



APSE Energy Climate Emergency Survey Report





The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) is a not-for-profit membership based organisation dedicated to promoting excellence in the delivery of frontline services to local communities. We work with more than 300 local authorities across the UK.

APSE Energy is a division of APSE which involves a group of pioneering local authorities who are looking to work in collaboration to forward the following vision:

“To enable and facilitate the local municipalisation of energy services and increase the role of local authorities in the energy agenda within their communities. Local authorities working together in this way would have great influence and would be able to deliver economies of scale in green energy to promote economic growth and combat fuel poverty.”

The goal of this collaboration is to deliver the local municipalisation of energy services and in doing so:

- Address social objectives and deliver community benefits, such as a reduction in fuel poverty and increases in jobs and skills.
- Save money and make money for local authorities to safeguard local services.

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Foreword

Interest and investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency is growing rapidly and is at a new level based on a number of factors. These include global and national targets set following political focus, local climate emergency declarations, developments in technology and public pressure, all of which have combined to give the agenda a much higher profile.

Results from the BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker Wave 32 from December 2019 show levels of support for renewable energy at 83%. This figure has remained between 74% and 85% since the question was first asked in March 2012. In December 2019, awareness of the concept of clean growth remained low at 17%, continuing the downward trend from a high of 28% in July 2018. This possibly reflects a lack of understanding of the concept of clean growth and contrasts sharply with the level of support for renewable energy which is of course a significant element of clean growth.

The role of local authorities is fundamental to a response to the challenges thrown up by climate change from fuel poverty issues through to flooding as well as managing their own energy needs and investing in their estate. The level of understanding amongst the public with regard to clean growth highlights the scale of the task facing local authorities in influencing local people and businesses to accept and act in a way that contributes to reducing carbon emissions. The role of local authorities in their areas is important – not only will they be expected to take a lead with investments within their own estate such as improving energy efficiency levels and generation but they can have an education and enabling role. Supporting the provision of EV charging infrastructure, heat networks and standards within new residential developments are all examples and will help to spread the message of good practice.

The perceptions of those with energy and sustainability responsibilities is important as it mirrors the authority's capacity to deliver on its role to support the locality to address climate change. The questions in this survey are varied and reflect the nature of this agenda. Responses to this survey highlight a number of issues which impact on the ability of officers to make progress and some will be of little surprise as perennial barriers in local government. However the existence of barriers has not stopped councils from being innovative and engaging with the energy agenda as never before. Some are more engaged than others of course but with over 270 local authorities having declared an emergency and a further 200 town and parish councils doing the same, there is a movement which has exploded over the UK within the last 18 months.

This survey provides information which will be of interest to those involved in this agenda within the local government sector. It also informs the debate about what the role of councils should be going forward.

Cllr Mark Pengelly
APSE National Chair 2019-20

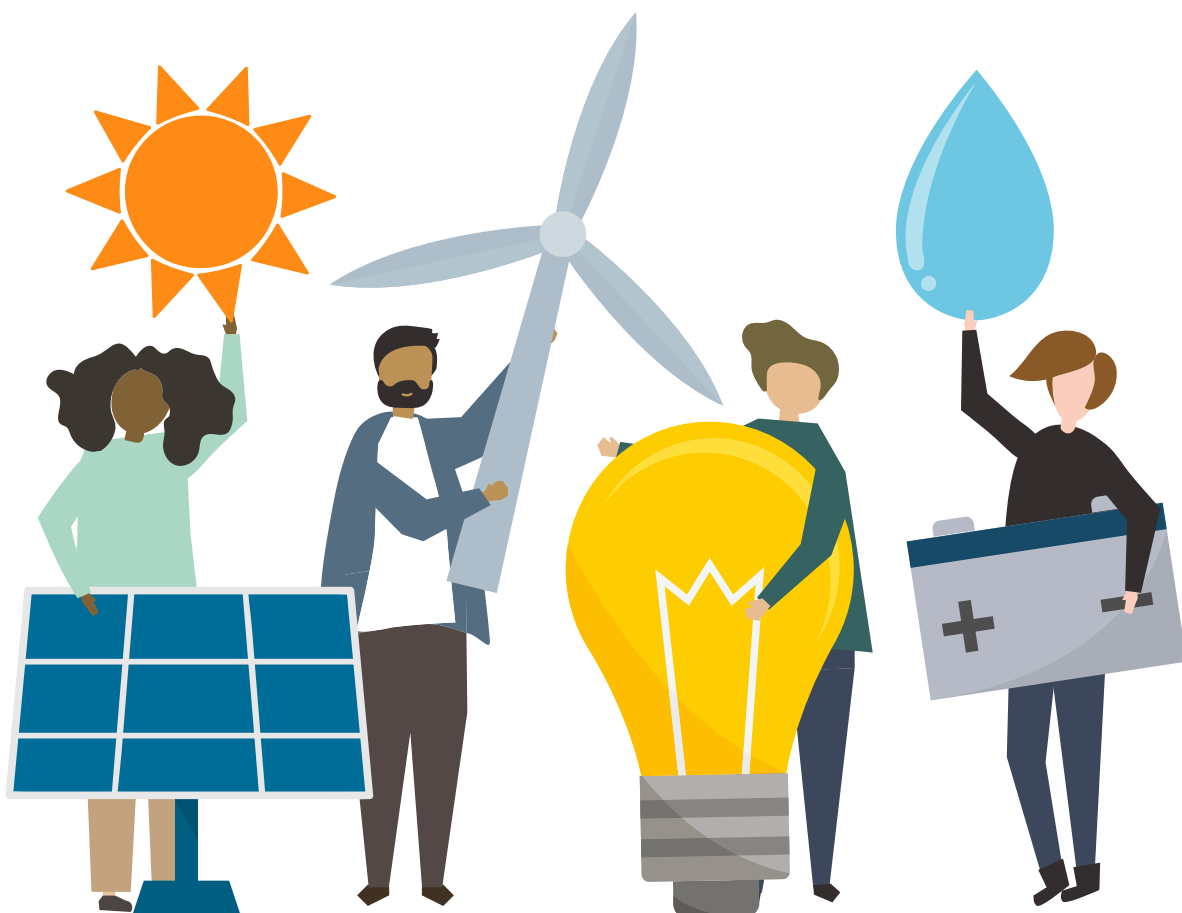
1. Introduction

APSE Energy conducted an online survey in late 2019, which asked a series of questions covering the topic of local authority climate emergency declarations and related matters. The results of this survey will be of particular interest to those officers and councillors responsible for responding to climate emergency declarations and developing the local authority's approach to sustainability.

97 responses were received from local authorities throughout the UK, although not everyone answered every question. This report identifies the key findings from the survey.

A few of the questions in the survey asked for opinions and as such this is a record of perceptions as much as it is of facts. We are not aiming to attribute specific comments to particular people or to identify the circumstances or arrangements within particular local authorities. The survey is an attempt to understand the opinions and perceptions within the sector amongst people involved in responding to climate emergency declarations.

The results of this survey will be of use and of interest to all local authorities, regardless of the current stage that they are at with their climate emergency declarations. Indeed some councils have decided not to declare a climate emergency but are making strides to deal with climate related issues nonetheless. It provides a chance to see what other councils have included in their declarations, what data and analysis has been used, progress towards action plans and establishing working groups, as well as an insight into other partners that are involved and internal skills and capacity across the sector. The final section of the survey briefly explores progress towards achieving targets.



2. APSE Energy Support

APSE Energy is a collaboration of over 100 local authorities who are working towards the vision of the municipalisation of energy. Councils having a greater role in energy management within their locality might be something as simple as advertising cheaper energy tariffs that residents can sign up to. It can also involve more in-depth measures such as installing large scale solar farms or establishing a local behaviour change or education programme.

APSE Energy was established to help support local authorities to make the most of their assets in the energy arena and to help them keep up to date with the whole sustainability topic and take a leadership role within it.

We undertake an advocacy role, provide a series of briefings, newsletters, publications and other information, run a comprehensive programme of workshops, seminars and summits and offer expert consultancy support. As a result we can help fill gaps which exist within a local authority and provide a platform for those who are looking to showcase the progress they have made.

Part of being in membership of APSE Energy means being within a movement that is looking towards alternatives to the big 6 energy suppliers, addressing energy security, fuel poverty, emissions and cost issues, as well as promoting the council as a local leader in the energy agenda and recognising it has a role to play in place shaping in general.

We are working with a number of local authorities to support them with climate emergency strategies, action plans and projects, as well as other related matters. Our consultancy offer can help you achieve results at the same time as building capacity within your organisation and inform councillors and officers about what is happening in other authorities – both those that have declared a climate emergency and those that have not. This agenda will only expand and many understand the value in looking for support early whilst growing their internal capacity. APSE Energy can help with that.

Many local authorities have chosen to approach their climate emergency through the prism of energy. Of course, climate change is about greenhouse gas emissions but the generation of renewable energy goes some way towards meeting targets. Our experts provide strategic advice, technical feasibility, business case development, project management expertise and training to support local authority energy projects.

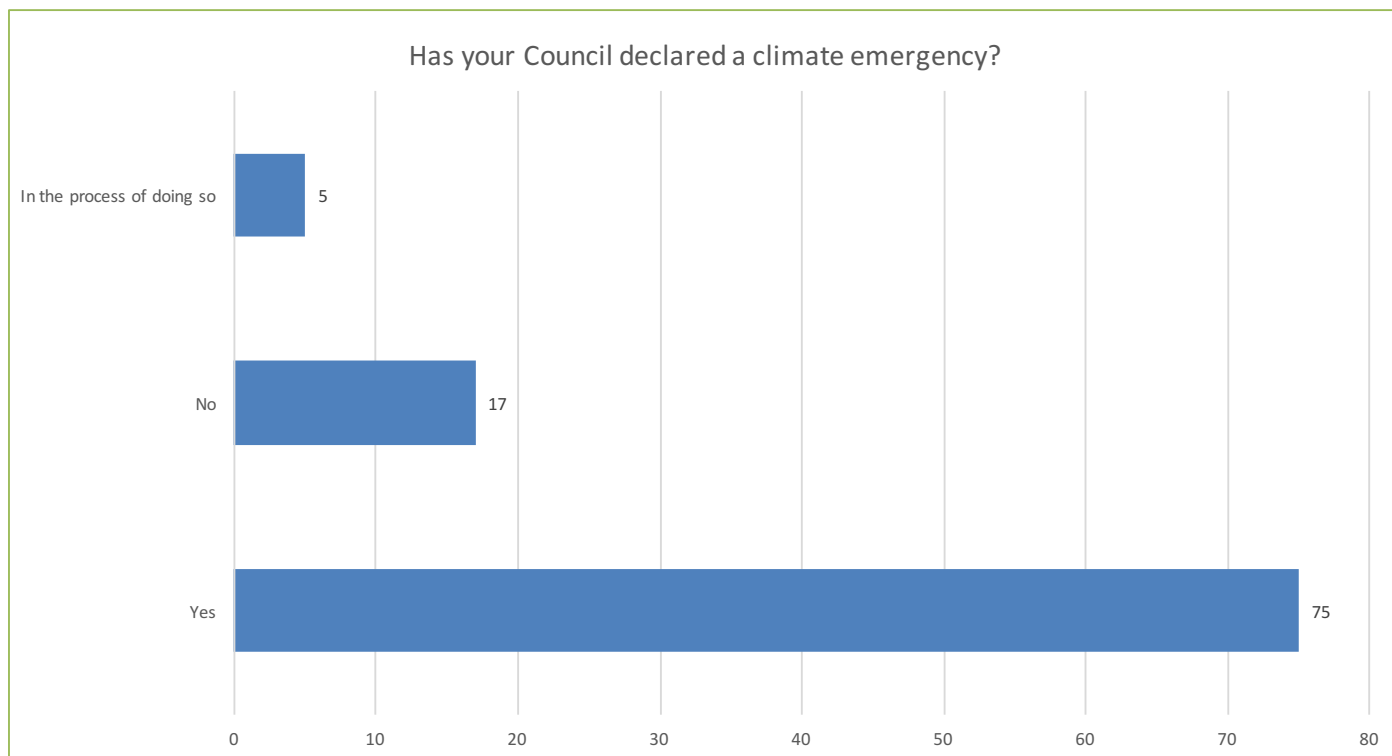
Our report 'Local authority climate emergency declarations,' looks at the strategic and practical considerations for declarations, targets and action plans. The full report provides a background to the climate emergency momentum and looks at the nature of the declarations that have been made. Crucially, it explores actions that can and have been taken at local level to improve the situation, comply with pledges and bring forward change.

The report is available for free for APSE Energy members. Non-members can order a copy from our [website](#).

To find out more about how APSE Energy can help you please contact Phil Brennan, Head of APSE Energy at pbrennan@apse.org.uk, or Charlotte Banks, Energy Research and Project Officer at cbanks@apse.org.uk, or call 0161 772 1810.

3. Results Section 1 - Climate Emergency Declaration

Q1. Has your council declared a climate emergency?



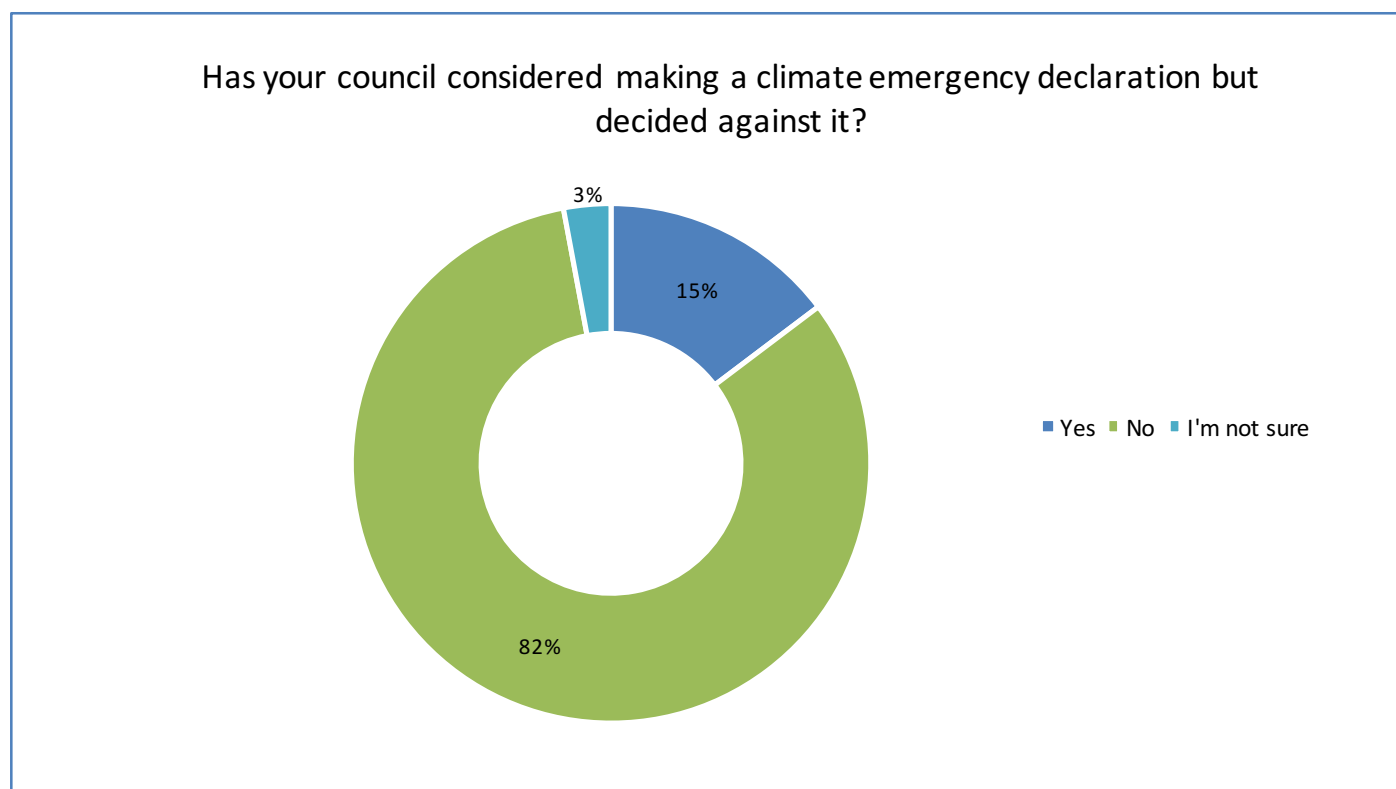
97 authorities responded to the question “Has your council declared a climate emergency?” Of which, 75 said “yes”, 17 said “no” and 5 said “in the process of”. A few of the further comments referred to declaring a climate urgency, carbon neutral pledge or a climate motion, instead of using the term “emergency”. Another referred to the text of the motion being “recognise climate change is a global emergency” rather than “we declare...” Another authority who selected ‘no’ outlined that climate change is one of their council plan priorities.

This question indicates that a large proportion (77%) of authorities who answered the survey have declared a climate emergency. Of those who haven’t, some have used different terminology or phrasing which still refers to increasing climate action, or shows that they are already embedding climate action as a main priority within the council.

According to the website Climate Emergency UK, 265/408 (65%) of district, county, unitary & metropolitan councils have declared a climate emergency to date.

The responses highlighted in the graph above reflect the fact that councils understand the role they have in tackling this issue at the local level and that there are actions a council can take. There are many examples of such actions taken so far so there is evidence that local authorities can have an impact. Indeed local authorities have been addressing this issue for many years and have not simply sprung into action because a declaration has been made.

Q2. Has your council considered making a climate emergency declaration but decided against it?

