Haltwhistle Partnership Community Climate Action Plan

Community Climate Champions July 2021

In partnership with
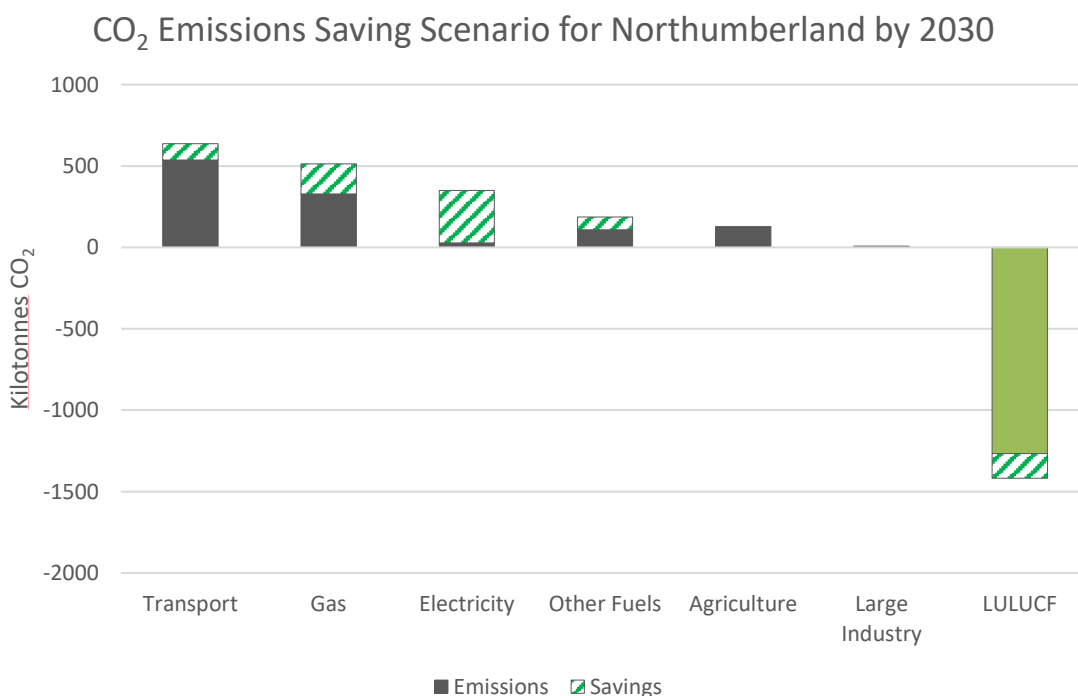
Northumberland
County Council

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INTRODUCTION

Northumberland County Council's (NCC) [Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23](#) looks at how the Council plans to reduce carbon emissions in the county over the next few years, with a target of reaching net-zero by 2030.

The Action Plan looks at seven priority action areas in which the Council plans to invest in to help reduce our county's carbon footprint, which includes:

1. Council policy
2. Engagement and partnerships
3. Heating existing buildings and new buildings
4. Transport
5. Renewable energy generation
6. Natural resource-based carbon sequestration
7. Reducing waste

Figures are published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to monitor CO_2 emissions in Northumberland, with the most recent figures published in 2018. Whilst Northumberland contributed 1,823.4 $ktCO_2$ positive emissions in 2018, it also has significant natural capital (also known as LULUCF) which sequesters carbon, resulting in negative emissions by 1,114.3 $ktCO_2$ each year.

By combining positive and negative emissions, we arrive at a grand total of **709.1 $ktCO_2$**. This is the figure by which Northumberland needs to reduce our emissions in order to become a net-zero, or carbon neutral, county by 2030. The below graph shows which areas savings are needed to be made to reach this ambitious goal.

CO_2 Emissions Saving Scenario for Northumberland by 2030

Residents, communities and businesses need to work together to reduce their own carbon footprints as much as possible to help prevent climate change and save our planet from its disastrous effects.

The Community Climate Champions scheme gives residents and community groups the knowledge and tools to educate and empower communities and drive change at a local level, by working alongside Northumberland County Council.

BACKGROUND

The Haltwhistle Partnership (HP) group operates in Haltwhistle and its ten surrounding parishes (from the Cumbrian border in the west and south and as far east as Bardon Mill's border with Haydon parish). This group is in affiliation with South Tyne Sustainability (STS) and the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (TVCRP) and engage with many other partners.

The group are currently running seven projects five priority action areas. These areas are detailed below.

Partnerships and Engagement

The challenge of meeting net-zero by 2030 is huge and cannot be achieved in isolation. Engaging with residents, businesses, and visitors to understand the implications of climate change on our own communities and providing them with knowledge and tools to support the move to net-zero is essential to meeting this target.

