



# The Council's Climate Commitment

As a responsible council we're fully aware this green county of Northumberland is our legacy and we must ensure we're leaving it in good health for future generations.

That's why in the summer of 2019 we declared a 'climate emergency' with a simple but powerful pledge.

**We will work with the Government, businesses, residents and communities to become a carbon neutral county by 2030.**

**We will reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 50% by 2025.**

While we are already one of the greenest local authority areas in the UK, a key part of our response to climate change is promoting and encouraging wider behaviour change - this is not an issue just for the council - it's an issue for every one of us.

This draft action plan focuses on five key themes, with a number of planned projects where we and others can make a real difference.

- 1 Energy Generation** - supporting the county's renewable energy contribution
- 2 Energy Consumption** - reducing the amount of energy needed by reducing energy waste and making it renewable or low carbon
- 3 Emissions Capture** - supporting natural carbon assets
- 4 Policy** - monitoring planning policy to ensure climate change mitigation and adaptation
- 5 Engagement** - with communities, businesses and large organisations

# Our key proposed projects for 2020



- Exploring the use of heat from old mines to provide renewable heat for residents and businesses. **Water in abandoned flooded mines is often warm and this heat can be recovered and used to heat buildings in place of natural gas, which is more harmful to the climate when burned.**
- Looking into low carbon heat networks for residents and businesses. **These are a system of insulated pipes that take heat from a central source and deliver it to a number of buildings. This could be heat recovered from industry, mines, rivers or waste plants.**
- Assessing the potential to increase energy generation from food waste. **It is possible to process food waste to produce gas which can be used to power electricity generators.**
- Identifying land which can host battery storage to help renewable energy generation. **By storing renewable energy in batteries when there is abundant amounts on sunny and windy days it can be used at times when there is less available.**



- Supporting the potential for land management practices which help reduce the impact of climate change. **We can use land to increase the amount of carbon that can be removed from the air and locked into natural 'sinks' such as peat bogs and trees.**
- Supporting rural areas' potential for renewable energy generation through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. **We will ensure the county is positioned to benefit from renewable energy funding**



- Promotion of the Business Energy Saving Team (BEST) project to make companies more energy efficient. **BEST is a European funded project delivered by the council which aims to reduce energy use and costs in small and medium-sized businesses.**
- Supporting potential solar, hydro and wind sites for lower cost renewable energy generation for residents and businesses which have the backing of local communities.
- Continuing to support programmes to increase access to affordable warmth, aiming to reduce fuel poverty in the county.
- Assessing the potential to increase waste reuse and recycling. **Through education and awareness raising we will maximise the amount of waste that can be reused and recycled, while also exploring ways to increase the range of materials that we collect from households for recycling.**

- Continuing to support the Schools Go Smarter work to ensure sustainable transport and travel are adopted where possible.
- Working with our partners and stakeholders to boost efforts in the five themed groups by hosting the first meetings of each group during November 2019

- Increasing the amount of electric vehicle chargers by 2020/21.
- Identifying Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans



**The plan will explain the range of schemes which can have a positive impact on climate change.**

**These include:**

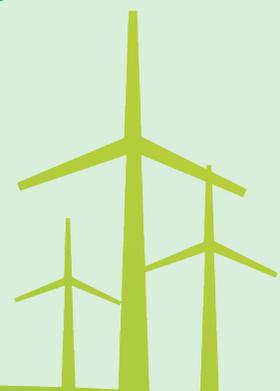
- Continuing to develop the Northumberland passenger train line project, linking Ashington to Newcastle Central via Bedlington and Blyth.
- Working with the UK Government to develop supportive innovative climate policy
- Monitoring the implementation of planning policy to ensure climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Promoting increased climate friendly bus connectivity as a cost-effective alternative to the private car
- Identifying energy projects needing innovation and support both on grid and off grid
- Identifying joint-working opportunities which support the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's (NELEP) Energy for Growth Strategy.
- Continuing to build Energy Central in Blyth as a premier deep-water East Coast UK energy base - attracting clean growth investment to the county.
- Supporting rural community energy projects in partnership with the NELEP
- Supporting community energy and climate awareness projects.

**A number of projects will support the council's own planned emission reductions. These include:**

- Auditing all of our buildings to find ways to reduce energy demand and increase renewable energy generation.
- Completing the lighting upgrade in County Hall as part of the refurbishment to LED, installing more efficient lifts and installing a new Building Management System. All street lights will be LED by 2020
- Including emission measurement and reduction options in school transport contracts from first renewals in 2020.
- Continuing to increase the amount of fleet vehicles which are ultra low or zero emissions as part of our on-going fleet replacement programme.
- Publishing our post 2025 emission reduction target by 2024
- Endeavouring to procure products, services and other goods by considering their full environmental impact throughout their life

**We aim to reduce up to 69 tonnes of our own carbon dioxide emissions from our buildings per year from 2020, rising to 216 tonnes per year from 2021:**

Site	Carbon saved (tonnes)	Completion date
Bellingham Fire Station Ground Source Heat Pump	9.6	Nov-19
Allendale Fire Station Ground Source Heat Pump	12.2	Nov-19
Willowburn Solar PV	20.9	June-20
Dene Park House Solar PV	5.3	June-20
Eddie Ferguson House Solar PV	5.3	June-20
Stakeford Depot Solar PV	13.1	June-20
Riverside Centre Solar PV	3.3	June-20
County Hall Solar PV Car Port	114.8	Apr-21
County Hall Solar PV	32.7	2021





## What next?

The time to act is NOW. Following your feedback we'll update our action plan.

In early November 2019 the plan will be considered by a cross-party working group before it's submitted for final approval by the full council at its meeting in January 2020. The agreed action plan will then be reviewed and updated annually.

There will be opportunities for public consultation in due course and you can email any comments or queries to [climate@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:climate@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Many thanks for attending this session. Your input is appreciated.**

**One Council that works for everyone**