

Slaley, Healey and Hexhamshire Community Action Group Community Climate Action Plan

Community Climate Champions July 2021



In partnership with



Northumberland
County Council

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Background.....	4
Objectives	5
Priority Action Area 1	5
Partnerships and Engagement	5
Priority Action Area 2	7
Sustainable Transport	7
Priority Action Area 3	7
Renewable Energy	7
Priority Action Area 4	8
Sequestration	8
Priority Action Area 5	10
Waste Reduction	10
Going Forward	12
Partnerships and Engagement	12

INTRODUCTION

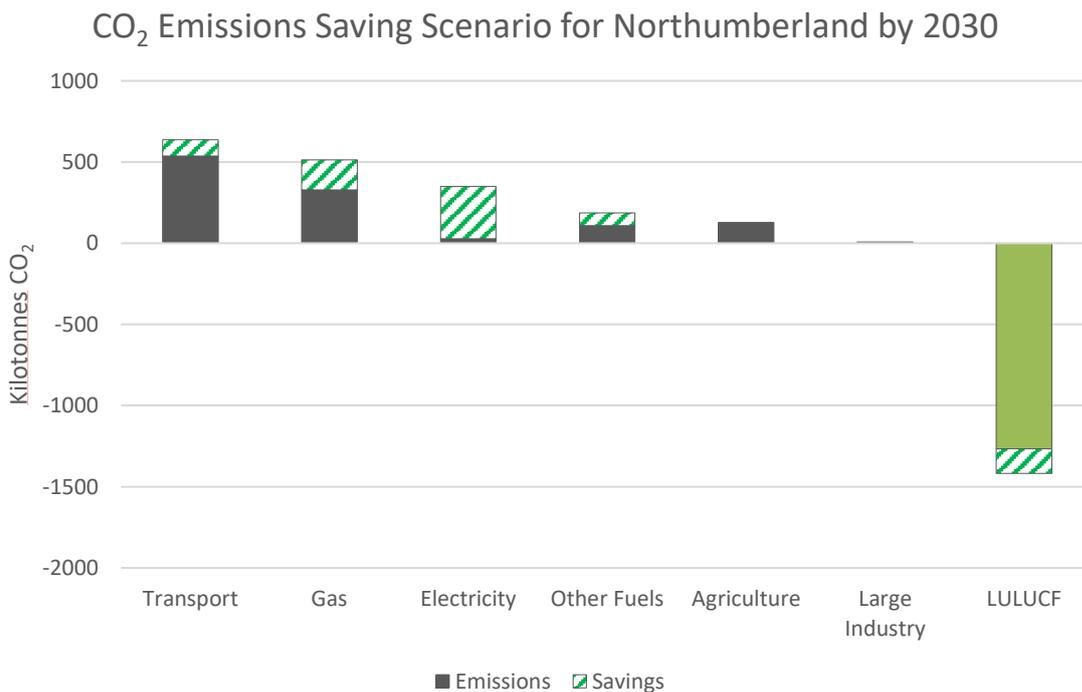
Northumberland County Council's (NCC) [Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23](#) looks at how the Council plans to reduce carbon emissions in the county over the next few years, with a target of reaching net-zero by 2030.

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 CO₂ emissions in Northumberland, with the most recent figures published in 2018. Whilst Northumberland contributed 1,823.4 ktCO₂ 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 ktCO₂ each year.

By combining positive and negative emissions, we arrive at a grand total of **709.1 ktCO₂**. 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.



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 Slaley, Healey and Hexhamshire Community Action Group group operates in Slaley, Healey and Hexhamshire. The group are currently running nine projects across 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 wellbeing and restoration of nature can be realised.

Sustainable Transport

Transport contributed 35% of Northumberland's CO₂ 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 or 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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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. **Sequestration:** To find a space for a Parish Orchard and apply for grants for trees.
2. **Waste Reduction:** Recycling – Village shop, school and village hall working together to deliver a broad range of recycling options to the community.
3. **Renewable Energy:** Community Grid – PV “farm” (long term).

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:

- Encouraging our parish to take action against climate change

- Working with local businesses, schools, places of worship, or other establishments to help implement climate conscious decisions

Electric Transport Awareness

Background and aim

Increase awareness and confidence in switching to electric cars and bikes.

There are real and perceived barriers to drivers switching to electric vehicles. By bringing together people who are concerned with people who have taken the plunge, the aim is to overcome the myths and help people see the benefits.

With regards to electric bikes, again people are nervous about investing in a bike and whether it is right for them. Again, by bringing people together who are uncertain with those who have electric bikes, then it may help people to see the advantages.

The environment group therefore held an event on the 5th June to help facilitate this. People with electric cars and bikes were at the village hall to talk to anyone interested.