Benefits: creates an environment in which investment, jobs, improved health and welling and restoration of nature can be realised.

Sustainable Transport

Transport contributed 35% of Northumberland's CO_2 emissions in 2018. As a largely rural and destination county the right mix of both public and private transport is needed, and decarbonising transport requires a shift to short journeys being made by bike or on foot, with longer journeys made by public transport of in an electric vehicle.

Benefits: improves air quality, promotes active lifestyles, reduces congestion and noise.

Renewable Energy

Electricity use accounted for nearly 20% of positive CO_2 emissions in Northumberland in 2018. Whilst the National Grid is decarbonising through a move away from fossil fuels and

towards renewables, there is still a need to generate renewable energy locally, in order to meet increased demand for electricity as heat and transport become more reliant on it.

Benefits: creates jobs, provides a better way of living for residents, and helps residents save on utility bills.

Sequestration

The county enjoys a vast spread of land and forestry, which helps sequester carbon through trees, grassland, wetlands and peat, compensating for 61% of positive emissions in Northumberland. Protecting and enhancing this resource is essential to meeting the net-zero target.

Benefits: creates jobs, provides better outdoor spaces for residents to enjoy, enhances air quality.

Waste Reduction

Although waste is not considered as a direct contributor to CO_2 emissions, it is important to reduce waste and keep materials in operation and in productive use for as long as possible, as well as ensuring waste does not pollute our water systems and endanger our wildlife.

Benefits: creates jobs, protects sequestration, provides a better way of living for residents, and helps residents save money in some instances.

OBJECTIVES

Over the next 12 months we aim to:

1. Get the plastic recycling scheme up and running
2. Progress the community energy schemes
3. Set up zero waste shop

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 1

PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

The challenge of meeting net-zero by 2030 is huge and cannot be achieved in isolation. Engaging with communities, businesses, and visitors to understand the implications of climate change on our own communities and providing them with knowledge and tools to support the move to net-zero is essential to meeting this target.

We're currently focusing on working with local businesses, schools, places of worship, or other establishments to help implement climate conscious decisions.

Raising Awareness

Background and aim

Raising awareness of making more climate conscious decisions.

Target audience

Local businesses

Engagement methods

Individual STS members engaging traders in conversation about their use of plastic bags, take away containers etc e.g. chatting to local cafe owner and sharing knowledge about Vegware products which claim to be environmentally friendly but can only be recycled via a special scheme. Regular informative newsletter sent to over 200 subscribers.

Timeline

Ongoing

Budget

Nil

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 2
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Transport contributed 35% of Northumberland's CO_2 emissions in 2018. As a largely rural and destination county the right mix of both public and private transport is needed, and decarbonising transport requires a shift to short journeys being made by bike or on foot, with longer journeys made by public transport of in an electric vehicle.

We're currently focusing on:

- Promoting active travel within our community
- Engaging with the rail industry and many other partners in all aspects of sustainable transport provision and last mile solutions

Sustainable e-bike hub at Haltwhistle Station

Background and aim

Use innovative technology to design, build and install a pilot Ebike and Ecargo bike hub in a rural setting including research into financial viability, business models, integration with railway, potential market size etc.

Target audience

Visitors to the area and local residents and businesses

Engagement methods

Working with:

- Intelligen – technical design, prototype build, connection and electrical work
- PowerRoll – flexible, light weight, low cost solar solutions with energy storage
- Rural Design Centre – project management, stakeholder engagement, testing, dissemination, business case development - potential scope, routes to market and future development of the micro-mobility hub
- Haltwhistle Partnership – location provision, user cases for initial data collection, promotion
- Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership - links with rail industry, last mile connectivity, promotion
- Newcastle University – impact on sustainable transport for rural areas
- Derwent Valley Car Club – booking and member management system
- Food and Drink NE – e-cargo bike logistics and integration

Timeline

August 2021 to August 2022

Budget

£60,000 of funding applied for from:

- Innovate UK Niche Vehicle Network £35000
- Intelligen £5000
- PowerRoll and Rural design Centre £6000
- Northern Railway Seedcorn Fund £4000
- Community Rail Network Integrated Sustainable Transport in Community Rail Fund £8000

- NNPA Community Fund £2,000

Gilsland Station on Hadrian's Wall

Background and aim

To build and open a new railway station at Gilsland on the Northumberland Cumbria border to enable visitors to access the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall by public transport. The station would be on the Tyne Valley Railway line running between Newcastle and Carlisle and the station would be located where a station used to be sited before being closed in 1967. The station would have an hourly service.

Target audience

Visitors to the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall. Local people wanting to access elsewhere by public transport.

