

Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan

2022-23

Making Copeland a Sustainable Place

“Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future”

**- Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change, 2022**

Document Control

Organisation	Copeland Borough Council
Title	Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan
Version	Draft
Author	Rob Ward Head of Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability
Filename	Copeland Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan FINAL
Owners	CLlr Andy Pratt, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Inclusive Communities Pat Graham, CEO
Subject	Climate Change
Protective Marking	N/A
Review Date	2023

Revision History

Version Renewed	Date Reviewed	Reviewed By	Description of Revision
Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan 2022/23	March 2022	Rob Ward	Draft for agreement

Document Approval

Version	Approvals	Date
Draft	Climate Steering Group	11/02/2022
Draft	Corporate Leadership Team	22/02/2022
Final draft	Agreed by Executive	15/03/2022
FINAL	Endorsed by Full Council	26/04/2022

Document Distribution

This Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan is to be distributed to all staff and Elected Members of Copeland Borough Council and placed on the sustainability area of the Council's intranet site and website. ***A copy should also be provided to third parties undertaking work for the Council.***

Note: A summary presentation version of this Plan will be made available on the Copeland Council website.

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Foreword

Climate change is happening. We are feeling the effects in West Cumbria, but the impact here is nothing like we see elsewhere in the world, where destructive fires are becoming annual occurrences, where irreplaceable habitats are lost forever, and where sea level rise threatens the very existence of some island nations. The UK has a leadership role in acting on climate change now, to stop contributing to the destruction of our planet, for the benefit of people here and everywhere.

Meaningful action will require change – by governments, all sectors of the economy, academia, businesses, people and communities. This is a global issue that requires global, national and local action. This is why it is so important that a diverse group of people are involved in developing and delivering our plans. In our 2040 Vision for Copeland, we clearly set out our Council's commitment to making Copeland a place where our people have a greater say, involvement and role in deciding what happens and how change is delivered. We recognise that diversity, participation and collaboration strengthen our community, building trust between people and generating the new ideas and innovation that we need to overcome a challenge such as climate change. This is why “empowering people” is a core strand of our climate programme.

So, in 2021, we brought together our Copeland People's Panel on Climate Change, to hear from 30 people who represent the makeup of our communities, to tell us ***what action needs to be taken in our homes, businesses and local area to respond to climate change***. They have set out a challenging and ambitious set of recommendations, which have helped to shape this Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan.

We know that we absolutely must respond to the climate and biodiversity crises while also continuing to meet the needs of our local people and communities.

While Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria will mean that Copeland Council will no longer exist by May 2023, this change presents an opportunity to ensure that climate and ecological considerations are built into the DNA of the two new Unitary Authorities for Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness. It also provides clarity on what we need to achieve and where to focus our efforts in the coming year to maximise our impact on climate change.

This is a collective effort, but my promise to you is that we will act now.

Cllr Andy Pratt

Portfolio Holder for Environment and Inclusive Communities

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Executive Summary

This new Strategy & Plan for 2022/23 is more ambitious than the 2020/21 Plan and aims to ensure that sustainability is prioritised within the Council's plans for the year to come, and throughout the process of Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria. This document also sets greater expectations of a wider group of stakeholders who have a part to play in making Copeland a sustainable place.

To achieve this, a fundamental and urgent systemic shift is required to decouple prosperity from linear usage of energy and resources, and to adopt a more socially and environmentally-purposeful definition of growth with planetary sustainability at its core. This strategy is a step in that direction. This is far beyond the control and influence of Copeland Council alone, and requires action by UK Government, business, industry, academia, every sector of the economy and the public – but this shift is starting and we have seen significant, supportive legislative and policy developments in the last year including the Environment Act 2021, UK Net Zero Strategy and UK Hydrogen Strategy with the prospect of a UK Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill.

There is no pathway to tackling climate change that does not involve the recovery and protection of nature, and this pathway must be inclusive and equitable for everyone. This is reflected in our strategic sustainability priorities (see page 16).

For the first time, we have set a science-based carbon budget for Copeland (page 12), using the Tyndall Centre's recommendations. Rapid and transformational change is required to stay within this budget. In order to meet the target 12.4% year on year reduction in CO2 emissions and stay within Copeland's carbon budget, **the CO2 reduction target for Copeland by the end of 2023 versus 2018 is 48.4%.**

This is aligned to **95% reduction in carbon emissions in Copeland versus 2018 levels by 2043**, with an ambition to meet the more challenging Net Zero emissions target for Cumbria by 2037.

Of course, during 2022/23 we will continue to work towards reducing the Council's own operational emissions, which are low in comparison to overall emissions in Copeland. We aim to reduce operational emissions by 10% year on year, with a target of **Net Zero operational emissions by 2031/32**. The specific emissions reduction actions identified in the Council's Climate Action plan are targeted towards the highest emission areas of the Council's operations – procurement, buildings and fleet.

During 2021, the Copeland People's Panel on Climate Change told us and our partners across all sectors in Copeland their expectations of "what action needs to be taken in our homes, businesses and local area to respond to climate change?". The implementation of the People's Panel's recommendations will require the commitment of government, local government, business, academia, community organisations and residents. We have built these recommendations into our plan and continue to work to ensure that other partners and stakeholders play their part too (page 25).

Introduction

Summary

Copeland Borough Council (“the Council”) recognises that climate change is the most significant human-made threat to people and the planet and is already having far-reaching, irreversible effects on populations, places, economies, society and the natural environment locally, nationally and globally.

As a responsible local authority, we recognise that we must urgently play our part in adapting to climate change and mitigating any further harm to people and the planet. We recognise that the way we as individuals, organisations and communities have lived and worked in the past is unsustainable, and that we must change. The changes required are significant, but this is the right thing to do for our people and places, now and for the future.

This Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan:

- Highlights progress against the 2021 Climate Action Plan
- Documents the Council’s carbon footprint
- For the first time, sets a carbon reduction target for our organisation and science-based carbon budgets for Copeland
- Set the strategic sustainability priorities for Copeland
- Identifies climate adaptation and mitigation strategies for Copeland
- Sets out how we intend to take forward the recommendations made by the Copeland People’s Panel on Climate Change
- Identifies priority actions for the council in 2022/23
- Outlines the role of stakeholders in helping us to meet our Net Zero targets and build resilience in Copeland.

This new Strategy & Plan for 2022/23 is more ambitious than the 2021 Plan and aims to ensure that sustainability is prioritised within the Council’s governance, activities and community leadership for the year to come, and throughout the process of Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria.

How this Plan was Developed?

This Strategy & Plan has been developed with oversight from the Council’s cross-party Climate Steering Group and with input from elected members and senior officers across the Council.

A significant focus is given to the 22 recommendations made by the members of the Copeland People’s Panel on Climate Change¹ which brought together a group of 30 people who are representative of Copeland’s communities, with input from a further 62 young people aged between 11 and 19 from youth groups across Copeland.

Town and Parish Councils have been consulted on the approach to this new strategy via the Copeland branch of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC).

¹ Full report on [Copeland People’s Panel on Climate Change](#)

This Strategy & Plan has been developed with reference to available best practice guidance, including that available from the Local Government Association and Climate Emergency UK, as well as via the Local Authority Climate Policy subgroup of the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.

