

Climate change emergency: from declaration to reality



Headline questions

- What's driven councils to make climate declarations?
- How have councils been responding?
- What does a route map to net-zero start to look like?

Headline answers

- Driver: 2018 Intergovernmental Panel (IPCC)
- Responses: the range across councils is vast
- Directions: 2019 Committee on Climate Change report

A climate declaration: continuity or step up?



- A story that starts before the declaration
- And relies for its authority on the IPCC's science
- The science is the council's friend
- And shifts understanding of what exactly is the goal
- The CCC's priorities for the 2020s provide a high level view

CCC priorities for the 2020s



1. Improvements in the **energy efficiency** of buildings
2. **Heat pumps** to be an established part of the solution
3. Public must get it that we must give up **natural gas**
4. Faster growth of **low-carbon electricity** + better grid
5. **Hydrogen** produced at 1+ CCS cluster by 2030
6. Big rise in **EV market share** + infrastructure needed
7. A step increase in **tree-planting**
8. Better diets; more **walk/cycle** – gov must explain why
9. Sustainable **bioenergy** with CCS to start by 2030
10. An end to **biodegradable waste to landfill** by 2025

The national energy context



- **Local Area Energy Plans:** energy network companies will be looking for LA input
- **Heat** a major challenge - 1/3 of emissions
- Government looking at technical options (**pathways**): hydrogen; electrification; and some district heating
- **Energy efficiency:** no regrets, early gains
- What **LAs can do:** own estate, enforcement, advice

Near-term council actions on climate change



1. **Energy efficiency** of own estate (e.g. lighting control, thermal insulation; LED)
2. **Electricity generation** (e.g. install renewable energy across own estate)
3. **Low-carbon vehicles** (e.g. green fleet except by exception; introduce city/town centre UL/N EZ)
4. **Personal mobility** (e.g. understand staff travel to increase EV/sharing/home-working)
5. **Procurement** (e.g. prioritise sustainability; require emissions reporting in major contracts)
6. **Nature** (e.g. tree planting; make parks carbon neutral)
7. **Waste management** (e.g. end single-use plastic on own estate; no food waste to landfill)

Some key points



- Scope: own ops or whole area?
- Action plans – few so far: Cornwall's as a model (detail; timelines; operation plan and facilitation plan)
- In-house capacity across council; business cases need funding, data, know how
- Target date? What the science wants is near-term cuts
- Net-zero: “if not now, when?”

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Maxine Frerk, Associate, Sustainability First
(maxine.frerk@gridedgepolicy.com)

Peter Kenway, NPI Associates Ltd
(peter.kenway@npi.org.uk)