

CLIMATE EMERGENCY PORTFOLIO 2019-2021

This report highlights some of the work that has been undertaken since May 2019.

Lancaster City Council unanimously declared a 'Climate Emergency' on 30th January 2019 at a full Council meeting. I was appointed as the Cabinet Member with the Climate Emergency portfolio following the elections in May 2019.

There have been several meetings of the Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group involving Councillors, young people, the two Universities and other interested parties. This group has received updates on the actions that are being taken to implement the Climate Emergency motion. Unfortunately, Covid has prevented meetings from taking place in person since March 2020.

Funding was identified in 2019 for the People's Jury and for the appointment of a Climate Change Officer.

The People's Jury was convened, with 29 residents selected randomly from across the District, chosen to have a fair distribution of age, gender, geography, race, disability, to identify the priority actions needed to address the Climate Emergency. The Jury initially met at the Story Institute, but was then reconvened online to complete their deliberations and report on their findings. A subsequent meeting was held with Councillors for them to receive the recommendations and develop a plan to implement them, or to liaise with other bodies, including the County Council to promote their implementation.

The Corporate Plan was published in 2020 and required every Council decision to be made with reference to how it would reduce our emissions and/or increase our resilience to the impacts of climate change. All officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain impact assessments on Climate Change that include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible;

The City Council have been involved, with the two Universities, Lancaster & Morecambe College and other public bodies and businesses, in the development of the Morecambe Bay Curriculum which prioritises "care for ourselves, each other and our planet".

Mark Davies, Director of Environment, and his team have developed the following projects:

- A comprehensive CO2 dashboard to establish, track and prioritise decarbonisation projects
- Secured 6.8M of PSDS funding to reduce emissions at SALC as the council's No.1 CO2 emitting property by up to 58% providing a net reduction of 12% for the council. Planning permission and grid connection achieved, currently awarding contracts
- Conducted decarbonisation and thermal efficiency surveys at five of the council's highest CO2 emitting properties to develop a decarbonisation plans
- Delivered a new pool car scheme for staff using via Co-Wheels car club. Procured 6 new electric vehicles and installed EVCPs at council office locations. Reduced emissions from casual mileage by 40% with a public launch planned in May 2021
- Completed feasibility and secured capital funding for roof-mounted solar PV on City Labs
- Ordered the council's first X2 100% electric refuse collection vehicles with an anticipated delivery date of August 2021
- Replaced X14 diesel panel vans with electric Nissan e-NV200's
- Pilot Retrofit works to 2 Council properties have recorded a value of EPC A, with the independent assessor commenting they were the highest scores he'd seen in 13 years! One of the properties will produce only a 10th and the other a 30th of carbon emission of a normal household.

They are also currently working on the following:

- On installing 1-1.9MWp solar PV with battery storage on a commercial site to charge a fleet of electric refuse vehicles
- Installing 3X electric charging points for taxis

Cllr. Kevin Frea, Cabinet member for Climate Action