The Council's Role

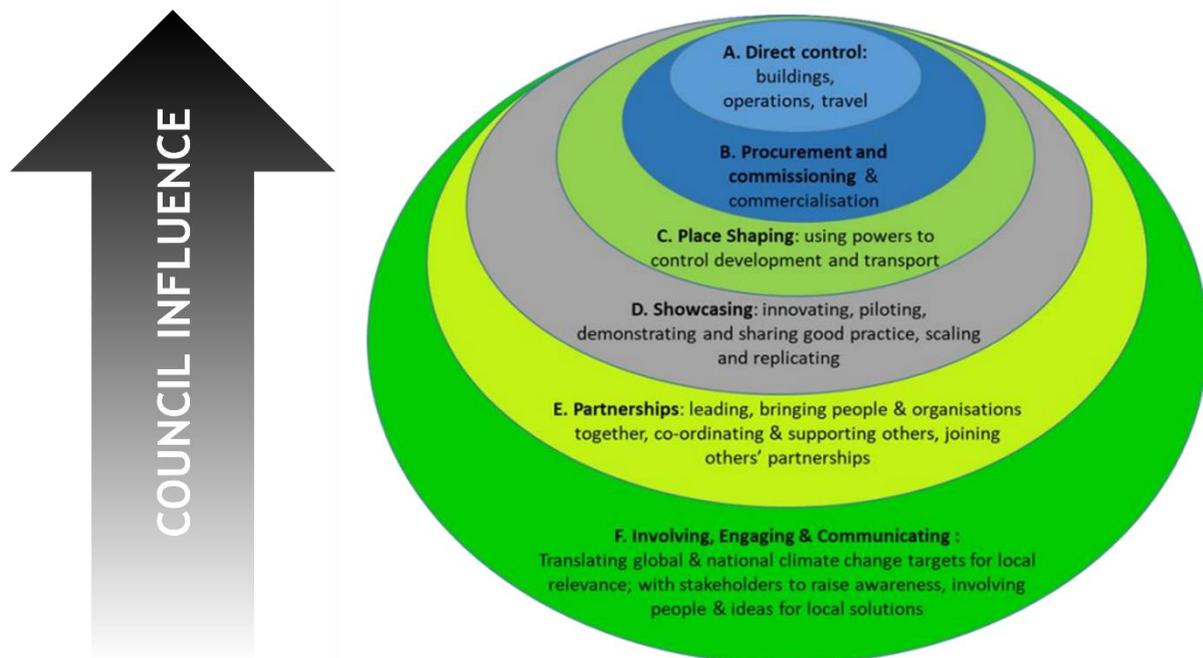
Copeland Council is a non-metropolitan district authority, with powers over:

- Council property, buildings and staff
- Planning and Building Control
- Spending, procurement and investment
- Waste collection services
- Environmental Health

In Cumbria, there are two tiers of local government. Cumbria County Council has powers over functions including Schools and Libraries, Highways, Transport Planning and Waste Disposal.

The Council is also a community leader and is able to influence the behaviour of stakeholders including businesses, residents and visitors to Copeland.

Copeland Council cannot do this alone. It is estimated that local government has direct control and influence over 2% of UK emissions, but wider potential to influence up to 82% of emissions².



The carbon baseline for the Council has been determined using an operational control boundary – this means that the Council has direct and indirect control over these emissions. Actions to reduce these emission are included in the Climate Action Plan (page 30).

² Local Government Association: [Local Path to Net Zero](#)

Beyond the Council's direct control, there are a range of ways that the Council can exert varying levels of influence over social, environmental and economic outcomes in the Borough, and these are the focus of the Sustainability Strategy.

There is a key role for the council and all stakeholders in Copeland, particularly those with influence over environmental impact, in implementing this sustainability strategy.

Shared Responsibilities

The actions set out in this plan require action by a wide group of stakeholders and partners, including the Council and everyone who lives and works here or visits Copeland, including the following stakeholders:

- HM Government
- Local Authorities
- Large public sector anchor institutions – Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Sellafield Ltd, National Nuclear Laboratory, NHS North Cumbria Integrated Care Trust
- Partnerships
- Business
- Industry
- Voluntary and community sector
- Universities
- Landlords and housing associations
- Energy and utilities network operators
- Stakeholders from all sectors
- Residents
- Visitors

Therefore, a communications and engagement strategy will be developed alongside this Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan to ensure that partners and stakeholders understand our expectations of their roles and responsibility in its implementation.

Review of Progress in 2021

A priority action plan for 2021/2022 was agreed by Copeland's Executive Committee, aimed at changing the way that the Council considers climate change in everything that we do.

A number of priority interventions have been delivered, as follows:

- ✓ **Climate Governance:** a cross party Climate Steering Group was established in February 2021 as a member working group, and meets monthly to oversee the council's climate progress.
- ✓ **Reporting Frameworks:** Consideration of climate and environmental impact has been embedded into the Council's reporting frameworks.
- ✓ **Incorporate sustainability into service planning:** The Council's service plan template has been updated to include a sustainability section. Teams are required to consider climate/sustainability related Key Performance Indicators and risks for each service.
- ✓ **Social Value in Procurement:** the Council's procurement procedures have been updated to give Social Value 10% weighting in all tender evaluations. Guidance on social value for contract managers has also been produced.
- ✓ **Climate Literacy Training:** training has been made available to all staff and elected members, with the first phase due to be complete by April 2022. Further, in-depth training will be made available.
- ✓ **Citizen Engagement:** the Copeland People's Panel on Climate Change was held during summer 2021, and made recommendations to the Council and other partners on "what action needs to be taken in our homes, businesses and local area to respond to climate change".

A number of other actions were completed in 2021, including:

- ✓ Copeland Council is a partner in the successful bid to secure funding for the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest
- ✓ The Council is part of a successful Cumbrian Consortium securing Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 and Sustainable Warmth programme, which combined will bring c.£4m funding into Copeland to help decarbonise private housing stock
- ✓ Increased planting of native species in parks and open spaces and reduced use of fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides
- ✓ A number of new policies have been included in the Copeland Local Plan 2021-38, to support sustainable development, renewable energy generation and biodiversity net gain (see page 21)
- ✓ Sustainability has been incorporated into the Council's recruitment and HR processes
- ✓ A significant reduction in emissions from corporate travel and commuting was achieved due to increased levels of remote/home working
- ✓ A significant reduction in waste generation was achieved by progressive reduction of printing and materials usage by office staff due to the implementation of digital and paperless systems and online e-services.

Strategic Fit

In 2016, Member Countries of the United Nations (UN) adopted the Paris Agreement to “strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change”. This will be achieved through efforts to restrict global temperature rise to below 2°C this century, but preferably 1.5°C. The UK ratified this treaty and is thus bound by the targets.

All ten of the warmest years in the UK have occurred since 1990 with the nine warmest occurring since 2002. In 2008, the UK Government passed the *Climate Change Act* which set legally binding targets for the UK to reduce carbon emissions to 80% of the 1990 levels across all sectors. This Act of Parliament was amended in May 2019 following recommendations by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) that the UK government brings forward legislation to reach net-zero³ greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050.

In 2020, HM Government published the *10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution*, setting out the UK’s commitments to “building back better [from the Coronavirus pandemic], supporting green jobs and accelerating our path to Net Zero”. This was followed in 2021 by the *UK Net Zero Strategy for 2050*, covering a number of areas including: decarbonisation of the economy; green Jobs and skills; local climate action; and, empowering the public and business to make green choices. The Strategy also commits to setting clearer expectations on how central and local government interact in the delivery of Net Zero.

Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity’s demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. In 2021, it fell on July 29⁴. UK Overshoot Day occurred on 19 May 2021.

The Environment Act 2021 places obligations on central government to set targets relating to air quality, biodiversity, water and resource efficiency and waste reduction – local government has an important role to play in supporting these targets. The Act also sets ambitious aims to tackle waste, increase recycling, halt the decline of species, and improve our natural environment, and is accompanied by a policy statement that sets five legally binding principles to that will place the environment at the centre of policy-making:

1. **Integration:** policy-makers should look for opportunities to embed environmental protection in other fields of policy that have impacts on the environment;
2. **Prevention:** government policy should aim to prevent, reduce or mitigate harm;
3. **Rectification at source:** if damage to the environment cannot be prevented it should be tackled at its origin;
4. **Polluter pays:** those who cause pollution or damage to the environment should be responsible for mitigation or compensation;
5. **Precautionary:** where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, a lack of scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

³ Net Zero means that any emissions generated are offset by the same amount elsewhere. The “net total” of emissions is zero.

⁴ Earth Overshoot Day: [Earth Overshoot Day 2021 Home - #MoveTheDate](#)

The policy statement recognises that **there is no pathway to tackling climate change that does not involve the recovery and protection of nature**. Copeland Council is part of the same accountability system as central government departments, and therefore should seek to uphold and embed these principles.

In April 2019, all Cumbrian local authorities and the Lake District National Park Authority formally adopted the *Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy* incorporating a pledge for Cumbria, “to become a ‘carbon neutral’ County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change”. Since, the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP) has made a recommendation, based on a robust scientific approach⁵, that the Net Zero emissions target date for Cumbria should be 2037. While this target has not been adopted consistently by the seven local authorities in Cumbria, Copeland Council is actively involved in the ZCCP’s sector-led programme aimed at meeting this target.

