

The Council's action plan to address climate change

April 2021

Introduction

In March 2020, Allerdale Borough Council established a Climate Change Working Group with a series of tasks to address, including the development of this Climate Change Action Plan.

The motion adopted by this Council to address climate change set targets to ensure emissions from its estate and activities are carbon neutral by 2030. At the same time the Council is committed to the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership and its target for the whole county by 2037, and policies will be put in place for the Council to achieve the Government's net zero target of 2050.

While the Council intends to set specific targets for carbon emission reductions, the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 is very challenging. Even though the date should be retained as a target and used to keep up the pressure on central Government to support our work, it is more important that the Council focuses on developing and delivering a viable, sustainable response to the challenge of climate change, even within the tight deadlines. The 2030 date should be kept under review as our understanding of what is possible improves.

The Council has a vision for a low carbon future and is seeking to address climate change concerns within all key Council services. The Council can make positive impacts through the quality of the environment, housing, planning decisions, choice of transport use, energy savings and reducing carbon emissions. Local authorities generally represent around 2 to 5% of local emissions through their own activities, resulting directly from energy used in council operations, vehicle fleet, buildings, and electricity purchased. Importantly, Local Authorities can also potentially influence around a third of an area's emissions through place shaping, partnerships and leadership (*'So you've declared a climate emergency: what next?' APSE*)

This Council's Action Plan to Address Climate Change is grouped in sections as proposed in the recommendations of *'A blueprint for accelerating climate action and a green recovery at the local level'* (developed by a number of national organisations led by ADEPT, see bibliography). These section headings are:

- Growing the Zero and Low Carbon Economy
- Retrofitting homes and buildings to reduce consumption and emissions
- Decarbonising transport
- Planning to deliver Zero Carbon development that protects and enhances nature
- Reducing waste and encouraging sustainable consumption
- Restoring nature for all
- Developing local authority funding, governance and accounting systems that are fit for purpose.

This action plan is intended as a living document which will be annually reviewed and updated by this Council's Climate Change Working Group, in conjunction with adjacent local authorities and partners, including statutory, voluntary and community organisations and local political party groups.

Section A: Growing the low carbon economy – skills and infrastructure; community and business engagement

We want to create thriving resilient economy that supports a fair transition to Net Zero Carbon, through communication, training and skills, support for businesses and a procurement approach that influences the emissions of supply chains and products. We encourage bold use of technology to decarbonise our operations.

	Actions	Activity
A1	Reduction in the impact of climate change on our services and community	Assess the risk associated with climate change for the Council Services and our communities and produce plan to adapt accordingly
A2	Review council policies and strategies to consider impact of climate change	Ensure climate change actions are reflected in both existing and any new strategies and policies
A3	Develop a stakeholder engagement and communications strategy	Devise a programme in conjunction with partners to include: a) stakeholders b) Council members c) businesses particularly including tourism and farming d) the community to raise awareness of climate change, potentially addressing different age groups through targeted campaigns e) engagement with young people's groups f) further engagement with schools to include aspects of climate change in Council's education delivery g) communications strategy for the work of the group
A4	Work with key partners	a) develop and implement strategic projects which deliver best practices in sustainable development b) develop plans to address the causes and impact of climate change according to local priorities
A5	Support the work of the network of local partnerships in raising awareness of climate change in Cumbria	a) participate in the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership including working closely with other Cumbrian authorities b) work with Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership on citizen engagement projects c) encourage community groups to engage with the Council's climate change task groups around specific areas of interest
A6	Building relationships with and lobbying the area's three MPs	This year in preparation for COP26 as a priority in working towards improvements
A7	Increased skills in local workforce to implement changes	a) better understanding among Council officers of climate change implementation b) sufficiently skilled local workforce to resource necessary changes
A8	Provide and co-ordinate training on climate change for staff and members, particularly front line staff	Introduce programme of carbon literacy training as soon as possible and awareness raising (ongoing)

A9	Inward investment in renewables energies and other 'green job' opportunities	Support large scale projects
A10	Work with neighbouring councils to ensure contiguous approaches across all activities and communities	These include those on the boundaries of Carlisle City Council (Thursby, Kirkbride etc) and Eden (Hesket New Market, Millhouse) as such it will be worth connecting with the plans for Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council to share learning and action.
Key Partners / Stakeholder Groups – Action with Communities in Cumbria, Carlisle City Council, Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Climate Emergency West Cumbria (CEWC), Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS), Cumbria County Council, Cumbria CVS, Cumbria Farmer Network, Cumbria LEP, Cumbria Youth Alliance, Cumbria Waste Carbon Reduction Group, DWP, Eden District Council, Friends of the Earth (FotE), MPs, schools and colleges, Sustainable Keswick (SusKes), town and parish councils, TWIG, Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP).		

