



# Selby District Council

## Low Carbon Strategy 2021 - 2030

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## Foreword

Portfolio Lead for Low Carbon, Cllr Richard Musgrave

In December 2019 the Council adopted its new Council Plan setting out its priorities for the period 2020-2030. One of the key commitments was on climate change - to respond to our developing understanding of the impacts of climate change through identifying and promoting low carbon – including aiming for the Council to be Carbon neutral before 2050.

We know from the consultation undertaken as part of the development of the Council Plan that it is something residents fully support. The Council Plan also highlighted that with investment in world-leading carbon capture technology taking place in our district, including the Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) at Drax, we're right at the forefront of the UK's drive for net zero carbon emissions.

Investment in green technology is creating new jobs and putting the district on the world stage. There are also wider benefits to becoming carbon neutral in terms of health and well-being, biodiversity, green recovery, air quality and community resilience. As a Council, we need to help our businesses and residents contribute to this cleaner and greener future and we can make a start by ensuring we look at our own impact on the environment.

As a council we've made tangible progress on a number of fronts since December 2019, despite also being front and centre in helping to deal with impacts of Covid-19 - the most serious public health crisis for a century. Our new Waste Recycling Service was implemented in 2020 and has achieved an 2% increase by tonnage in recycling whereas all other North Yorkshire collection authorities experienced an average reduction of 0.2%. Our new Local Plan is making excellent progress since we started this work in late 2019 and has put sustainable development at the heart of its approach, with a focus on mitigating and adapting to climate change.

I asked the Policy Review Committee to assist us to further develop our approach and they set up a cross-party Low Carbon Working Group. I'd like to personally thank the group for the excellent work they've done in helping us to understand the Council's own carbon footprint and to consider the measures we can introduce to reduce that footprint to zero. It is also important that we show leadership in helping to tackle the district's wider carbon footprint.

Clearly a major change since we embarked on this work is Local Government Review with the recent government decision in July 2021 to create a new unitary North Yorkshire Council. This means that Selby District Council will no longer exist in April 2023.

Whilst this fundamentally changes our ability to plan longer term as a Council it is important that we clearly articulate the ambitions of the Council in addressing its own carbon footprint and helping to address the wider district footprint, so that the new North Yorkshire Council has a clear route-map to continue this important work.

For this reason the strategy set's out the Council's ambitions to 2030, in accordance with the Council Plan timescale, but also sets out our commitment to reducing and also fully offsetting our direct carbon emissions by 2023.

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## Strategy on a page

By 2030, the Council and its operations will be carbon neutral, positively helping Selby District and the North Yorkshire area move to a net zero carbon economy.

We recognise that the creation of the new North Yorkshire Council in 2023 means that it will not be possible to implement all the measures necessary to achieve this in the lifetime of Selby District Council and that the mantle for achieving this will pass to the new local authority.

However, we now understand the Council's own Scope 1 and 2 emissions and we are making a commitment to fully offsetting these up to 2023 whilst we also further develop a range of potential low carbon projects with a focus on the early wins that can be achieved by 2023 but also looking ahead to what is needed to achieve carbon neutral by 2030.

The Low Carbon Working Group have been asked to review their good work to date on a Low Carbon Action Plan to identify those measures that can be implemented within these timescales.

We want our operations and services to work in a sustainable way and reduce our costs in the long term. We will work towards this through the following steps:

- Monitor, calculate, and report our annual scope 1, 2 & 3 carbon emissions
- Reduce our scope 1 and 2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to zero through improved energy efficiency of our built environment, divestment from fossil fuel energy sources, and offset of unavoidable emissions
- Reduce our scope 3 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through sustainable procurement
- Encourage sustainable modes of transport for employees, members and residents
- Protect and improve the quality of the natural environment and biodiversity across the district
- Work collaboratively across the public, private and third sectors at a local, regional, national and global level

We have aligned our Strategy with the strategies of other local authorities across North Yorkshire for three reasons. Firstly, addressing climate change is not something we can do alone – it needs a much wider response. Secondly, we want to ensure that the new North Yorkshire Council can capture these ambitions and take a lead in the low carbon agenda going forward and we are giving them a clear route map for work beyond 2023. And thirdly, we hope that some key projects can be developed into large scale opportunities over longer timescales for the new North Yorkshire Council to adopt and continue our good work.

