



Reference: EIR-740

Request:

We have carried out some preliminary research of Tyneside and note that Tyneside Borough Council made a climate emergency declaration on 25th July 2019, setting a target to reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority and the Borough by 2023 and to become carbon neutral by 2050.

We note that a report for the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 has been published, with data provided for up until 2020. This indicates that Tyneside's Borough-wide emissions have decreased by approximately 47% and the emissions of the Council's operations have decreased by approximately 53%. We acknowledge that this is fantastic progress but that there is still a way to go for the council to reach its carbon neutral target by 2050.

Following our initial review, we would like the Council to provide the following information:

1. Borough-wide emissions seem to only be reported on up until 2020. When will up-to-date reports be published?
2. How has the Council's efforts surrounding action against the climate emergency been impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and/or the pandemic?
3. How has the Council progressed regarding the short-term, high-impact actions that it has planned, notably:
 - a. The installation of roof mounted solar PV systems, solar PV car ports and battery storage at the council's Killingworth eco-depo
 - b. Complete the heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects at 4 wet leisure centres; Hadrian Leisure, Lakeside Leisure, Tynemouth Pool, Waves
 - c. Installing LED lighting in public buildings
 - d. Upgrading all council owned streetlights
 - e. Installing low carbon heating systems in public buildings
 - f. Carry out a full review of the Council's fleet and replace all small diesel

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vehicles (and some medium size vehicles) with electric, where options are available and where this can be supported financially

g. Develop a communications strategy to stimulate retrofitting demand, focussing on energy efficiency and carbon reduction

h. Northumberland Line (NP) Heavy Rail link to SE Northumberland and direct service to Newcastle)

4. How does the council propose to educate the local community surrounding the climate emergency and get them involved in the action to reach the targets?

5. How much engagement from businesses and community voluntary organisations has the Green Board received?

How have local businesses and community voluntary organisations responded to the Green Board and the Council's plans relating to climate change? Have they shown much interest, participation, or efforts to make changes in line with the Council's plans? If so, in what ways?

6. What is being done to support and encourage the use of sustainable transport systems amongst the community?

7. In addition, we could like the Council to provide the following information:

a. please confirm how many Town Councils and/or Parish Councils/Community Councils in your area have made Climate Change Emergency Declarations;

b. please provide the names and contact details of each of these;

c. please confirm how your Council collaborates with each Town Council and/or Parish Council/Community Council;

d. please confirm which other community groups/organisations that you liaise and cooperate with that may have made a Climate Change Emergency Declaration and how your own declaration links with any other work.

e. please provide details of any other local community action your Council carries on to pursue any plans and commitments relating to your Climate Change Emergency Declaration

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Response:

The research that has been undertaken by the requester does not capture the August 2022 publication of the North Tyneside's [Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan](#), which outlines 150 individual actions that the Authority is undertaking to work towards reaching a target to be carbon net-zero by 2030, in a move to accelerate action from the previously approved 2050 target.

This Action Plan was published in August 2022 and progress is assessed and the Action Plan updated on an annual basis.

In response to the specific questions:

1. Up-to-date reports are published on an annual basis and include the latest available data. As explained in the report for April 2021 to March 2022, each summer the government produces a breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions by Local Authority area as a subset of its annual inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and confirms that 2020 is the most recent available data. The report provides a direct link to these publications: [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions - data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk).

On 30th March 2023, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero published its Final UK greenhouse gas emissions statistics for 2021, in which it stated that "local authority emissions estimates... will be published in June 2023." This information is publicly available.

2. The Council's Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan linked above explicitly recognises these links, one of the key messages being that action to address the rising cost of living should be aligned with net-zero and there remains an urgent need for equivalent action to reduce demand for fossil fuels to reduce emissions and limit energy bills. Fuel poverty, for example is referenced throughout the document.

3. Again, this information is publicly available. All projects are already underway. As stated in the Action Plan, an annual performance review of progress and refresh of the Action Plan will be undertaken annually by the council - further detail on these actions will therefore be available as part of those reports.

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- a) This information is available for example in a press release from February 2023 here: Solar plant switched on at the Council's Killingworth site | North Tyneside Council.
- b) The council was successful in securing £3.2m funding from a public sector decarbonisation grant for these projects, and these are underway as per the Action Plan.
- c) Underway and ongoing as per the Action Plan.
- d) Underway and ongoing as per the Action Plan.
- e) Underway and ongoing as per the Action Plan.
- f) Underway and ongoing as per the Action Plan.
- g) Underway and ongoing as per the Action Plan for example see the Our North Tyneside residents magazine, website and social media.
- h) The Northumberland Line major project is promoted by Northumberland County Council. For information on its progress, please see www.northumberland.gov.uk/line.

4. This is covered in the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan.

5. An indicator of how the council engages with these organisations and the level of participation can be found across the council's social media and webpages. The council established a borough-wide Climate Emergency Board (is is assumed that the "Green Board" is a reference to this current Board) made up of public sector organisations and commercial and industrial businesses, collectively working to combat the climate crisis. The Board works throughout the year, and one example of engagement is the free half day event hosted by the Board in November 2023, open to all organisations in the Borough of any size, which discussed energy management and carbon reduction in a changing climate. This was attended by a wide variety of businesses including charities/third sector, public sector, large businesses and numerous SMEs.

Engagement with local businesses and voluntary organisations also occurs on a regular basis outside of events run directly by the Board, for example the Food North Tyneside in October 2023 held at the Linskill Centre including two workshops on sustainable food and food waste, attended by a number of local businesses and voluntary organisations. Ongoing engagement on these topics happens through, for example, newsletters and a Facebook group devoted to the topic:

<https://www.facebook.com/FoodNorthTyneside>.

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The council's webpage on business support also outlines various initiatives relevant to local organisations: <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1605/green-and-environmental-support>. This includes the council's carbon reduction award, which has already been awarded to a number of voluntary organisations/SMEs. More detail on this can be found on the website.

6. See the "Travel" section of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan.

7 a) Not applicable. See further information on types of councils here: Understand how your council works: Types of council - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

b) Not applicable. See further information on types of councils here: Understand how your council works: Types of council - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

c) Not applicable. See further information on types of councils here: Understand how your council works: Types of council - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

d) North Tyneside Council works across the borough with a variety of community groups and organisations and strives to work with as many organisations as the Council is aware of. Individual groups tend to have an online presence on which they set out their own climate change commitments. The Council's website includes information on collaboration and engagement in the Action on Climate Change section What is the council doing? | North Tyneside Council and social media and press releases regularly highlight projects undertaken with groups in the local area.

e) See the Council's Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan and Climate Hub pages already referred to above.

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