspects.
 - Adaptation measures aim to improve climate resilience to respond to the impacts of climate change such as increased likelihood of flooding and heatwaves. (For example, see Devon County Council's <u>flood resilience scheme</u>)
 - Mitigation measures aim to reduce your contribution to climate change by reducing your emissions.

Measuring your CO2 - what is your baseline carbon profile?

• There are several types of emissions to measure: scope 1 (direct), scope 2 (indirect) and scope 3 (services that are contracted by the council).



- You should start your plan by mapping out what your current carbon profile is, and how reasonable it is to steadily reduce that in order to reach your goal (e.g. net zero by 2030). It's important that your commitments are based on evidence, particularly for any interim targets (e.g. 50% reduction by 2020) in order to map out the trajectory to 2050.
- <u>Bromley</u> Council used the Defra greenhouse gas conversion factors to calculate their emissions from food waste. Wandsworth Council developed a process for each department to measure their emissions (see <u>page 8</u>).
- BEIS publishes data on carbon dioxide emissions from each local authority here. BEIS's UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory also maps CO2 by Local Authority here.
- Consider a bespoke inventory of your local emissions for a more tailored approach, perhaps using the sectors outlined in the section below.
- The Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction (<u>SCATTER</u>) project, commissioned by BEIS, developed methodology for local authorities to set carbon emissions targets that are consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement. This methodology has been successfully piloted with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and is being made available nationally to support all local authorities and groupings of local authorities.



2016 CO, Emissions (21 MtCO,) for WMCA area

WMCA's mapped emissions from 2016 - from their WM 2041 climate plan

3. What could the plan cover

The Committee on Climate Change outlines the sectors that we need to address to reach net zero. These are broken down below, alongside ideas on how to address them. However, it is not possible to set out a fully comprehensive pathway to net zero in your initial plan. Each sector will require well thought out strategies and some will depend on national policy. Instead, your plan should acknowledge these different aspects of a net zero local authority and the need to address some areas in due course. It should act as a type of consultation as to the scope of net zero, what various local stakeholders are willing to contribute and identifying gaps that need to be addressed (including by national policy and funding).

Where possible your plan should also consider **biodiversity**. In the past, conservation and climate action have been considered separately, despite the fact that nature-based climate solutions, such as woodland



creation, can deliver both effectively. For example, more foliage and trees can slow the flow of water and reduce flooding impacts downstream. (A future CEN newsletter will consider this in more detail).

Council as an employer

- One of the easiest places to start may be looking at the Council as an employer. How can you support staff members to use low-carbon travel options, such as cycling, to get to work? Can you challenge your suppliers and contractors to help meet your net zero ambition?
- Consider your staff member **pensions** and investments: how can you ensure that these are not contributing to climate change by investing in fossil fuel projects? Can you ensure that they are protected from climate-related risks?
- Looking at council buildings (see below), could you switch council energy suppliers to green renewable tariffs? Are you wasting any water or energy? Could you increase the **efficiency** of these resources?
- How can you ensure that your **procurement** processes take into account your net zero ambitions? That includes your energy supplier, sustainable food for your staff cafes, and so on.
- How can all staff members be involved with the Council's goal? Consider a training session on the
 issues related to the net zero target, and how they as individuals can contribute through personal
 actions and ideas. See <u>Wandsworth's carbon literacy</u> training programme.
- Other potential ideas include: requiring that all council deliveries are by electric vehicles or bike; phasing out all single use plastic; and reducing on-site food waste.

Buildings - mostly related to heat (EPC ratings) and construction

- This <u>UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) framework</u> has some useful ideas for how to make all new commercial and residential buildings net zero carbon. UKGBC has also produced, with Core Cities UK, this <u>summary for Councillors of sustainability requirements for new buildings</u>.
- The government currently aims for all homes to have at least an EPC rating C by 2035.
- Oxfordshire aims to make its corporate estate carbon neutral by 2030. This will entail energy efficiency retrofits (triple glazed windows, wall and loft insulation, etc.) and perhaps installing solar panels on their roofs to maximise renewable energy use. It may be worth considering a short term target for making new builds net zero compliant, and a longer term target for retrofitting existing buildings, based on lessons learnt from the prior strategy.
- Consider how to embed **sustainability and energy efficiency criteria** within Council structures to ensure they are properly considered for any new developments. Some councils have considered:
 - Adopting Passivhaus Standards for new-builds (estimated to cost no more than £4,500 for a semi-detached home) (e.g. <u>Dartmoor National Park</u>).
 - Developing a zero-carbon standard for new builds (e.g. <u>WMCA</u>).
 - Setting a net zero standard
 - Requiring all new buildings to complete an airtightness test (allowable permeability of no more than 3m3/m2 at 50pa)
 - Requiring electric vehicle charging in new developments (see Transport below)
 - In Oakham, a climate change adaptation strategy was developed for Larkfleet Homes' Oakham
 North development to manage the most significant impacts of climate change, and create a more
 attractive and comfortable development that is resilient to climate change.
- Improving the energy efficiency of a home can help those most at risk from fuel poverty reducing bills and the health impacts associated (e.g. winter illnesses). Your buildings strategy should therefore aim to