The Council’s commitment to climate action is embedded into the Corporate Strategy 2020-2024⁶ under the Environment theme and this Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan supports the ambition set out in the *Copeland Vision 2040*⁷ for Copeland to be “a sustainable place with a resilient economy and thriving communities”. To achieve this, **a fundamental and urgent shift is required to decouple prosperity from linear usage of energy and resources, and to adopt a more socially and environmentally focused definition of growth, with planetary sustainability at its core.**

⁵ See [Cumbria Carbon Baseline report](#) by Small World Consulting

⁶ See [Corporate Strategy 2020-24](#)

⁷ See [Copeland Vision 2040](#)

Climate Change in Copeland

What is the expected local impact of climate change?

Under the 1.5°C and 2°C warming scenarios, the UK is likely to have hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters, with increased frequency of extreme weather events (such as heatwaves and heavy downpours) and sea level rise.

In Copeland, the expected changes are:

- Generally warmer temperatures throughout the year, with higher peak temperatures
- Less frequent summer rain with high peak rainfall
- Rainier winters with greater peak rainfall
- Sea level rise in some areas

What are the Risks?

Public safety and economic prosperity are intrinsically linked with our ability to adapt to climate change, mitigate future impacts and develop greater resilience. Climate hazards include:

- Increased frequency of severe weather events and local flooding/flash floods
- Increased frequency of heatwaves and drought/water scarcity
- Biodiversity loss and damage to the ecological services provided by local habitats
- Sea level rise leading to flood risk, coastal erosion and damage to coastal ecosystems
- Impact of heat and soil erosion and degradation on agriculture and food production
- Impact of hotter, wetter weather on ecosystems
- Mass migration of people
- Potential for greater exposure to disease caused by forced migration of insects and other species

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment⁸ (based on the Third CCC Climate Change Risk Assessment⁹) identifies eight priority risks for the UK:

- Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards
- Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought.
- Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards leading to increased emissions.
- Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple hazards
- Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks
- Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system
- Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings

⁸ Full report here: [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment](#)

⁹ Climate Change Committee [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment – England National Summary](#)

- Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas

There are a number of climate vulnerabilities for Copeland that create exposure to climate-sensitive health, social and economic risks as follows:

- Increased cost of living (for example, as a result of the 2022 Net Zero energy crisis)
- Loss of income
- Damage to property and infrastructure
- Food, fuel and water shortages
- Heat- and drought-related illness
- Physical and psychological health impacts
- Potential for injury or mortality

The impacts of these risks will not be felt equitably and is influenced by geographical and socio-economic factors. Some demographics including elderly and physically and financially vulnerable people and certain sectors (e.g. agriculture) are more exposed. Therefore, Climate Action goes hand-in-hand with the inclusive growth and community wealth building approaches at the heart of the Copeland Vision 2040.

What are the Specific Considerations for Copeland?

Emissions per capita in Copeland are approximately equal to the national average for England, and low versus other local authority areas in Cumbria. Two thirds of the borough lie within the Lake District National Park (LDNP), which is covered under the LDNP Authority's ambitious carbon reduction plans and policies around sustainable development and land management. The economy is shaped by the nuclear industry and supporting sectors, tourism and agriculture, and the area's industrial past was built on the extraction of coal and minerals.

The Sellafield nuclear site is now the dominant source of emissions in the borough – procurement of goods and services and gas and electricity usage are the main contributors to the organisation's footprint. The site is operated by Sellafield Ltd, a Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Company under the oversight of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. As a significant procurer and employer of some 11,000 people with a further 10,000 in the supply chain, Sellafield Ltd is a key gatekeeper of emissions in Copeland. The NDA is developing a decarbonisation plan under its Carbon Net Zero project.

While average incomes in Copeland are some of the highest in the UK due to highly skilled employment associated with Sellafield, some areas of Copeland are in the top deciles of deprivation on a range of factors including fuel poverty, child poverty, household incomes, educational attainment and life expectancy.

A number of the observations made in the 2021 Chief Medical Officer's annual report on health in coastal communities¹⁰ are also relevant to Copeland. The report highlights that the villages, towns and cities of England's coast, include many of the most beautiful, vibrant and historically important places in the country, yet they also have some of the worst health outcomes in England, with low life expectancy and high rates of many major diseases. Due to their natural beauty, they tend to be

¹⁰ Chief Medical Officer Annual Report 2021: [Health in Coastal Communities](#)

areas that attract older and retired people – and this is particularly the case in Copeland, with the combination of coastline and Lake District National Park. This aging population inevitably has more health problems. Many coastal communities were created around a single industry – coal, steel and nuclear in Copeland – meaning that the decline of these industries has and will impact on socio-economic wellbeing of vulnerable communities. The increasingly severe and frequent effects of climate change will disproportionately impact people in Copeland based on geography and demography. Our most vulnerable residents cannot be expected to unfairly bear the burden of climate action or inaction.

The process of Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria will see the existing 7 local authorities abolished and the formation of two new Unitary Authorities for West Cumbria (“Cumberland”) and East Cumbria (Westmorland and Furness). Therefore, at the time that this Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan is agreed, Copeland Council will exist for a further 12 months or so.

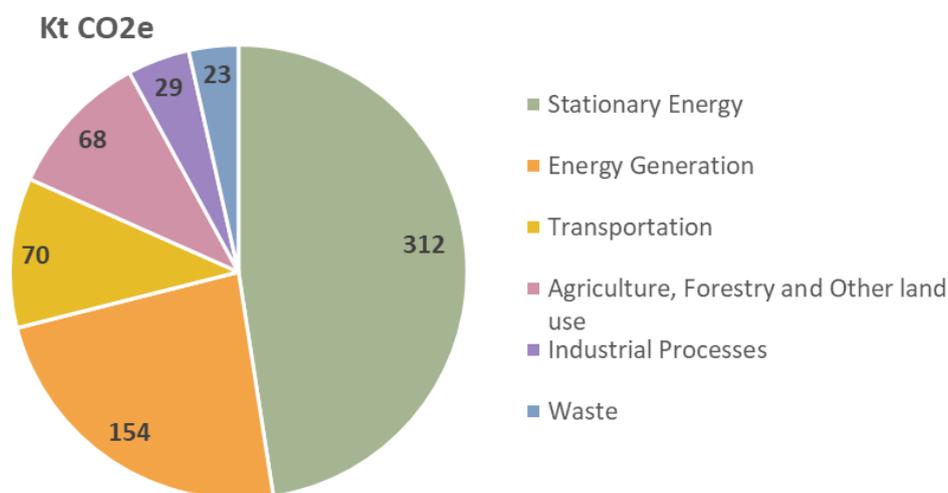
Baseline Data

Throughout this document, greenhouse gas emissions are quoted as either Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) or “carbon dioxide equivalent” (CO₂e). For any quantity and type of greenhouse gas, CO₂e signifies the amount of CO₂ which would have the equivalent global warming effect.

Emissions in Copeland

The Connected Places Catapult *Net Zero Navigator Tool* estimates **total emissions in Copeland in 2018 of 656Kt CO₂e** using the SCATTER Cities methodology¹¹.

Emissions from each sector are as follows:



Stationary Energy: emissions generated by the combustion of fuel in buildings, manufacturing industries, construction processes and power plants.

Energy Generation: a median national average is used as these emissions can be skewed towards authorities with very high emissions from energy generation (e.g. those with offshore oil and gas).

Transportation: emissions produced by the combustion of fuel or use of electricity during journeys travelled by road, rail, air or water for inter-city and international travel.

Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use: emissions through methane created by livestock, nutrient management for agricultural purposes, and land use change altering soil compositions.

Industrial Processes: Industrial processes used to physically or chemically transform materials produce greenhouse gas emissions. Also, industries use products that release greenhouse gas emissions throughout its use.

Waste: Disposal and treatment of solid waste and wastewater produces greenhouse gas emissions through incineration, aerobic and anaerobic decomposition

¹¹ SCATTER Cities emissions calculation [methodology](#) in line with the Global Covenant of Mayors’ Common Reporting Framework and Green House Gas (GHG) protocol.

Copeland Carbon Budget

The Tyndall Centre has produced reports setting out science-based carbon budgets for each local authority area based on translating the “well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C” global temperature target¹² and equity principles in the United Nations Paris Agreement into a national UK carbon budget. This national budget is then broken down between sub-national areas using different allocation regimes as follows:

- The report provides Copeland with budgets for carbon dioxide (CO₂) only emissions and from the energy system for 2020 to 2100, based on Copeland’s proportional contribution to UK-wide emissions during the period 2011-2016;
- Aviation and shipping emissions remain within the national UK carbon budget and are not scaled down to sub-national budgets;
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) and non-CO₂ emissions are considered separately.