# 1. Introduction

## The Global Challenge

Since the industrial revolution, human activities have been releasing huge amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The level of greenhouse gas emissions currently being emitted is estimated to be 50 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalents (CO<sub>2e</sub>) into the atmosphere each year<sup>1</sup>. This has increased concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere from around 278 ppm to 417 ppm in just over 250 years<sup>2</sup>.

The increased concentration of these gases in the atmosphere are increasing global temperatures, at different rates around the world. This sudden and rapid increase in temperature of the Earth system is causing disruption to the intricate balance of climate systems and weather patterns, leading to extreme weather events. These are no longer events that will happen in the future, with repeated extreme weather events happening recently in the past 10 years causing large scale destruction, disruption and cost. For example, the NOAA reports that the US has experienced 298 disasters since 1980, costing over \$1.9 trillion and claiming over 14,000 lives<sup>3</sup>.

In the UK we have already experienced some of worst flooding, rainfall, drought, high temperatures and storm events since records began, and with predictions estimating that these events will only get worse, we have to act quickly to try and reduce the impacts of climate change to a minimum.

Elsewhere on the planet, people are experiencing sea level rise, soil erosion, droughts, extreme weather events and wildfires. It is clear from the events that we are seeing that we must act now, and quickly. If we continue business as usual, we risk pushing climate systems to a point of no return, when tipping points are reached positive feedback loops in the Earth system will exponentially increase the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere through tree death, desertification, warming oceans and thawing of glaciers and permafrost. If this happens, we risk creating a planet that is uninhabitable for ourselves and all other life on Earth within just a few hundred years.

## Our Challenge

Whilst we live in a usually stable temperate region of the world, we are not immune to the effects of climate change and extreme weather. Within the district we have experienced the impacts of flooding, periods of reduced rainfall, high temperatures, and powerful storms, all of which have been made more likely due to climate change.

As a Council we want to try and reduce these impacts going into the future, reducing our contribution towards global emissions by taking actions to become a net zero organisation. Reducing our emissions will come with other benefits including reduced costs, improved air quality, healthier happier people, and new skills and jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> [Greenhouse gas emissions - Our World in Data](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Met Office: Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> now hitting 50% higher than pre-industrial levels | Carbon Brief](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters: Overview | National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\) \(noaa.gov\)](#)

## The Council's carbon footprint

As part of these actions, we have calculated our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions for our carbon footprint for the financial year 2018-2019. (Scope 1 includes direct emissions from council activities e.g. burning gas in boilers for heat, or fuel usage in vehicles; scope 2 emissions are associated with electricity use and heat; and scope 3 emissions include indirect emissions associated with water use, waste, business travel and energy use within leased assets). Our carbon footprint has been calculated to be 2,592 tonnes CO<sub>2e</sub>, with 42% for Scope 1, 10% for Scope 2, and 48% for Scope 3.

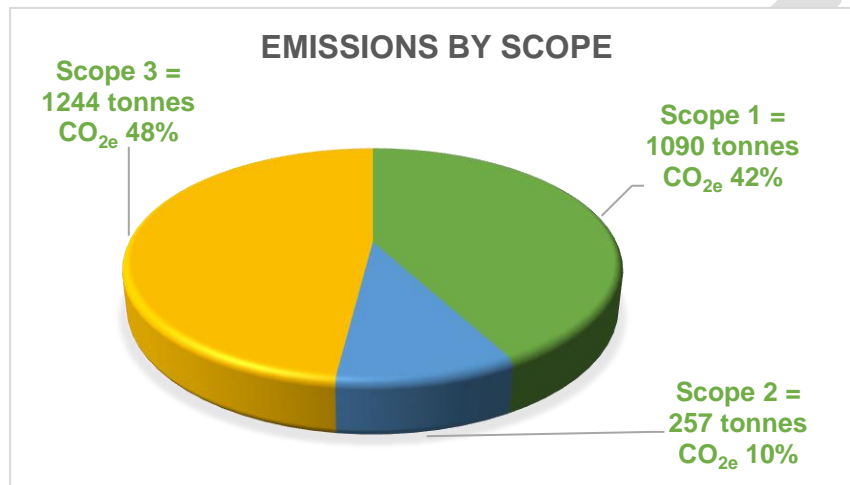


Figure 1. Total Carbon footprint split by scope for 2018-2019

This provides us with a baseline to understand our carbon budget, and a starting point to begin reducing our carbon footprint. It should also be considered that over the next decade to 2030, emissions will accumulate year on year, so the total cumulative amount of carbon to be reduced will be much larger

than the value calculated for the baseline year of 2018-2019.