prioritise vulnerable people, perhaps by retrofitting their homes first (e.g. work with the local NHS to identify individuals admitted for winter illnesses that may be linked to cold homes).

- **Higher construction standards** can reduce pollution (dust, particulates, etc.), waste products and energy use. Consider requiring the use of an approved independent assured performance service, such as NEF's APP or Bioregional's BEPIT, to ensure quality of design and construction.
- **Boilers** tend to last around 11 years before they need replacing. A longer lead time will minimise the need to rip out working boilers.
- Consider the water efficiency of your buildings. Is there a way to reduce the water used or to harvest water (particularly for waste water use)? Could there be requirements for new-builds to have only the most efficient water appliances? This would have climate resilience benefits, as the building uses less water, as well as climate mitigation benefits, as a building won't need to heat up as much water.
- How **climate resilient** are your buildings? Climate change increases the likelihood of floods and heatwaves. Are your buildings protected from these weather events? How **flood resistant** are they?
- When you design your <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u>, you could actively promote particular clean technologies, including by identifying locations for wind turbines and promoting community ownership of renewable energy. (See Power for more ideas)

Transport - see the previous CEN Councillor briefing on clean air for more ideas

- Your **transport strategy** should consider all modes of transport including: walking and cycling, buses, electric vehicles, trains, trams, heavy goods vehicles, off highway vehicles (e.g. tractors and construction vehicles), taxis and local airports.
- This will all depend on the **structure of your region:** rural areas often have more varied and longer trips that make walking and cycling provisions more difficult, but may have a commuter belt where public transport (or even car share schemes) could help alleviate traffic and pollution.
- Your strategy should prioritise walking, cycling and public transport where possible. Are there busy parts of your area that you can part-time pedestrianise (e.g. using bollards) at busy periods to prioritise pedestrians? High streets or schools can be particularly good for this opening up access for shoppers and reducing pollution around school children. (See school streets for more information)
 - The <u>Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan</u> aims to make green infrastructure integral to the local transport network and promote cycling and walking by developing more attractive, greener routes.
 - <u>WMCA's</u> plans to install green roofs on bus shelters, plant green barriers between motorways
 and homes, introduce new metro lines, improve the environmental standards of their bus fleet
 and introduce more park and ride services
- You could negotiate with bus contractors for low emission buses particularly near busy routes that are already high in pollution. Ask them to commit to a phase out date for their older diesel/petrol fleet partnering with nearby councils to call for this from companies could increase the incentive for companies to act.
- The strategy should also facilitate electric vehicles by making it as easy as possible for people to switch, with rapid chargers where possible to reduce range anxiety. You could offer a 'Charge Point Guarantee', so that anyone who does not have off-street parking or a public charge point on their street, can request to have one installed in their lamp post. Working with local electricity suppliers who install EV charge points can reduce the costs.
 - Swindon Council <u>has used local development orders</u> to permit the development of electric car fueling bays at all petrol stations.



- West Sussex County Council <u>recently published the responses</u> from their consultation on a Draft Electric Vehicle Strategy.
- Electric vehicles are currently cheaper over their lifetime than diesel/petrol vehicles, and will soon be cheaper up front. However, it's important to thoroughly assess the mobility of vulnerable people or lower income households when considering your transport strategy. This is particularly relevant for commuter belts or access to certain areas such as e.g. hospitals.
- Starting with **the Council's car fleet** can help show other drivers that you have confidence in EVs and can highlight where provisions aren't sufficient (e.g. where you need more chargers). **Oxfordshire** plans to electrify its vehicles, and seek alternative fuels where electrification isn't possible, by 2024 for cars and 2028 for vans.
- New technologies like e-bikes can also increase low-carbon mobility. Oxfordshire added new e-bikes to its fleet to support staff members getting to local meetings more easily. Travel apps can also make it easier for people to use public transport where they can get up to date bus timetables (live updates etc).
- Consider **lower cost policies** that nudge people to make different travel choices can you make parking permits or parking fees tiered for different vehicles and make it cheaper to use an EV?
- Car clubs can be particularly suited for cities where car ownership figures are low and cars are not necessarily needed regularly. Instead you can 'pay as you go' for longer journeys, reducing the number of cars on the road. Find out more with Wandsworth's scheme.
- Car sharing schemes can also be effective and there are several councils running them in varied forms, e.g. <u>Hampshire County Council</u>, <u>West Sussex County Council</u>, <u>West Yorkshire</u>, <u>Milton Keynes</u>.

