

# Lancaster district Climate Change People's Jury recommendations

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The question considered by the Lancaster district Climate Change People's Jury was *'What do we need to do in our homes, neighbourhoods and district to respond to the emergency of climate change?'*

## Jury statement

The following statement was written by a group of jury members and then edited and discussed by the rest of the jury. All of the 26 jury members who voted on the recommendations either strongly support or support the statement:

**'We are facing a climate emergency which makes us concerned and worried about the future.**

**We have heard from a range of experts and we now believe that if we take immediate action, we have the tools and the hope that we can address this emergency.**

**We believe that the only suitable response will be one that brings many organisations and individuals together to work collectively and not separately. This is bigger than Lancaster.**

**We recognise that many difficult decisions lie ahead but that we must act immediately and not allow a quest for perfection to get in the way of making progress. We need to take action today, not in 30 years time. A journey starts with a small step which all of us can achieve.**

**The people of the Lancaster district need to see confident leadership, positive changes made and a clear plan for the future.**

**Our City and County Councils must accept that progressive change to fight the climate change emergency will have financial implications. Not being able to fund the recommendations we have listed here is no reason for inaction as money won't matter in a world that won't exist as we know it.**

**The response to the climate emergency needs to be one that moves away from politicians making all the decisions but instead reaches out to the wider public and communities for ideas of how to achieve our recommendations. It's time for our councils to listen to the people of Lancaster and district and take action now, leading the way to make changes in response to this emergency'.**

## Recommendations

*The recommendations have been put into themes for the purposes of the small group discussions*

	Votes	Rank
<b>COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</b> 1) Local schools must <b>educate young people about climate change</b> / emission reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Climate change must become part of the national curriculum, from reception upwards.</li> <li>b) At least 1 teacher in each setting (inc. infants, juniors) accredited to teach climate change</li> <li>c) Opportunities should be available for children and teachers to explore together the carbon footprint of their school and how to reduce it.</li> <li>d) Basic skills taught weekly - food growing; seasonal, local foods, meal planning, preparation and storage; cooking from scratch, reducing waste; make do and mend, repurposing and gaining a better understanding of where their food comes from ( e.g. visits to farms) etc.</li> <li>e) All schools having allotments which encourage bug houses/habitats (insects or beehives or butterflies), growing pollinating plants and composting and an area of water.</li> <li>f) Organising intergenerational community projects e.g. litter picking and using junk to create something.</li> </ul> Extend above learning opportunities to further education providers and prisons.	44	1st
<b>COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</b> 2) The <b>council</b> should <b>frame all</b> of their <b>work in the context of the climate emergency</b> , and act accordingly as it has done in response to COVID 19. There must be a stronger recognition of the problem at government level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Climate change should be a permanent agenda item at every council meeting.</li> <li>b) All councillors should take part in a climate change training programme so they have the knowledge needed to address the issue.</li> <li>c) We must ensure that action on climate change is not disrupted by party politics. The council should investigate how we can ensure that action on climate change happens irrespective of changes at elections. A long term plan (initially for 10 years to 2030) should be agreed with cross party support to ensure continuity of action</li> </ul> As a jury we feel people care about the climate change emergency but it seems many of those in power don't care enough (e.g. the new coal mine opening in Cumbria). We need to educate influential people in the way the jury have been educated - show them, don't tell them.	40	=2nd