The Tyndall Centre report¹³ makes three key recommendations for Copeland:

1. **Stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 3.1 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2018 to 2100.** At 2017 CO₂ emission levels, Copeland would use this entire budget within 7 years from 2020.
2. **Initiate an immediate programme of CO₂ mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging a minimum of -12.4% per year** to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget. These annual reductions in emissions require national and local action, and could be part of a wider collaboration with other local authorities.
3. **Reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2043.** This report provides an indicative CO₂ reduction pathway that stays within the recommended maximum carbon budget of 3.1MtCO₂. In 2043, 5% of the budget remains. Earlier years for reaching zero CO₂ emissions are also within the recommended budget, provided that interim budgets with lower cumulative CO₂ emissions are also adopted.

This translates into the following 5-yearly carbon budgets:

Year	Recommended Carbon Budget	Reduction in Emissions versus 2015*
2018-2022	1.5 Megatonnes (MT) CO ₂	27.8%
2023-2027	0.8 Mt CO ₂	62.6%
2028-2032	0.4 Mt CO ₂	80.7%
2033-2037	0.2 Mt CO ₂	90.0%
2038-2042	0.1 Mt CO ₂	94.8%
2043-2047	0.1 Mt CO ₂	97.3%
2048-2100	0.1 Mt CO ₂	98.6%

*2015 is the Paris Agreement Reference Year.

¹² IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C ([IPCC SR1.5](#))

¹³ Tyndall Centre [Report E07000029](#)

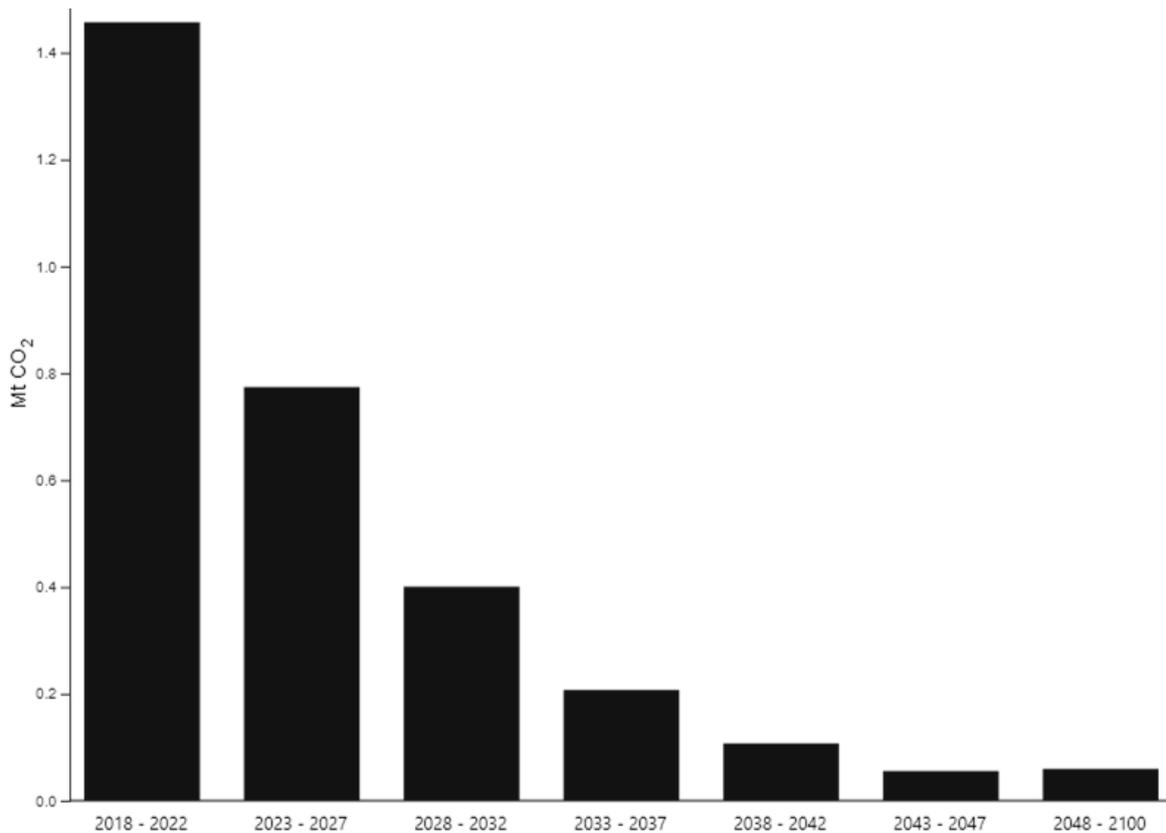


Figure 1 - Cumulative CO2 emissions for budget period (based on Table 1) from 2018 to 2100 for Copeland

As can be seen, rapid and transformational change is required to stay within the recommended carbon budgets for Copeland. To meet the budget for 2018-22, annual emissions in Copeland in 2022 would need to be less than 0.23MtCO2. In order to meet the 12.4% year on year reduction in CO2 emissions and stay within Copeland’s carbon budget, **the CO2 reduction target for Copeland by the end of 2023 versus 2018 is 48.4%.**

In summary, the acceptable net zero carbon pathways for Copeland are:

UK Net Zero target:	Net Zero emissions by 2050
Tyndall Centre pathway:	95% reduction CO2 only by 2043
Zero Carbon Cumbria target:	Net Zero emission by 2037

We adopt the Tyndall Centre target, but with an ambition to support the Zero Carbon Cumbria recommended target of net zero emissions by 2037.

The Council will work to ensure that our ambition to make Copeland carbon negative in future is built into the climate strategies of the future Cumberland Unitary Authority.

Organisational Carbon Baseline

A carbon baseline for the pre-COVID year 2019/20 has been calculated using the Carbon Accounting Tool produced by Local Partnerships/Local Government Association to help local authorities establish their baseline greenhouse gas emissions. The tool follows the Greenhouse Gas Protocol methodology, accounting for the seven greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol, expressed as carbon-dioxide equivalent (CO2e).

The baseline considers 3 categories of emissions::

- **Scope 1:** direct emissions, e.g. from burning fuels for heating, fleet fuel;
- **Scope 2:** energy indirect emissions – emissions from energy purchased from a supplier (i.e. not generated on-site);
- **Scope 3:** other indirect - Emissions from processes or transport not owned by the organisation (such as business travel by public transport, emissions linked to waste disposal).

There is also a consideration of which “control boundary” to use when reporting emissions:

- **Financial Control Boundary:** The authority reports on all sources of carbon emissions over which it has financial control. The authority has financial control over a service if it has the ability to direct the financial and operating policies of the service with a view to financially managing its activities, which might include outsourced contracts for e.g. leisure facilities.
- **Operational Control Boundary:** The authority reports on all sources of carbon emissions over which it has direct operational control. The authority has operational control over a service if it has full authority to introduce and implement its operating policies.

The baseline has been calculated using the Financial Control Boundary.

The Council’s total carbon emissions for the year 2019/20 were:

- **Financial Control:** 1,339tonnes CO2e including outsourced Scope 3 emissions
- **Operational Control:** 716tonnes CO2e excluding outsourced Scope 3 emissions

This means that, in 2019/20, 45% of the Council’s carbon emissions were associated with outsourced services (i.e. procurement).

The table below shows a summary of overall emissions:

Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions (tCO2e)	Percentage of Total Emissions	Percentage Per Scope
Scope 1	Heating	219.82	15.8%	34.4%
	Fugitive Emissions	0.00	0.0%	
	Authority's Fleet	258.36	18.6%	
Scope 2	Electricity	205.25	14.8%	14.8%
Scope 3	Staff Business Travel	40.28	2.9%	5.9%
	Outsourced Fleet	0.00	0.0%	
	Transmission & Distribution Losses	17.45	1.3%	
	Water	10.40	0.7%	
	Material Use	12.43	0.9%	
	Waste generated from own operations	0.70	0.1%	
	Outsourced Scope 3	623.90	44.9%	
Total emissions		1,339	100%	100%

NOTE: These figures have not been verified by an independent third party.

We expect that a more in-depth supply chain analysis would reveal that the council's scope 3 emissions to be significantly greater than this basic estimate.

In 2019/20, the council's paper usage resulted in the equivalent of 222 trees being cut down.

Emissions Reduction Targets – Copeland Council

The Council's emissions represent a very low proportion of all emissions in Copeland. Nevertheless, we must reduce our own footprint while encouraging others who live, work and visit in Copeland to do the same.

