

NDF Strategy Workshop – notes from Climate table

Proposed Objectives for the Climate Action Group:

- Get Communities Ready - Prepare Devon's communities for the necessary adaptations to infrastructure and services to respond to a warmer world.
- Working towards the Devon Carbon Plan objectives:
 - Fossil Fuels phased out as an energy source
 - Minimised energy consumption
 - Engaged communities acting for resilience and a net-zero carbon Devon
 - Carbon captured from the burning of fuels
 - Minimise fugitive greenhouse gas emissions
 - Resilient local economies with access to green finances
 - A circular use of resources
 - Maximise carbon storage in marine and terrestrial environments.

None of the participants disagreed with the above objectives. Discussions rather focussed on actions that needed to be taken in the next 18 months, and barriers that needed to be addressed.

Communication

Need to raise climate change up the agenda of residents, businesses, partner organisations.

Produce case studies to show how we can save money and take action to deliver net zero ambitions.

Use North Devon Homes and their community ambassadors to demonstrate effectiveness of retrofit/new technology in homes, myth-busting etc - site visits, energy safari etc

Local Plan Review

Planning policy needs to be aligned with net zero ambition.

Local planning resource with remit to support delivery of RE infrastructure, funded by RE developers.

Net zero new homes with allowable measures for retrofit in the area.
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Update 'Energy in the Landscape' studies for inclusion in the new LP.

At County-level potential for trial of National Grid's Regional System Planners to build in more accountability of National Grid to the areas it's meant to serve.
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Other deliverables

Partners to endorse SWLEP public sector procurement declaration around local (SW region) food sourcing.
Encourage primary schools to have allotments/gardening clubs.
Promote the Councils' Green Events guide beyond our own events/licensed events.
Develop broad sectoral partnerships to fund social housing retrofit to net zero (approx. £80k per home)

Additional comments

Do we need to find funding (ie public sector) or leverage green finance (private sector)?

Conflict between cost of living crisis and additional costs of 'doing the right thing'

Purchasing power/combined buying power of public sector.

Learn/copy from other partnerships who are trying to do the same thing as NDF.

Need to develop skills to deliver net zero/adaptation.

Club together to get discounts eg solar PVs on rooves.

Barriers to network connections – National Grid removing 'blocking licences'.

Re-nationalise the National Grid – private sector monopoly fundamentally impacting our communities and our ability to tackle climate change.

Develop approved models for retrofit accreditation eg rockwool change.

Local skills training to take up benefits of big infrastructure projects.

Carbon offsetting vs local area-based insetting – investing in most vulnerable households.

Fuel poverty as a priority.

Renewable energy on Council assets.