Below is a further breakdown of our total carbon footprint for 2018 to 2019 by emission source<sup>4</sup>. The largest contributors to our carbon footprint are the use of our council vehicles and leased vehicles in scope 1 (which includes our council owned refuse disposal vehicles), electricity usage within our buildings in scope 2, and emissions associated with our leased assets which includes the leisure centres, operational buildings, and industrial business units, in scope 3.

<sup>4</sup> 'WTT' stands for Well-to-Tank which are the emissions associated with extraction, refining and transportation of raw fuel from out the ground to site.

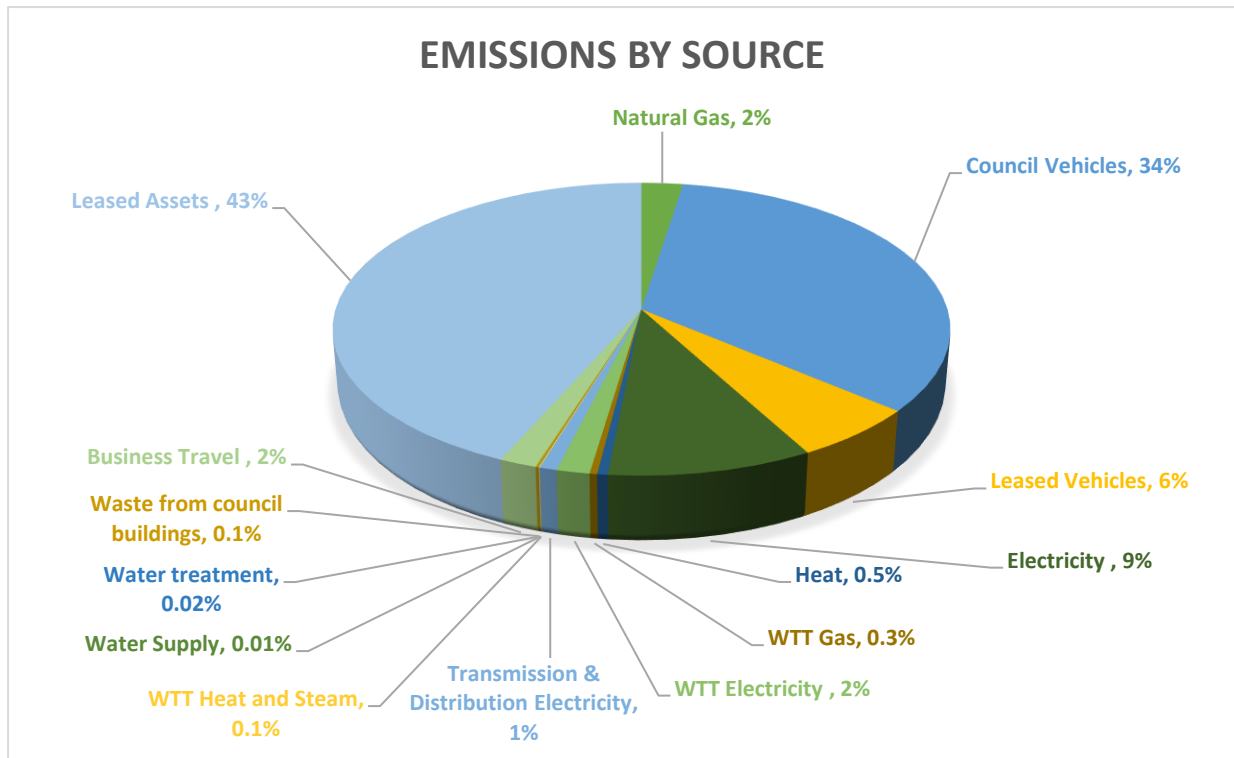


Figure 2. Total carbon footprint split by source for 2018-2019

## The district carbon footprint

District wide emissions are summarised below using UK Government estimates, which already shows a reduction in emissions from 2018 to 2019.