We will aim to reduce our operational emissions by 10% year on year, which will enable us to reach **Net Zero operational emissions by 2031/32.**

The priority areas for emissions reduction action are:

1. Procurement (44.9%)
2. Electricity and gas usage across our estate (30.6%)
3. The Council's fleet fuel usage (18.6%)

Due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the council's focus during FY 2020/21 and 2021/22 was on emergency response, recovery and sustaining service delivery. This has undoubtedly had an impact on our ability to act on climate change during this period. Emissions data during these years would also be unrepresentative of "typical" annual emissions, therefore 2019/20 was selected as the baseline pre-COVID year.

Emissions data will be collected for FY2022/23 using the LGA Carbon Accounting Tool and used to monitor emission reduction progress against the 2019/20 baseline and to update the organisational emissions reduction target for the following year.

Strategic Sustainability Priorities

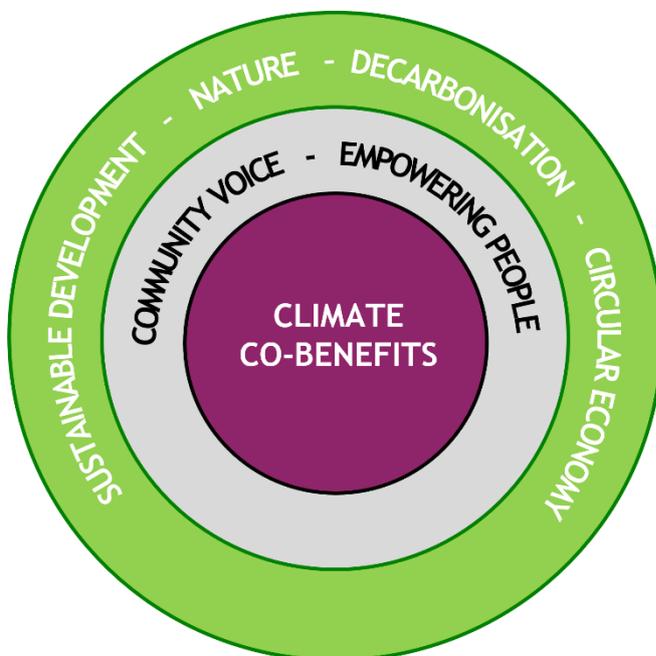
This Sustainability Strategy & Climate Action Plan is aligned to the doughnut economics¹⁴ and community wealth building¹⁵ principles of the Copeland Vision 2040. In relation to the Nature and Climate Crises, the Bruntland definition¹⁶ of sustainability is not enough, because we have to regenerate in order to avoid imposing unfair risks and costs on future generations.

Our strategic sustainability priorities are:

1. **Decarbonisation:** We must urgently move to a post-carbon economy
2. **Circular Economy:** We must urgently reduce dependence on linear usage of energy and resources
3. **Nature:** We will establish regenerative systems that restore life
4. **Sustainable Development:** We will ensure that physical development is aligned to this sustainability strategy
5. **Community:** We will empower communities and influence action by partners
6. **Co-benefits:** We will focus on inclusive climate co-benefits for our people and communities (see below)

We will hold ourselves and others to account against these priorities.

Focus on Climate Co-Benefits: This Sustainability Strategy identifies areas of co-benefit that can be achieved by taking action to adapt to and mitigate the future effects of climate change. The focus here is to consider a more socially and environmentally purposeful approach to economic growth, in a way that generates positive, inclusive outcomes for people and place now and for the future.



¹⁴ More information here: [About Doughnut Economics | DEAL](#)

¹⁵ More information here: [What is Community Wealth Building? | CLES](#)

¹⁶ Bruntland Commission Report 1987: [Brundtland Report - an overview | ScienceDirect Topics](#)

These benefits might be in areas such as:

- Health and wellbeing
- Affordable living and reduced financial inequalities
- Access to green spaces
- Improved connectivity between people and communities with access to low carbon and active travel
- Increased opportunity for local, ethical businesses and supply chains
- Building capability, capacity and resilience within the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector
- Green jobs and skills and inclusive education and employment opportunities in the low carbon economy

These sustainability priorities are aligned with the socio-economic strategies of our anchor institutions, including the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Local Social and Economic Impact Strategy¹⁷ and Sellafield Ltd's Social Impact strategy¹⁸, as well as the National TOMs (Themes, Outcomes, Measures) social value framework¹⁹.

¹⁷ Nuclear Decommissioning Authority [Local Social and Economic Impact Strategy](#)

¹⁸ Sellafield Ltd [Social Impact Strategy](#)

¹⁹ Social Value Portal: [What is TOMs?](#)

Making Copeland a Sustainable Place

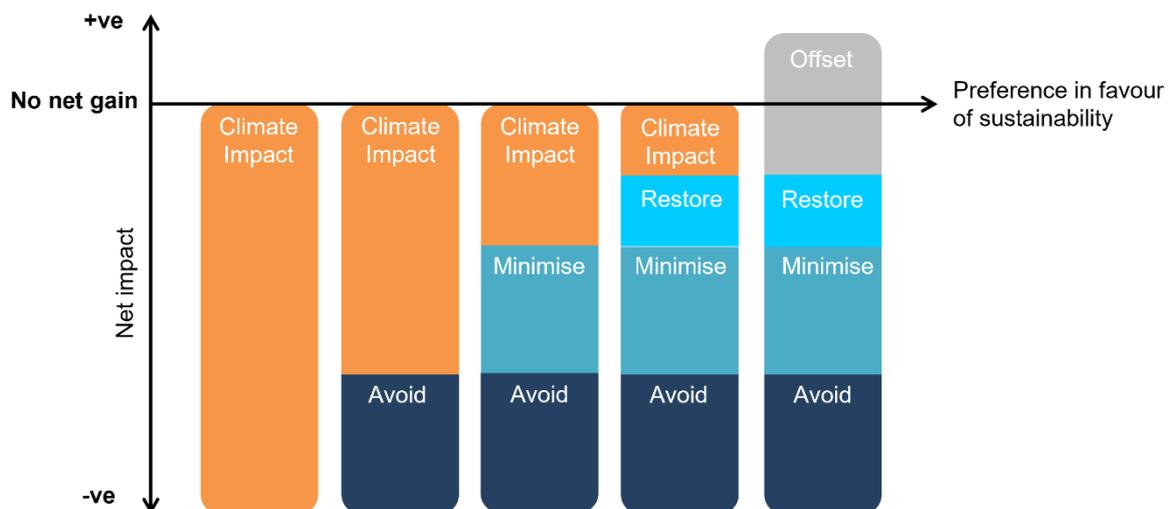
The following sections set out the strategies to be implemented in Copeland to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation: Climate mitigation strategies are those that avoid and reduce emissions that contribute to climate change, such as:

- Restoring natural environment and increasing biodiversity
- Reducing consumption and waste
- Sustainable planning and land use
- Decarbonising transport
- Decarbonising buildings, housing and infrastructure incl. construction
- Decarbonising business and industry
- Decarbonising energy generation
- Decarbonising heating
- Decarbonising fuels
- Decarbonising food and agriculture

These actions should be applied using a mitigation hierarchy, as follows:



As can be seen, the priority is to achieve net gain, with offsetting as a last resort.

Adaptation Strategies

Adaptation: Climate adaptation strategies aim to adjust to current or expected climate change and its effects, in areas such as:

- Helping residents and businesses to prepare for extreme weather
- Sustainable planning and land use
- Transport and infrastructure resilience
- Buildings and housing

- Business and industry
- Energy generation
- Natural environment and biodiversity
- Agriculture and food production

The table below identifies the key Mitigation and Adaptation interventions in Copeland over the next five years. This list is a snapshot at the time of writing and will grow and change over time.