Section B: Retro-fitting homes and buildings

We want to improve housing stock and the wider built environment to reduce carbon emissions, build resilience to future climate change, reduce fuel poverty and influence improved living conditions

	Actions	Activity
B1	Work with Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) and other partners to promote energy efficiencies in households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote availability of energy saving measures in homes in conjunction with CAfS b) promotion of government schemes to improve homes c) promote full occupancy of homes
B2	Running energy efficiency schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) targeting deprivation and fuel poverty, including working with Housing Associations (HAs), environmental groups and other agencies b) promotion of government schemes to improve homes, including those targeting social housing providers c) build knowledge through working with social housing providers d) regularly run a collective energy switching scheme
B3	Ensure Private Rented Accommodation in Allerdale does not have an EPC rating below an E	Enforcement activity in accordance with the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) regulations
B4	Raise awareness of funding available for energy efficiency	Improve awareness amongst front line staff, visiting officers, Customer Service Advisors and partners
B5	Encourage awareness of emissions from domestic heating sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote eco-friendly sources including ground and air source heat pumps and PV options b) promote awareness of emissions from log burners and coal fires c) work in conjunction with local community energy focused groups and organisations
B6	Work with tenants, leases and occupants of Council owned buildings to identify energy savings opportunities	Once work to identify which buildings require work to address emissions is complete, begin to develop solutions
B7	Review energy use and plan for energy efficiencies and decarbonisation in Council buildings and estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify potential for energy efficiencies and sustainability for operational buildings b) produce prioritised action plan c) implement prioritised action d) replace (repair) footway lighting with LED as need arises until completed e) explore the potential for an 'invest to save' project to replace existing lighting with LEDs f) support parish councils wishing to participate in Dark Skies project compliance
B8	Investigate the potential for installing renewable energy generation in existing or new Council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establish a baseline of the current position and need for improvements (audit of estate) b) explore potential for improvements initially at Allerdale House e.g. solar panels and other sources of energy creation, then other Council owned buildings

B9	Review energy suppliers for Council building and seek to move towards 100% supply from 'green' sources or suppliers	Work to ensure Council purchases of electricity are from renewable sources and identify alternatives to gas supply
B10	Engage in the Borderlands energy masterplanning work	Participate other local authorities to develop solutions
Key Partners / Stakeholder Groups – CAfS, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria LEP, energy companies, Local Energy North West Hub, Melbreak Community Energy, social landlords and Housing Associations, Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.		

Section C: Decarbonisation of transport & reducing road miles

We want to reduce traffic and shift to more sustainable modes of transport. This will lead to improvements in emissions, air quality, noise and safety.

	Actions	Activity
C1	Contribute to addressing wider community-based transport issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) transport savings by holding virtual meetings b) lobbying for more bus services c) explore lift sharing apps and the use of data these can provide d) respond to changes as a result of greater numbers of people working from home
C2	Review existing car user policy to identify sustainable travel incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider staff pool bicycle scheme b) continue supported purchase schemes for staff c) encourage staff use of public transport d) regularly promote sensible driving message to staff and members
C3	Work with main partners to achieve reduction in energy use and greenhouse gases in the delivery of Council services	Particularly in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) planning replacement of vehicles b) encourage transition from petrol fuelled equipment to electric c) Reducing distances and frequency of travel
C4	Maximise benefits of projects by partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support projects to install such as electric vehicle charge points with providers such as Charge My Street and commercial companies b) further promote Local Cycling and Walking Plans (LCWiPs)
C5	Promote sustainable travel options	Work with groups involved in promoting sustainable travel to support initiatives
Key Partners / Stakeholder Groups - Allerdale Waste Services, Bicycle Mayor for Cumbria, CAFS, Charge My Street, Cumbria County Council, cyclists groups, Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), other initiatives - Liftshare (app), Slow Roads Network, Sustrans.		

Section D: Planning to deliver zero carbon development that protects and enhances nature

We want to ensure that new development is carbon neutral, makes space for nature and links with walking and cycling routes to essential facilities.

	Actions	Activity
D1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure forthcoming legislation is effectively implemented and supported within the authority b) Regularly review planning policies to incorporate sustainable development taking into account the needs and character of the area through the Local Plan c) Ensure robust strategies are in place to support legislation d) Ensure interdepartmental coordination enables continuous improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) i - ensure all senior managers are aware of the impacts of proposed legislation ii - ensure the Council is able to service the requirements of implementing the proposed new planning requirements b) develop supplementary planning documents relating to biodiversity and environmental gains c) continue to collaborate with other Cumbrian authorities on the draft local nature recovery strategy and ensure this is implemented when adopted d) enable close communication between all relevant staff, particularly planning policy and development control in conjunction with parks and open spaces
D2	Examine existing supplementary planning guidance for sustainable development and determine if any change is required to bring guidance in line with best practice	Consider if planning conditions can <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enable the commissioning of independent monitoring of planning applications as a condition of approval b) require the installation of electric vehicle charge points in public facing developments c) advocate that new infrastructure, especially roads, avoids flood plain wherever feasible or is built above anticipated flood heights
D3	Promote higher building quality standards that include sustainable and green building principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) monitor use of pre-planning checklist b) promote biodiversity support measures including swift bricks, hedgehog runs etc. c) expand list and use of appropriate external organisations as consultees
D4	Review existing main Council policies and consider making amendments to assist in tackling climate change	Development and phasing in of 'green clauses' (such as requiring energy efficiency) into Council leases and rental contracts
D5	Protect below market value (BMV) land to grow crops for local consumption.	Local Plan policy S36 and para 329 page 142 sets out the principle of protection of most versatile agricultural land for food production.
Key Partners / Stakeholder Groups – Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, LDNPA, Local Government Association (LGA), Natural England, Workington Nature Partnership.		

