



Association for Public Service Excellence

# Climate Change and Renewables Network

## **APSE Energy's Climate Change Strategies**

### **Best Practice Survey**

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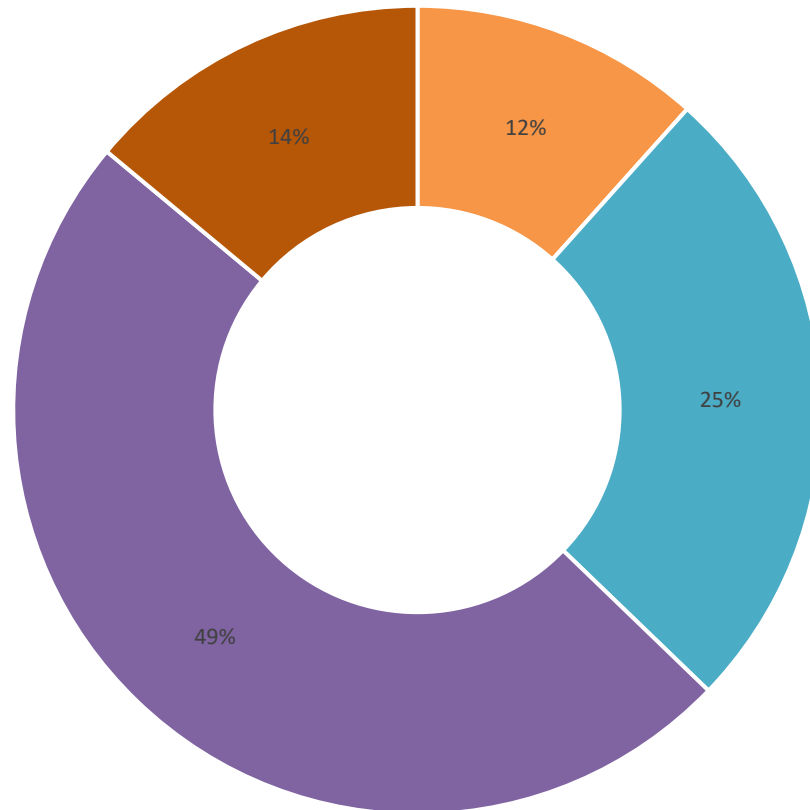
# Background to the survey

- There is no statutory target for local authorities to reach net zero ahead of 2050, however 182 authorities have set targets of 2030 or sooner. In addition to this, 300 local authorities across the UK have formally declared climate emergencies.
- The survey was produced alongside Bracknell Forest District Council who were in the process of developing a new climate change strategy.
- The survey was sent out to all APSE Energy member authorities, receiving a total of 50 responses from 45 local authorities.