| Sector                                | Emissions for year 2018 (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> ) | Emissions for year 2019 (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> ) |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Industry (including agriculture)      | 377,200   | 291,000   |
| Commercial                            | 43,900  | 40,100  |
| Public sector                         | 10,100  | 9,400   |
| Domestic                              | 145,900   | 142,500   |
| Transport                             | 329,700   | 323,500   |
| Land Use, Land Use Change, & Forestry | -23,200   | -22,900   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>883,600</b>                                    | <b>783,500</b>                                    |

Table 1 Local Authority territorial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates for 2018-2019<sup>5</sup>

## Our Vision

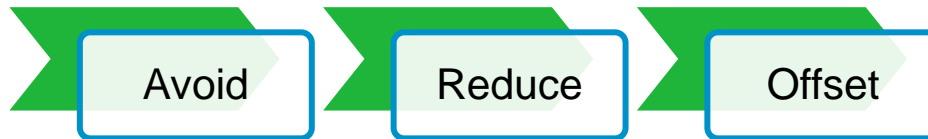
Our Council Plan includes a key target committing the Council to becoming carbon neutral before 2050. The work we have done with APSE<sup>6</sup> on our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions shows we can become carbon neutral by 2030.

<sup>5</sup> [Emissions of carbon dioxide for Local Authority areas - data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk)

<sup>6</sup> The Association for Public Service Excellence – Energy



By carbon neutral we mean operating in a state where there is no net release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, through reducing and eliminating our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as much as possible year on year and offsetting the remainder of any unavoidable emissions through approved offsetting schemes.



This vision will allow us to demonstrate leadership and play a positive role to the wider District by becoming a carbon neutral organisation before it is required by law set by the UK Government. A carbon neutral Council will be one which is a great place to work, grow and create value, delivering a sustainable, efficient, and responsible service to residents in the district.

We will reach this target by focusing on two timescales: 1) what we can do as a Council by April 2023 when the New North Yorkshire Council takes over this mantle 2) what is needed to achieve carbon neutral by 2030, the timescale of the Council Plan. This will also allow us to set out clear expectations from the Council for how the new North Yorkshire Council should address climate change issues in the district going forward.

We will take an approach that focuses first on avoiding emissions altogether, reducing emissions where they occur, followed by offsetting for emissions that are currently unavoidable. Given it is not possible to fully implement all measures required to become carbon neutral before the new authority comes into being in 2023 we will commit to offsetting our known Scope 1 & 2 emissions.

## Our Aim

The scope of this strategy is primarily focused on reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of the Council, within our own operations, whilst using our influence to encourage and promote the reduction of emissions in the wider district.

This strategy has drawn on the work of the Low Carbon Working Group which included a review of other local authority low carbon strategies. **The aim of this strategy is to provide an identification of the problem and an understanding of how the Council can best tackle the challenge.**

Below you will find 6 workstreams that will help us to achieve this.

- **Workstream 1: Carbon Monitoring** - Monitor, calculate, and report our annual scope 1, 2 & 3 carbon emissions.
- **Workstream 2: Travel** - Encourage sustainable modes of transport for employees, members and residents.
- **Workstream 3: Council Buildings and Energy Use** - Seek to reduce our scope 1 and 2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to zero through improved energy efficiency of

our built environment, divestment from fossil fuel energy sources, and offset of unavoidable emissions.

- **Workstream 4: Working Practices** - Seek to reduce our scope 3 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through sustainable procurement and offsetting.
- **Workstream 5: Natural Environment and Biodiversity** - Protect and improve the quality of the natural environment and biodiversity across the district including addressing flood risk and planning for sustainable development through the new Local Plan.
- **Workstream 6: Influencing Others in the District** - Work collaboratively across the public, private and third sectors at a local, regional, national and global level.

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## 2. Background and Policy Context

### Global

As the impacts surrounding climate change have become more visible and prominent, International, national and regional policy and legislation has been developed.

The United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established an international treaty in 1992 to combat “dangerous human interference with the climate system”.

Most prominently in recent years, The Paris Agreement 2016 was agreed as a legally binding international treaty on climate change, signed and agreed to by 196 nations at the Conference of Parties meeting in 2015. The treaty commits these nations to limit global warming to well below 2°C and preferably below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels<sup>7</sup>.

The recently published report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in August 2021 only underlines the importance of acting now and showing local leadership. The COP26 UN Climate Summit to take place in Glasgow in November 2021 will consider this report in some detail and explore what more needs to be done to address the climate change challenge.