Potential future actions and activities	
Carbon sequestration and/or off-setting (land based)	Once the baseline figures for Council activities are established, consider potential activities towards carbon sequestration and or off-setting
Carbon sequestration and/or off-setting (marine based)	Work with partners to explore supporting carbon storage in the marine environment

Section E: - Reducing waste and encouraging sustainable consumption: within Allerdale Borough Council estate

We aim to reduce waste and support sustainable consumption and production, through a more circular economy. We want to be bold in our use of technology to reduce resource use and greenhouse gas emissions. We will regularly issue communications and newsletters

	Actions	Activity
E1	a) Review departmental and central printing strategy b) Review potential for further reducing volume of paper for Committee work c) Consider extending the use of video conferencing	a) encourage greater use of electronic devices by staff b) encourage greater use of electronic devices by staff and councillors c) i - explore alternative methods and providers ii - develop hybrid provision to allow combined in-person and virtual meetings
E2	Continue re-use schemes when disposing of furniture/ equipment	a) repair and extend life where possible b) offer spare or replaced items to community groups and voluntary organisations
E3	Consider impact of on staff and the community in accessing and delivery of services at current and potential Council Centres.	Review options for the delivery of Council services
E4	Monitor working temperatures and other factors adversely affecting workforce.	Ensure steps are taken to mitigate any changes in working conditions or wellbeing in Allerdale Borough Council workplaces.
E5	Regularly review the Council's Strategic Procurement Strategy to increase the purchase of sustainable goods and services	Ensure any new aspects of climate change including legislation are incorporated into the Strategic Commissioning and Procurement Strategy
E6	Review the Council's use of outside caterers and when used include the need for locally sourced food and reusable or recyclable utensils.	a) choosing sustainable resources should be the intended choices b) work in conjunction with the Grow Local Eat Local project (ZCCP)

Reducing waste and encouraging sustainable consumption: Allerdale Borough Council residents and businesses

We aim to reduce waste and support sustainable consumption and production, through a more circular economy. We want to discourage wasteful lifestyles that create environmental problems both here and abroad, on land and in the marine environment.

E7	Improve recycling knowledge and practices in Allerdale including awareness of service	a) review trade waste options b) review bulky waste collection and potential re-use system for furniture c) review information on bin calendars d) update Council website and information links e) run PR campaign to raise awareness of facilities and services f) promote repair, reuse and recycling in the community for example through initiatives such as Freegle and repair cafes g) consider campaigns to engage the public based on these principles:
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		rethink - <i>reducing consumption</i> refuse - <i>saying no to environmentally unfriendly goods and services, including packaging</i> reduce - <i>reducing consumption of environmentally impactful purchases that you cannot live without</i> recycle - <i>finally, if the above options are not possible then look at the recycling options and ensure you recycle correctly</i>
E8	Extend provision of doorstep recycling facilities in accordance with annual programme	a) work with Allerdale Waste Services to determine programme b) address issues for areas of the borough not covered by current services
E9	Minimisation of residual waste	a) continue to work on Tetra-Pak recycling scheme options b) investigate : i - anaerobic digestion for food waste ii - soft plastic recycling iii - electrical repair and recycling iv - furniture reuse v - deposit return scheme (bottles) c) promote Sustainable Food Action Plans d) consider reduction in residual waste collection container volume in line with national initiative
E10	Minimisation of residual waste at source	a) raise awareness of staff and public on waste minimisation and recycling b) work on a waste minimisation campaign c) work to improve attitudes and actions regarding environmental crimes e.g. fly-tipping with a particular focus on identified hotspots d) carry out educational campaigns to support the above e) Extended Producer Responsibility scheme
Key Partners / Stakeholder Groups – Allerdale Waste Services, BEC, businesses, CAFs, CEWC, Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria LEP, Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership, FotE, Freegle, refill initiative, repair cafes, schools and colleges, SusKes, town and parish councils, ZCCP.		

Section F: Restoring nature for all: Biodiversity, land use, land use change and forestry

We want to provide easy access to quality natural spaces, supporting wellbeing for individuals and communities. We want green spaces to have the co-benefits of providing natural potential for flood water slowing, carbon capture, flourishing insect friendly pollination areas and wildlife habitats, in addition to human focussed leisure facilities.