# Issues around government support for local net zero raised in Chris Skidmore's Mission Zero review:

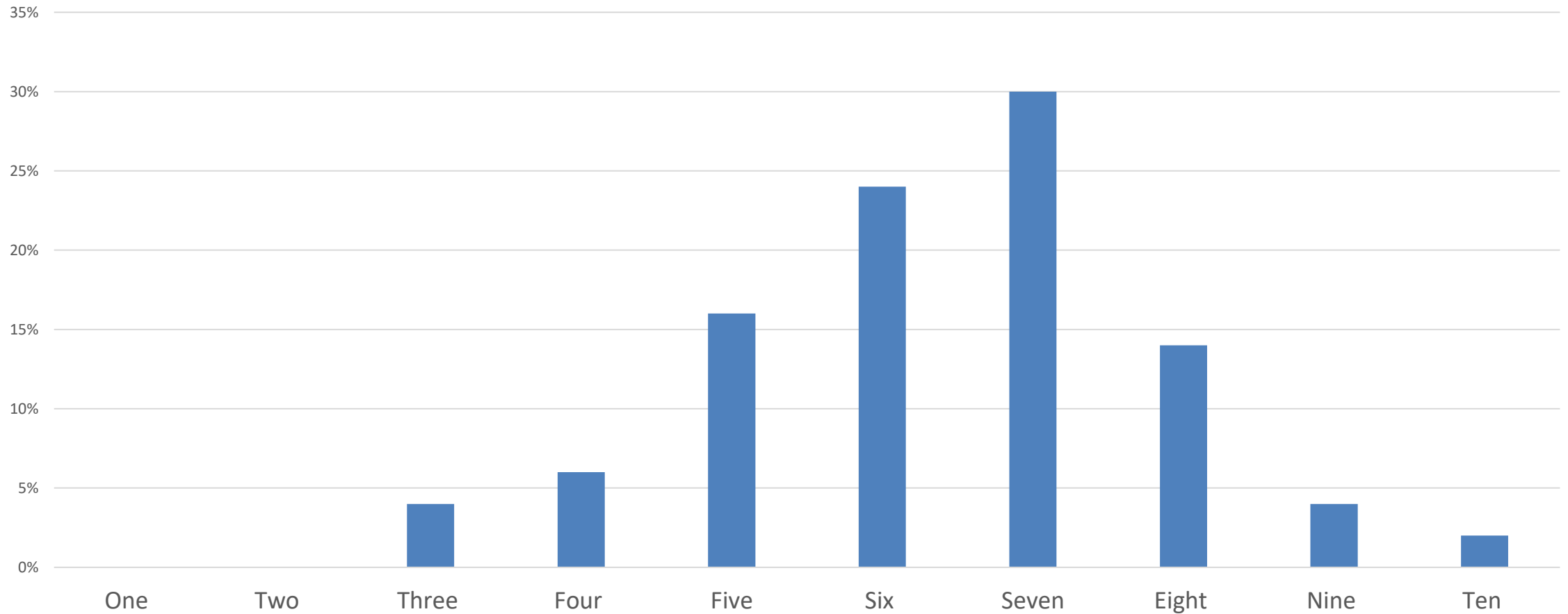
- “No clear framework on local net zero action, and no statutory duty. Guidance on some areas but not others. Lack of clarity over the local role, which can prevent action and/or lead to unnecessary bureaucracy between central and local government. Responsible officers within local authorities are sometimes unable to drive internal action due to deprioritisation.”

## What is the current status of your strategy?



- Is under development
- Is within its first 12 months of implementation
- Has been in place for around half of the strategy timeframe
- Is within the last 12 months of its duration

### How effective do you think your strategy is at embedding and driving climate action in your authority? (Higher is better)



# What works well

- Creating a sense of 'collective responsibility' through collaboration within the council, across service areas.
- Splitting the strategy into themes with targets, meaning that it is relevant to all teams across the council.
- Raising the profile of the urgency of climate action.
- Gaining support and input from the public through consultations, Citizen's Assemblies, etc.

# How would respondents change their approach in future?

- Improving the way that targets are set out by the strategy.
- Increased public engagement during development and a different approach to public consultations.
- Working with external stakeholders whilst developing the strategy.
- Starting the process earlier, allowing for more time for internal collaboration.
- Improving the way that progress is measured.

# Balancing ambition and available resources

- “We have to be honest... there is no point focusing on the things we can do, as that is not enough to achieve our targets. We have to also talk about what we need to do to make people aware of the scale of the challenge and it will require a collaborative approach”.
- “This has been one of the major issues with the implementation of the strategy. The ambitious delivery objectives have not been matched by capacity and available resource to deliver.”
- “We identified both - quantified what we need to achieve net zero and set out what we have available.”

# Embedding the strategy and holding people accountable

- Regular reporting to senior staff members and councilors.
- Tracking progress using key performance indicators, traffic light systems.
- Assigning a responsible officer to each of the actions in the accompanying action plan.
- Using climate impact assessment tools during decision making processes.
- Requiring staff and elected to take carbon literacy training or similar e-learning modules.

# Contact details

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