### UK

The Climate Change Act 2008 was an act of UK parliament to commit the UK to reducing their emission of greenhouse gases to 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

UK Government has recently committed to set in law the aim of reaching a 78% reduction by 2035 in a bid to reach this target earlier<sup>8</sup>.

In November 2020 the Government published its Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution which set out how a focus on the green economy could help the country to recover from the impacts of Covid and build back better.

### Regional

The York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Y&NY LEP) is working with the local authorities, key partners and businesses to achieve the aim for York & North Yorkshire to become the UK’s first carbon negative region – carbon neutral by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040.

This was a central element of the draft Devolution Deal submitted to government in Central December 2020. Central to delivery of those plans is support for Drax Power in their world-leading Bioenergy Carbon Capture Storage (BECCS) project.

The Y&NY LEP commissioned a major Carbon Abatement Pathways<sup>9</sup> study and from this and stakeholder engagement are now preparing a Routemap to Carbon

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<sup>7</sup> [The Paris Agreement | UNFCCC](#)

<sup>8</sup> [UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Carbon Abatement Pathways | Business Inspired Growth](#)

Negative. This will provide strategic direction towards the Y&NY target to become a carbon negative region by 2040.

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission was set up in 2020 as an advisory body to advance the region's climate leadership by bringing together the public, private and third sectors and to support, guide and track the delivery of ambitious climate actions.

In conclusion, it is clear that the solution to addressing climate change does not sit with one organisation but requires collaboration across the public, private and third sectors at a local, regional, national and global level.

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### 3. Low Carbon Workstreams

Key targets:

***Become a carbon neutral Council by 2030.***

***To fully offset our known scope 1 and 2 emissions from our baseline year 2018 until 2023***

Through the following six workstreams we will aim to reduce our Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions to zero. Emissions that we cannot control or which we cannot reduce any further will be offset through tree planting or other approved offsetting schemes. Scope 3 emissions will be reduced by working with contracted partners e.g. Urbaser for the waste and street scene contracts and IHL for the leisure contract.

A number of measures to help reduce the Council or district's carbon footprint are already underway and some of these are listed below. However, because it will not be possible to fully implement all the measures required for Selby District Council to become carbon neutral by the time the new North Yorkshire Council comes into being in 2023 **we are instead making an immediate commitment to fully offsetting our known Scope 1 and 2 emissions between our baseline year 2018 and 2023.**

We will also work with the Low Carbon Working Group to:

1. Identify the measures that can be implemented by Selby District Council before April 2023
2. Identify the other measures and begin collaborative working with NYCC to become carbon neutral by 2030 so we are setting out clear expectations for how the new North Yorkshire Council should address climate change in the district.

To progress this work further we will ask the Low Carbon Working Group to explore potential projects under each of these workstreams. Delivery will be dependent on a range of factors including potential carbon saving, timescales (given local government changes in 2023), costs (capital, revenue and maintenance) and value for money which would be assessed in a detailed business case before any significant investment.

#### **Workstream 1: Carbon Monitoring**

To ensure we continue to improve and reduce our emissions year on year we will need to monitor, record and report our carbon footprint annually. Also see section 5.

- Review data provided for scope 1 & 2 emissions calculations provided by APSE
- Monitor and record energy use, gas, electricity and fuel use, for future annual calculations of scope 1 & 2 emissions.
- Set up processes and procedures to request and record emissions data from suppliers and staff for scope 3.
- Carbon offsetting – we have the option to:
  - Offset only our scope 1 & 2 emissions from 2018 to 2023;

- Offset our scope 1 & 2 emissions and also explore the potential to reduce or offset scope 3 emissions through existing key contracts and suppliers from 2018 to 2023;
- Or offset our projected scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions from 2021 to 2023

## **Workstream 2: Travel**

The council and its contract delivery partners operate a fleet of vehicles including heavy goods vehicles, cars, small vans and road sweepers. Staff and members also use their own cars and public transport for business travel. Emissions from council vehicles make up 34% of our carbon footprint, so contribute a significant proportion of overall emissions.

We have recently renewed our contracted vehicle fleet so can't change these to electric or seek to change that of our main contractors due to the length of existing contracts and because of the local government changes in 2023.

However, there are a range of other things that can be done to reduce the carbon emissions from travel either from the Council's own operations or within the district.