Key Adaptation and Mitigation Interventions for Copeland – next 5 years

Project/Intervention	Lead	Copeland Council Lead	Description	Strategic Priorities					Co-benefits						
				Decarbonisation	Nature	Circular Economy	Sust. Development	Community	Health & Wellbeing	Green Space	Local Bus. & SMEs	Connectivity	Community Resilience	Green Jobs/Skills	
Cumbria Clean Energy Plan	Cumbria LEP Clean Energy Sector Panel	Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability	The county-wide plan for development of clean energy infrastructure including nuclear + renewables.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cumbria Hydrogen Vision	Cumbria LEP Clean Energy Sector Panel	Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability	A county-wide vision and pathway to generation of low carbon hydrogen at scale in Cumbria.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cumbria Nuclear Prospectus	Cumbria LEP Clean Energy Sector Panel	Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability	A county-wide vision for “Energising the Energy Coast”, centred around the development of a multi-technology Clean Energy Hub.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cumbria Coastal Community Forest	Cumbria County Council	Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability	Development of a Community Forest Partnership and Plan, planting 150 hectares of woodland in West Cumbria over 5 years.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan	Cumbria County Council/Cumbria LEP	Planning	Policy framework for transport and connectivity in supporting sustainable and inclusive growth in Cumbria for 2022–2037	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cumbria Coastal Strategy	Cumbria County Council	Environmental Health	A joint plan to mitigate impact to properties and infrastructure at risk of rising sea levels, coastal erosion and/or flooding	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Copeland Local Plan	Copeland Council	Strategic Planning	Copeland’s Development Strategies and Planning Policies which guide planning decisions on sustainable development.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Copeland Trees and Woodland Strategy	Copeland Council	Parks and Open Spaces	This strategy includes the “3/30/300” rule and replacement of every tree removed with 3 new trees planted	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Copeland reuse-recycle-repair project	Copeland Council	Social Inclusion/ WELL Whitehaven	Development of a project(s) to avoid waste to landfill, upskill members of the community and address financial vulnerability.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Carbon Net Zero project	Nuclear Decom. Authority	Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability	A series of projects to reduce emissions associated with the Sellafield and LLWR sites.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Green Homes Grant Phases and Homes Upgrade Grants	District Councils	Strategic Housing	Circa £4m grant funding available to homeowners to install energy efficiency upgrades and energy saving measures.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cumbria Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans	Cumbria County Council	Strategic Planning	To enhance cycling infrastructure as part of a wider integrated, accessible, active, low carbon travel network.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Renewable Energy and community ownership schemes	TBC	Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability	Support for renewable energy generation projects and community ownership of energy generation assets in Copeland/West Cumbria.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Supporting Heat Network development	TBC	Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability	Support for the development of heat network projects in Copeland/West Cumbria.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Green Jobs and Skills	TBC	Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability	Development of a coordinated approach to the development of green jobs and skills in West Cumbria.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Adaptation action plan	Copeland Council	Nuclear, Energy & Sustainability	Develop and publish a detailed Copeland Climate Adaptation Plan using the LGA Adaptation Toolkit.	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Indicative Contribution: ● Negative ● Neutral ● Positive ● Medium Positive ● Strong Positive

Partnerships – Maximising our Impact

Our ability to influence change is maximised via our involvement in a number of partnerships, including:

Cumbria Green Investment Plan and Green Finance Hub

The Cumbria Green Investment Plan²⁰ follows on from the Potential for Green Jobs report²¹ by Cumbria action for Sustainability (March 2021) and focuses on green investments. The Green Finance Hub is offering support to local stakeholders including local authorities to identify relevant decarbonising projects and nature-based solutions for Cumbria, and to develop investable projects that can attract green finance to Cumbria.

This initiative aims to:

- **Build capacity:** conducting research and acting as a knowledge hub on sustainable finance and community investing and will help direct local businesses to available funding;
- **Accelerate projects:** The GFH will support green projects by helping their business models to become investable through a green finance accelerator process.
- **Act as a conduit:** Create opportunities to connect new investable/bankable projects with suitable providers of debt and equity finance and ultimately bring more funding into the region
- As well as engaging with stakeholders and building partnerships and collaboration.

Cumbria Coastal Community Forest Partnership

Woodland cover in Cumbria is below the national average, and there are multiple benefits for people and nature associated with increasing tree cover. The Community Forest Partnership will work to establish a Community Forest Plan with the aim of “making the coastal communities of Cumbria a better place to live and work”. This will involve planting up to 150 hectares of trees in Allerdale, Barrow and Copeland over the next five years and managing the network of woodlands in the longer term.

By joining the England’s Community Forests²² networks, Cumbria is part of the largest environmental regeneration initiative in England

The partnership’s work is supported by the Community Forest Trust which is delivering the Trees for Climate programme, part of Defra's Nature for Climate Fund.

Cumbria LEP Clean Energy Sector Panel

The council is a member of this subgroup of the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, which oversees a strategy and plan for clean energy development in Cumbria with the dual aims of (1) facilitating the transition to a Net Zero economy and (2) creating green jobs and economic growth in Cumbria.

²⁰ Cumbria Green Investment Plan: [Investing in Net Zero](#)

²¹ Report: [The Potential for Green Jobs in Cumbria](#)

²² Community Forest Trust: [England’s Community Forests](#)

Lake District National Park Partnership

Made up of 25 members from public, private, community and voluntary sectors, the LDNPP²³ has set a vision for the Lake District to be “an inspirational example of sustainable development in action”, representing a collective commitment to work together in the best interest of the National Park, its environment, communities, economy and visitors.

The council is a member of the Climate Change subgroup, which has two aims, to:

1. Support the Partnership in leading climate change and carbon reduction management in the Lake District
2. Advise the Partnership on activity and progress using the carbon budget and the annual climate change action plan.

Local Nature Recovery Networks

In August 2020 the government announced that Cumbria will be one of five pilot areas trialling the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

The purpose of the LNRS is to restore and link up habitats so that species can thrive, and agree the best places to help nature recover, plant trees and woodland, restore peatland, mitigate flood and fire risk, and create green spaces for local people to enjoy.

Following a series of stakeholder engagement events, the draft LNRS was submitted to Defra in May 2021 when the Pilot schemes came to an end. Learning from all 5 Pilots will be used to inform the final legislation and guidance that will be issued when production of a LNRS becomes a statutory requirement for all local authorities in England.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cumbria and supporting documentation is available on the Cumbria County Council website²⁴.

One Public Estate programme

One Public Estate is a Cabinet Office initiative in partnership with the Local Government Association, which brings together public sector organisations to make the best use of public land and property. The council is an active member of the One Public Estate Cumbria Partnership, and is involved in a number of the workstreams including economic growth, housing, and health & communities.

The council is contributing to the development of a county-wide approach to delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure by the Cumbria Partnership.

²³ More information here: [Lake District National Park Partnership](#)

²⁴ Cumbria County Council: [Cumbria Local Nature Recovery – Pilot Scheme](#)

Town and Parish Councils

Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)²⁵ is a not for profit membership organisation, representing, training and advising the parish (including town) councils of Cumbria, who form the grass roots tier of local government in England.

Copeland Council works closely with Copeland CALC members, and the support of town and parish councils is critical to the success of this strategy & plan.

Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP)

The ZCCP²⁶ brings together 80 organisations spanning the public, private and third sectors, with the aim of cutting greenhouse gas emissions via a cross-cutting, sector-led approach. The council is involved in the main partnership and in a number of subgroups including housing and energy.

The ZCCP oversees a five-year programme of community activity to help people across Cumbria to reduce their carbon footprint, particularly from food, waste and the goods we buy. This programme is made possible by a £2.5 million grant from the National Lottery Climate Action Fund, which the council helped to secure.

²⁵ More information here: [Cumbria Association of Local Councils](#)

²⁶ Cumbria Action for Sustainability: [Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership](#)

Sustainable Development

One of the most powerful ways that the council can ensure sustainable development in Copeland is through our Local Plan and Planning Policies. The National Planning Policy Framework states that the planning system should be plan-led, and that plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area and a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities.