	Actions	Activity
F1	Nature reserves become sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) progress the Solway Coast AONB Management Plan b) development of management plans for the Council's nature reserves at Harrington and Siddick Ponds
F2	Support for community focused projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encourage orchards & allotments b) support development of horticultural businesses c) develop a small grants scheme d) complete the Allonby to Silloth coastal cycle path extension
F3	Promote biodiversity by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) planting to minimise maintenance/ links to biodiversity b) identify areas of land for tree planting c) encourage composting d) promote/develop more Get Cumbria Buzzing sites e) promote habitat restoration, particularly including saltmarsh and seagrass beds f) Work with Cumbria Farmers Network to promote sustainable farming and improved environmental practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i - change bedding plants to perennials ii - use peat free compost iii - introduce wildflower planting where viable and revise cutting timetable to encourage growth iv - reduce the use of Glyphosate as a general weed killer b) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i - work with the Woodland Trust and local groups such as TWIG; ii - be part of the emerging partnership project for a West Cumbria Community Coastal Forest c) through promotional campaigns encourage citizens to engage in composting d) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i - work with Cumbria Wildlife Trust and local groups ii - work with town and parish councils e) support local and community groups developing projects to restore or create habitats for biodiversity f) develop relationship Cumbria Farmers Network
F4	Reduction in overall flood risk	Planting to mitigate the effects by slowing the flow in rivers and streams
F5	Reduce flood probability and severity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue to promote and ensure urban run-off through SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) b) work with United Utilities with regard to reviewing water management from Thirlmere
F6	Explore carbon capture potential	This would include both usage and storage
F7	Explore hydrogen-related energy possibilities	Continue to monitor the project research being undertaken for Cumbria LEP and partners
F8	Increased community awareness of climate change issues in AONB area	Through communication and community engagement

F9	Prevent import of pests, diseases through local docks	Work in collaboration to ensure adherence to legislation
Restoring Nature for All: Water, flooding and coastal change We want to address water wastage and develop grey water systems. We want to work with partners to improve flood resilience, consider coastal erosion, shoreline management, improve biodiversity and address beach litter.		
F10	Implement results of trial using water saving devices in Council buildings and assess scope for extending	Improve ABC utilities supply/usage
F11	Assess scope for reuse of grey water in Council buildings and prioritise for action	Improve ABC utilities supply/usage
F12	Recognise the Council's role in ensuring sufficient public water for agriculture, industry, council use including statutory duties with regard to private water supplies and improving water sanitation	Work with Environment Agency, United Utilities, Cumbria County Council and other partners Ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goal 6
F13	Raise awareness of staff and community on water saving measures	a) develop goals to reduce water leakage, wastage b) consider feasibility of installing rainwater and/or grey water recovery systems
F14	Work to address coastal issues	a) work with partners to support the implementation of the Cumbria Coastal Strategy b) work with partners to support the implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan c) work with partners and Cumbria County Council on coastal issues, particularly around the B5300 d) continue to participate in the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group
F15	Increase river and coastal flood resilience and safety	a) assess risk for people, livelihoods and prosperity b) ensure access to flood-readiness information (for evacuation) c) ensure access to flood-resilience and support information d) work closely with the Environment Agency and respective flood action groups throughout the borough e) assist EA and CCC with all flood alleviation methods including improving river defences
F16	Review beach cleaning activities	Work with a range of groups to help clean beaches. Of greater importance to raise the issue of dirty beaches and how the public can help reduce this.
F17	Support ongoing work with partners to address diffuse pollution and improve bathing water quality	Promote the benefits of domestic travel and blue spaces for recreation and health, in conjunction with initiatives such as Love My Beach and Active Coast.
F18	Support ongoing action plan for Allonby as a priority bathing water.	Ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 14
Key Partners / Stakeholder Groups - Climate Emergency West Cumbria, CoBA (Coastal Based Approach) initiative, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Lichens and Bryophyte Group, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Cumbria Farmers Network, DEFRA, Environment Agency, Get Cumbria Buzzing, LDNPA, LGA Coastal Special Interest Group, 'Love My Beach', Marine Management Organisation (MMO), National Trust, Natural England, Northside Community Garden and Recreation Society, RSPB, Solway Coast AONB, Solway Firth Partnership,		

SusKes, TWIG, United Utilities, West Cumbria Rivers Trust, Woodland Trust, Workington Nature Partnership.

Section G: Developing local authority funding, governance and accounting systems that are fit for purpose

We want to develop a strategic approach to influencing climate and biodiversity problems. We hope to provide citizens with appropriate engagement opportunities based on transparent proposals, processes and performance, which will deliver innovative solutions. We aim to influence investment strategies and procurement policies to ensure they are in line with this Council's Climate Change ambitions and contribute to a local, circular economy

	Actions	Activity
G1	Scrutiny of treasury and procurement via Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit Committee to ensure actions are in line with the Action Plan to Address Climate Change aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure that whole life costs and local, ethical purchasing guidelines are followed b) address policies to include the economic costs of climate change adaptation and mitigation c) look to divest from financial arrangements damaging to the climate
G2	Innovative funding and financing mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) look at community bonds and funding partnerships b) explore potential for large capital schemes c) engage with regional procurement frameworks where appropriate d) develop a funding strategy including assessing, readiness to apply for and utilising grant funding schemes as these become available
G3	Access the UK shared prosperity fund to fund the transition to the low carbon economy	Lobby Government
G4	Provide government with the evidence that helps local authorities to apply policies and target resources to deliver necessary cuts in emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) address carbon reduction in service planning and performance management b) assess the carbon emissions when developing proposals for capital schemes c) continue use of impact assessment section in council report templates d) lobby Government
Key Partners / Stakeholder Groups – Cumbria LEP, Local Energy Hub North West, MPs, Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership		

Context and rationale

Global implications of climate change

There has been wide debate about the causes of global warming. What is clear is that global temperatures are rising and the scientific consensus is now that human activities, including population growth, significantly affect climate change. The 20th century was the warmest century in the last 1,000 years with 0.6°C warming. The 1990s was the warmest decade in Central England since records began in the 1660s. The main influence on global climate is the emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄). At present, about 36.4 billion tonnes of MtCO₂ (2019 www.globalcarbonatlas.org) is emitted globally each year, mainly through burning coal, oil and gas for energy. Increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere over the last 200 years have trapped more energy (infrared radiation/radiant energy) in the lower atmosphere, altering our climate.