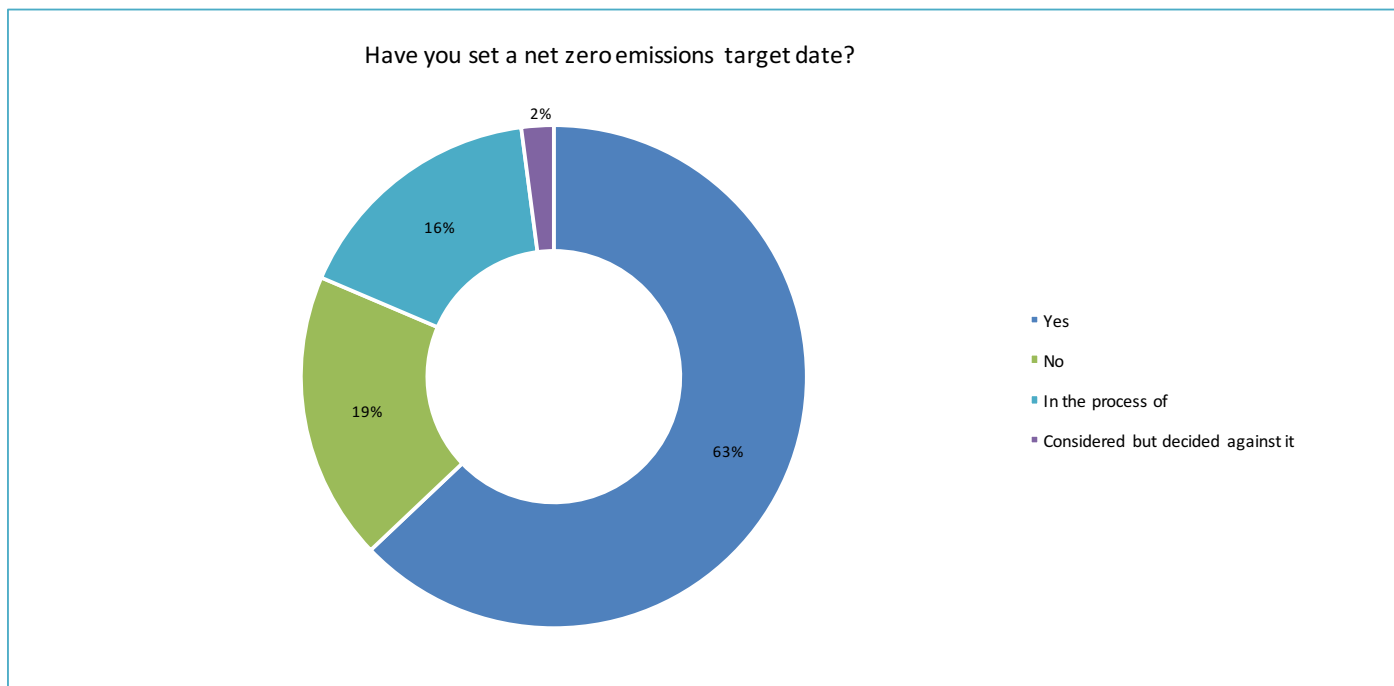


68 authorities responded to the question “Has your council considered making a climate emergency declaration but decided against it?” Of those who answered 10 said “yes”, 56 said “no” and 2 said “I’m not sure”. Comments from those who said yes include, “produced a Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto instead,” and “our leader did not like the word emergency, as she felt it made people think they couldn’t take action.”

Some would argue that it is important to declare an emergency as it gives gravitas to the issue, raises its profile and prompts action locally. Others have argued that actions have been ongoing for many years and the principle is built into the council’s approach already. Clearly a declaration is one thing – effective action is something else entirely.

What is most important is those who have declared and those who have considered but not declared have at least debated the issue. It would be concerning if a council has not been through this process yet and hasn’t had a formal debate about the approach they should take.

Q3. Have you set a net zero emissions target date?



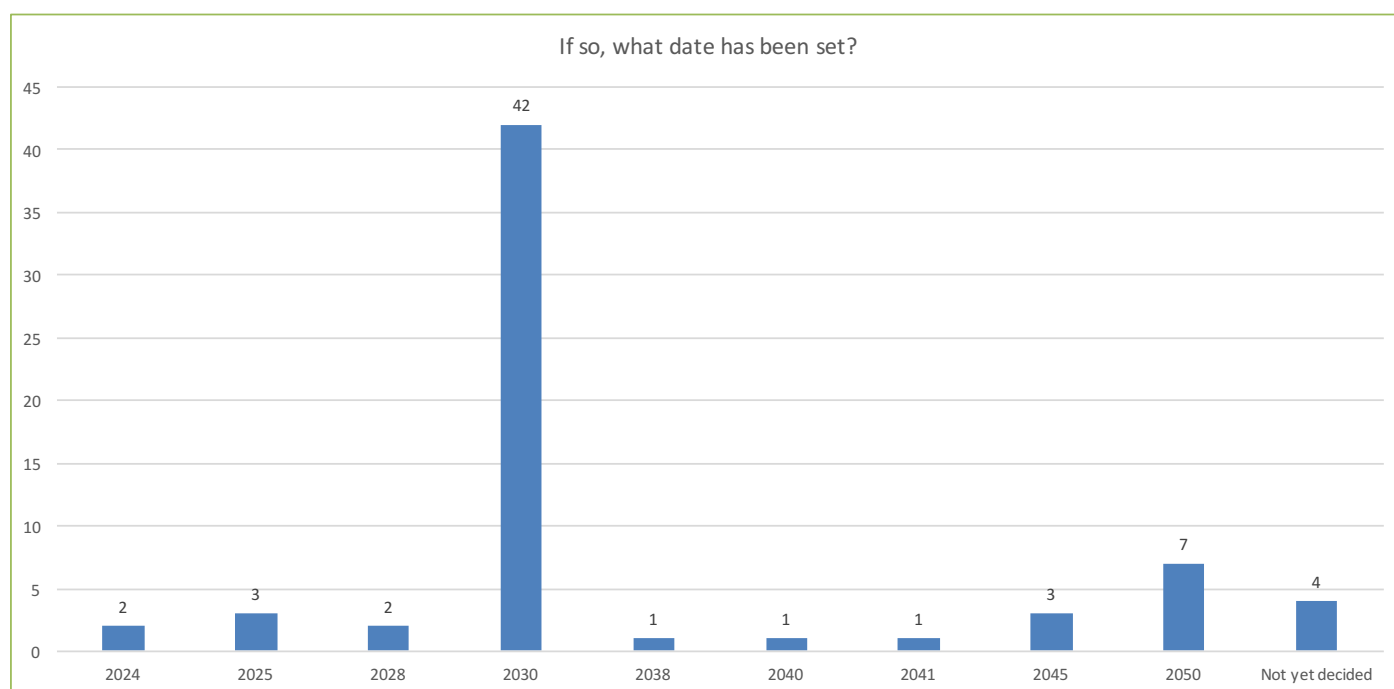
This question received responses from 97 local authorities. 61 said “yes, they have set a net zero emissions target date”, 18 said “no”, 16 said “in the process of” and 2 said “considered but decided against it”. Many of the comments from councils who said “in the process of” refer to understanding their current position and what is achievable first before setting a target. Other comments include, setting an aspirational date, committing to the vision of carbon neutrality and currently refining an initial target date based on evidence of what is achievable.

The issue noted above regarding understanding the current position is an important one. If targets are set, a procedure for monitoring progress is vital. It should be as simple and clear as possible and regularly reported on. In our experience a number of local authorities do not have such arrangements in place.

Arrangements can be in the form of a basic calculation of a council’s carbon footprint through to the identification of wider emissions across the locality. APSE Energy is working with local authorities to establish similar approaches.



Q4. If so, what date has been set?



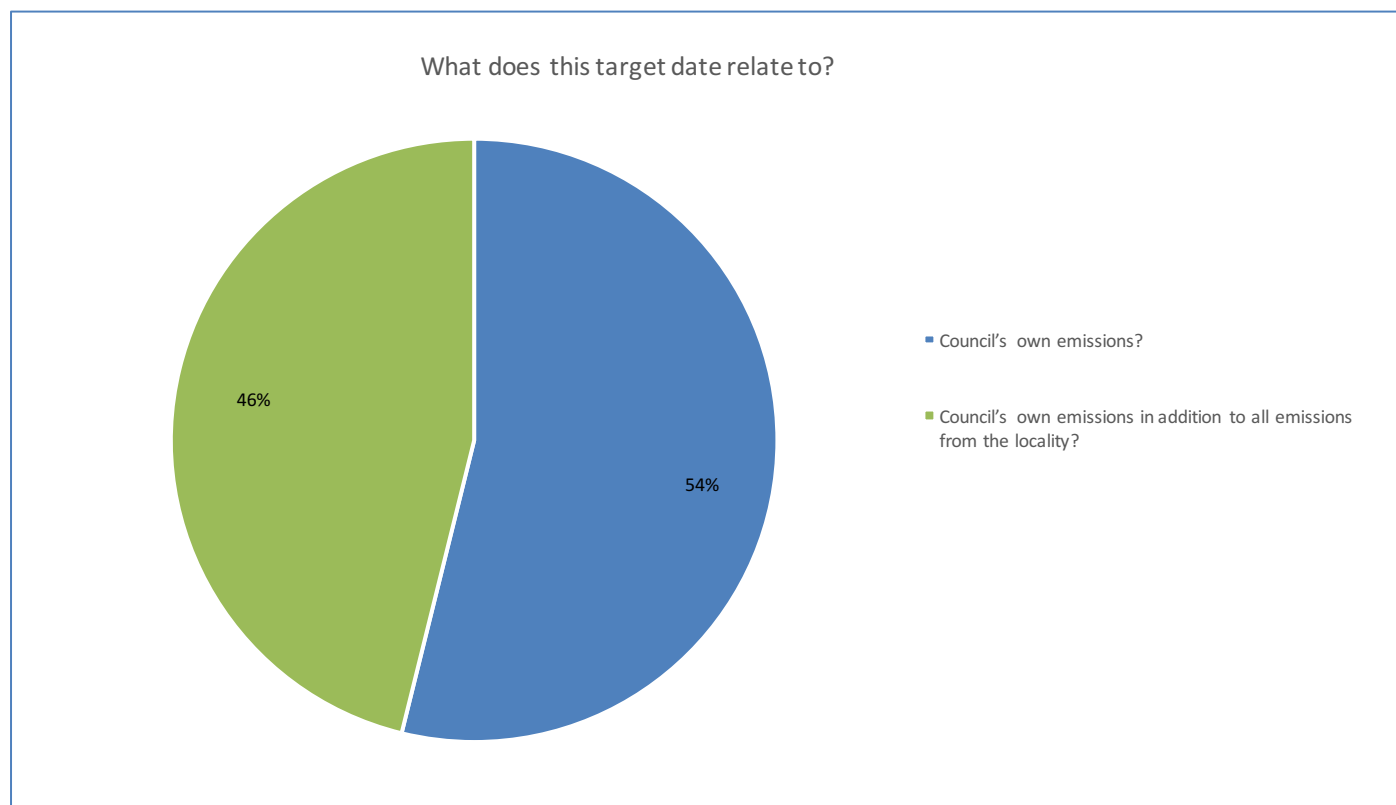
66 local authorities responded to this question regarding their net zero target date. The most common date is 2030, with 42 (64%) of authorities who responded selecting this option. 7 out of the 66 authorities (11%) indicated a 2050 target date. 4 authorities outlined that the date had not been decided yet. 2025 and 2045 both had 3 authorities indicating that they have set those dates.

The responses received reflect a wide range of dates with 26 years between the earliest and latest. Of course, these dates do mask the type of local authority making them and there are a variety of circumstances, priorities and geographies behind the targets.

It is vital that having set a date, an action plan is established and all councillors and officers appreciate the importance of the target, the resources needed and the role that services and individuals have.



Q5. Does the target for your climate emergency declaration relate to just the council's own emissions or the council's own emissions in addition to all emissions from the locality?



When asked whether this target date relates to just the council's own emissions or the council's own emissions in addition to all emissions from the locality, 42 respondents (54%) said "just the council's emissions" and 36 respondents (46%) said "locality wide emissions."

These responses reflect that almost half of the 57 respondents have a locality-wide target, as well as a target for the council's own operations. This means that these authorities need to focus on the leadership role that they can take with regards to encouraging the whole locality to engage with the net zero carbon agenda. This will involve partnership working with key stakeholders such as businesses, residents, academic institutions and the wider public sector. The council has no direct control over the emissions generated by the wider district and therefore needs to consider innovate ways to engage and encourage behaviour and system change within the locality.

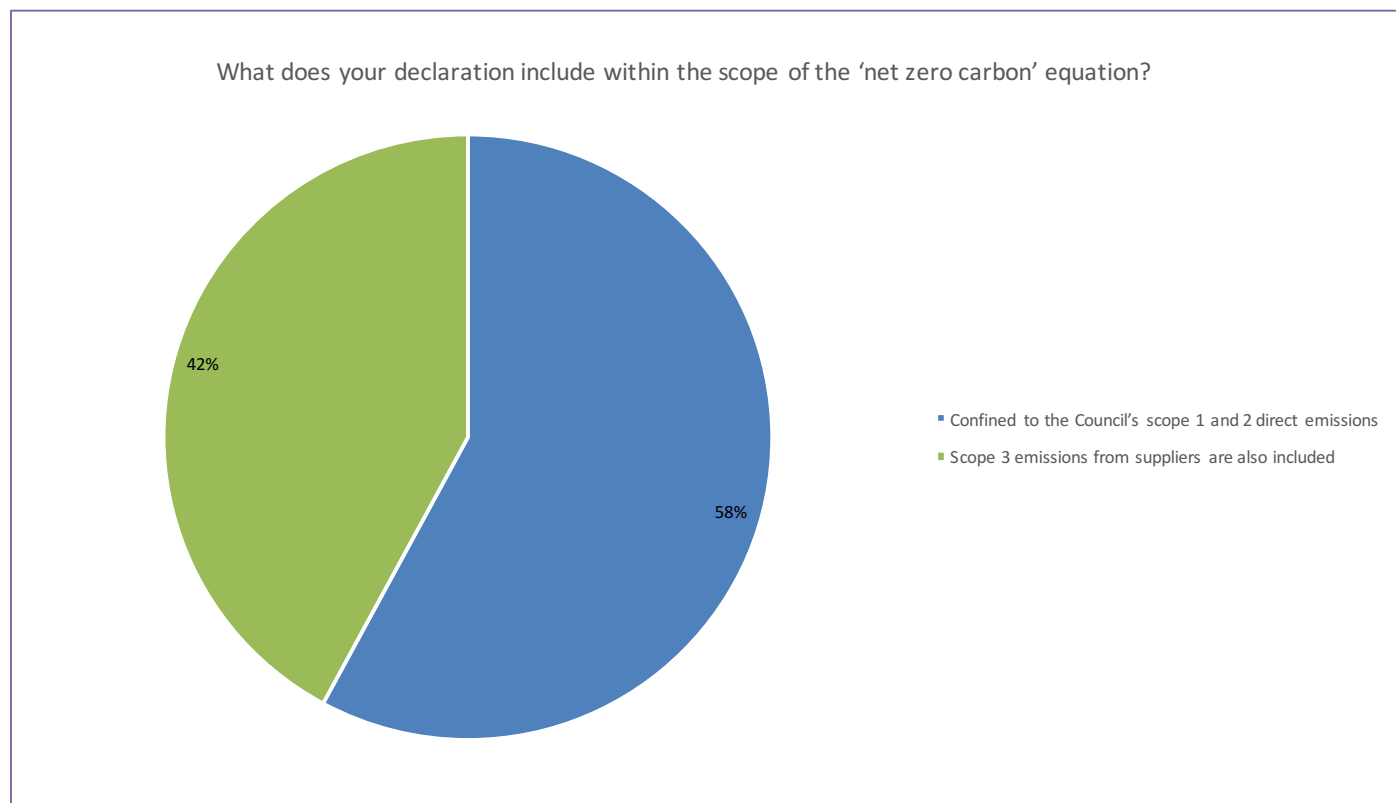
Further comments regarding a council-only target include:

- Agreement to work with partners for wider district;
- Also setting county-wide targets in collaboration with districts and boroughs;
- "Aspiration" to "help achieve" net zero for locality also included;
- Wider, more vague, commitment to work with communities and partners towards a carbon neutral county;
- Motion is to support and influence lowering of locality emissions;
- Not explicitly defined, but assumed to be council only at this stage;
- However, the declaration does state that the council will encourage and support city partners to achieve a similar goal.

These comments show that a number of local authorities who have committed to a net-zero council target by a certain date are also looking to work with partners for a locality reduction in emissions even without a formal net-zero locality commitment in place.

In practice a typical local authority may only produce 1% or 2% of all the emission within a locality. This shows just how ambitious a locality-wide target is and how difficult it will be to achieve.

Q6. What does your declaration include within the scope of the 'net zero carbon' equation?



57 local authorities responded to this question with 33 (58%) saying that their target is "confined to the council's Scope 1 and 2 emissions", and 24 (42%) saying that their target includes Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, meaning that their target includes emissions from their suppliers and supply chains.

Further comments for this question include:

- It doesn't comment this far but I think Scope 3 will be required - a large % of council spend is through suppliers so it will be weak if they are not included;
- Still working on this;
- Where we can get the info, e.g. school transport;
- We have not done our baseline yet and so we are still scoping this. I think it is unlikely we will be Scope 3 at this stage;
- Scope 3 emissions from waste and business travel are included;
- City target is for all Scope 1 and Scope 2 CO₂ emissions - council emission reductions will aim to be across Scope 1-3.