Some of these are already being done:

- Reducing the need to travel - the radical change in how people have been working in the last 18 months including working from home and better use of IT means many meetings can be held remotely. This will continue into the future with 'hybrid working' becoming the norm.
- Encourage the adoption of sustainable transport options – a number of our key strategies and plans will encourage and enhance the use of public transport, cycling and walking e.g. Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs), Transforming Cities Fund and town centre regeneration projects
- Cycle to Work scheme – the Council has been promoting this to employees for some years now.
- Improve EV charging infrastructure across the district – this is being implemented in Council car parks and for staff at the Civic Centre. Wider opportunities across the district are also being explored jointly with North Yorkshire County Council, the other NY local authorities and the Energy Savings Trust.
- Staff car loan scheme for electric and hybrids vehicles.

There are a range of other things that can be explored including<sup>10</sup>:

- A staff travel plan
- Encourage a lower carbon taxi fleet through licensing and access to grant funding
- Encourage car sharing groups and explore the potential for electric pool cars
- Work with NYCC to incentivise bus companies to use electric buses

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<sup>10</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

- Reduced car parking charges in the district for cars with a green number plate

### **Workstream 3: Council Buildings and Energy Use**

The built environment accounts for around 40% of the UK's carbon emissions annually, primarily due to the energy used to heat and light our homes and workspaces. By improving insulation rates and replacing outdated service equipment we can improve energy efficiency, reducing the amount of energy use required to run a building. Moving heating and cooling systems to low carbon alternatives also removes a reliance on fossil fuels. There are significant new government funding streams potentially available that can provide up to 100% capital or revenue grants for work to public buildings, with a range of funds launched over the last year under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Some of these are already being done:

- The new Civic Centre which is jointly occupied by the NHS, SDC and the Police, was built to be a sustainable and energy efficient building
- The Civic Centre for example has a combined heat and power (CHP) plant and sources its electrical energy supply from renewable sources.

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>11</sup>

- Move away from fossil fuel energy sources – procure all electricity for the Council's other buildings from a renewables tariff
- Carry out energy audits of all built assets to understand existing building fabric, services, and energy use and include this information in the new asset register and asset management plan
- Feasibility studies to identify retrofit work required to increase energy efficiency e.g. all built assets to achieve at least an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C
- Reducing gas usage in Council buildings – through more efficient plant, improved controls, & increased insulation. Install heat pumps as an alternative heating source
- Reducing electricity use in Council buildings – LED lighting & improved controls (e.g. daylight and occupancy sensing), BMS controls for HVAC, replace office equipment with more efficient versions (but noting that replacement can actually create more carbon emissions through embodied carbon), independent power generation using renewables e.g. solar PV panels.
- Solar powered street lights in car parks
- Enforcement of the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) regulation

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<sup>11</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

## **Workstream 4: Working Practices**

In order to embed a sustainable way of working we need to encourage behaviour change and more environmentally friendly habits.

Some of these are already being done:

- A comprehensive training programme on climate change is being devised for all North Yorkshire local authorities by the Y&NY LEP's Circular Economy & Low Carbon Team - to be available to both staff and elected members

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>12</sup>

- Create a green Staff Ambassadors group to encourage sustainable working in the office through energy efficiency and behaviour change.
- Service Delivery Plans to consider if and how they can contribute to a reduction in carbon emission through their service operations.
- Improve communication - create an accessible page on the website with information on climate change, what the Council is doing, and what local residents can do
- Where possible and financially feasible, build sustainability and low carbon considerations into procurement using the Sustainable Procurement Toolkit developed jointly by the Y&NY LEP, local authorities and their procurement leads.
- How the impact on climate change can be considered in Council reports, for example through use of climate change impact assessments to influence key decision making
- How our Scope 3 emissions can be reduced or offset through our key contractual relationships<sup>13</sup> e.g. Urbaser (previously Amey) for the waste and streetscene contracts; Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) for the leisure contract

## **Workstream 5: Natural Environment and Biodiversity**

We are not only in a climate crisis, we are also in an ecological crisis, with extinction rates of animal and plant species around the world currently at levels never seen before in human history. Around 1 million species are at threat of extinction due to human activities<sup>14</sup>. The State of Nature report for the UK predicts that 15% of species in the UK are threatened with extinction, with 41% of species declining<sup>15</sup>. Protecting the natural environment and increasing biodiversity will not only help combat climate change but also build resilience, improve people health and wellbeing, and create an environment we all want to enjoy.

