

Annual Report of the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Action 2022-23

Energy generation and saving

Plans are well advanced for LCC to build a **4MW solar farm** on land it owns at Burrow Beck. Capital funding has been approved, a grid offer has been received and the current estimate for completion is August 2024.

A UKSPF application for £150k to develop a **Local Area Energy Plan** has been successful and is expected to take 10-12 months to complete. Once completed, the council will have pathway options for net zero on a district level, each with high-level costs attached for review.

Funding has been secured from the Government for a **District Heat Network** study. Work has already been completed that included a stakeholder engagement workshop, heat cluster identification (Mainway, Canal Quarter, Bailrigg Garden Village) and an initial findings report.

Using the underspend from the Salt Ayre project, £1m was invested in **building decarbonisation** work across 10 sites. This included City Lab, City Museum, Maritime Museum, MTH, Old Fire Station, Palatine Hall, Ryelands House, The Platform and WLD.

Work included solar PV (City Lab), LED lighting, BMS upgrades, insulation, and secondary glazing. The work is expected to save just under 30,000 kWh of electricity and 258,000 kWh of gas each year. This will save approximately 83 tonnes of CO₂ p/a.

A further application has been submitted to Government for more building decarbonisation work. Sites include Williamson Park, Palatine Hall, Morecambe Town Hall, City Lab and The Storey. Measures include Air Source Pumps, Solar PV and further retrofit work. Decarbonisation of all five sites would eliminate natural gas, saving an estimated 374 tonnes of CO₂ p/a

The **Salt Ayre Decarbonisation project** won the APSE award for Best Decarbonisation Initiative. The project has decreased the overall energy usage of the site from 4.3GWh (gas and electricity) to 2.7GWh of green electricity.

Compared to the expected running costs of the gas boiler and CHP it replaced, the new Air Source Heat Pumps, retrofit and PV array have saved the council circa £200,000 across the 22/23 FY, helping to mitigate the large increases in gas and electricity costs.

Electric Vehicles

LCC has purchased 28 **electric vans** in 22/23 to replace diesel vehicles. These EV's are going to grounds maintenance, cleansing, RMS, environmental projection / health and refuse collection teams. CO2 savings are expected to be in the region of 49 tonnes p/a. 25% of the council's fleet are now EV.

Community Engagement

We are engaging with the public to help increase climate awareness and awareness of how the council is addressing the climate emergency such as through taking part in the Big Green Week and we will be running an Earth Day event.

£45k of funding was won for a Community Engagement project that will follow up the work done by the People's Assembly, including training community members in community engagement around climate change and developing a local version of [Pol.is](#), "*a real-time system for gathering, analyzing and understanding what large groups of people think in their own words*"

A new series of social media videos highlighting the work that the council is doing on addressing the climate emergency have been published, together with an [FAQ page](#) that covers everything from how we are improving our housing stock to where to find council EV chargers to how we are working to eliminate single use plastics:

Our [climate emergency web page](#) has been completely redone to make it easy to see what we are doing, why we are doing it and what the public can do.

The work on the Climate Emergency upgrade of the Local Plan, including a new Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Grassland Management Strategy will be covered in other Cabinet Reports.

Cllr Kevin Frea
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Action

April 2023