4. Results Section 2 - Data & Analysis

Q7. What data have you used to inform the target date in your climate emergency declaration?

We asked this question in order to identify the type and source of data used by local authorities in their work to date.

Responses to this question include:

- We have used Scatter Cities to determine the borough-wide emissions focusing on Scope 1 and 2 with most of our emissions coming from transport and stationary. To measure our own emissions we have used gas and electricity bills our fleet's mileage and business travels. We converted the various measures into tCo2e;
- Tyndall Centre, Carbon Budget modelling;
- Still a work in progress;
- IPCC Report about the need for change;
- No data - aligned to national target;
- Data from bills. Info in Carbon Management Strategy;
- Links to Welsh Government Carbon Neutral Public Sector by 2030 target - working with WG to develop methodology;
- Target date set as part of Notice of Motion without being informed by data;
- BEIS carbon emissions data. Commissioned research by Anthesis. Tyndall centre data on carbon budgeting;
- Cumbria Carbon Baseline Report is in production - this will form the basis. To set a target without this baseline information would be unwise;
- Target date based on severity of the emergency;
- Existing work - Reducing Carbon Emissions is already a corporate priority for the council;
- Internal data for internal target. Tyndall data for county-wide target;
- A GHG Study is underway;
- Political will only;
- The council's annual Public Bodies' Climate Change Reporting data to the Scottish Government (a statutory duty for Scottish local authorities under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) - although we need to establish our baseline with Fleet data being added;
- Council carbon performance BEIS 2017 district emissions data;
- Mini- Stern report and information form Leeds Commission on Climate Change;
- Research was undertaken by Manchester University's Tyndall Centre who advise the city of Manchester of the 2038 zero carbon target;
- No need for data, when net zero 2030 - but using BEIS Local Authority CO2. Don't have a method for consumption Scope 3, either at organisation or city level;
- We have used carbon emission trend data for overall council carbon emission reduction, and UK Government

produced National Statistics (UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2017);

- DERFA - <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/723c243d-2f1a-4d27-8b61-cdb93e5b10ff/emissions-of-carbon-dioxide-for-local-authority-areas>
- Action plan still under development. Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) reporting data will be used or energy in corporate estate. Council housing data to be determined - likely link to EPCs and Welsh Housing Quality Standard. Transport emissions from fleet and staff business mileage readily available. Welsh Government's National GHG Reporting Methodology will determine which scopes need to be captured - e.g. land use/Procurement?
- Internal Carbon Management Plan;
- Not known - My team were not asked to provide data, so data sources are unknown. Members do have access to wide range of data;
- We are creating an internal dataset;
- ONS emissions 2017;
- No targets decided yet. We are currently baselining our carbon impact using data readily available internally and also on the internet. Assumption on the benefit or certain actions will need to be made;
- SCATTER SystemsLink ISO14001 Environmental Management Report;
- Annual Carbon Footprint Report;
- This target has been primarily informed by the time frame that councillors and officers thought was needed to realistically enable most of our fleet transport to transform to being powered by either hydrogen or electric;
- We are currently using the areas of Buildings, Transport, Land Use and Procurement as the main areas of our work on Decarbonisation.



Q8. Please provide brief details of datasets

Responses to this question include:

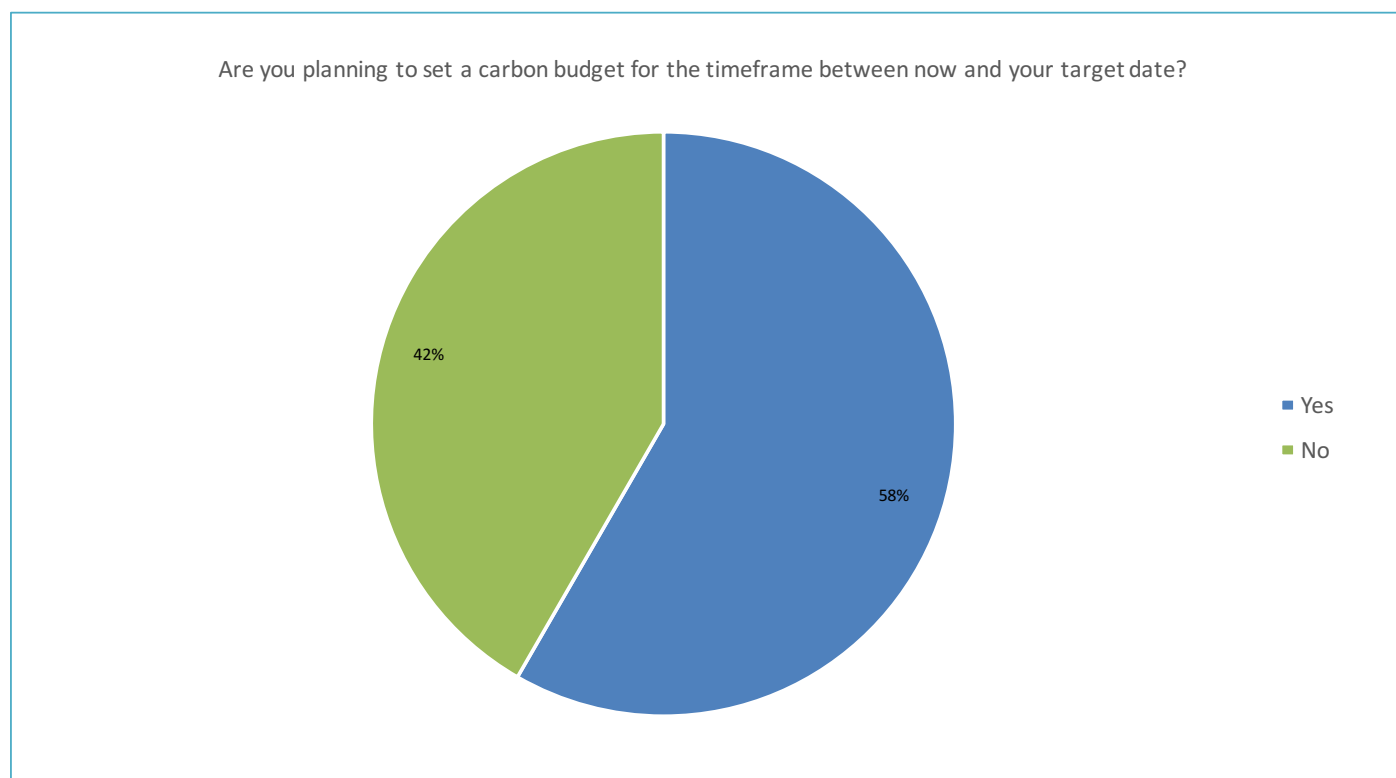
- Meter readings, utility suppliers info;
- Scatter Cities is a database that allows local authorities in the UK to assess their carbon emission through a detailed inventory. The method we used to measure our emissions was the one used by Carbon Trust when they came to do a carbon measurement in 2008;
- Greenhouse Gas reporting will be the monitoring tool;
- Electricity and gas bills for all buildings, street lighting etc.. Fleet fuel bills;
- We have reported annual CO2 emissions from the chosen activities for several years. Robust data for non-domestic buildings & street lighting. Less robust for fleet mileage and less for business mileage;
- Tracking energy and activities consumption on a 12-month basis;
- Data has been monitored and reported since 2010/11 on the following areas: Utilities in buildings, street lighting, fleet fuel use, business mileage, other staff travel. We are currently working to define the scope and setting plans for achieving net zero, this will be agreed by March 2020;
- Will call on Westminster for resources. Will use gov. data sets on LA CO2 emissions and own data sets from NI185;
- We have GPC accounts from 2008 to 2016 and are currently working with Uni of Exeter to produce 2017 dataset;
- IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change);
- We already track internal carbon emissions/reduction since 2009 and so 2030 deadline is simply a tighter target date;
- Link to Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting annual reports: <https://sustainablesotlandnetwork.org/reports/east-lothian-council>
- https://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/73609/item_15_-_inverness_greenhouse_gas_inventory_report
- All relevant data, investigated by local universities;
- Based on 'Emissions of carbon dioxide for Local Authority areas' provided by government for city wide emissions. Direct council emissions are calculated by collecting data from a range of sources including buildings energy consumption, street lighting, waste fleet collection and staff travel;
- BEIS LA CO2 dataset provides CO2 emission data for 2005-2017 for three main sectors. Tyndall Carbon Budget tool provides science based carbon budgets and carbon reduction pathways SCATTER has provided Nottingham's greenhouse gas inventory and the excel pathways tool has helped inform carbon reduction interventions;
- Fleet vehicle fuel; grey fleet fuel; gas, electricity and water use; biomass; kerosene. In the longer term we intend to include procurement: waste; water discharge; third party contractors;
- ONS data;
- GHG + others will be used;
- Internal data sets detailing, for example, our energy and fuel usage. External providers are using their own data to report carbon impact to us;
- <https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-599-77>

- Currently not determined or agreed;
- We have collected data on the carbon footprint of the council and district for 10 years or so; this data was not included in setting the dates (as far as I am aware);
- Our datasets include: officer travel emissions to and from work, carbon emissions from all council owned assets, electricity and gas use, rail travel;
- For more information please see: <https://www.tyndall.ac.uk/>
- Discussions took place with councillors and officers within the council's transport fleet. It was argued that 2028 was a realistic target date to enable the council to become net zero carbon as this goal requires fleet transport converting to being primarily powered by hydrogen or electricity. This will take a few years to achieve due to procurement times and infrastructure needs;
- We are looking to baseline our emissions first in order for us to have a clear understanding and direction in which to set our decarbonisation agenda.

It is clear from the list above that there is no standard approach to identifying levels of emissions or compiling evidence to inform an action plan. This is understandable as all will have different local sources. However, the above list does show how varied the sources used are, how some have worked with partners, government datasets and the fact that some have not used much data at all.

We realise that events can move quicker than planned and declarations can be made and dates set prior to evidence being collected or analysed. We recommend that if this is the case, the position needs to be clarified and resources allocated to putting in place appropriate research and an evidence based target and plan. This stage cannot be avoided.

Q9. Are you planning to set a carbon budget for the time-frame between now and your target date?



48 local authorities responded to this question, of which 28 said "yes" and 20 said "no". This shows that over half of the councils who answered this question are planning to set a carbon budget alongside their net zero emission target date.

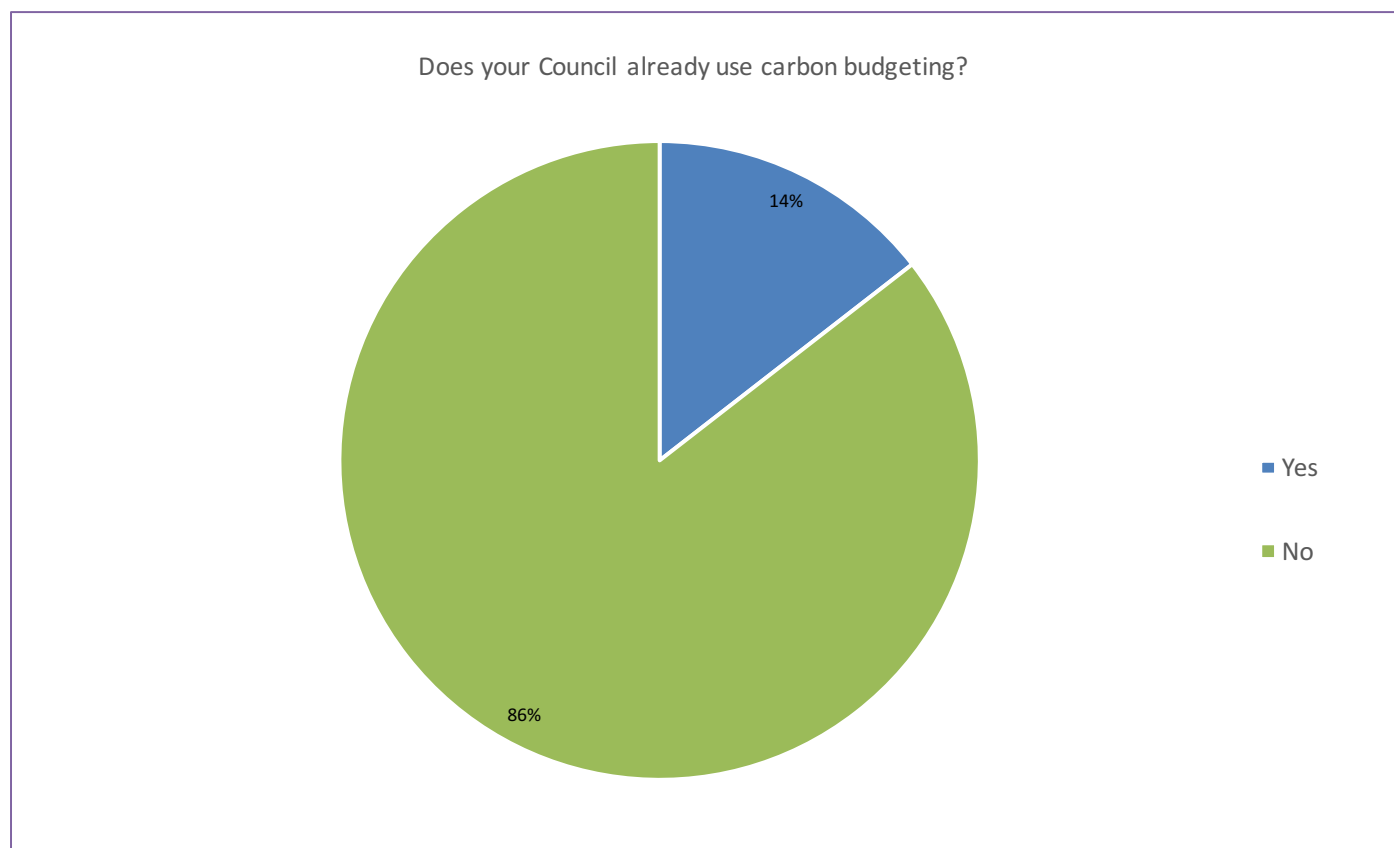
The Tyndall Carbon Budget Tool presents climate change targets for UK local authority areas that are based on the commitments in the United Nations Paris Agreement, informed by the latest science on climate change and defined by science-based carbon budget setting. These can be accessed [here](#).

Further comments from respondents include:

- We are struggling since it seems to be a bit of a chicken and egg issue. We need to know the project to know the carbon reduction potential but people want to know how much they need to reduce to decide on the project. Real issue of data and data management and measurement;
- Action plan in development;
- Carbon budgeting is something we have said we will work towards;
- Yes but linked to scrutiny panel outcome;
- As per Tyndall budget;
- We already allocate measures to reduce emissions within our budgets. We are currently preparing a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which will include the setting of targets for emissions reduction;
- For council emissions using existing actual emissions For county provisionally using BEIS 2017 districts data but also investigating SCATTER tool;
- Possibly, while we have a 2030 carbon neutral target this takes no account of an available budget. We have data from Anthesis and Tyndall Centre from which we intend to use to have a discussion on carbon budgets and how this relates to the 2030 target;
- Budgets are allocated within services to deliver carbon reduction projects relevant to each service;
- Action plan to be developed for 2020. Carbon budgets may play a role, but it is undecided at this point;
- Initially, policy review committee has been tasked with developing the strategy. Officer view is that a carbon budget should be set, but this has not yet been discussed.

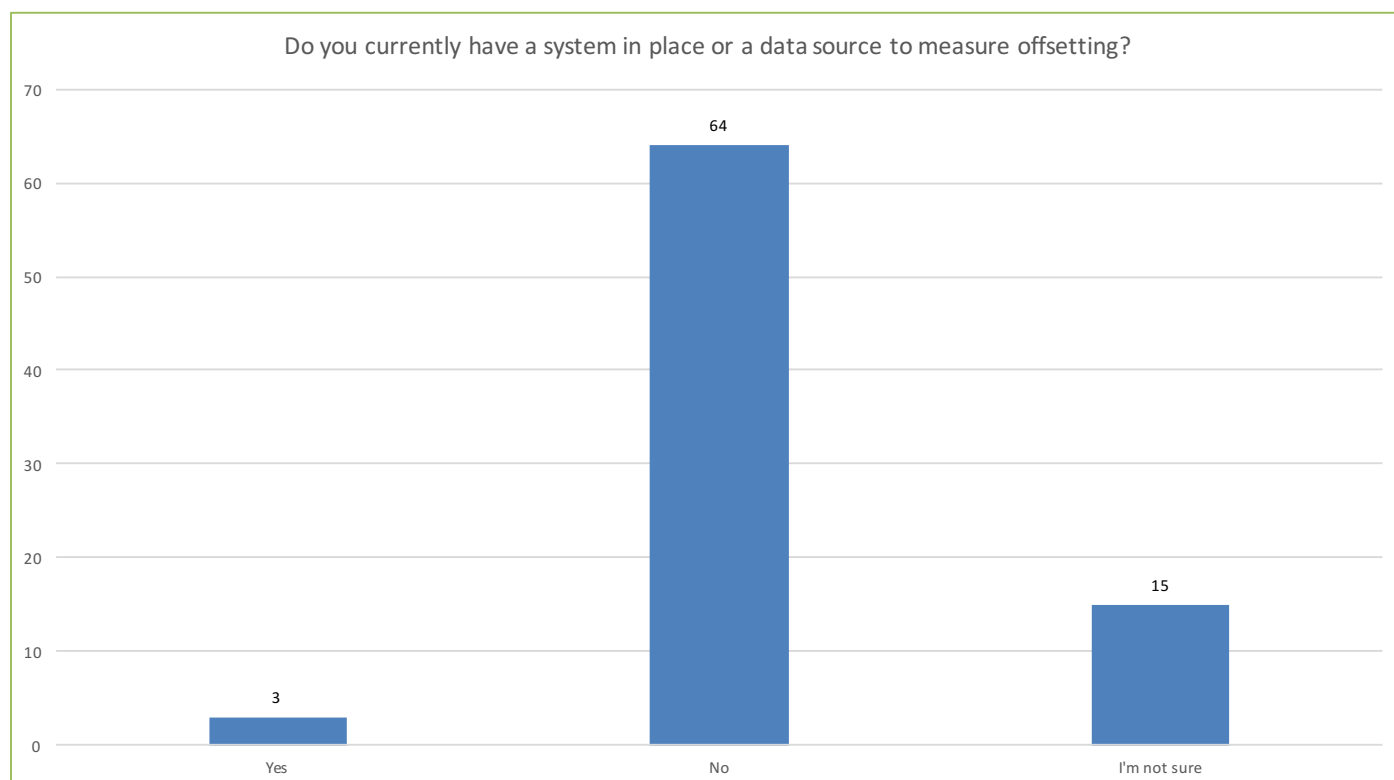


Q10. Does your council already use carbon budgeting?