<p><b>FOOD/FARMING AND WASTE/RECYCLING</b></p> <p>3) Council to work with local partners to <b>reduce waste from households and businesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Commit to zero single plastic use in any council premises e.g. schools, Salt Ayre Leisure Centre (lead by example) and encourage local businesses to do the same e.g. takeaways, encourage hotels /catering establishments, to only use biodegradable waste bags, use wooden cutlery</li> <li>b) Support and promote reuse and encourage a make and mend approach - i.e. a) promote and support Freecycle, Olio, Community Swaps. b) establish a space at a local recycling depot for the public to reuse c) encourage DIY stores to introduce a paint tin return facility.</li> <li>c) Promote and commission community leadership initiatives that encourage the sharing of resources such as goods libraries e.g. tool pools, toy libraries etc.</li> <li>d) Deliver community education initiatives for cooking, upcycling, repurposing,</li> <li>e) Give households composting bins and make recycling easier for example having one collection point or by enabling all recycling to be in one household bin (like Cheshire West and East)</li> <li>f) Investigate and invest in local technology to turn methane from waste into energy. This could be self-sustaining through selling the energy and the by-product (compost).</li> <li>g) Ban all plastic bags with only reusable options available</li> </ul>	40	=2nd
<p><b>FOOD/FARMING AND WASTE/RECYCLING</b></p> <p>4) The council should fully support the <b>sustainable food place partnership and sign up to the global declaration</b> i.e. the C40 Good Food Cities declaration which includes a range of commitments including ensuring that when governments or other public institutions directly purchase food that is served in schools, hospitals etc. those meals must be healthy and sustainable and supporting an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption.</p>	38	=4th
<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</b></p> <p>5) There should be a strong <b>campaign to convince people to take action</b> - this should not be based upon shocking people into changing their ways, but instead should be community led, regular, empowering, positive and focus on the positive effects of such changes on the community as well as climate, so giving people some control back in our changing world. This should include visual representations to show people what's happening and could happen in future depending on what progress is made. Such a campaign should find ways for residents to see the link with local flooding as a hook to encourage people to take action.</p>	38	=4th
<p><b>FOOD/FARMING AND WASTE/RECYCLING</b></p> <p>6) Introduce <b>incentives to local producers and growers</b> so that their produce is easily available and well promoted through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) free market stalls, grants/subsidies, free advertising, supermarkets having a local produce aisle/section, a council website/app (which would allow you for example to find your local milkman) etc.</li> <li>b) establish a "proper" market - which assembles all the local producers under one roof to make it easier for people to buy locally in an affordable and accessible way.</li> <li>c) Efforts should be made to enable people to buy from local producers and</li> </ul>	37	=6th

growers outside of 9-to-5 working hours.		
<b>FOOD/FARMING AND WASTE/RECYCLING</b>	37	=6th
<p>7) <b>Tackle food waste:</b> One third of all food produced goes to waste. Households are responsible for around 53%. We should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Restart food waste collections for all local households. (Council to confirm the reason why this was stopped in the City Council area)</li> <li>b) Incentivise supermarkets and local food shops/outlets including fast food takeaways to donate surplus food to customers/local food banks/community initiatives and reduce consumer waste by reducing special offers which encourages bulk buying of short shelf life goods. Encourage businesses to use existing systems like apps such as 'Too good to go' and Eggcup, the local business addressing food waste.</li> <li>c) Investigate ways that retailers can be made responsible for the cost of dumping the food waste they create so encouraging them to waste less.</li> </ul>		
<b>FOOD/FARMING AND WASTE/RECYCLING</b>	36	=8th
<p>8) <b>Make it easier for people to grow their own food.</b> Allotments and food growing spaces serve to both address climate change, promote sustainable living and many other issues faced by our community i.e. growing as a tool for community based improvements - social cohesion, mental and physical wellbeing as well as using allotment/growing to address food waste through composting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Conduct a survey/audit of land which is suitable for crops, vegetables, fruit growing and for small mixed farms. Also identify land available for tree planting, hedge rows and wild meadows.</li> <li>b) The council should firstly, open more allotments and growing space and secondly raise awareness that residents can request more allotments.</li> <li>c) Additional land for allotments/community growing areas should be identified and large private landowners encouraged or incentivised to release such land.</li> </ul>		
<b>HOUSING</b>	36	=8th
<p>9) <b>All new housing must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Have at least one of the following as a green energy supply, direct to the property: a) Ground or air source heat pump or b) solar panels. Roofs should be constructed so they are suitable for solar panels</li> <li>b) have adequate drainage so there is no additional flood risk</li> <li>c) have hedges instead of fences (e.g. Halton co-housing) and green spaces</li> <li>d) Be built to A/B energy performance rating.</li> <li>e) Be constructed with more sustainable materials</li> <li>f) Any developer building new homes in the area should pay towards the retrofit of existing local properties, allocated for example, by a community lottery (a target could be applied to this to ensure consistent investment across developers).</li> <li>g) Green belt development should be avoided. Any houses built on green belt must be passive house standard.</li> </ul>		
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	35	10th
<p>10) We must <b>make it easier for people to not use cars:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Make it easier to cycle: a) set up a simple to use, easy access ebike / electric scooter rental scheme (including the University) b) provide more places to lock your bike c) the provision of a network of clearly demarcated, safe cycle lanes d) Encourage cyclists to use high vis clothing, lights, helmets.</li> </ul>		