Climate and ecological considerations are built into the Council's new Local Plan for 2021-2038²⁷, which will include a number of development policies that ensure that sustainable development in the borough will address climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity net gain:

- Strategic Policy DS1PU: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development
- Strategic Policy DS2PU: Reducing the impacts of development on Climate Change
- Policy DS11PU: Protecting Air Quality
- Policy CC1PU: Large Scale Energy Developments (excluding nuclear and wind energy developments)
- Policy CC2PU: Wind Energy Developments
- Strategic Policy NU1PU: Supporting Development of the Nuclear Sector
- Strategic Policy NU2PU: Maximising opportunities from Nuclear Decommissioning
- Strategic Policy NU3PU: General Nuclear Energy and associated Development Infrastructure
- Policy NU4PU: Nuclear Development at Sellafield
- Policy NU5PU: Nuclear Demolition
- Strategic Policy N1PU: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Strategic Policy N2PU: Local Nature Recovery Networks
- Strategic Policy N3PU: Biodiversity Net Gain
- Strategic Policy N4PU: Marine Planning
- Policy N5PU: Protection of Water Resources
- Strategic Policy N6PU: Landscape Protection
- Strategic Policy N7PU: St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast
- Strategic Policy N8PU: The Undeveloped Coast
- Strategic Policy N9PU: Green Infrastructure
- Strategic Policy N10PU: Green Wedges
- Strategic Policy N11PU: Protected Green Spaces
- Strategic Policy N12PU: Local Green Spaces
- Policy N13PU: Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows
- Policy N14PU: Community Growing Spaces
- Strategic Policy CO4PU: Sustainable Travel
- Policy CO5PU: Transport Hierarchy
- Policy CO7PU: Parking Standards and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

²⁷ To be published 2022

Copeland People’s Panel on Climate Change

The Copeland People’s Panel on Climate Change took place between July and September 2021, commissioned by Copeland Borough Council with the support of Cumbria Action for Sustainability, the Zero Carbon Cumbria Programme²⁸ and Shared Future CIC²⁹. This was a citizens’ jury to guide the council and partner organisations on:

“What action should we take in our homes, businesses and local area to respond to climate change?”



A citizens’ jury consists of members of the public that come together to deliberate and make recommendations on a particular issue, in this case climate change.

30 Copeland residents were selected to join the people’s panel, ensuring that they reflected the diversity of the local population, both in terms of demographic make-up, geography and opinions on climate change. Information about the selection and recruitment process is available online³⁰.

The panel met 10 times, and during the process, members heard presentations from a range of expert commentators on climate change and associated issues. Panel members were able to ask questions of those commentators and share their own views and opinions with each other, before making recommendations for actions that can address the climate emergency.

The project was overseen by a panel of a group of local stakeholders from a range of sectors who recognise their responsibility in addressing climate change:

²⁸ More information here: [Zero Carbon Cumbria Programme](#)

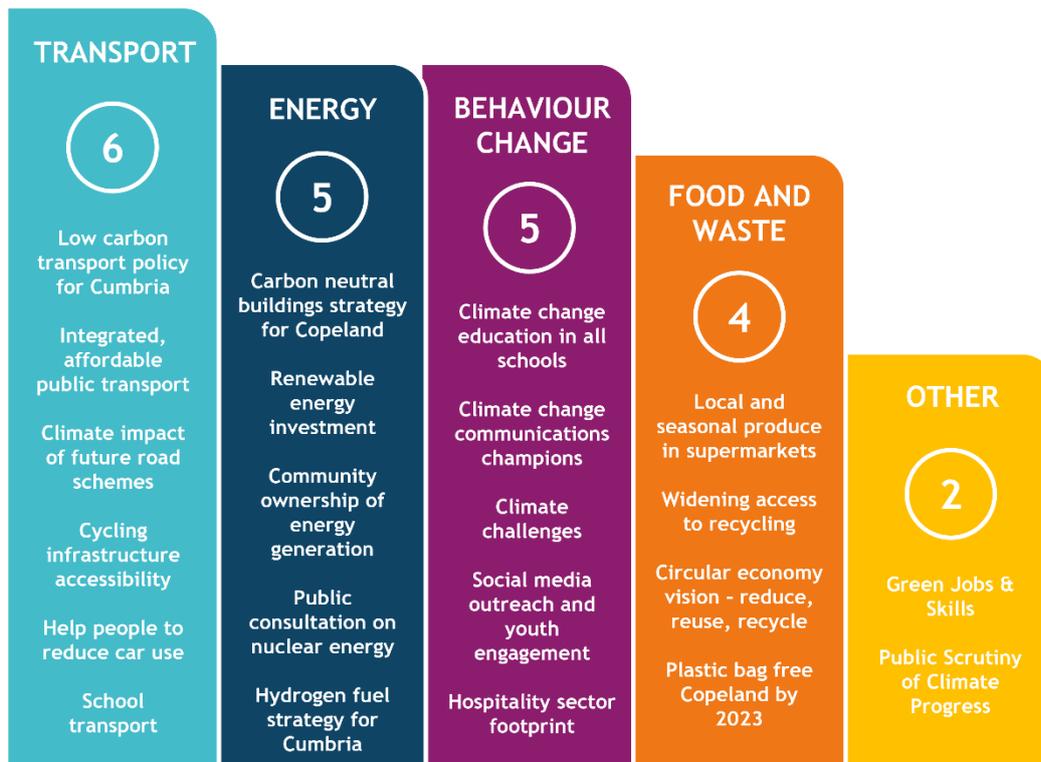
²⁹ More information here: [Shared Future CIC | Empowering, Sustaining, Innovating](#)

³⁰ More information here: [People’s Panel Recruitment process](#)

- ACT Cumbria Action in Communities
- Britain’s Energy Coast Business Cluster
- Copeland Borough Council
- Copeland ReBoot
- Copeland CALC representing town and parish councils
- Copeland Tourism Development Programme
- Cumbria Action for Sustainability
- Cumbria County Council local committee
- Home Group
- NHS North Cumbria
- Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
- Stagecoach
- University of Cumbria Institute for Sustainable Leadership
- West Cumbria and North Lakes Friends of the Earth
- Whitehaven Academy
- Woodland Trust

The Copeland People’s Panel on Climate Change reported its findings in October 2021 and made 22 recommendations.

The recommendations are summarised below. The full recommendations report is available on the Shared Future CIC website³¹.



These recommendations are insightful, inspiring and challenging, and will require action by a broad group of stakeholders.

³¹ Full recommendations report available here: [Copeland People’s Panel Recommendations Report](#)

Implementing the People’s Panel Recommendations

Copeland Council has a leading role in delivering five of the People’s Panel’s Recommendations – we set out below how we intend to respond to each:

Recommendation 1 – Green Jobs: *Copeland should become a centre for excellence for green jobs, skills, and training for both our young people and adults ... We would suggest a sustainable energy training hub (building on and linking with existing local academic and technical institutions) and a commitment to promoting the concept of green jobs both to local businesses, investors, and our population (including through green jobs work experience programmes in secondary schools).*

Response: Cumbria Action for Sustainability has published a paper that identifies significant potential for green job creation in West Cumbria³², and the Local Government Association has also produced a report and interactive tool that enables the number and sectoral breakdown of jobs per local authority area to be viewed³³. The Council is working with partners across Cumbria, including the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership Education and Training Sector and Housing Sector subgroups, to implement this recommendation. The creation of green jobs and development of green skills for our sustainable economy is a key priority for the Council and is at the heart of the Copeland Vision 2040 and the council’s Corporate Strategy 2020-24.

The mission of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is the safe, secure and sustainable environmental remediation of the UK’s earliest nuclear sites, with care for people and the environment. As the main employer locally, the NDA will continue to employ a significant number of people in green jobs for many generations.

Recommendation 2 - Scrutiny: *Copeland needs a robust plan that responds directly to our recommendations. This plan must include measurable targets and be well publicised. Progress on the implementation of the plan should be independently verifiable through regular scheduled meetings of the People’s Panel plus members of the young people’s consultation conducted during this process. There should also be opportunities for the wider public to attend public meetings both in the North and the South of Copeland to scrutinise and call to account those taking the recommendations forward. Both our recommendations and the scrutiny meetings should be published in local media and available prominently on the council’s website. This accountability must be embedded in local government regardless of what happens with the forthcoming local government reorganisation.*

Response: the members of the Copeland Climate Monitoring Group (a new community climate action group formed by 15 members of the People’s Panel) are invited to perform a public scrutiny role – holding the council to account for delivery of this Climate Action Plan, and reporting on progress into the council’s Executive Committee via the cross-party Climate Steering Group and Scrutiny Committee. The transparency and accountability actions identified on page 30 will help to address some of the more detailed points on enabling wider public visibility of progress.

³² Cumbria Action for Sustainability: [The Potential for Green Jobs in Cumbria](#)

³³ Local Government Association: [Local Green Jobs - Copeland](#)

We continue to work with the Oversight Panel members to prompt those organisations to take responsibility for development of a robust implementation plan that addresses the People's Panel's recommendations in full.

We are committed to communicating the importance of the Copeland People's Panel recommendations to the new Cumberland Unitary Authority, and while Copeland Council will not exist beyond May 2023, the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership will continue to advise the new council and ensure that the People's Panel's voice continues to be heard.