Waste - reduce, reuse, recycle

- Adopt **circular economy** waste policies in relevant plans and contracts as much as possible in order to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill.
- A waste management strategy should set a long-term aim to harmonise the various waste collection standards across your area (ideally county). This will improve recycling rates and support other councils to increase separate collection of food waste. This could be accompanied by an advertising campaign, explaining the new rules and encouraging people to get recycling.
- Could you encourage a **community sharing scheme**? Some apps highlight what in-date leftover food others have that another household may need (see Olio).
- **Water fountains** across public spaces and at transport hubs can help to reduce plastic bottle waste (see the <u>Refill scheme</u> for some ideas).
- Increasing the number of **public bins for recycling**, not just landfill waste, particularly near transport hubs and in busy shopping areas can help reduce litter.
- You could also launch a **litter campaign** with Keep Britain Tidy 'Keep [Area] Tidy' backed by a major advertising campaign across the area and making it easier for anyone to request for litter picking kits (e.g. <u>Rochdale</u>).

Power - maximise efficiency and replace remaining demand with zero carbon sources

- Using **LED street lights** can save power, reducing carbon and money. **Oxfordshire** estimated that it will save 6,000 tonnes of CO2 a 70% reduction over the next four years.
- Investing in **community energy projects** gives local people a chance to buy in to local climate solutions. **Oxfordshire's** Low Carbon Hub is an award-winning community energy organisation that may be of interest.



- When developing your local plans, you could identify new sites for renewable energy projects. For example, is there an appropriate site for a small onshore wind turbine (see an assessment guide here)? Or perhaps for more solar panels, either on top of buildings or beside them?
 - Oxfordshire plans to maximise solar generation on their buildings and land and buy local green power for their estate.
 - Swindon Council has fast-tracked more than 20 solar power sites and other renewable energy forms via the creation of three low-carbon Local Development Orders (LDOs) in 2015.
- See the **UK Power Networks** guide for more ideas on how to make the most of your local energy.

Land use & agriculture - using your landscapes and land to soak up carbon rather than emit it

- While **tree planting** pledges have been popular (e.g. two trees per resident) it's important not to over pledge to ensure that the target is achievable, and that the trees are put in the right places. This can be important for the longevity of the tree and to maximise its benefits for wildlife and people.
- The Woodland Trust offers advice on tree planting via their <u>website</u>. It may be preferable to pledge to increase tree cover by a certain percent than to pledge a set number of trees.
- Consider setting up a local authority nursery, to source appropriate and disease-free trees and create a long-term investment opportunity.
- As part of your tree planting scheme, it may be useful to identify new **green spaces**, or existing ones where you can increase tree cover. The Government recently announced <u>additional funding</u> for parks led by community groups and introduced a new <u>Pocket Parks</u> scheme for urban green spaces.
- Leaving the EU gives us the opportunity to set a new agricultural policy that **rewards farmers for the public goods they provide** including improved water quality, increased biodiversity and better public access to our countryside. The new Agriculture Bill aims to reform UK agricultural payments, putting the environment at its core.
 - You could consult with local farmers regarding your nature plans and see how they can support your strategy (and vice versa).
 - Could you help to organise a fair to celebrate local produce (with reduced food miles) or link farmers to local schools to encourage outdoor, practical learning?
- Several **other habitats and landscapes** are not as well known for their great properties as 'carbon sinks' (soaking up carbon emissions). For example, peatlands, salt marshes, and seagrass meadows. The RSPB <u>mapped</u> many of these places according to their biodiversity value and the amount of carbon they store so have a look at your area to find out more about what needs to be restored or protected.
- Many of these places may already have existing protections as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 for example. Ensure that these are properly looked after and consider meeting your local Wildlife Trust
 to discuss their priorities for protection, as they often know which species/areas need additional
 support.
- Protections should also be embedded in your planning processes. For example, **Bromley Council** assessed their existing natural assets and considered how they could be protected from future development and enhanced, 'in particular for areas that are home to declining species or habitats'. This includes their 'network of green infrastructure'.

Other sectors worth considering, depending on your area, include: industry (consider working with local business, the LEP - see the next section), aviation and shipping, water and flooding, tourism (you could create a sustainable tourism strategy).