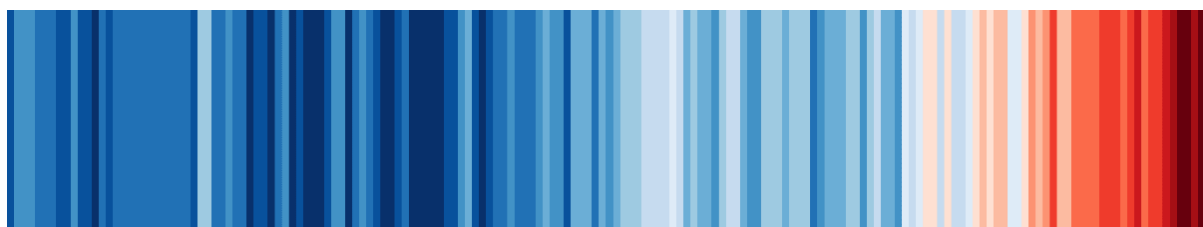


Figure 1 “Warming stripes” – based on the global annual average temperatures 1850-2020

Source: www.climate-lab-book.ac.uk

The ‘warming stripes’ illustration at Figure 1 represents how the average temperatures globally have increased over the last 170 years, using the blue colours for cooler temperatures from the 1850s and reds for more warmer temperatures.

As well as the predicted temperature rise, we are experiencing changing rainfall, more stormy weather and more extreme weather events. The melting of polar ice caps will lead to an increase in sea levels and extensive flooding of low-lying areas of land. It has also been predicted that in future centuries the Gulf Stream may slow down and result in dramatic cooling of North West Europe. Predicted global impacts include flooding, drought, increased disease, famine and conflict or war caused by water or food shortages. Two overall strategies can help address these issues: mitigation and adaptation:

Mitigation – this refers to actions that reduce human contribution to the causes of climate change. This means reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), through energy efficiency and using alternative forms of transport and energy.

Mitigation is important in the long term as it is only by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions that we can hope to minimise human-induced climate change. Many of the measures to help reduce emissions may also have other benefits such as saving money and encouraging a more sustainable society.

Adaptation - addresses the impacts and opportunities resulting from a changing climate. Irrespective of the success of mitigation efforts, there will still be some degree of unavoidable climate change. This stems from our historic greenhouse gas emissions and the persistence of these gases in the atmosphere.

Governments around the world have pledged to reduce their emissions to limit the degree of warming. The most recent was the United Nations COP 21 Paris Agreement (UNFCCC 2016) in which world leaders committed to take action to keep a rise in global temperatures this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. In climate models, this 2°C rise by the end of the century represents sizeable cuts in global emissions.

The national context

The Climate Change Committee (an independent non-departmental public body, formed under the Climate Change Act 2008 to advise the United Kingdom and devolved Governments and Parliaments on tackling and preparing for climate change) has advised that the UK government sets its Sixth Carbon Budget (i.e. the legal limit for UK emissions of greenhouse gases over the years 2033-37) to require a reduction in UK emissions of 78% by 2035 relative to 1990 levels, a 63% reduction from 2019 as an appropriate contribution to the UK's Net-Zero target. In England, there is no overall plan on how local authorities fit into delivering Net Zero although the Climate and Ecology Bill seeks to address this.

Over half of the UK's emissions cuts are dependent on purchasing decisions, behaviours and habits of individuals, businesses and organisations.

Local authorities are currently constrained by a lack of detailed benchmarking information, government targets and clear trajectories for decarbonising activities for energy, buildings, transport and land use. Hence this Action Plan will need to be regularly reviewed as targets, pathways and funding streams are created.

Local impacts of climate change

Climate change is a global issue which also has local impacts. By the end of the 21st century, all areas of the UK are projected to be warmer, more so in summer than in winter with hotter, dryer summer months, milder and wetter winters and a change in the pattern of extreme weather events becoming more frequent and intense. This projected temperature rise in the UK is consistent with future warming globally. By 2070, in the high emission scenario, this temperature range could increase from 0.9°C to 5.4°C in summer, and 0.7°C to 4.2°C in winter.

In Cumbria, it is estimated that the average daily temperature will rise between 1 and 2 degrees by 2050 and that summer rainfall will reduce by 15% but that winter rainfall will increase by between 15% and 30%. The Allerdale area has experienced severe adverse flooding events over the last decade with millions being spent locally to adapt for possible future flooding events.

The Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy 2019 provides the following priority areas which are addressed in Allerdale's Climate Change Action Plan:

Green Spaces and Biodiversity

The co-benefits of protecting nature sites and creating new rich green space include better mental and physical health for local people, greater resilience to future climate change extremes and more resilient food production

Some examples of local authority work in this action plan include:

- Protection and restoration of nature through nature recovery strategies
- Carbon sequestration through nature-based solutions such as restoring peatland, considerate land management and additional tree planting
- Habitat restoration and green infrastructure growth
- Wildflower verges become established
- Reduction in pesticides used and changed mowing patterns

Air Quality

By supporting low carbon infrastructure and transport initiatives, Allerdale Borough Council can reduce resource use, reduce CO₂e emissions and improve air quality. Hence improving health and wellbeing of our residents and protecting the planet.

Our action plan addresses air quality in its sections; 'growing the low carbon economy' and 'decarbonising transport'

- Support development of safe walking and cycle routes
- Rapid transition to low carbon vehicle in our fleets and EV charging points for our communities
- Developing interventions that reduce the need to travel
- Promote awareness of emissions from coal fires and wood burning stoves

Climate Change

Slowing, stopping and then removing the greenhouse gases from our atmosphere is an ambitious target – achievable only with joined up thinking and commitment across all areas of local government and our communities. Local Councils are an indispensable partner in reaching the national target of net zero by 2050.

- Seek funding and partnership activities to support re-skilling, retraining and local research
- Work with partners on promotion of retrofitting properties to reduce energy use and emissions
- Supporting partnerships to bring green jobs to Allerdale

Waste reduction

We cannot easily recycle our way out of the strain on natural resources and the quantity of waste that is currently produced locally. New solutions to reduce single-use items and unnecessary products that soon end up as waste are needed.

- Awareness campaigns to lead to minimisation of residual waste

- Promote re-use and recycling initiatives
- Create additional recycle streams to use waste as a resource
- PR Campaigns to raise awareness of possibilities
- Look at our own procurement policies to ensure that 'whole life costs' are considered in the value of products

Allerdale Borough Council's role in partnerships and with the public, places us at the heart of the climate conversation and in developing and replicating local solutions. However, these levers alone are not sufficient to deliver our Carbon Neutral ambitions, due to gaps in key powers that prevent systems-scale or holistic approaches, policy and funding barriers, and a lack of capacity and skills caused by funding cuts. Figure 2 below shows local authorities' leverage and influence through their services, planning and enforcement roles, housing, regeneration, economic development activities, education and skills services and investments.



Figure 2 local authority levers of influence – the 'onion diagram'

Source: Rachel Coxcoon at the Centre for Sustainable Energy

What is Allerdale Borough Council already doing to tackle climate change?

Growing a Zero and Low Carbon Economy – within its sphere of influence as a local authority we seek to influence around a third of the area's emissions through place shaping, partnerships and leadership. The Council's Procurement Strategy addresses the environment and sustainability in a purchasing context. Ongoing work with the other Cumbrian local authorities through EPiC (Effective Procurement in Cumbria) should help establish a consistent approach in helping to address climate change and support the local economy across Cumbria through sustainable procurement.

The Council's Economic Growth and Recovery Strategy recognises the potential for the area to succeed in the development of 'green jobs' over the coming years.

Reducing consumption and emissions: Allerdale House was designed to be energy efficient though further improvements can be made. It is a legal requirement to display energy certificates in large public sector buildings. Audits for energy performance certificates are ongoing in relevant Council buildings. Council staff are encouraged to switch off computer equipment when not in use. Work to reduce fuel poverty is ongoing. Inspections on homes under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System to assess decent homes includes energy efficiency.

Decarbonising transport: the staff travel policy requires staff to make efficient journeys and consider public transport. Close working with partners has led to an extensive cycle network in West Cumbria. The Council currently promotes a scheme to encourage staff to cycle to work. Electric vehicles have been recently purchased for some Council Services. COVID19 has led to a change in travel and working patterns which has massively decreased road miles. Many of these adaptations will be retained for the future.

As tourism and visits to the Lake District evolves, the Council is working in collaboration with its partners to consider any challenges emerging through increased numbers of people visiting the area, particularly by car, whether electric or fuel driven.

Planning to deliver Zero Carbon development: the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, which involves three overarching interdependent objectives – economic, social and environmental. These objectives are delivered through the preparation and implantation of plans and the application of policies in the NPPF. The environmental objective includes mitigating and adapting to climate change. Section 14 of the NPPF relates specifically to meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change. Our Local Plan is consistent with the NPPF.

Building Control are ensuring that new developments have appropriate thermal insulation as required by the current Building Regulations and are helping construction companies build environmentally-friendly homes.

Reducing waste: Allerdale Borough Council is delivering a recycling rate of 34% with a particular focus on the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste that was previously sent to landfill, and contributed to greenhouse gases from the landfill site. Ongoing work with the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership assists in waste reduction and recycling.

The recycling facilities for staff in Council offices in main offices include cans and bottles in addition to paper. The design and print tender specifications will include the need for use of recycled paper. Electronic versions of meeting papers are now the standard method of distribution. Old computer equipment is reused or recycled.