b) Encourage people to walk: make pavements wider, smoother and more accessible. Experiment with dropped kerbs that mean the pavement/road transition is less defined, so making the town more pedestrian friendly.		
<b>COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</b> 11) Lancaster City Council need to <b>invest in good quality messaging and marketing</b> using a range of mediums to promote: a) The reality and urgency of the climate emergency b) Information on food planning, batch cooking, eating seasonally, reducing waste c) Recycling and composting Council to regularly publish statistics on the amount of a) household materials recycled b) recycled materials from households sent to landfill c) sent abroad to be 'recycled' (and to which country). A council committee should be accountable and responsible for acting on these findings	34	=11th
<b>COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</b> 12) Lancaster Council should commit to a <b>yearly climate emergency action event</b> such as a festival to educate the public about their role in reducing the carbon footprint and share messages around sustainability, whilst promoting local and ethical producers, sellers and community initiatives as well as celebrate the achievements in reducing emissions year on year. Such an event could be combined with an existing event/s/festival/s to be a fun and informal way for people to learn about all aspects of climate change. Ideas for the event include: food from local producers/farmers, sustainable drinks, stalls for companies, competitions for the best revamped outfit or piece of furniture, best community project, best grown vegetable, retrofitting initiatives etc.	34	=11th
<b>COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</b> 13) The Council <b>should further develop its existing proposals in response to the climate change emergency declaration and create a climate change department</b> reporting to the Deputy Leader of the council with portfolio role for climate change and the existing Cabinet Advisory Group. This department should have clear deliverables which can be transparently monitored and have a budget to implement activities.	34	=11th
<b>FOOD/FARMING AND WASTE/RECYCLING</b> 14) <b>Make it easier for people to choose foods that have a lower carbon footprint</b> by: a) introducing a traffic light system on foods, a carbon footprint indicator. Including a simple marketing campaign to educate public and producers on its meaning and penalties for those that score high (e.g. higher tax) b) promoting plant-based foods and introducing measures to reduce meat consumption e.g. councils, caterers etc. to include more plant-based foods in their menus. c) Encouraging and supporting local restaurants and cafes to display the carbon footprint of the different choices on their menus and advertise support for the scheme in the windows of their premises to help educate the wider public.	33	=14th
<b>COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</b> 15) Members of the Lancaster District Climate Change People's Jury should be appointed as an <b>implementation steering group</b> . Council should report to them on action taken as a result of recommendations. The group would provide a) continuous scrutiny on actions taken about climate change, so ensuring there are	33	=14th