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<sup>12</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

<sup>13</sup> Potential costs and choice of suppliers would also need to be considered to ensure a fair and balanced approach.

<sup>14</sup> [UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'; Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating' – United Nations Sustainable Development](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Biodiversity in the UK: bloom or bust? \(parliament.uk\)](#)



We also need to ensure we are encouraging sustainable patterns of development and that the potential impacts of flooding both now and in the future are planned for and mitigation measures identified.

Some of these are already being done:

- Policies within our new Local Plan include requirements for net biodiversity gain on new developments.
- We are a member of the White Rose Forest Partnership, giving us access to expert advice and a range of funding sources to develop and implement a strategic tree planting programme for the district. In the next 12 months we will be working with them to engage with landowners and community groups to identify opportunities for large scale tree planting on suitable land.
- Contacted Town and Parish Councils to understand and promote community led tree planting opportunities.
- We worked with the Escrick Park Estate after their successful bid to become a national pilot for Biodiversity Offsetting.

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>16</sup>

- Develop a Fund and Grant Scheme for resident, community and larger scale tree planting initiatives in the district and appoint a delivery partner to oversee delivery
- Use tree planting schemes, preferably in the district (but could be wider), to offset the remainder of the Council's carbon footprint
- Re-wilding kerbsides and increasing wildflower cover – NYCC are trialling different highway verge management regimes to increase biodiversity
- Work with landowners to increase hedgerows

### **Workstream 6: Influencing Others in the District**

The solution to addressing climate change does not sit with one organisation but requires collaboration across the public, private and third sectors at a local, regional, national and global level.

Local authorities have a key role to play as local leaders in promoting the importance of personal, business, and wider stakeholder choices and in helping to shape and influence the future investment decisions of others.

Some of these are already being done:

- Collaborating with Y&NY LEP to support their carbon neutral and circular economy work
- Providing business advice to companies including access to grants to reduce energy use, waste and address low carbon challenges
- Working with other local authorities across North Yorkshire and Yorkshire through groups such as the Y&NY Local Authority Low Carbon Officers Group

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<sup>16</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

and with the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission – to share best practice and work at a greater than local scale of projects

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>17</sup>

- Residents/District – inform private landlords and home owners on grants/offers to improve energy efficiency, enforcement of MEES regulation
- Green Economy/Working with businesses – explore potential benefits if business invests in energy saving measures/renewable energy/green certification/carbon foot-printing e.g. business rate discounts
- Try to influence partners to ensure major investments (e.g. pension schemes) don't invest in fossil fuels or other things that do not support the journey towards a zero-carbon future.
- Provide information and guidance for SME's to reduce their carbon

### **Other workstreams:**

There are a number of other workstreams that will help the Council to reduce its own carbon footprint or that of the wider district.

### **Council Housing**

This has not been included in our carbon footprint work to date so we don't know the full impact of the 3000 houses we have. This could be a future strand of work given the increased availability of government funding to help retrofit existing stock and ensure new development is low carbon.

Some low carbon measures have already been included in new affordable house building programmes and renewal and repair contracts such as:

- Piloting air-source heat pumps in Council properties
- Energy efficiency improvements to insulation, windows and doors

There are a range of things that can be explored including:<sup>18</sup>

- The Housing Revenue Account Business Plan will be reviewed shortly offering the opportunity to include low carbon elements – this could include reviewing potential new government funding sources for such work.
- This should include exploring opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through improved energy efficiency and use of alternatives to fossil fuels, for example:
  - Improved insulation and ASHP's in off-gas homes
  - Solar PV panels on suitable Council houses
- Whether we can achieve EPC band C by 2030 through retrofit programmes, subject to government funding being available
- Considering whether a proportion of social housing should be built to Passivhaus Standard or an equivalent high level of sustainability. Passivhaus homes are very energy efficient with very low bills, can remain a constant comfortable temperature through summer and winter and are already adapted

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<sup>17</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

<sup>18</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

to the impacts of climate change i.e. heat waves and cold winters. Although the additional costs of achieving this, along with the scope of government funding would need to be taken into account.

- Provide education to existing tenants on how to use their home efficiently, encourage installation of smart meters

Through the Council's private rental team we could also explore:

- Enforcement of MEES regulation – all privately rented properties must be EPC E or better. We have 2057 domestic properties in the district with an EPC rating of F or G, of which approximately 430 are privately rented.