Restoring nature: The Council's AONB team manage the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Parks and Open Spaces team manages the Council's two nature reserves at Harrington and Siddick Pond with help from community groups, and through an extensive programme for volunteers and education. The management plans for these areas are regularly reviewed to increase biodiversity, create carbon sinks and help slow run-off of water.

A Shoreline Management Plan for the North West of England and North Wales has been developed. This sets out the long-term direction for managing risk to our coastline. The Cumbria Coastal Strategy has recently been developed and is currently going through the approval process with all partners (Spring 2021).

Baseline data and reporting on progress

At this point we are reviewing the data available to the Council to establish current baselines (performance figures and available data against which it will be possible to measure and report on changes as the work progresses). The Council is participating in the project to determine the level of need to decarbonise public sector buildings in the North West, funded by the Local Energy Hub and government, which is intended to lead to a programme of activity based on the identification of urgent need for remedial action, and through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership we are addressing the outcomes of the carbon audit for Cumbria. We recognise we need to both understand the scale of the need through accurate current data and prioritise our activities accordingly.

Local authorities do not currently have to monitor or report reductions in their own or area emissions. This may change should the Environment Bill and Climate and Ecology Bill successfully pass through the Parliamentary process.

The Climate Change Committee recommends that local authority action plans should state how progress will be monitored and reported back to partnerships and residents, along with methods of ongoing engagement. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's 2020 recommendations give us guidelines for self-scrutiny. General guiding principles are:

- Measure and report Scopes 1 and 2 as a minimum. Scope 1 is direct GHG emissions from sources owned or controlled by the local authority, for example emissions from boilers and

vehicles. Scope 2 accounts for emissions of purchased electricity consumed by the local authority.

- Define and report on Scope 3 as actively as possible. Scope 3 includes indirect emissions from wider supply chains, emissions from the use of local authority services, staff travel, contracted out services, investments, water use and waste, all of which should be easily measurable. Local authorities should assess the significance of emissions and level of control they have over different types of Scope 3 emissions and focus on the areas with the most emissions over which they have the most control or influence.

See the Terminology section at the end of the document for a definition of the scopes.

Work gathering baseline data is ongoing and methodology will be improved to provide more accurate and specific information.

From the latest figures available (BEIS 2017) the greenhouse gases emissions (excluding removals from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry – LULUCF) which originated in Allerdale were 629.1 ktCO₂, with just over a third of this being attributable to industrial and commercial fuel use (289.4 ktCO₂), alongside roughly equal amounts attributable to domestic energy use (178.2 ktCO₂) and transport (181.4 ktCO₂). The per capita emissions have fallen between 2005 and 2017 from 13.4tCO₂ to 6.5tCO₂.

The data allocates emissions on an “end-user” basis where emissions are distributed according to the point of energy consumption (or point of emission if not energy related). Except for the energy industry, emissions from the production of goods are assigned to where the production takes place. On this basis, emissions from the production of goods which are exported have been included, and emissions from the production of goods which are imported are excluded.

The Allerdale area emissions have been recently benchmarked through work commissioned by the Cumbria Climate Change Working Group, now known as Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership and carried out by Small World Consulting, and summarised as part of a countywide profile in ‘A Carbon Baseline for Cumbria’, 2020 (available via www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk).

The Tyndall Centre’s (University of Manchester) assessment of a carbon budget for Allerdale as a district (<https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E07000026>) shows that for the area to make its fair contribution to delivering the Paris Agreement's commitment to staying “well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C” global temperature rise, then an immediate and rapid programme of decarbonisation is needed. At 2017 CO₂ emission levels, Allerdale will exceed the recommended budget available within 8 years from 2020. To stay within the recommended carbon budget Allerdale will, from 2020 onwards, need to achieve average mitigation rates of CO₂ from energy of around - 11.2% per year. This will require that Allerdale rapidly transitions away from unabated fossil fuel use. For context, the relative change in CO₂ emissions from energy compared to a 2015 Paris Agreement reference year are shown in Table 1 below.

Year	Reduction in Annual Emissions (based on recommended pathway)
2020	35.8%
2025	64.5%
2030	80.4%
2035	89.2%
2040	94.0%
2045	96.7%
2050	98.2%

Table 1: *Percentage reduction of annual emissions for the recommended CO₂ only pathway out to 2050 in relation to 2015*

Source: The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

The carbon budgets recommended should be reviewed on a five yearly basis to reflect the most up-to-date science, any changes in global agreements on climate mitigation and progress on the successful deployment at scale of negative emissions technologies.

These budgets do not downscale aviation and shipping emissions from the UK national level. However if these emissions continue to increase as currently envisaged by Government, aviation and shipping will take an increasing share of the UK carbon budget, reducing the available budgets for combined and local authorities. The Tyndall Centre recommends that Allerdale seriously consider strategies for significantly limiting emissions growth from aviation and shipping. This could include interactions with the UK Government or other local authorities and local enterprise partnership discussions on aviation that reflect the need of the carbon budget to limit aviation and shipping emissions growth.