76 local authorities responded to this question, of which 11 said “yes” and 65 said “no”. This shows that most authorities don’t currently use carbon budgeting and based on the previous question that many of these will be planning to in the near future.

Q11. Do you currently have a system in place or a data source to measure offsetting?



86 local authorities responded to the question “Do you currently have a system in place or a data source to

measure offsetting? As an example, do you know how much carbon you already offset with the trees in your locality and how much you would offset if you were to plant more trees?" 64 (78%) of these said "no", 3 (4%) said "yes" and 15 (18%) said "I'm not sure". This shows that the majority of local authorities who responded to the survey do not currently measure their level of offsetting.

Further comments include:

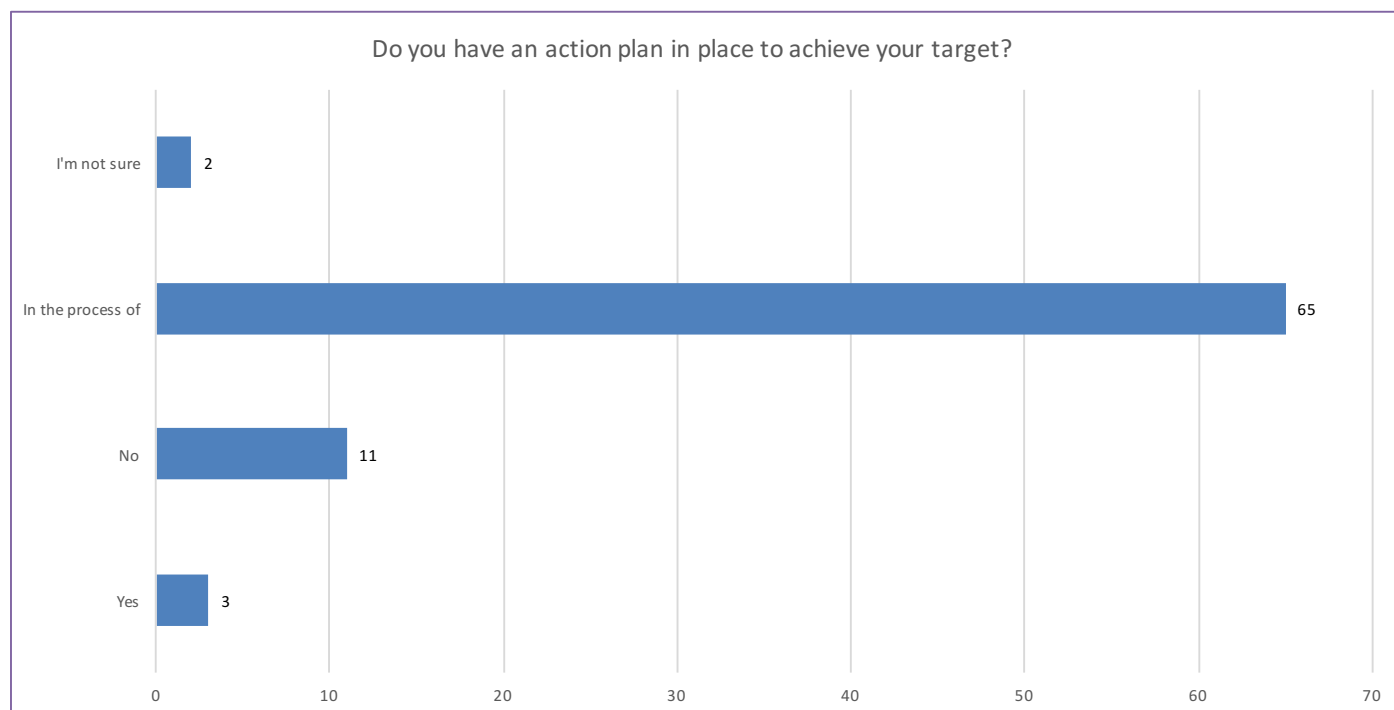
- We are working on a tree survey to calculate this;
- Not intending to offset in the short term;
- I think there are accounting issues with claiming an offset from in county/country tree planting schemes?
- To be developed as part of reporting framework for Welsh Government's ambition to have a carbon neutral public sector by 2030;
- We are planting 500k trees but we are looking at reducing carbon not offsetting it;
- Development of this will be part of our action plan;
- Last resort, not even looking at offsetting, yet. Maybe Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) with additionality, plus tariff options for council scope. Not developed residential offer/partnership.

Offsetting has been promoted in some quarters as an action which justifies continuing with existing approaches. Clearly we understand that after all action has been taken to reduce carbon emissions, local authorities will still be producing a small amount as a result of delivering services. Common understanding is that it is appropriate to offset for these emissions and we are in agreement with that. However offsetting without carrying out carbon reduction exercises is not acceptable in our opinion. Some of the local authorities responding to this survey will be developing their policy towards offsetting and it is worth taking time to be clear about this issue.



5. Results Section 3 - Action Plan

Q12. Do you have an action plan in place to achieve your target?



We received 81 answers to the question "Do you have an action plan in place to achieve your target?" 3 (4%) councils said "yes", 11 (14%) said "no", 65 (80%) said "in the process of" and 2 (2%) said "I'm not sure".

The 3 who said yes included the following comments:

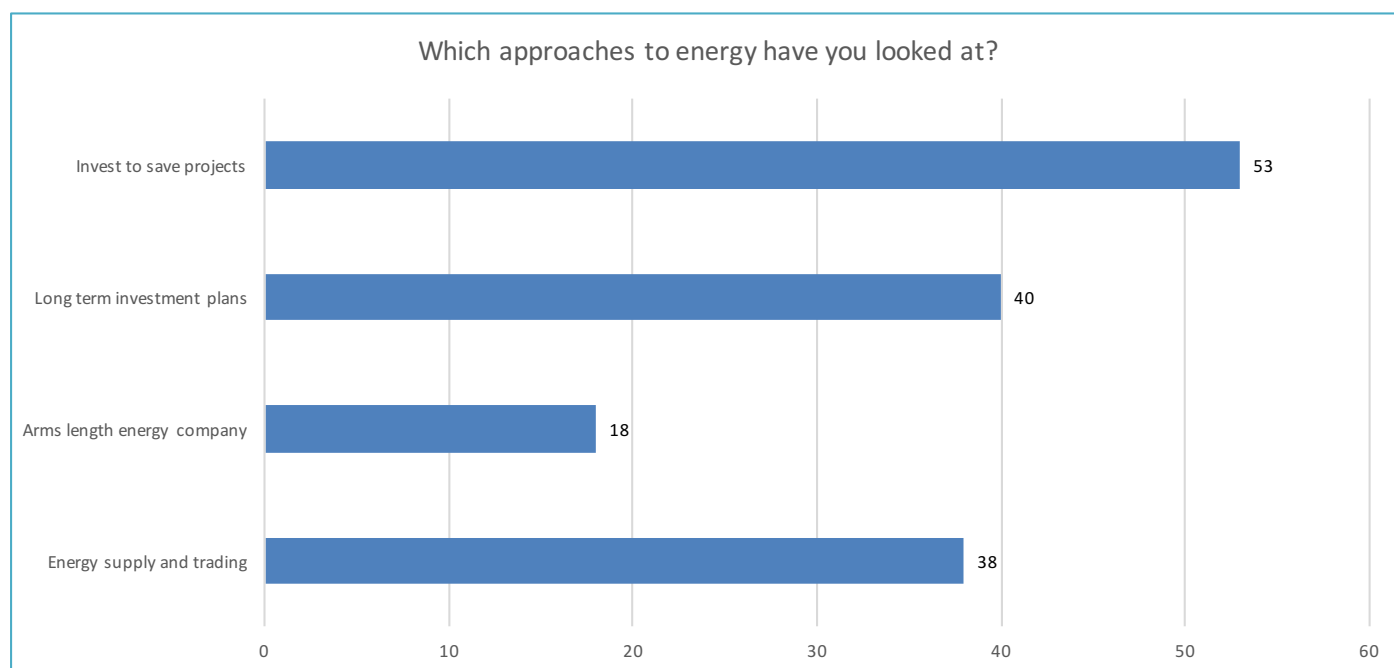
- We have action plan for 2019 to 2021;
- Although we do not have a net zero target, we have an adopted action plan in place (2016 - 21) and are currently delivering towards a 21% reduction on 2014/15 levels by March 2020;
- 100-day action plan and a more substantive long term strategy which is still under consultation.

Other comments include:

- Initial action plan. But this is mainly enabling works for the City Climate Strategy March 2020;
- Have climate change and carbon management strategies but these are not currently linked to the target;
- A plan is written but only talks about opportunities rather than hard actions, therefore it couldn't be linked to achievement;
- We are about to launch a consultation on this;
- There is a draft action plan as part of the climate change strategy, however this is likely to be reviewed following consultation responses and the declaration;
- Aim is to have one by the end of March 2020;
- We'll be publishing our first Action Plan in Jan 2020.

Putting action plans in place following a climate emergency declaration can be a big commitment with some taking a year to formulate one. The climate emergency declaration process is a long one although it contains a number of elements which local authorities work on regularly including project management, internal consultation, community engagement, financial planning as well as action planning. Some have existing plans in place. Action plans come in all shapes and sizes but there can be no doubt that due to the nature of some of the technologies involved and the scale of the agenda, action plans will be long term possibly stretching over a period of 20 years or more.

Q13. Which approaches to energy have you looked at?



This question allowed respondents to tick multiple options for which approaches to energy they have looked at. The most common answer was “invest to save projects”, with 53 authorities selecting it. This was followed by “long term investment plans” (40) and “energy supply and trading” (38). “Arm’s length energy company” was the least popular option with 18 authorities indicating that they had looked into it as an option.

Projects mentioned in the ‘other’ category include:

- Community energy;
- Park and charge;
- Cosy Homes;
- Aligning business rates with energy saving;
- Housing projects (Ecotown and Self Build);
- Hydro power scheme;
- EV pool vehicles and V2G;
- Electric taxi lease scheme to encourage shift to electric by hackney carriage/minicabs;
- Partner in £11million new ERDF scheme to progress a joint multi district approach to energy measures especially linking to SMEs;
- Energy efficiency;

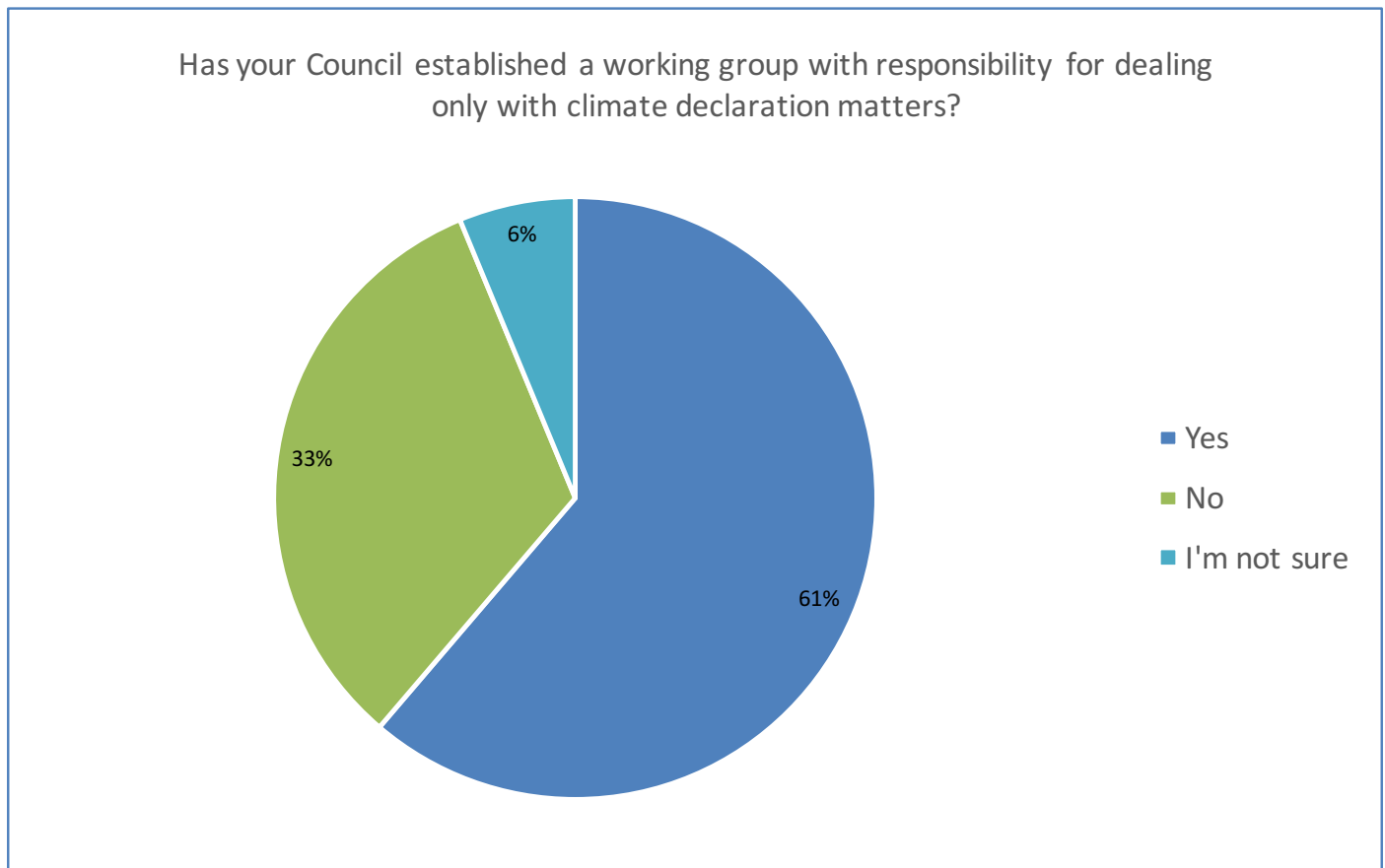
- Solar farm;
- Energy as a service;
- Adaptation plans;
- Circular economy;
- Smart bin sensors to reduce bin lorry travel time.

The responses to this question reflect the variety of technologies and policy approaches available. Clearly not all will be appropriate for each council but the list above shows that there is a desire to innovate amongst some councils. Innovation is a vital part of tackling this agenda and local authorities have a part to play in it. Austerity has meant times are tough and finances restricted for all but there are a number of councils who are taking a lead on innovation and others should do their best to find opportunities to follow.



6. Results Section 4 - Internal Working Group

Q14. Has your council established a working group with responsibility for dealing only with climate declaration matters?