This should all be backed up with appropriate **funding** analysis - e.g. <u>Wandsworth Council</u> has allocated £5 million to projects that support the achievement of the Council's 2030 target as a starting point.

4. Who to consult

As mentioned, this plan should act as a consultation document regarding the scope of the response to the net zero motion. As such, there are several potential groups that you may want to meet to gather their views and concerns, and to gauge what they are willing to contribute.

No one can reach net zero in isolation. We need civil society, business, local authorities and governments to come together alongside individuals to get there. Public engagement will therefore be vital to the success of your plan, and mapping out a programme to engage with all of these groups can set a steady timeline to gather feedback along key moments and ensure no one is missed out.

- West Midlands Combined Authority's initial plan provides 74 potential actions for businesses, councils and residents to take, including everyone in their plan. Their Public Engagement Strategy includes a broad consultation on their initial draft plan.
- What does your engagement look like? Is it a consultation (like WMCA) or a day long discussion (like this and Hertfordshire County Council's workshop), perhaps over a local climate summit? Consider the best way to spread your message.
- Young people have been striking because they want to see more climate action so make sure to include them in these important discussions, so they can help you to implement your plan. You may also want to start a broader engagement education programme, bringing local experts to schools to talk through their processes and ensure pupils understand the changes in their areas and grasp learning opportunities.
- One of the key co-benefits from tackling climate change can be reducing air pollution by reducing traffic pollution, and we know that spending more time in nature can have a positive impact on our general health and wellbeing. Working with your local **NHS trust and hospitals** to promote healthier lifestyles and ensure e.g. hospitals are well connected to public transport, can be a great way to start engaging with new audiences.
- How can local businesses support our plan or what can they do themselves to reduce their carbon footprint? You may have an innovative local business who can resolve a key issue and provide an important service. Working with your LEP (local enterprise partnership), business groups, social enterprises and SMEs can be vital to your plan's success.
- As outlined in the land use section above, **farmers** are the stewards of much of our landscape, and rely heavily on a healthy environment for the success of their business (from healthy soil to plenty of pollinators). They should be consulted to find out what support they may need to deliver their ambitions, and where they may be able to plant more trees.
- Local activists will likely be some of your greatest supporters for implementing these plans, as well as being those most likely to hold you to account for delays or failures. Communication and collaboration is key. Reach out early to your local charities, campaigners and heritage groups to ensure they are included and understand your plan from the beginning. They may have new ideas to contribute.



• Not all issues can be handled by your council alone. You may also want to consider **different tiers or neighbouring councils** within your area, county or region. Discussing joint priorities can help to share expertise, resources and priorities.

Climate assemblies

- Several NGOs and Extinction Rebellion have pushed for climate assemblies. Sometimes climate activists want citizens' assemblies to make legally-binding decisions about how we should reach net zero. This version of citizens' assemblies should be rejected as anti-democratic. People should have the power to elect those who make decisions about their lives.
- We do need to find ways of getting more public engagement with the changes needed to reach net zero.
 Therefore advisory citizens assemblies, with appropriate terms of reference and with a genuine balance of views and backgrounds, could be useful public consultation tools. Citizens' assemblies in this sense are currently being formed to make recommendations to a number of Parliamentary Select Committees about how to reach net zero.
- You may want to consider setting up a version of a citizen assembly in your area.

Several plans referenced above also include pledges from councils to lobby the central government for additional action, funding or powers. We are gathering feedback from CEN Councillors on areas where you think there are clear gaps that need to be addressed by national policy or funding pots to help you reach your net zero targets. Please get in touch with your ideas and case studies the more specific the better. This can help us to link our work with CEN MPs and Peers as well.

5. Other useful organisations

- Carbon Trust
- Energy Savings Trust
- Local Climate Impacts Profile (Environment Agency Climate Ready)
- Centre for Sustainable Energy
- UK Green Building Council
- <u>UK100</u>

Examples of plans from Labour Councils (we have mostly referenced Conservative Councils above): Bristol; Reading; Enfield; Birmingham; Bristol; Hammersmith and Fulham; Lancaster; Glasgow; Luton; Manchester; Nottingham

You may also be interested in the <u>Leeds</u> and <u>Bristol</u> Mini-Stern Reports (economics of low carbon cities) - they provide a cost-benefit analysis of climate action from a city scale, including the potential savings from e.g. energy efficiency measures. These may help with your assessments.

Other useful guides (many of their suggestions have been incorporated into this briefing, but you may want to read in more detail): Local Government Association's <u>workbook</u>; Centre for Alternative Technology's Zero Carbon Britain <u>report</u>; and Arup on what next after declaring a climate emergency <u>guidance</u>.