CO₂ emissions in the carbon budget related to electricity use from the National Grid in Allerdale are largely dependent upon national government policy and changes to power generation across the country. The Tyndall Centre recommends that Allerdale promote the deployment of low carbon electricity generation within the region and where possible influence national policy on this issue.

The Tyndall Centre also recommends that the LULUCF sector should be managed to ensure CO₂ sequestration where possible. The management of LULUCF could also include action to increase wider social and environmental benefits.

In summary

This Council's Climate Change Action Plan is broadly but not specifically grouped into the headers proposed in '*A blueprint for accelerating climate action and a green recovery at the local level*' (January 2021).

- Growing the Zero and Low Carbon Economy
- Retrofitting homes and buildings to reduce consumption and emissions
- Decarbonising transport
- Planning to deliver Zero Carbon development that protects and enhances nature
- Reducing Waste and Encouraging Sustainable Consumption
- Restoring Nature for all
- Developing local authority funding, governance and accounting systems that are fit for purpose

We also consider the themes fitting within the Council Strategy 2020-2030 and the Cumbria Joint Public Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2019-2029).

This action plan has been developed across Political parties within the Council. Each section is led by different Council members according to their own areas of knowledge and special interest who work as task groups within the Climate Change group. The work is supported and delivered by relevant senior managers and Lead Officers across all departments.

The action plan is a 'live' document and will develop over time. The structure is created to enable new actions to be easily added to the numbering system. Completed actions will remain included in the published plan, and will be noted as completed.

Further Government direction and work is needed to carry out detailed appraisals of baseline data and data collection guidelines. Some of our actions and targets will change in line with the Bills currently going through Parliament. These are the Environment Bill, the Decarbonisation and Economic Strategy Bill and the Climate and Ecology Bill. Added to these, the Glasgow COP26 in November this year, will bring new ambitions which will be reflected in future revisions of this action plan.

A climate change action plan cannot be delivered by one person alone, nor solely by Allerdale Borough Council. In order to be carbon neutral, we need to embed climate actions across all functions, policies and aspects of the work with people living, working and visiting the area to achieve these outcomes.

We will be engaging with our communities across the borough to rise up and take action to address what is arguably the most difficult, but most important, challenge of our age.

Bibliography

A blueprint for accelerating climate action and a green recovery at the local level (ADEPT [Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Transport and Planning] , Ashden, Friends of the Earth, Grantham Institute - Climate Change and the Environment (Imperial College London), Green Alliance, Greenpeace UK, Local Government Association, London Environment Directors' Network [LEDNet], Place-based Climate Action Network [PCAN at LSE, University of Edinburgh, University of Leeds and Queens University Belfast] and Solace, January 2021) Available at <https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/documents/blueprint-accelerating-climate-action-and-green-recovery-local-level>

So You've Declared A Climate Emergency, What Next? (APSE) - Available at <https://www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/research/current-research-programme/>

The Sixth Carbon Budget for Local Authorities (The Climate Change Committee) - Available at <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>

A Carbon Baseline for Cumbria (Small World Consulting) – Available under 'Key Documents' at <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/environment/environment-further-information/>

Setting Climate Commitments for Allerdale (Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, March 2021) – Available at <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E07000026/>

Terminology

Below are explanations of some of the terms used in this document.

Net Zero - 'A net zero organisation will set and pursue an ambitious 1.5°C aligned science-based target for its full value-chain emissions. Any remaining hard-to-decarbonise emissions can be compensated using certified greenhouse gas removal*.' (Science Based Targets Initiative)

1. The company will set and pursue an ambitious 1.5°C aligned science-based target for its full value chain emissions
2. The boundary must be global scopes 1, 2 and 3 for the organisation
3. Any remaining hard-to-decarbonise emissions can be compensated with certified greenhouse gas removals (GGR*). These should be restricted to only certified methods of GGR, to increase confidence that the carbon is permanently sequestered. Importantly, the company or organisation should make sure that only truly 'hard-to-decarbonise' emissions may be compensated.

* "There is still much discussion around appropriate GGR methods and the markets for GGRs require significant development in terms of volume, market mechanisms, and certification protocols."

Carbon Neutral - 'A condition in which during a specified period there has been no net increase in the global emission of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere as a result of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the subject during the same period'

Zero Carbon means that no carbon dioxide emissions are being produced from a product/service e.g. zero-carbon electricity could be provided by a 100% renewable energy supplier.

How do net zero targets differ from science-based targets? Science-based targets set a trajectory for emissions reduction for scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, and do not allow an organisation/company to use offsets to achieve a reduction.

Net zero targets bring in a new aspect of compensating for those residual emissions using greenhouse gas removals. Greenhouse gas removals take remaining emissions from the atmosphere and permanently sequester them.

It is important to note that organisations/companies are unlikely to achieve a net zero target without large reductions in their scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, as the greenhouse gas removal market is immature.

The first step is to measure your company's scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions and set a 1.5°C aligned science-based target for your own operations and value chain. You can then consider the options for setting a target to go further, bringing together your internal stakeholders and identifying whether a net zero or carbon neutral target is best for your organization/company.

Scopes 1, 2 and 3

'Scopes' are defined as emissions broken down into three categories by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol in order to better understand the source.

Scope 1 – All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.

Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.

Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water.