deliverables and b) a source of advice and support. The Council reporting to the implementation steering group should be based upon key milestones and the identification of key individuals who hold responsibility for ensuring actions are completed		
<b>HOUSING</b> 16) The Council should expand on existing plans (e.g. solar farms) to prioritise and invest in <b>green energy sector</b> industry and employment and encourage and incentivise (e.g. through planning) others to do so.	33	=14th
<b>HOUSING</b> 17) The council should design and deliver a process to ensure that <b>every house</b> in Lancaster and district is <b>assessed for energy performance</b> , whether rented or privately owned. The assessment process should include information and advice about what can be done to improve the energy performance of the house and signpost where people can go for financial and/or technical or other support in order to make improvements. The council should investigate what incentives would best encourage people to take up this offer and make improvements e.g. reclaim VAT on the cost of materials, lower energy bills.	32	=17th
<b>TRANSPORT</b> 18) We must make it as easy as possible for people to take up the use of <b>electric vehicles</b> . The infrastructure must be in place so that as the cost of cars comes down people can switch easily: a) Subsidise members of the public / residents of a street to fit their own EV charging points. b) Encouraging businesses and other large employers that have car parks at their places of work to install charging points. c) Offering free licenses/reduced taxes to taxi companies using electric or hybrid vehicles. d) Once a public bus has been decommissioned it should be replaced by an electric bus.	32	=17th
<b>COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</b> 19) <b>Pensions and fossil fuel investments</b> . The jury recommends that the Council should inform its pension stakeholders about the link between pension investments, fossil fuels and climate change and run a consultation with options as follows a) Do nothing b) Divest c) Use the influence with companies with fossil fuel investments to promote strategies to mitigate climate change This consultation process would give pension fund trustees a mandate to make change based on stakeholder feedback. The jury would like all organisations represented on the Climate Change Jury Oversight Panel to do the same (e.g. Lancaster University) and encourage other local businesses to take similar action	31	19th
<b>TRANSPORT etc</b> 20) We must increase the local population's <b>digital literacy and access to technology</b> and equipment so that we make the digital world accessible and encourage more flexible and home working so reducing emissions from transport caused by journeys to work. Covid has started to make this possible we need to make sure it continues a) The Council should take steps itself and support businesses to promote	30	20th



<p>working from home/flexible working. As a People's Jury we have demonstrated how easy it is to run meetings remotely for most occasions</p> <p>b) Widely available lessons on how to use zoom / virtual meetings, the use of devices, connecting to the internet. A team of volunteer tutors (like Silver Surfers in the library) could visit people in their homes</p> <p>c) A laptop rental scheme</p>		
<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</b></p> <p>21) The council needs to invest in <b>an Education Centre</b> that is open to all, accessible (in terms of cost, physical access and transport) linked with the Eden project that educates adults and children about food production; drivers of climate change, possible solutions and shares the learning of the citizen's jury. It must be fun. The power station had a similar learning centre, this could be done through the network of libraries and collections and be offered online too.</p>	29	21st
<p><b>TRANSPORT</b></p> <p>22) We must make it easier for people to use <b>public transport</b> through an <b>adequate, regular bus service</b>.</p> <p>a) There should be a commissioned piece of research reviewing levels of bus use at peak times and analysing how to reduce traffic in the centre of Lancaster and how this links with the current provision of public transport (buses and trains). Prior to COVID buses were always too full which discouraged many to use the bus, this must be addressed. This research should consider the possibility of non privatised council run services on busier routes.</p> <p>b) All buses should be free for students, children and over 60s</p> <p>c) We need an integrated travel system, that is coordinated (for trains, buses and e bike hire), fare capped and uses a one ticket system, like Transport for London (a Shrimp Card?) We recognise the logistics for this would be very complicated, so the sooner this is looked at the better.</p>	27	=22nd
<p><b>FOOD/FARMING AND WASTE/RECYCLING</b></p> <p><b>23) Create a working group made up of people that can influence change, encouraging mutual responsibility, shared vision &amp; mutual action towards carbon neutral farms.</b></p> <p>This working group could include local producers, farmers, representatives of existing groups such as the NFU, Soil Association, academics, climate change campaign groups, large corporates (e.g. supermarkets).</p>	27	=22nd
<p><b>FOOD/FARMING AND WASTE/RECYCLING</b></p> <p>24) At present the subscription fee for the <b>garden waste</b> collection service is £40, this should be reduced.</p>	23	24th
<p><b>FOOD/FARMING AND WASTE/RECYCLING</b></p> <p>25) The Council should introduce a local <b>Green Reward scheme</b>, where individuals earn points to exchange for discounts on goods or services by reducing their carbon footprint. For example by demonstrating using a renewable energy supplier, reducing yearly mileage (proven by MOT certificate), electric car charge points. Points to be redeemed at local businesses and services therefore reinvesting in the local economy.</p>	17	25th