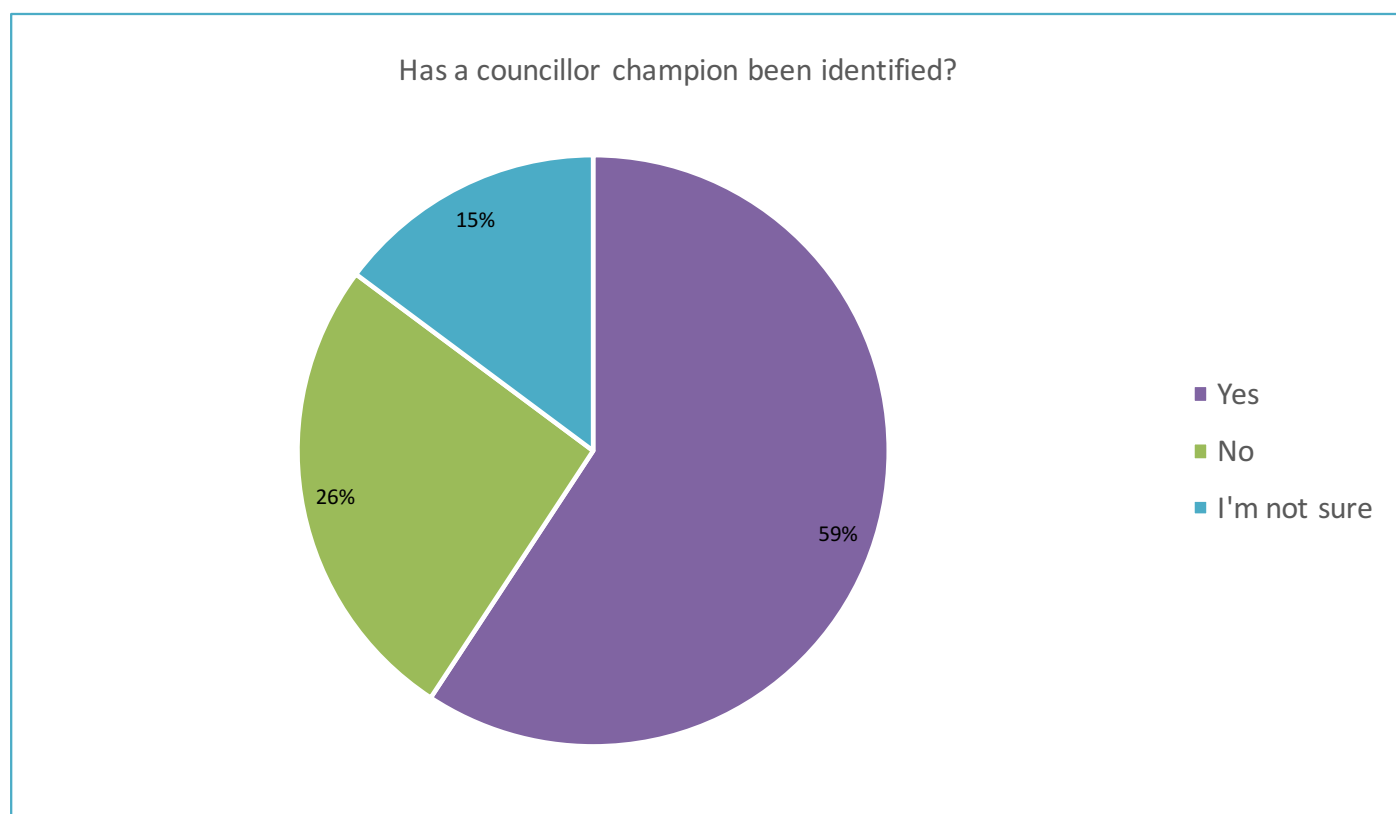
80 local authorities responded to this question, of which 49 said “yes”, 26 said “no” and 5 said “I’m not sure”. This shows that establishing a working group to deal with the climate emergency is a popular option for many local authorities.

Further comments alongside this question include:

- We have an established Environment Policy & Projects Group which oversees and supports implementation of our Climate Change Strategy and other environmental policies and projects. We have had this for several years, pre-dating our emergency declaration;
- The Green Programme Board is already established and oversees carbon management work, amongst other areas. The board has now been given responsibility to oversee the action plan to achieve net zero by 2030;
- This will be part of the action plan;
- We have an internal high energy users group and a staff green forum;
- We have a Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group, which is made up of Service Managers and relevant Officers from across Council Service Areas;

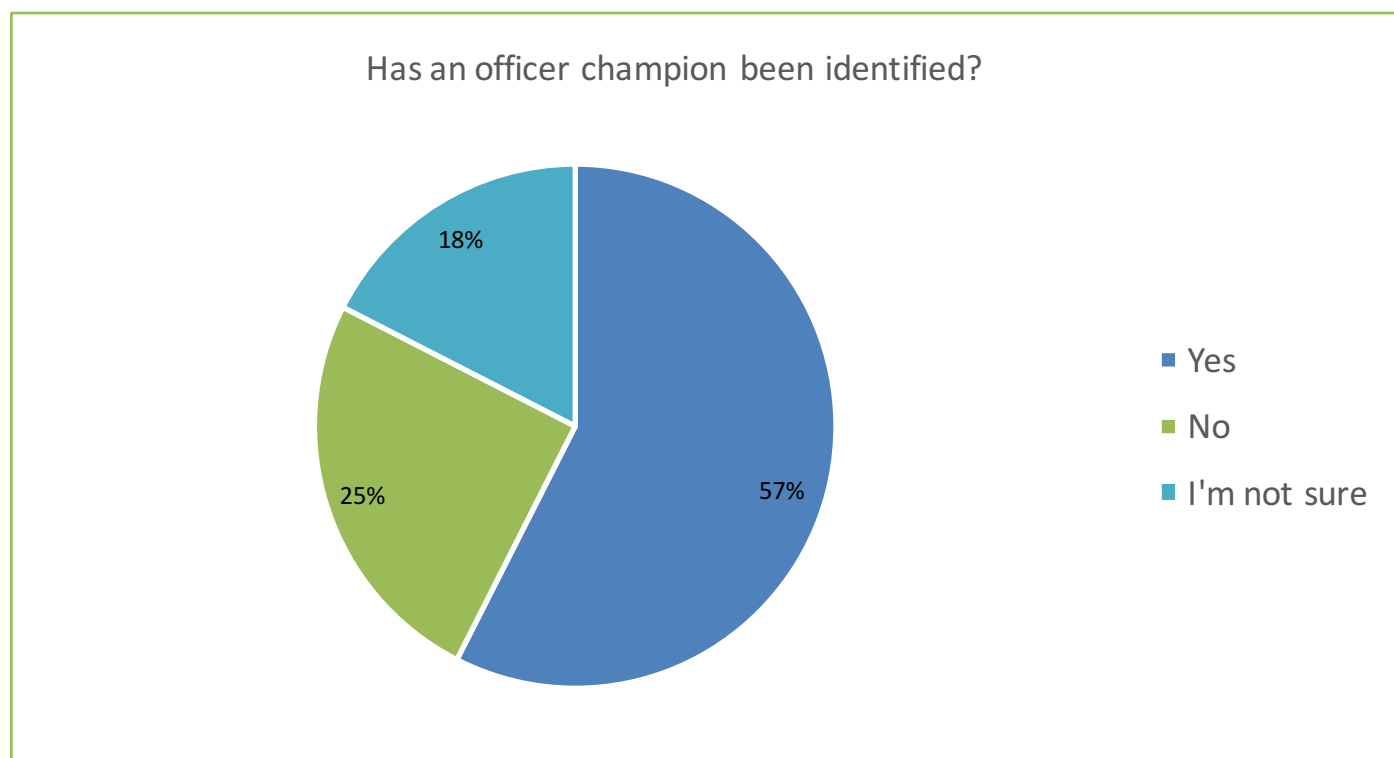
- We have an existing long-standing Climate Change Programme Board, chaired by sponsor place director for co-ordinating response climate change issues;
- Leeds Climate Commission outside council. In council no separate group governance reports through normal processes now mandatory;
- Initially, policy review committee have been given the responsibility. No working group established as yet;
- Environment Board;
- We have established a Climate Emergency Team.

Q15. Has a councillor champion been identified?



81 councils responded to the question "has a councillor champion been identified". Of which, 48 said "yes", 21 said "no" and 12 said "I'm not sure".

Q16. Has an officer champion been identified?



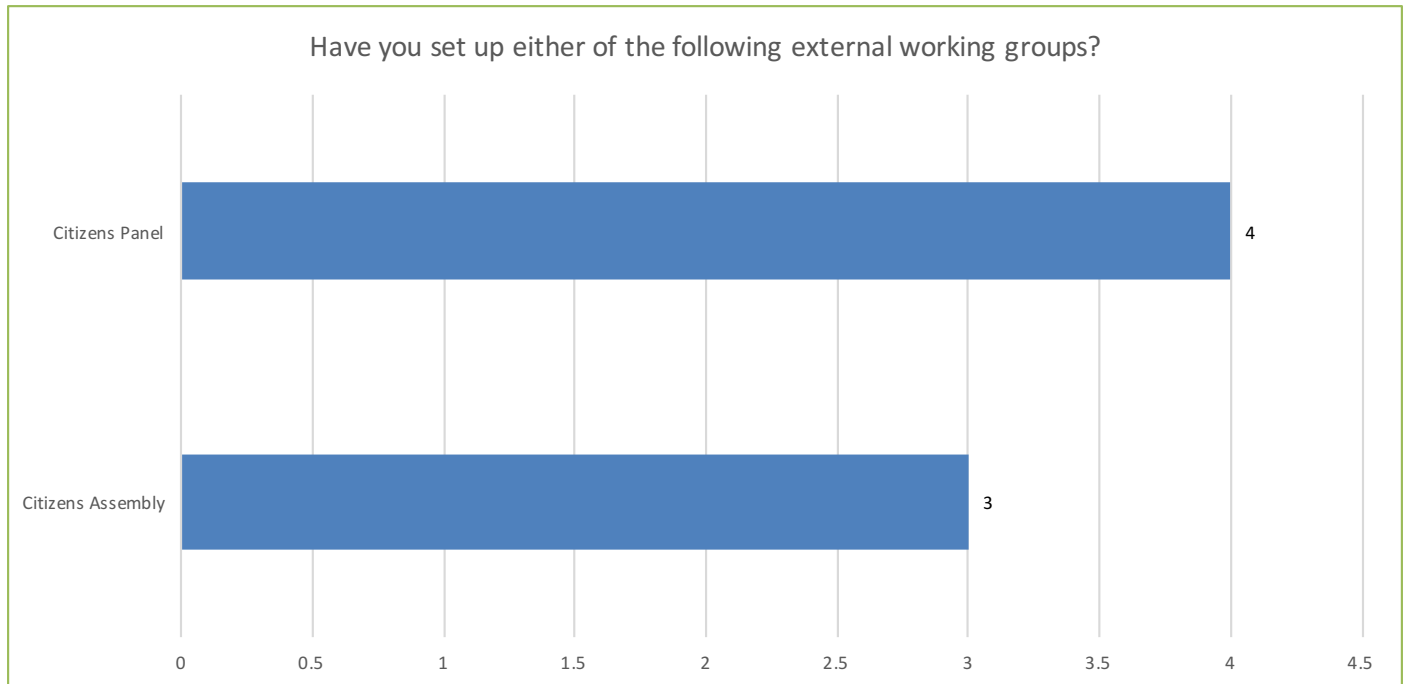
80 councils responded to the question “has an officer champion been identified”. Of which, 46 said “yes”, 20 said “no” and 14 said “I’m not sure”.

This shows that over half of the respondents indicated that an internal officer champion had been identified to lead the agenda.

Different local authorities take different approaches to management of important issues within the organisation. Lead councillors and officers, champions, working group, scrutiny committees – are all examples of how the issue is managed. It is important to ensure that the responsibility for promoting this topic lies with a senior enough individual that it is effectively communicated and actions result where necessary. Their message should be that it is not the responsibility of a single person to meet the climate changes duties or plans of the council but it is the responsibility of all. The leader and chief executive of councils that have declared an emergency must be fully committed to it. For those that have not declared there should be mechanisms in place to highlight the impacts of actions on the climate as part of existing policies.

7. Results Section 5 - External Working Group

Q17. Have you set up either of the following external working group?



This question had two options, one being a “citizen’s assembly” and the other a “citizen’s panel”, respondents were able to select both if applicable. This question received 7 responses, 4 of which were for a citizen’s panel and 3 for a citizen’s assembly.

Further comments alongside this question include:

- None yet but looking to have community and business groups;
- In the process of setting these up;
- Public/Stakeholder meeting arranged;
- City Leaders Climate Change Group;
- Scrutiny committee involving numerous outside groups;
- We have a ongoing citizens conversation (over 3000 people engaged to date) and are planning to engage our existing Residents’ Panel;
- In process of setting up a Young People’s Climate Change Forum; Resilient Communities system is in place; giving consideration to Citizens’ Assembly or Climate Change Forum;
- Climate Youth Panel, mostly aged 16-24;
- We have a long standing Peoples’ Panel and we have since the declaration asked questions about climate change and the circular economy and previously asked about transport issues;
- The Manchester Climate Change Agency has been established to lead the city-wide reduction in carbon emissions;

- Working Group will engage with community and residents;
- Not yet. We have published an online consultation, as detailed previously, and we have taken this as an action to be included in the next Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy;
- Youth forum being established, private sector, 3rd sector and relevant private individuals can be invited to the member led net zero carbon 2030 working group;
- Looking at Citizen's Assembly potential;
- No but we are working with our district and borough council partners and neighbouring authorities;
- A cross-party Environment Action Group with representatives from other parties has been set up and an external Climate Conference is currently planned for October 2019;
- The council plans to set up a Citizens Assembly. More time is needed to establish its exact role and make up;
- We have not as yet set up an external working group on this but are working on this with various local voluntary community groups (e.g. Transition groups), building on previous work with them.

These responses show that while only 7 respondents selected the two options, many more are in the process of setting up either a citizen's panel or assembly.

Q18. Please provide the following details with regard to external engagement

How did you identify members?	Who do they represent?	What are the group responsibilities and governance arrangements?	How many people do you expect to be members of each group?
(will be) random mail-out and cross-sample selection to represent Blackpool as a whole.	The borough as a whole.		Assembly approx 50.
Open recruitment process.	See https://www.bristolonecity.com/thematic-boards/environmental-sustainability/	See https://www.bristolonecity.com/thematic-boards/environmental-sustainability/	About 20.
Self nominated.		Comment and inform the development of our Energy Plan.	35.
	Businesses and climate change-related NGOs.	City Council.	c.40.
Yes.	Major employers and institutions in the city.	It is an information and ideas-sharing body. I don't think it has formal governance arrangements as such.	Approximately 20.
PR and consultation process for the update of the action on climate change strategy.			
We do not have a specific citizens panel on climate change but members of our existing Residents' Panel are consulted on climate issues. They volunteer to be involved.	Residents represent themselves.	Residents Panel has no formal responsibilities in the governance of climate it is a consultation body.	

How did you identify members?	Who do they represent?	What are the group responsibilities and governance arrangements?	How many people do you expect to be members of each group?
Crawley Live open invitation through publications etc.	Youth Council and stakeholder groups.	Reports to OSC.	10+.
Through public consultation process on our Draft Climate Change Strategy.	Local communities, Community Councils, etc.	(To be confirmed).	(To be confirmed).
Advertised for, application process, scored and appointed in proportion to 6 district populations.	Young people.	Purpose: Give young people a voice on climate change issues, giving members the platform to influence and have their say on how we respond to the climate emergency together. Give feedback on the draft Climate Change Strategy. Give young people and insight on how Leadership Gloucestershire organisations will tackle climate change issues. Help the Council fulfil its climate commitments. Assist the Council to empower residents to take action on Climate Change, providing insight into how to encourage people to take responsibility for their behaviours.	40 at the moment, may change.
People are invited or can volunteer.	We aim to have a sample that reflects the city in demographic and spatial terms.		
Not sure on assembly.	Citizens and businesses.		
Members were identified by the Manchester Climate Change Agency.	The board represents a range of organisations http://manchesterclimate.com/MCCB	http://manchesterclimate.com/mccb-minutes	
Stakeholder mapping , using existing Nottingham wide partnerships and a year long engagement and comms plan for 2020.	Businesses, communities, faith groups, research, education, public sector.	Various, but largely through sub-groups of, and within, citywide Green Partnership. Also internal Energy and Sustainability.	
Engaged with XR and UN Climate Strike protesters. Knowledge of private, 3rd, voluntary sectors operating in Pembrokeshire.	Could include but not limited to: Welsh Government Energy Service Extinction Rebellion Community Energy Pembrokeshire Transition Bro Gwaun The Environmental Network for Pembrokeshire (TENP) Planned Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS) Cwm Arian Renewable Energy (CARE) Multiple Pembrokeshire community and town Councils PSB – representative from PSB (Natural Resources Wales, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Hywel Dda University Health Board (NHS), Mid and West Wales Fire Authority, Dyfed Powys Police). Port of Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire College.	ToRs agreed at first meeting.	Member led group 20-30. Representatives of invited groups 1-3 per group. Youth Forum 20+.

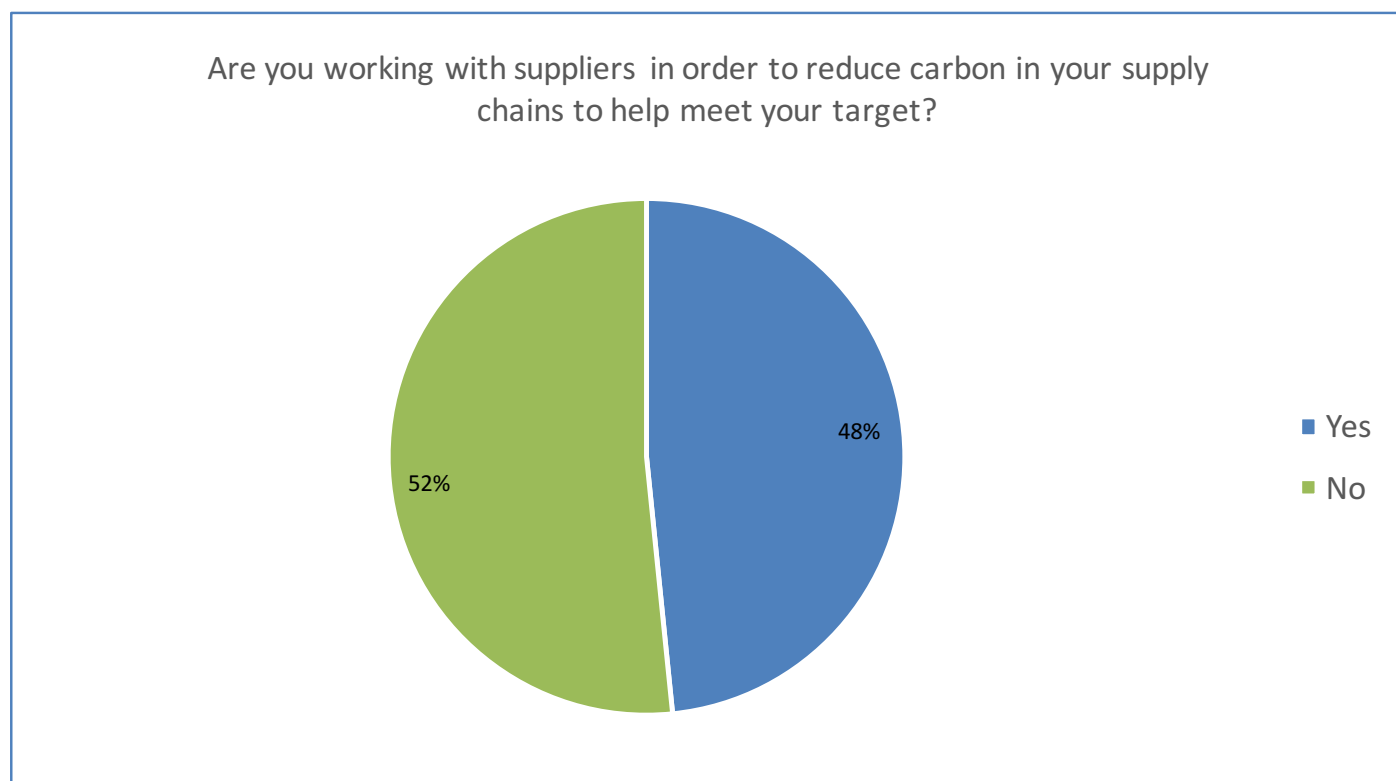
How did you identify members?	Who do they represent?	What are the group responsibilities and governance arrangements?	How many people do you expect to be members of each group?
Organisations not individuals.	All community sectors and will expand.	In progress.	
The EAG contains both Green and Lib Dem representatives. The Climate Conference will look to open that further.			
The Cabinet Member chose them.	All elected political parties; the youth cabinet; Sussex Wildlife Trust; South East Climate Alliance.	They are an informal group, with a remit of suggesting the top actions they would like to see happen to deliver the carbon neutral commitment.	1 person from each.
From existing networks, groups and partnerships the Council works with.	Environment, Business, Education, Public agencies, land & rural, community.	To be determined as part of the Action Plan development.	Not yet known.
Ongoing work over the years on climate change projects and events (e.g. Greener Living Fairs). Stakeholder conference held in development of our original climate change strategy.	Local community groups we work with include Transition groups, FOE, Cycle Forum, Vegans, Act on Energy.	Not formalised in relation to Climate Emergency as yet.	