Engagement methods

The campaign to open Gilsland Station (COGS) has been ongoing for many years and has the support of local people, all levels of local and regional government, cross border MPs, the Rail Minister, local businesses and organisations, Network Rail, Northern Railway, Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership - everyone is very supportive. A number of studies and reports have been prepared over the years all of which support the opening of a station as good value for money. We currently await the DfT's decision on supporting the next stage of development of the project.

Timeline

Next 10 years (North East Transport Plan)

Budget

Circa £7 million

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 3
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Electricity use accounted for nearly 20% of positive CO_2 emissions in Northumberland in 2018. Whilst the National Grid is decarbonising through a move away from fossil fuels to renewables, there is still a need to generate renewable energy locally, in order to meet increased demand for electricity as heat and transport become more reliant on it.

We're currently focusing on:

- Bidding for community energy network grants
- Actively looking into the feasibility of various community energy schemes

Community Energy Schemes

Background and aim

Generate sustainable energy to provide local businesses or organisations with green electricity and in addition provide funding for other community projects. Build a sustainable EV charging station next to the A69.

Target audience

Local businesses, organisations, community.

Engagement methods

Working with many partners both within Haltwhistle and in the wider region including public, private and academic organisations, companies and individuals. Haltwhistle included in NICRE's bid for funding from UK Community Renewal Fund.

Timeline

Initial study reported March 2021. Next phase about to begin.

Budget

Already received RCEF funding of £40,000 for initial project. Now looking for further funding to extend and progress the work.

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 4
SEQUESTRATION

The county enjoys a vast spread of land and forestry, which helps sequester carbon through trees, grassland, wetlands and peat, compensating for 61% of positive emissions in Northumberland. Protecting and enhancing this resource is essential to meeting the net-zero target.

We're currently focusing on:

- Organising / taking part in litter picks to help promote biodiversity
- Creating a public riverside park

Haltwhistle Riverside Park

Background and aim

Former railway land between the station and the river South Tyne has been purchased by South Tyne Railway Preservation Society (STRPS). They have opened the land for the public to enjoy and volunteers are busy creating paths, litter picking and making it more accessible for studying nature.

Target audience

Community and visitors.

Engagement methods

Working parties, partnering with various organisations e.g. TVCRP, Haltwhistle Town Council, Haltwhistle Partnership.

Timeline

Ongoing

Budget

£15,000 (£4,000 secured so far)

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 5

WASTE REDUCTION

Although waste is not considered as a direct contributor to CO_2 emissions, it is important to reduce waste and keep materials in operation and in productive use for as long as possible, as well as ensuring waste does not pollute our water systems and endanger our wildlife.

We're currently focusing on developing a community recycling / waste reduction scheme.

Plastic Recycling

Background and aim

To recycle no 2 HDPE plastic locally in partnership with the Berry plastics factory in Haltwhistle. Aim - more direct route to achieving recycling success. Community directly sees benefits in that whatever weight of plastic we collect we receive back in benches, planters, bins, fencing etc made from recycled plastic.

Target audience

Whole community - Haltwhistle and surrounding 10 parishes

Engagement methods

Via the school, youth groups, other groups (WIs, garden club, youth organisations etc), businesses. Collection points, leaflets, word of mouth, posters. This will be carefully done as it is essential there is no contamination with the wrong type of plastic, food waste, labels or stick residue - all of which may damage the machine that chops up the plastic.

Timeline

Trial to see if plastic collected so far is of the required standard was on hold due to the pandemic. Now re-started with the first batch of plastic being accepted by the factory. Now working on community roll out.

Budget

Berry are willing to help with promotion of the scheme.

Zero Waste Shop

Background and aim

Intention is to set up Another Weigh (Haltwhistle), a not for profit shop selling goods without packaging as well as being a hub for information on living more sustainably, sharing more, providing volunteering opportunities and work placements.

Target audience

Local and wider community and visitors to the town.

Engagement methods

Surveys carried out (via paper, word of mouth and social media) in 2019 to gauge local support resulted in over 200 positive responses. Partnering with Another Weigh (Penrith and Kendal) and Another Way (sustainable education charity) and Haltwhistle Partnership.

Timeline

Has been on hold for over a year due to the pandemic. Group of 4 volunteer directors now moving project forward. Would like to secure funding and set up during 2021.

Budget

£20,000 start-up funding being sought.

GOING FORWARD

PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

WASTE REDUCTION

Volunteering Project

Background and aim

Establish a volunteer bureau such that anyone seeking volunteering opportunities and anyone seeking volunteers can easily find each other e.g. litter picking champions.

Target audience

Whole community.

Engagement methods

Working with Hexham and Prudhoe Community Partnerships. Hexham CP have already commissioned a volunteering website to develop this idea and Prudhoe currently host developing volunteering meetings and produce a local newsletter.

Timeline

2021/22

Budget

Unknown but should not be large so funding should be achievable.