### **New developments**

New construction of buildings and developments have huge impacts on the environment from the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions created in material production, transport, construction and development use, to the removal of green spaces. It is our responsibility to ensure any new development has as small an impact as possible and is designed to be sustainable long into the future.

This can be influenced and controlled through how we deal with planning applications, the policies in the Local Plan and by how we develop and deliver major capital programmes such as new affordable housing provided by the Council.

Some of these are already being done:

- Progress on the new Local Plan has been excellent since work started in late 2019 with climate change and low carbon principles at the centre of the approach including considering flood risk and mitigation, the importance of green infrastructure and encouraging sustainable travel and patterns of development. Consideration is also being given to guiding the main development to sustainable locations that include existing services, good transport links and employment opportunities.
- We seek to reduce the need for personal cars for short journeys i.e. provide safe walking and cycling routes to major retail areas, services such as doctors/schools etc, and to transport hubs such as bus and train stations. Our major regeneration and development programmes for our town centres and Selby station and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans all seek to achieve a step-change in provision for pedestrians and cyclists.
- We are seeking biodiversity net gain for major new developments

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>19</sup>

- Ensuring all new developments have the electrical capacity to install renewables and EV chargers in the future if not already being installed as part of the design - we are exploring how this can be included in the new Local Plan.
- High sustainability standards for new builds – Excellent BREEAM ratings, at least A EPC and Passivhaus for houses or meet the new Future Homes

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<sup>19</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

Standard which is yet to be adopted formally - we can't mandate a standard but can require energy efficiency standards above building regulations.

## **Waste**

The Council through its waste contract with Amey (now Urbaser) has recently implemented significant improvements to its recycling service with much larger recycling bins provided. This has increased recycling rates by 2% since it was introduced in the summer of 2020 whereas all other North Yorkshire collection authorities experienced an average reduction of 0.2%.

North Yorkshire County Council provide the waste disposal function for North Yorkshire and seek to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill through their state of the art Energy from Waste plant at Allerton Park

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>20</sup>

- Purchase recycled products in supply chain (procurement)

## **4. Implementing Monitoring and Reporting**

To ensure that progress is made, and emissions are reduced year on year, we will monitor progress through our performance software, Pentana, by creating new KPI's and context indicators, which will be included in quarterly reports to Council. We will also prepare and publish an annual report on our carbon emission footprint with the information being made publicly available.

Both the Low Carbon Project Officer and the Low Carbon Officer Working Group will be responsible for implementation of, monitoring and reporting on this strategy.

We will also continue to work with the Low Carbon Working Group to prepare and implement a Low Carbon Action Plan to support the aims and vision of this strategy.

*How will we measure internal emissions?*

We will continue to measure Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions and calculate our annual carbon footprint by:

- Monitoring and recording gas and electricity usage within our built environment via meter readings and utility bills.
- Monitoring and recording fuel usage in our vehicle fleet including pool cars, business cars, small vans, waste trucks, road sweepers etc.
- Recording emissions from grey fleet vehicles - business travel carried out in employees' and Councillor's own vehicles, recorded via payroll mileage claims.
- Monitoring and recording water usage and wastewater via meter readings and utility bills.
- Monitoring and recording of waste type and volumes, as well as disposal methods.

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<sup>20</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

- Review services and contracts register to identify procurement routes that already consider scope 1 & 2 emissions and encourage others to do the same.

*How will we measure emissions from the District?*

The UK Government publishes an annual estimate of emissions from each Local Authority, these figures are usually reported 18 months after the reporting year so there is always a delay. However, we will use this data to monitor emission trends across the district.

Our measure of success within the Council Plan 2020-2030 is to report the % reduction in tonnes of carbon per capita.

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## **5. Review**

The policy context surrounding climate change and its impacts is constantly evolving and improving so we will continue to monitor and update this strategy on a regular basis to ensure coherence with policy, legislation and the Council's aims and priorities.

This strategy will be monitored and developed by the Low Carbon Project Officer and the Low Carbon Working Group and will be considered by the Policy Review Committee every 6 months. The Policy Review Committee will receive regular updates on the progress achieved as part of the Council's commitment to greener practices

This review is proposed to be every 6 months.

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