Engagement with citizens is fundamental to the local authority having a positive impact upon its locality. Not only have many areas seen recent activity from youth groups, school children and Extinction Rebellion but groups such as Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and local pressure groups have been highlighting sustainability issues for many years, many of them led by local individuals.

Finding a method for engaging with citizens can be trickier. Accessing the 'usual suspects' is relatively easy and beneficial as they are often very well informed and resourced. But there is also a need to engage with some people who the council would not usually work with – normal people who may not regularly come into contact with the council but whose perceptions and activities the council must influence if it is to have a positive impact. This is where the use of citizens' panels and juries, boards, youth councils and area committees is vital and there is a lot to be learnt from others who have experience of doing so.

8. Results Section 6 - Supply Chains

Q19. Are you working with suppliers in order to reduce carbon in your supply chains to help meet your target?



62 councils responded to this question, of which 30 said "yes" and 32 said "no". This shows a fairly even split between those authorities who are working with suppliers in order to reduce the carbon footprint of their supply chains and those who are not. Many of the further comments mentioned that while they might not currently be working with suppliers they plan to in the future as they develop their climate emergency action plans.

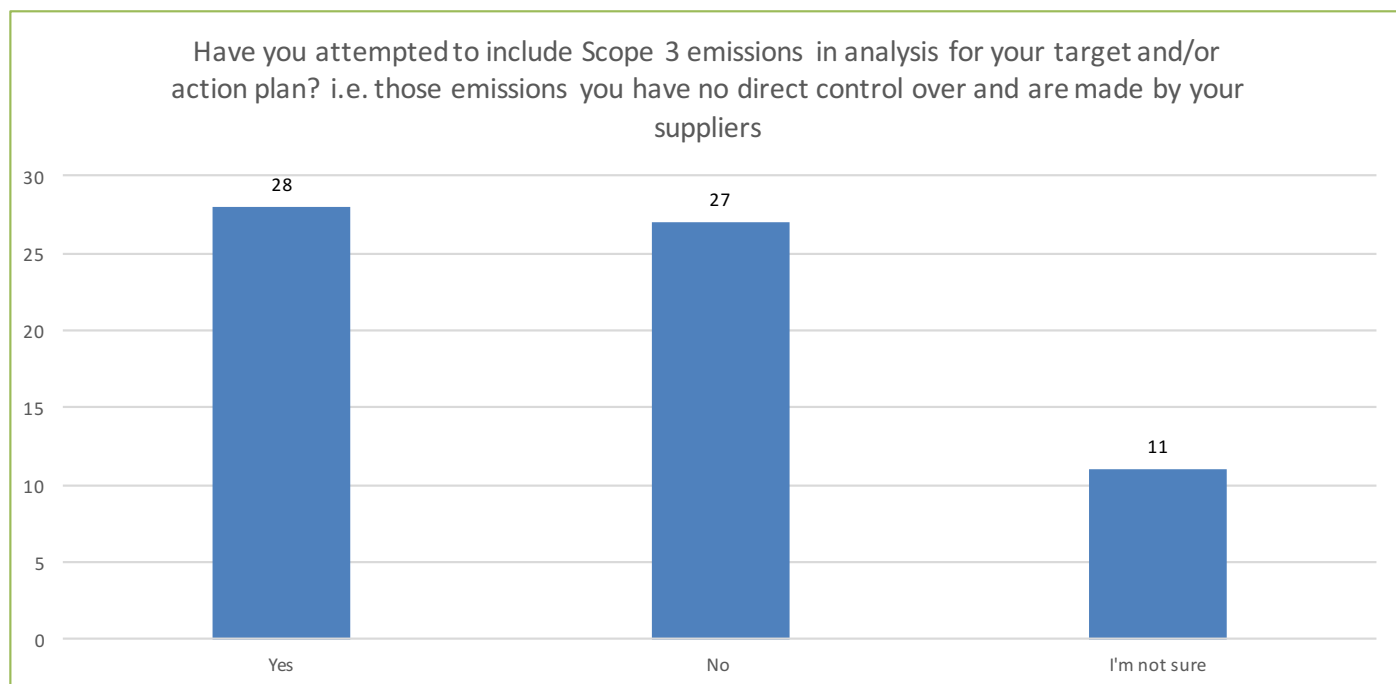
Other comments include:

- Reviewing our energy supply contract working with our fleet vehicle providers;
- 100% renewable electricity;
- Switching to bio-gas;
- Through procurement processes;
- But planning to do so as procurement will be in scope;
- To be developed as part of Welsh Government's reporting framework for carbon neutral public sector. The Council has volunteered to be an early adopter;
- Strategy & Policy documents have been updated which then feeds into the supply chain;
- Not yet but once the scope is defined this will be explored;
- Part of the procurement gateway group;

- Too early in process;
- Sustainable Procurement Policy in process of being developed;
- As part of our Social Value options;
- Working with Stagecoach investigating electric buses, and with Education and Integrated Transport to understand bus and school transport emissions;
- We are having a consumption based emissions assessment of the city undertaken at present;
- Throughout the council will differ according to type of supplier;
- Procurement have been tasked with including sustainability into all procurement activities;
- The council's Single Use Plastic Strategy has brought about an action to engage with suppliers to reduce the volume of single use plastics being brought into the council. We would be continue this work with Procurement Services colleagues to improve the sustainability of products and services;
- This will develop further if Welsh Government reporting methodology includes Procurement. We already ask for high recycled content in projects and goods and we are starting to ask for carbon emissions content in product life cycle but there does not appear to be a common standard for suppliers to work to;
- Limited scope for collating this data given the volume of suppliers that provide for the council;
- We are looking to introduce carbon reduction advice and measures into our procurement documentation;
- Do not yet have a target but have started to work with suppliers to baseline carbon impact and start to think about targets;
- Not currently although that is a subject for the Environment strategy and Action Plan;
- Actions are limited to including through procurement of new contracts, and setting KPI's where relevant. No discussions have yet been undertaken with existing suppliers;
- Suppliers already need to complete sustainability checks and the Climate Emergency Working Group is scoping out how to further encourage suppliers to reduce their use of carbon through the council's procurement practices.



Q20. Have you attempted to include Scope 3 emissions in analysis for your target and/or action plan? I.e. those emissions you have no direct control over and are made by your suppliers



66 councils responded to this question, of which 28 said “yes”, 27 said “no” and 11 said “I’m not sure”. This shows an almost even split between those councils who are including Scope 3 emissions in their target and/or action plan and those who are not.

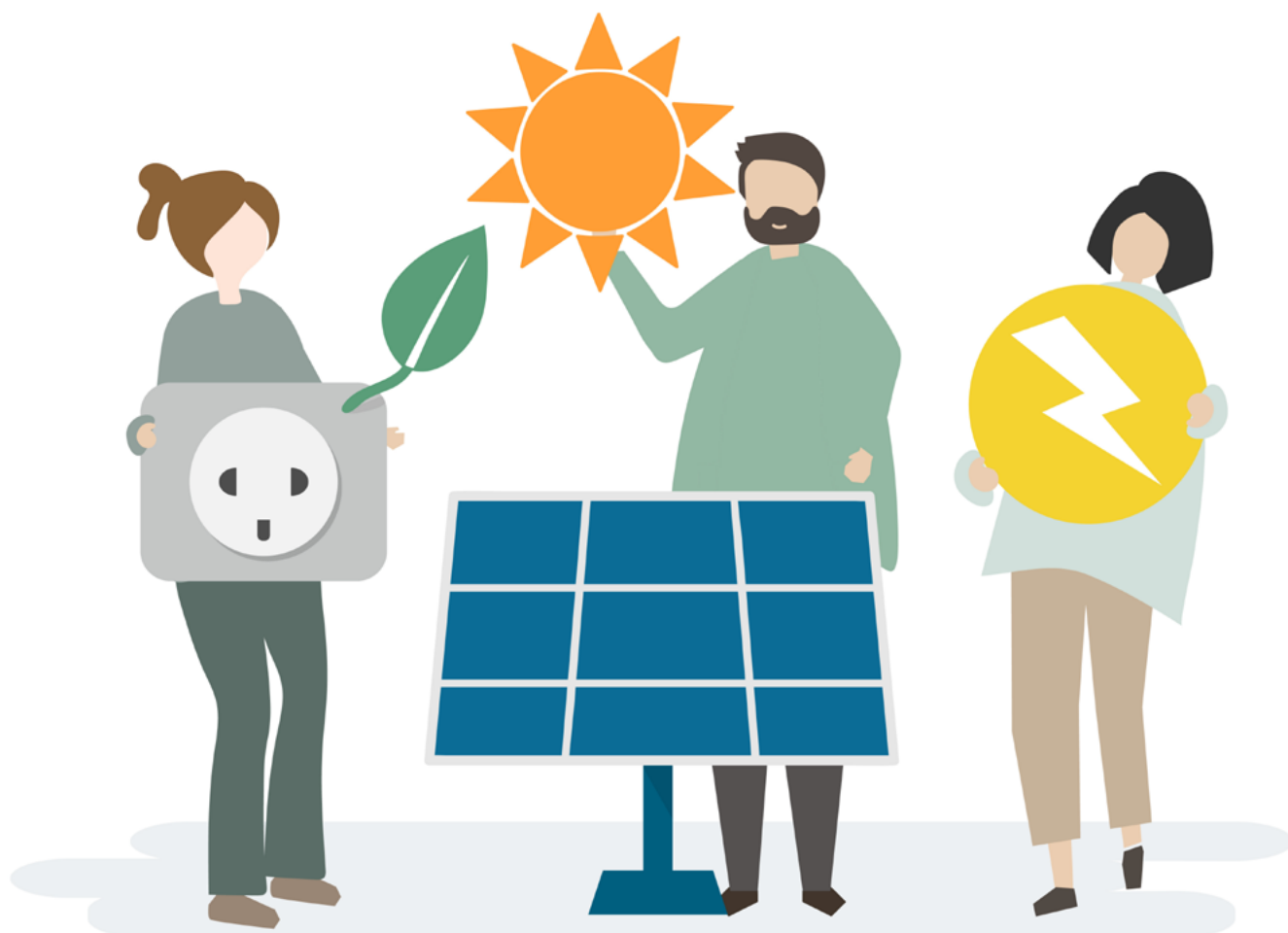
Further comments include:

- In previous work yes, as some large services are delivered by 3rd parties so this is essential to some degree;
- Working with WG to develop methodology and calculate emissions;
- Not yet. To be developed as part of Welsh Government’s reporting framework for carbon neutral public sector;
- Historically have reported on external contract suppliers e.g. refuse and street cleansing contract;
- Scope 3 is not included in our target but we are planning to work with suppliers to start measuring and reducing it;
- Through procurement;
- Not quantified though;
- For outsourced services;
- Sustainable Procurement Policy in process of being developed;
- Staff business travel. Looking at bus and school transport emissions;
- They are mentioned in the mini-Stern report, but difficult to quantify;
- Previously modelled Scope 3 in procurement, but a long time ago and not planning to repeat process;
- We include business travel and waste within the council estate emissions;
- We are looking at this, but initial work will be around reduction rather than offsetting;

- Whilst Scope 3 and other imported emissions are not in the direct target due to measurability, we are including Scope 3 emissions within our new climate change and energy policies as they are very important to reduce but due to their hard nature to measure at a local scale they are not included in the cities carbon neutrality ambition;
- This will develop if Welsh Government reporting methodology includes Scope 3;
- We measure some Scope 3 emissions in our current reporting arrangements;
- Not currently although that is a subject for the Environment strategy and Action Plan;
- We will include aspects of Scope 3, such as the generation of GHG emissions from electricity usage by the council, transportation of goods to the council;
- The council aims to encourage and support suppliers and other partners to aspire to the same goals as the council. It is still being scoped how Scope 3 can be measured.

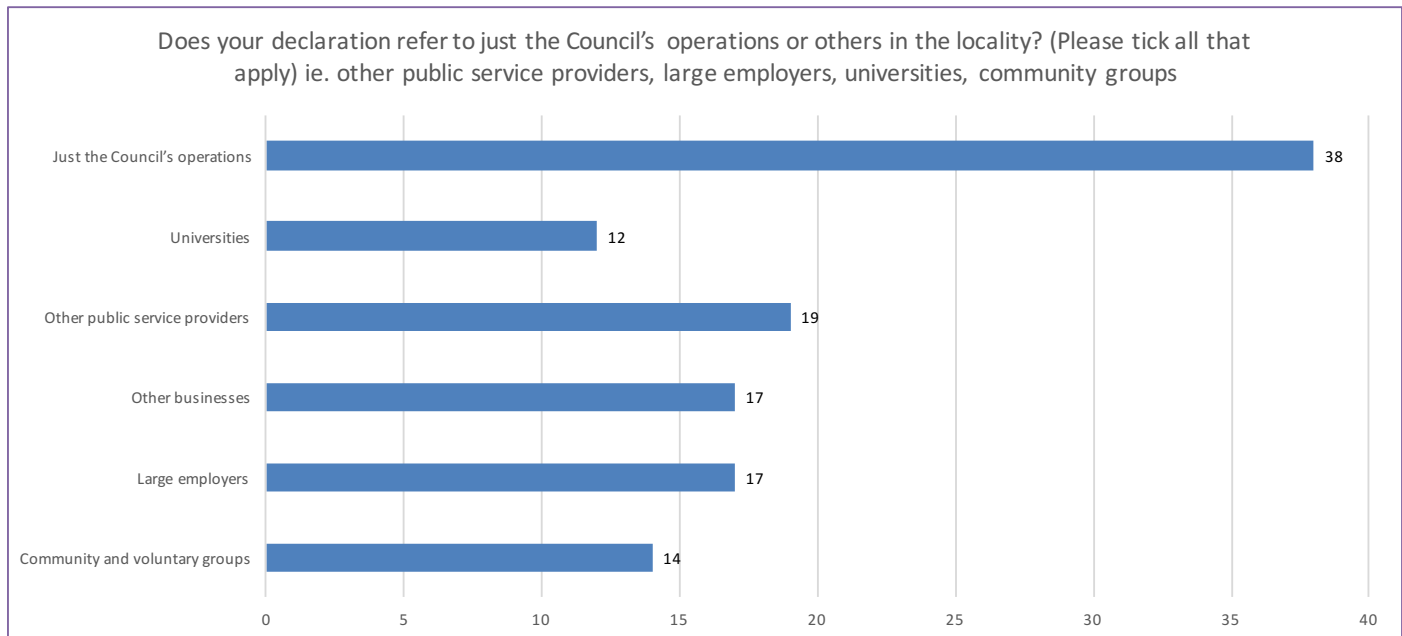
A typical local authority might contribute only 1% or 2% of the emissions found in an area. Whilst tackling those emissions is important the work does not finish there. Councils often spend the majority of their budgets on suppliers delivering everything from pencils to multi-millions pounds contract on their behalf.

It is not acceptable for a council to announce that it is working to address climate change and sustainability issues without tackling its own suppliers. There must be an attempt made to engage with suppliers and understand or influence how they are changing their own activities. This might start with the council's five biggest suppliers for example with a request to see evidence of how they are reducing their own emissions. It should fit with wider social value policies within the council.



9. Results Section 7 - Partners

Q21. Does your declaration refer to just the council's operations or others in the locality? (Please tick all that apply) i.e. other public service providers, large employers, universities, community groups



This question allowed respondents to select multiple options for which groups within the locality their declaration covers. The most common response (38) was for “just the council’s operations”. The next most common response was “other public service sector providers” (19), closely followed by “other businesses” (17) and “large employers” (17). “Community and voluntary groups” received 14 responses and “universities” 12 responses.