Target audience

Local community.

Engagement methods

The event was promoted through the local newsletter, web site and face book page. It was an outside face-to-face event.

Follow up article was published in the Hexham Courant.

Timeline

Initial event June 2021.

Budget

No costs incurred.

Slaley Market

Background and aim

Starting a local market to encourage people to shop locally and from independent suppliers.

Environment group will have a stall selling plants, composting bins, soft toys from recycled materials etc.

Target audience

Local community and Hexhamshire.

Engagement methods

Newspaper, Facebook, Twitter, parish news etc.

Timeline

First event will be held at the end of July with the aim of holding them on a quarterly basis.

Budget

£100 from the Parish Council to fund the setup of first event.

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 2

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Transport contributed 35% of Northumberland's CO₂ 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 or in an electric vehicle.

We're currently focusing on promoting benefits of electric vehicles within our community, through our Electric Transport Awareness project. See Priority Action Area 1 for more detail.

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 3

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Electricity use accounted for nearly 20% of positive CO₂ 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:

- Promoting renewable energy schemes within our community
- Bidding for community energy network grants

Parish Council led renewable energy project

(Revisit)

Background and aim

In 2019 the PC looked at developing a PV site for community energy scheme. At the time there were issues regarding connection to the national grid and the scheme therefore was put on the back burner.

The aim is to take another look at this to see if it can form the basis of a new project.

The issue at present is finding someone to run with this with the relevant technical skills.

Target audience

Community wide.

Engagement methods

Looking to advertise locally for a “team” to run with this.

Timeline

1-2 years.

Budget

Unknown.

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:

- Planting more trees / arranging tree planting events
- Organising / taking part in litter picks to help promote biodiversity

Karbon Homes Apple Trees

Background and aim

Planting a small orchard of apple trees in the grounds of the Karbon Homes properties for the elderly.

This is our first community tree planting project and was suggested by one of the residents when we first started looking at tree planting in the community.

Target audience

Residents and the local community

Timeline

Spring 2021.

Budget

£130 which was paid for by Karbon Homes.

School Oak Trees

Background and aim

As part of our community tree planting project, one of the members of the green group provided four oak saplings which were planted in the grounds of Slaley First School. The four oaks were planted in the north, south, east and west corners of the playing field.

Target audience

School and local community.

Timeline

Spring 2021.

Budget

No budget needed as trees were donated.

The Parish Orchard

Background and aim

It is the aim of the green group to find some land to plant an orchard for the enjoyment of the community.

At present we are advertising locally to see if anyone has any land they would donate or provide at an affordable price.

Target audience

Local community.

Engagement methods

The search for land is being advertised through the local newsletter, web site, face book page and word of mouth.

Timeline

By the end of 2022.

Budget

Not known at present.

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 5

WASTE REDUCTION

Although waste is not considered as a direct contributor to CO₂ 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.

Village Shop Recycling Centre

Background and aim

The village shop is leading the way for the community recycling and has erected a shed with various recycling stations.

Items currently recycled include batteries, printer cartridges, cheese wrappers, and tablet blister packs.

The team at the shop are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to recycle some of the less common items.

Target audience

Local community.

Engagement methods

The shop promotes its activities through the local newsletter, web site, Facebook page and to anyone visiting the shop.

Timeline

Ongoing.

Recycling of books, CDs and DVDs

Background and aim

The Village Hall is starting to collect books, CDs and DVD from the community. Some items will be kept at the hall to create a new small library, some will be sold at our local market in July and others have been scanned and sent for resale through the World of Books scheme using Ziffit.

This has generated some funds for the hall and the environmental group as well as providing another recycling point for the community.

Target audience

Local community.

Engagement methods

The local newsletter, web site, face book page and posters.

Timeline

Ongoing.

Annual Litter Pick

Background and aim

Litter pick of the roadsides across the parishes. This has been an annual event organised by the parish council. This year and going forwards there has been a wider community engagement and more volunteers committed to improving the environment we live in.

Target audience

Local community.

Engagement methods

The local newsletter, web site, face book page and posters.

Timeline

Ongoing.

GOING FORWARD

PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

Green Sunday

Background and aim

A day organised by the village church to promote green issues to the community.

They also have plans to use the church yard for encouraging bugs and wildlife.

Target audience

Local community.

Timeline

Ongoing.

Slaley, Healey and Hexhamshire 2030

Background and aim

There are a lot of ideas in the parish, but we need to establish the “vision” and plans for projects, other than those already mentioned. This may include a car sharing scheme, community vegetables scheme growing and a clothes upcycling/recycling project.

Target audience

Local community.

Engagement methods

Consultation, finding local “experts” and delivery task forces.

Timeline

Starting July 2021.