Further comments include:

- And residents through an information and behavioural change campaign;
- Wholly owned companies;
- Everything!
- Everyone;
- The city;
- Specific target for own emissions, loose currently undefined agreement to work with partners;
- There are 2 parts: one part relates just to district council, other part relates to the council helping the wider district achieve 2030 target;
- Other groups are referenced but in a much more vague way;
- To be determined as part of Action Plan developments;
- There is reference to the council working with partners to encourage them to adopt similar targets. However the net zero target applies only to council operations;

- Carbon Neutral Council by 2024, Carbon Neutral District by 2030;
- However, it is emphasised that the council will work with partners, such as the University and New Cross Hospital, to support them in moving closer to net zero carbon;
- Activities linked to our declaration cover others e.g. EV infrastructure - businesses as well as our own car parks; tree planting involves schools; plastic free involves businesses and VCS.

The decision to make a declaration and set a carbon neutrality date which covers the operations of the council is significant; setting one for the whole locality is very ambitious. It can be understood from the perspective of raising the profile of the issue and prompting engagement but it requires massive commitment and resources if it is to be successful.

Setting locality-wide targets reflects the fact that councils understand exactly how important an issue climate change is and how it should be seen as a priority for all.

Q22. If your declaration refers to the whole locality... Please provide details of how are you engaging with your partners and other organisations?

Responses to this question include:

- We will consult on the document. We will create a business consortium and provide incentives for businesses. Working with farmers and universities too. Also aiming to create a Kent wide movement. Working with community groups and residents;
- Through the Boards and some more targeted engagement planned to develop the City Strategy;
- Through our City Leaders Climate Change Group, and other partnership working. We are also aiming to fund a voluntary sector body to develop a Climate Change Charter (as part of our declaration) to enable residents, businesses and other organisations to make pledges to reduce their carbon footprint and emissions;
- Scoping meetings with neighbouring authorities;
- Engaging with partners via; a monthly newsletter; an advisory panel composed of representatives from all sectors with relevance to mitigation/adaptation chaired by council CEX;
- Via our LEP, LNP, the Cornwall Leadership Board and a range of other networks;
- Early days yet but we are organizing major climate conference to engage with wide range of stakeholders and community groups plus we working jointly through Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum with range of council, and third sector stakeholders;
- We are currently preparing a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which will set out these issues;
- Working with districts and all public sector, LEP, developing communications campaign and 'Fighting Fund';
- Stakeholder mapping & events using existing networks/working groups via professional contacts;
- We have Business Leadership Board that looks after our City Plan we also use existing networks;
- Working group with organisations, climate panel, Big Climate Conversation;
- This will be further developed in the strategy, however some examples are engagement through Community Planning Partnerships, Local Energy Advice Forum and Primary School Energy Challenge;
- We will be carrying out stakeholder mapping to identify the key stakeholders across the city. We will also be working closely with local universities in helping to shape our approach to carbon neutrality. We are currently developing a consultation, communications and engagement plan for the city;

- We are establishing a CN2030 board, a cross party round table and neighbourhood community action groups with a collective forum and representation on the Board. We liaise with our partner authorities in the County and the LEP. We lead on the Renewable Energy Action Group of the Gloucestershire Energy Strategy and have a presence on the Business Energy Group and other 2 action groups;
- Stalls at markets, public forums planned, stakeholder events, will visit schools;
- The Cool2 strategy mentioned previously is a partnership strategy, rather than a council-specific strategy;
- The declaration does not directly refer to the whole locality, only indirectly. Examples of engagement going is that the council, university and hospital are scoping out how a heat network could be built to these locations from the council's Energy From Waste Plant;
- We are looking to work collaboratively with other North Wales authorities to lever in funding to support work that will map our emissions across North Wales as similar areas of work will be scoped across the local authorities.

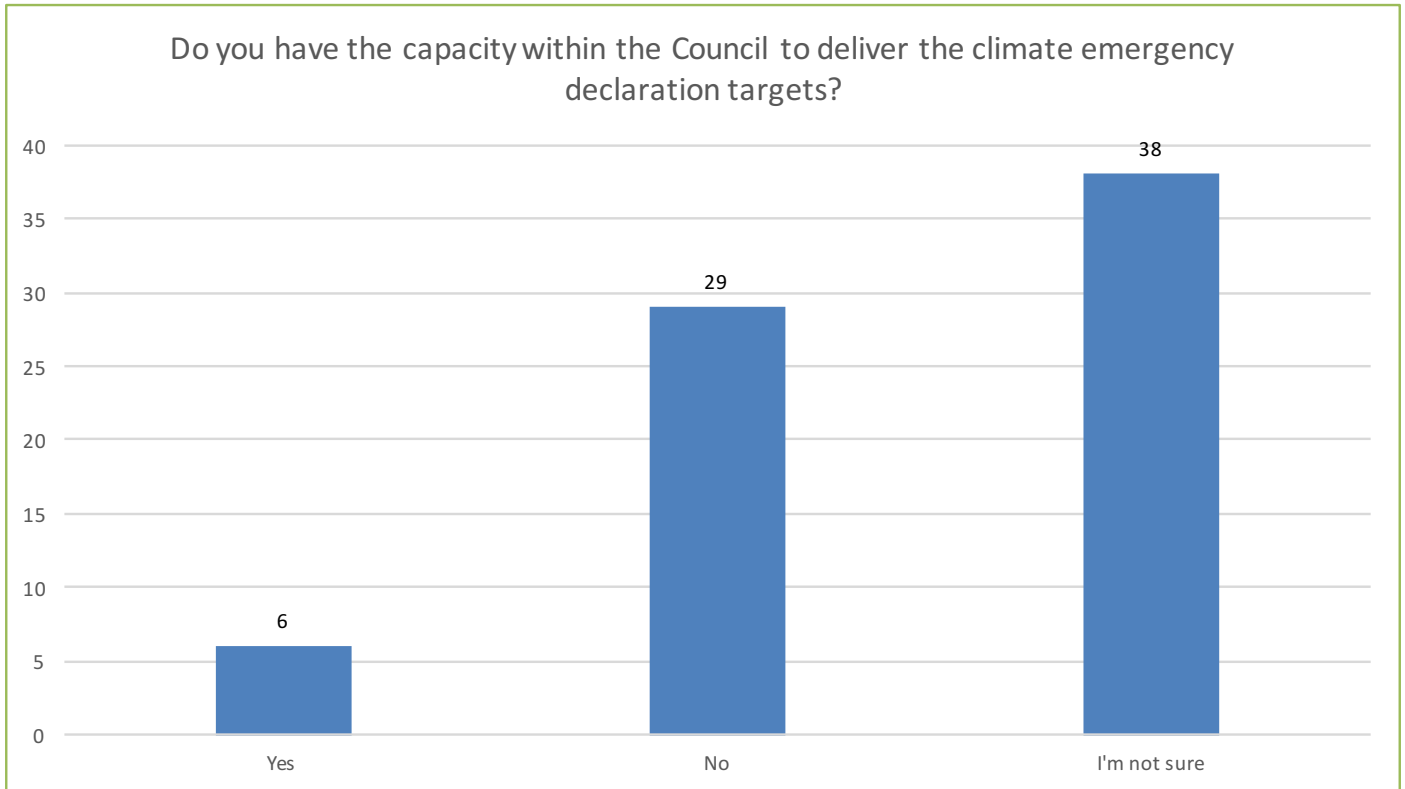
Only the local authority has a democratic mandate to act on behalf of the citizens on matters such as climate change which put it in a leading position to bring together other bodies. Local partners are able to add capacity in the form of expertise, assets, engagement and brands recognition but they need to be corralled and prompted to act in concert for maximum benefit and this is one of the roles of the council.

The nature of engagement will differ between areas and the variety is reflected in the list above – from practical actions such as market stalls and interaction with school children to citywide business boards and LEPS. There will be many existing relationships and mechanisms for partnership working within localities and it is vital that these are used to the full. This can happen at the strategic level between chief executives of for example, the council, local university, large employers and public service providers just as it can between an individual officer and a friends of a parks group. It is the practical changes that will make a difference and engagement at every level is to be welcomed.



10. Results Section 8 - Skills & Capacity

Q23. Do you have the capacity within the council to deliver the climate emergency declaration targets?



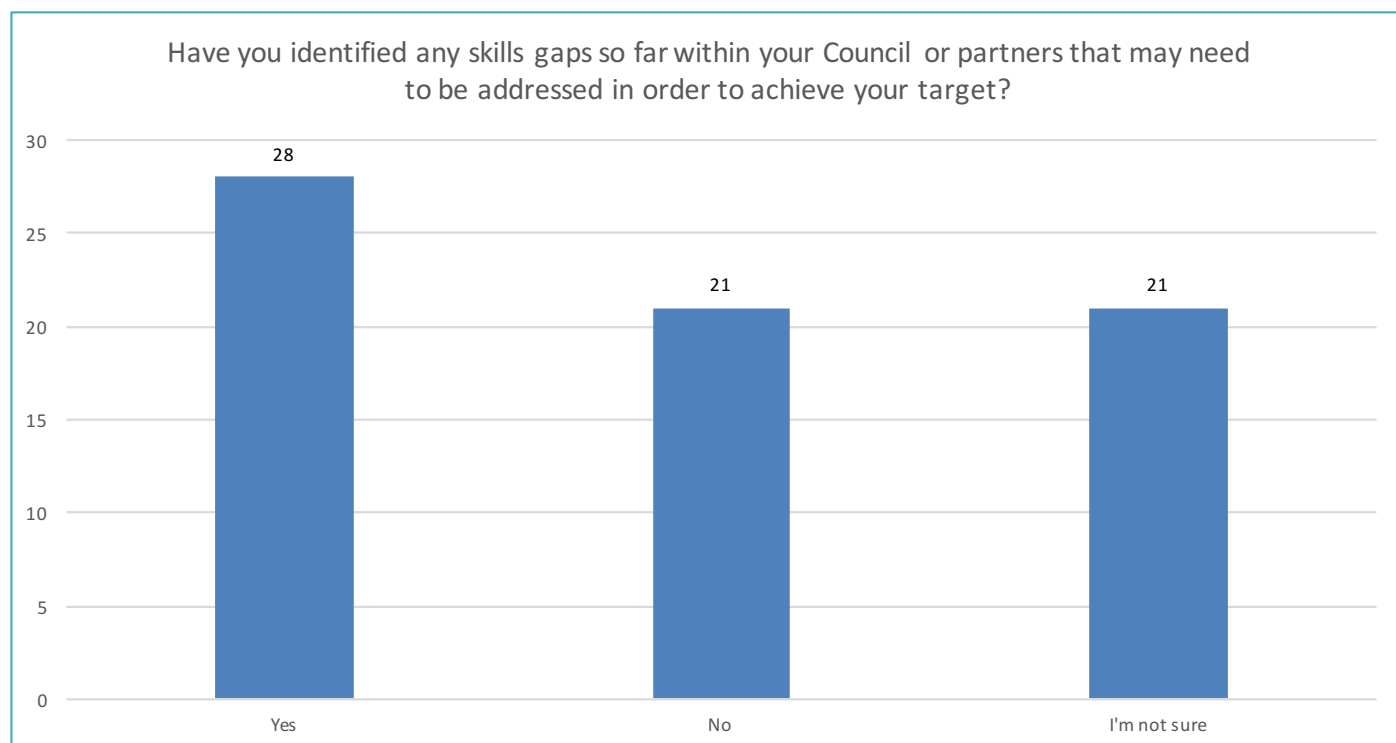
73 councils responded to this question, of which 6 said “yes” they do think they have the capacity within the council to deliver the climate emergency declaration targets, 29 said “no” and 38 said “I’m not sure”. This shows that out of 73 authorities 91.8% either don’t think that they have the capacity or do not know whether they will have the capacity, and only 8.2% think that they do.

Further comments include:

- Still being debated. Main issue is lack of skill and knowledge but this is being addressed through sustainability training and lack of financial resources;
- 2 FTE, but insufficient!
- Depends on what scope is settled on;
- We have an Energy Team of 5 officers. Other officers are responsible for specific Service areas as part of their remit;
- New, additional post to be established but will still have limited internal capacity;
- We are appointing additional staff;
- It is likely that we will recruit in the near future;
- It will mean re-prioritising existing commitments and projects to create capacity to deliver on the climate emergency declaration;
- 18 staff in Low Carbon Economy Team;

- One dedicated officer working on general sustainability, no plans for additional staff;
- A lot is already allocated across council departments however with budget constraints and a reduction in resources capacity and skill set will be an issue;
- 1 FTE, senior manager, plus other staff supporting across the council. Recruiting another 1 FTE permanent climate change and air quality officer, also 0.5FTE permanent senior communications post;
- At present we have one officer but we intend to have a further 3 full time officers and 1 part time officer in the next financial year subject to budget approval;
- Officers in Energy, Refuse, Flood Planning, Transport, Architects Dept and Planning all being asked to contribute information to members;
- Detailed action plans of how the authority will meet our targets are currently being developed. These will include resource implications and requirements;
- Have a good base, but not enough;
- We are also applying for Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) funding, to take a strategic approach to decarbonising the heat network in North Ayrshire. This will allow us identify any skills gaps and learn from external agencies;
- There are no officers working solely on this agenda. It is an additional responsibility for energy, housing, transport, procurement, property, waste & recycling teams. Support will be needed;
- Issues of commitment and resourcing - whilst an emergency has been declared, unsure whether any funding will be committed, or staff tasked with. At present, two officers have an interest in pushing the agenda, but this is in addition to, rather than as part of, working duties. Also limited expertise across the authority in carbon budgets etc.;
- None working only on this but team of 10 in climate change/energy/sustainability team;
- Neither yes or no... we have the skill to build the necessary partnerships and to work constructively with consultants and other services. We have a strategy to expand our team over time but will not seek to have all required expertise in house;
- No dedicated capacity;
- Resources are currently required on other council projects e.g.. Electric Vehicle Strategy development and delivery;
- We have a project working group, only two dedicated officers to the emergency;
- Currently there are 4 full time officers working on this project, our capacity to deliver the targets will depend on whether we are successful in our bids for central government funding;
- Climate Emergency Team is comprised of 4 members (including the manager) but more members are expected in the foreseeable future, including - but not limited to - virtual members of the team based in other teams/departments;
- 2 x part time officers include climate change as part of their remit.

Q24. Have you identified any skills gaps so far within your council or partners that may need to be addressed in order to achieve your target?



70 councils responded to this question, of which 28 said “yes”, 21 said “no” and 21 said “I’m not sure”. This shows a fairly even split between councils who feel there is a skills gap, those who feel there isn’t and those who aren’t sure.

Further comments include:

- Energy Officer required;
- Renewable energy, energy, carbon measurement;
- Support provided by Welsh Government’s Energy Service;
- Contract Management, Energy Management, Project Management, Planning Policy Technical support;
- Business case development;
- Climate literacy throughout. We do not have any dedicated climate officer resource;
- Mainly around Scope 3 - baselining and subsequently developing action plan and mechanisms to deliver reduction in this area;
- Carbon footprinting;
- Innovation around energy use, generation and storage. Identification of grants and other funding sources;
- Detailed carbon emissions management / data analysis in order to set accurate targets and projections. – A dedicated ‘Renewable Energy’ officer;
- Carbon accounting;
- Carbon budgeting and measurement adaptation measurement;
- Lack of awareness amongst Senior Management of the impact of their functions on achieving emissions reduction targets;
- Too many to mention but also capacity issues;

- Planning expertise;
- More a much wider awareness / training programme under development;
- Ability to model specific carbon reduction scenarios with localised interventions - showing us the exact actions we have to take and the amount of carbon saved etc. Although this is the next stage of the process and we will be working with local universities to develop this;
- Not necessarily skills gaps but significant capacity gaps;
- We lack installers with suitable accreditations for funded work;
- We're still in the early stages of this. We know there's a gap, just don't yet know where and how much;
- Skills are being developed to undertake current work. The science of monitoring and measuring carbon impacts needs to develop too so we have accepted methodologies to accurately measure carbon impacts and benefits;
- We will need to buy in external expertise for some projects e.g. EV infrastructure provision as we don't have this in -house.

At APSE Energy we have long raised the issues of local authorities having assets (for example vehicle fleets, land holdings, buildings, access to funds) which can be used to tackle local issues (for example rising corporate energy costs, air quality, fuel poverty, the need to generate income). The factor which is often missing is capacity and skills. Unfortunately many officers with skills and experience in the fields of energy and sustainability have been lost to councils over the past decade without being replaced.

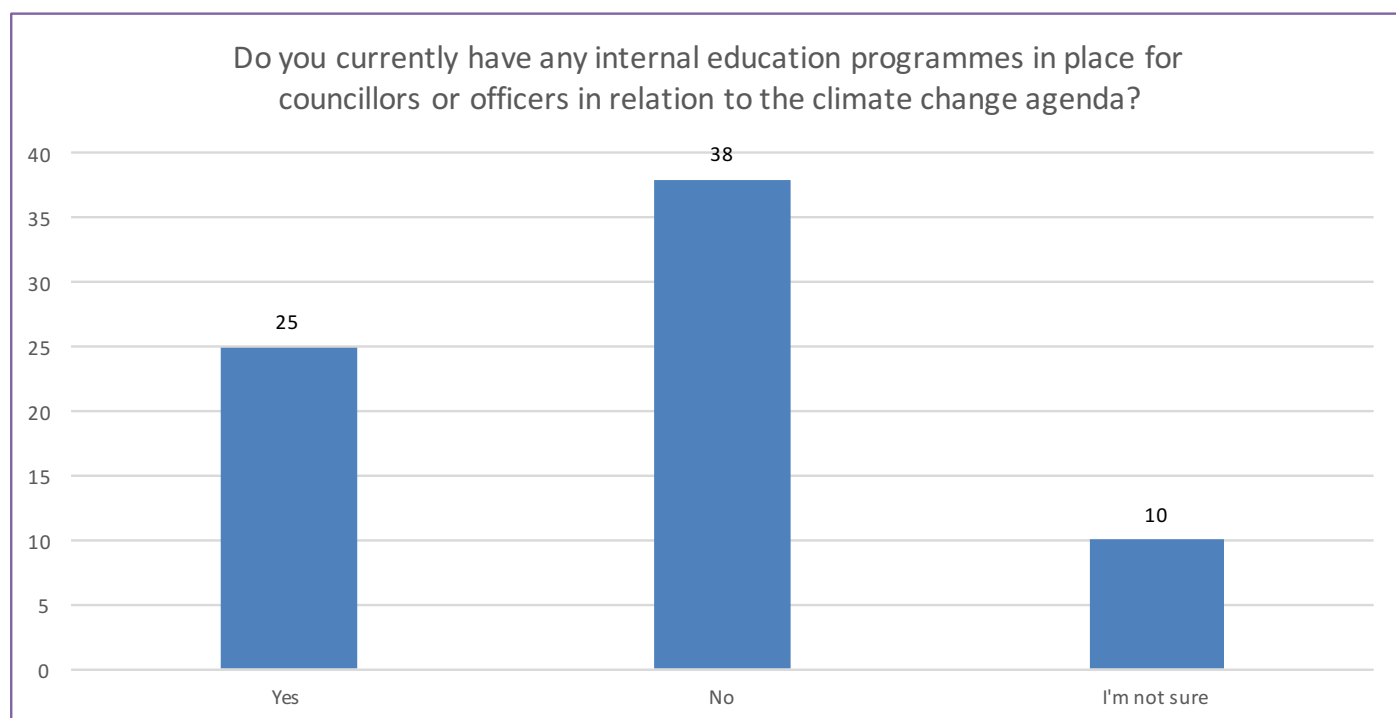
The range of solutions available to councils now has grown. For example, the development of energy services companies or power purchase agreements. However, finding expertise in these new areas can be tricky.

A number of the responses in the survey highlight the fact that some councils are recruiting staff which can be seen as both a positive action but also reflects what some may see as short termism in previous approaches to retaining expertise.

One of the reasons APSE Energy was established was to help provide capacity to local authorities in need of it. Membership of APSE Energy is one of the ways that organisations can get access to knowledge, experience and skills.



Q25. Do you currently have any internal education programmes in place for councillors or officers in relation to the climate change agenda?



73 councils responded to this question, of which 25 said “yes”, 38 said “no” and 10 said “I’m not sure”. This shows that more respondents don’t have an internal education programme in place than do but that 25 of the councils who responded (34%) do.

Further comments include:

- I have launched Sustainability Friends, an awareness and educational training now mandatory to all staff members, Looking to expand it to members;
- Developing an online training course for staff;
- BEIS Carbon Literacy Pilot underway;
- Yes in terms of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) of which climate change is a topic, but no not specifically on climate change, but considering doing so;
- Lots of external programmes available that members and officers attend;
- We are currently working on an online module for staff and members as part of delivering our Carbon Management Strategy;
- Our previous programme is being refreshed and expanded as part of our Action Plan;
- Have run in the past, also working with the Centre for Sustainable Energy to workshop with senior members and officers on making difficult decisions/ tackling the wicked issues;
- Members are regularly updated about climate change issues through the Council’s Climate Change Panel;
- Being set up, briefings are currently given to councillors and senior managers;
- All staff and members are able to access a day of carbon literacy training;
- Looking at the carbon literacy project;
- CPD sessions are to be arranged, and an Elected Members event is scheduled with Adaptation Scotland for

Climate Week;

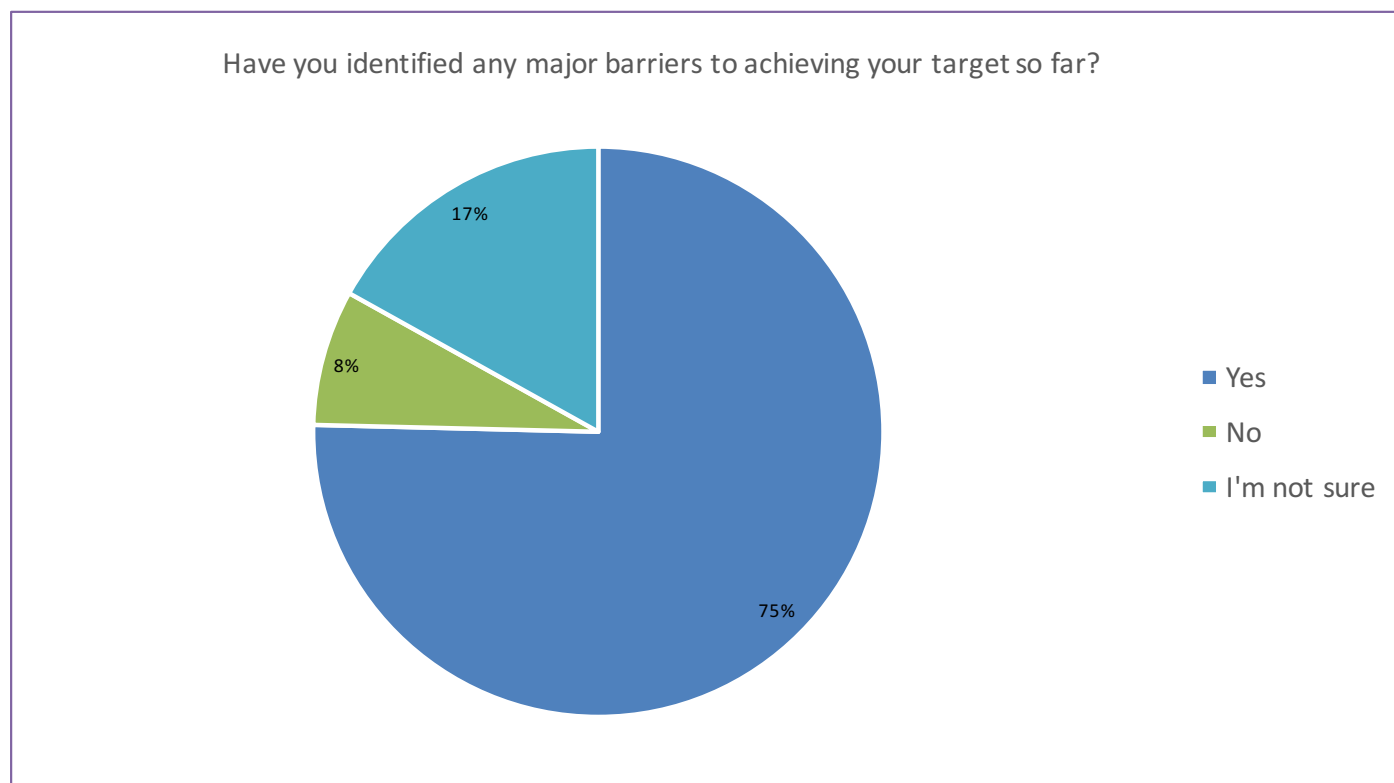
- We are working toward developing an internal carbon literacy course for all colleagues;
- We have an online course for employees. We will be updating it at some point soon;
- Currently rolling out carbon literacy training;
- Working on more detail but delivering already;
- We do have internal and external education programmes that relate to climate change e.g. waste minimisation and sustainable travel;
- We will get a clearer idea from the Environment Strategy and associated initiatives;
- Briefing notes have been produced in the past, and we are reviewing if anything else is required;
- We are currently in the process of delivering a series of workshops for elected members, staff and external partners to make them aware of the work we are currently pursuing and the challenge that climate change presents to us;
- We have run, and will continue to run, a variety of workshops and conferences on the topic of the climate emergency and what the council must do to respond to it. We are also developing an online 'WeLearn' module on the climate emergency for all staff;
- There is a Climate Change module within our e-Learning hub. More training is being planned by the Climate Emergency Working Group;
- Ongoing awareness and updates on relevant activities through internal as well as external communications e.g. newsletters, intranet, lunchtime events.

APSE Energy provides training options related to climate change and sustainability including delivering carbon literacy certified training.

The actions which will populate an action plan and the work needed to put them in place will be done by service based officers. It is appropriate to offer support to those officers and councillors for that matter to ensure they understand the context for the council's actions (local and global), work that has gone on previously and how they go about contributing to the organisations plans. In other words there is a need to invest in officers and councillors in order to get the most out of them. This can take the form of workshops, briefings, training and more. The responses to this question show that many councils understand the need to put such arrangements in place.

11. Results Section 9 - Barriers

Q26. Have you identified any major barriers to achieving your target so far?



65 councils responded to this question, of which 49 said “yes”, 5 said “no” and 11 said “I’m not sure”. This shows that 75% of respondents have identified major barriers to achieving their targets and only 7.8% have not.

Further comments from respondents include:

- Lack of dedicated resources for energy/carbon management;
- Financial resources, climate denial, set in their ways;
- Skills. Knowledge about policy and technology. Willingness to change;
- National policy uncertainty;
- Finance, officer willingness, lack of scope from senior officers, contracts which extend close to the date for carbon neutrality;
- Too big a question! Finance, legislation, politics....
- Capacity of the local electricity distribution network frustrating ambitions for large scale renewable energy projects (principally solar PV);
- Insufficient in-house expertise. Despite the government declaration of emergency, no significant funding or opportunities from central government. Where there are opportunities these are too narrowly defined and far too small scale. The delivery of savings is clearly a barrier to delivering on almost every aspect of this agenda, e.g. addressing energy efficiency of assets (where there is no/a very prolonged payback period), retrofitting domestic property, tree planting, etc.;
- Key barriers include, UK Government energy and planning policy, grid capacity, budget/ financing,

information, public understanding/ opposition;

- Leasing arrangements for extant obligations and fuel supplies;
- The degree to which the council has very few levers beyond its own operations. Focused work and commitment by central government will be required and voluntary arrangements will be insufficient;
- Capital resources. Staff capacity and expertise. Clear and unambiguous political leadership;
- Financial constraints and buy-in from other services;
- Time, need to ensure real engagement;
- Data on county-wide emissions, Scope 3;
- Lack of prioritisation by senior managers; lack of internal resource to strategise, work with senior officers to identify critical actions; lack of capital funding to make necessary alterations to built estate to reach net zero; lack of control out with the council's own estate, as well as lack of capacity to engage appropriately;
- No clear approach on heat decarbonisation, mechanical CCS, no available alternatives to high weight vehicles commercially viable, shipping emissions (we are a port), limited space for energy generation and storage in the city, fair transition communication and behaviour change around this and consumption;
- National heat strategy on options - hydrogen vs. electrification and of course costs;
- Finance of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects. Lack of financial incentives make it difficult for local businesses, residents and the local authority to invest in renewable technology and energy efficiency measures. The cost of EVs remains prohibitive to the uptake ULEVs;
- Nothing firm, but budget and rurality are initially being looked at;
- The key barriers are financing options and greater control and instruments for LAs in areas like planning. Whilst it is not a barrier preventing the target from being achieved, the scale of action required within a short time frame to meet the target but also to stay below Nottingham's carbon budget, makes carbon reduction a challenging problem. We are working to develop a well informed action plan and policies, along with wide scale city engagement plans to deliver on targets;
- Lack of electricity grid capacity for renewable energy projects. Hydrogen needs to be looked at. PCC have submitted a bid to the Innovation Funding Service for funding to use constrained renewable electricity to power electrolysis and create storage capacity, produce hydrogen for vehicle fuel and to decarbonise heating systems. Capital cost of EVs is a barrier to the 'normal' person as well as fleet managers. Lack of people/resource. Every member of society must take ownership of the issue - How do we get this into the public consciousness?
- The scope has not been formally identified yet and there are many areas that Renfrewshire Council have no influence over (i.e. Glasgow Airport);
- The declaration did include comments on the financial requirements and the need for money to be provided to the council, with MPs to follow up;
- Our authority includes some major power stations - there may be a desire not to upset them!
- We are an oil and gas based economy with the largest oil terminal in Europe on our doorstep. Funding flows to the council through it. The council is very wary of "upsetting" the oil companies by stating there is an emergency and we need to move from fossil fuels. We also need huge external funding for ferry replacements (ships or tunnels) which can only come from outside;
- It's huge. Budget, time, resource, technology, 29% emissions from transport, 40% gas, domestic energy efficiency =£1bn;
- Informed consent, infrastructure/grid capacity, funding, regulations, rural connectivity issues, any number of things really depending on the precise topic of conversation!

- Staff and capital resources. Complexity of issue. Degree of culture shift needed;
- Officer Time; Budget; Uncertainty about County Council leadership and future direction; Expectation of lobby groups that goes beyond the agreed target and shifts focus away from the areas within scope;

A large proportion of further comments from respondents referred to a lack of resources in their authority being a major barrier to achieving their climate emergency declaration target. This includes comments about money, time, capacity, expertise etc..

From this, it can be said that many officers feel that order for councils and localities to successfully transition to net zero carbon it is essential that further resources are provided and made available to local authorities.



12. Results Section 10 - Progress

Q27. If you have a target date for carbon neutrality, estimate the amount of progress your council has made towards meeting it. As an example, % achieved in terms of emissions reduction to date as a % of total emissions reduction to be achieved or % achieved in terms of project work needed to date as a % of total work needed

Responses to this question include:

- 1% we are really just starting and working on the strategy;
- The declaration was made in July so 0% to date;
- 20% (massive estimate);
- Council Scope 1&2 72%; City all scopes - guess about 10%;
- Council buildings emissions have exceeded their 35% reduction target set in 2014;
- Whilst council has delivered year-on-year savings over the years, this is the start of our carbon neutral 'journey'. In this respect it's 0%;
- Currently we have a ~30% reduction against a 2009 baseline;
- 10% (Project work needed to date);
- We have reduced GHG by 19% (2016 data year) since our 2008 baseline;
- Circa 20% over a decade;
- Have only recently determined to do this;
- 2%;
- We have achieved a 13% reduction (Scope 1 & 2) in emissions since March 2017;
- Internally 34% (March'18) Externally n/a;
- 47% achieved to date, target is carbon neutral by 2050;
- 20% emission reduction to date internally through direct savings;
- We don't know our baseline figure;
- Council 70% there, 30% to go - expect to become carbon positive by end of 2020/21. County estimate 30% there, 70% to go based on BEIS 2017 emissions data vs. 2005 - mostly due to national measures;
- 39% corporate reduction and 36.9% for city from a 2005/6 baseline. Need to achieve a 5.25% reduction each year to 2030 to eliminate all carbon emissions. Need to understand natural carbon sequestration capacity potential of city to establish more realistic annual reduction. Doesn't take account of budget assessment;
- 43%;
- We are still defining the baseline which will be determined by the Welsh Government reporting methodology. In terms of what we measure now we are 39% down on CO2 from fuels used in non-domestic buildings;
- Against 2002 baseline Renfrewshire Council has reduced Carbon emissions in our own assets only by around 70%;

- We intend to increase the scope for our new carbon target, and have yet to analyse the data to understand what this means in reality, but using our old scope of just our corporate estate, street lighting and car based business mileage we have achieved a 48% reduction in our carbon emissions to date;

Unfairly, it has been alleged that climate emergency declarations have led to the first work that local authorities have ever done with regard to sustainability. Nothing could be further from the truth. We at APSE have been working with councils who have been allocating resources, ideas and expertise to this agenda for many years and some for decades. It is important that local communities do not think this is a new area of work for local authorities.

However, not every local authority has made the same level of progress, indeed some have not got as far as dedicating time to discussing whether a climate emergency declaration is necessary.

Equally, for some this type of work is relatively new. Prior to 18 months ago no local authority had a target to be carbon neutral so the learning process is ongoing. That said there is a large variance in the responses given to this question from 'we don't know' through to over 70%. This is to be expected and the important factor to remember is that each local authority should be making progress in line with an agreed approach, not that they should all be at the same point at the same time.

Capacity is vital for progress. A lack of adequate in-house resource and experience will lead to delays. APSE Energy is able to provide the kind of interim, longer term or project based support that can help councils move on.

13. Conclusions

The agenda which covers sustainability, energy management, climate change and the natural and built environments is by definition, enormous. Everyone must act on the responsibility they have and it appears as though we will be treating it as a priority for the foreseeable future. Local authorities have a role to play and all accept that to be that case.

Some are more engaged than others. Examples of actions taken include reducing energy demand, encouraging citizens to benefit from cheaper energy tariffs, generating renewable energy, installing electric vehicle chargers and working with private suppliers to pilot new technologies. These are happening across the UK in differing geographies, at differing scales with differing aims and outcomes. In other words, there is a lot going on.

This survey reflects the variety of activities and approaches from the local government sector and underscores how serious the sector is taking its obligations. It also shows how barriers are holding up action. Government policy is mentioned as a blocker and there is no doubt that change to policy can have a substantial impact. Funding, politics, resources, expertise, time, lack of prioritisation, and local specific circumstances, such as climate denial, are listed as additional impediments to progress.

These barriers will not disappear so officers and councillors need to get used to operating in a constrained environment and make the best of it. There are examples of councils who are making progress whilst similar barriers are in place, so we know it can be done. We need to be ambitious and use all of the resources at our disposal.



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