Recommendation 13 - Recycling: *Recycling needs to become mandatory in residential, commercial, and public spaces/premises. To do this, the local councils must work with the public and private sector businesses, (e.g., hospitality) and institutions e.g., schools, to provide affordable, or free recycling solutions - at kerbside or through collection to be sorted centrally. This would again create opportunities for jobs. We want opportunities for on street recycling to create greener/cleaner spaces. Businesses need to be encouraged to give away food and anything else that can go to waste-use apps like Karma.*

Response: moving to a more circular economy is one of our strategic priorities and the council is exploring options to widen access to public realm and trade waste recycling services. Even if recycling services are made available "for free" to the users, there is a cost associated with delivery of these services, so these proposals are subject to value for money.

Recommendation 14 – Circular Economy: *Reduce- Reuse- Recycle should be the vision for Copeland- we need to encourage a circular economy by:*

a) Setting up repair/recycling hubs. This will both encourage less consumerism and create jobs (and training opportunities) e.g., bike repairs, IT repairs, clothing repairs.

b) Promoting and supporting swap shops for those things that are no longer wanted, so encouraging re-purposing and reusing.

c) Sharing messages about reducing consumption so educating the public to repair and buy less.

d) Establish 'take it or leave it' places at waste management sites (tips) building on successful examples in other countries (e.g., Massachusetts).

Response: this recommendation will be addressed by a number of other actions identified in this plan, including the proposal to develop a Copeland reuse-recycle-repair project (page 20) and the climate communications and engagement strategy that will accompany this plan.

The Environment Act 2021³⁴ brought in a number of measures that will help to address Recommendations 13 and 14, including:

- Extended producer responsibility for packaging, encouraging producers to create more sustainable packaging and packaged goods

³⁴ More information available here: [UK Environment Act 2021](#)

- Making it easier for households to recycle and consulting on a deposit returns scheme for drinks containers
- Stopping the export of polluting plastics to foreign countries

Recommendation 19 – Nuclear Consultation: *We recommend that there is a public consultation process (youth groups, schools, and representative communities, businesses etc., including a number of dedicated sessions for members of the Peoples’ Panel) delivered by impartial parties to give information about the energy and carbon potentials of nuclear power; safety considerations; how it compares to other renewable sources of energy. This would inform whether there was public support (e.g. for a new small modular reactor).*

Response: this is something that the council will consider through it’s Strategic Nuclear & Energy Board, which advises the Executive Committee on nuclear matters.

Consultation is of course part of the process for any nationally significant infrastructure project and the council would support prospective developers of new nuclear projects to effectively engage and consult with communities in relation to specific projects as and when they come forward.

The other recommendations where the Council has a clear supporting role are:

- Recommendation 3: Integrated transport policy for Cumbria
- Recommendation 4: Carbon neutral properties by 2037
- Recommendation 5: Renewable energy plan
- Recommendation 7: Community ownership schemes
- Recommendation 8: Public transport system
- Recommendation 10: Climate education in schools
- Recommendation 18: Enabling cycling
- Recommendation 22: Cumbria hydrogen strategy

A number of the other Recommendations relate to communications, engagement and influencing, so we will work with partners including the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership/Programme and the Copeland Climate Monitoring Group to develop a coordinated communications and engagement approach for the People’s Panel recommendations.

Many of the recommendations are not the sole responsibility of Copeland Council or are beyond the power, authority or influence of the council. We will prompt the responsible organisations to respond to these recommendations and play our role in supporting any associated actions as appropriate. A number of the recommendations will be supported via the adaptation and mitigation interventions identified on page 20, especially those relating to renewable energy generation and an integrated low carbon transport system for Cumbria.

Climate Action Plan 2022/23 – Copeland Council

The table below presents the actions that Copeland Council will take in 2022/23 to reduce organisational emissions and continue to embed sustainability into our governance, leadership and the way we work:

	Action	Scope 1/2/3	In-year Emissions Reduction Target (Versus 2019/20 baseline)	Other Measures	Timeframe	Cost £-£££££
Procurement Lead: Director of Corporate Services and Commercial Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement Social Value guidance for staff in commercial roles 2. Evaluate climate/environmental impact of goods and services within 10% weighting allocated to Social Value in tender evaluations 3. Undertake in-depth supply chain emissions analysis 	Scope 3	10% reduction from Outsourced Scope 3 (62.4tCO2e or 4.5% of total emissions)	Wider social value measures detailed in guidance document	April 2023	£
Estate Lead: Property & Estates Manager	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Switch to a green energy tariff 5. Continue to reduce electricity usage through efficiency measures and behaviour change 6. Phased implementation of energy efficiency upgrades as part of ongoing maintenance programme 	Scope 1 Scope 2	10% reduction in electricity usage (20.5tCO2e or 1.5% of total emissions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ % of lighting converted to LED ➤ Building efficiency improvements 	April 2023	£££
Fleet Lead: Community Services Manager	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Trial biodiesel replacement for diesel fuel 8. Switch 5 diesel vehicles to electric 9. Install electric vehicle charging infrastructure at waste depot 	Scope 1	10% reduction in fleet emissions (25.8tCO2e or 1.9% of total emissions)	None	April 2023	£££
Operations Lead: Corporate Leadership Team, Heads of Service, Managers, Team Leaders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Continue to implement flexible, remote and agile working arrangements to minimise staff travel where possible 11. 50% reduction in paper usage 12. Implement continuous improvements to minimise resource usage and waste generated from operations 	Scope 1 Scope 2	40% reduction in staff travel (16tCO2e or 1.2% of total emissions) <1% reduction associated with lower water and materials usage and waste generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Volume of water usage ➤ Volume of paper usage/equivalent number of trees ➤ Volume of waste generation 	April 2023	££
Training & Development Lead: HR Manager	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Continue to offer climate literacy training to staff and members 14. Offer optional advanced/in-depth climate training 15. Cover sustainability in corporate induction for new staff 16. Continue to address climate/sustainability in recruitment processes and Aim High performance framework 	N/A	None	Number/% of staff and councillors completed climate literacy and further training	Ongoing	££
Decision-making Lead: Head of Corporate Governance & Legal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Continue to provide support to ensure effective climate and environmental impact reporting and climate-informed decision-making in line with this strategy 	N/A	None	Number/% of Full Council/Executive decisions that take climate/ecological impact into account	Ongoing	£
Transparency Lead: Head of Sustainability/ Communications Manager	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Publish 2022/23 sustainability report covering climate, environmental and social value performance 19. Develop and maintain Sustainability area of Council website including a public feedback mechanism 20. Develop and implement sustainability communications plan 	N/A	None	None	April 2023	£
Accountability Lead: Portfolio Holder for Environment, Place & Inclusive Communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Establish scrutiny role for Copeland Climate Monitoring Group (see page 27) 	N/A	None	None	End Q1 2022/23	£
Policy Lead: Portfolio Holder for Environment, Place & Inclusive Communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22. Make a Nature and Climate Declaration 23. Recognise “future generations” as a protected characteristic 24. Lobby the Local Government Pension Scheme to reduce exposure to climate risk and carbon asset risk 	N/A	None	Financial and % of LGPS invested directly and indirectly in fossil fuels	April 2023	£

Total target: 125tCO2e or 9%

Implementation

Governance Arrangements

The council is already committed to considering the climate and environmental impact in all decision-making. This Sustainability Strategy provides a more comprehensive framework by which to do so.

The council's cross-party Climate Steering Group will continue to oversee the implementation of the council's Climate Action Plan, reporting into the council's Executive Committee via Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to Full Council via Executive Portfolio Holder reports.

Monitoring

The actions and targets in the Climate Action Plan will be monitored and reported to the Climate Steering Group by the Head of Sustainability.

Training

Following the high levels of uptake of basic climate literacy training by staff and members of the council during 2021/22, more in-depth training will be offered during 2022/23.

Funding Approach

A number of the actions identified in this plan are built into the core budget projections for council services for 2022/23, and others will require external or grant funding, some of which has already been secured (e.g. Green Homes Grant).

There are no plans to implement transformational changes to financial systems to facilitate climate-focussed budgeting (e.g. participatory budgeting). Due to the timescales required to implement such changes, these are now considerations for the Cumbria Local Government Reorganisation programme and future unitary councils for Cumbria.

Communication

This Strategy & Plan will be supported by a clear communications strategy, which makes information about the plan accessible to businesses and the public.

A concise, visual summary version of this document will also be made available on the Council's website.

Equality Impact Assessment

We recognise that the impacts of climate change are not felt equitably by all people, either globally or locally.

The 2021 Health in Coastal Communities report found that many coastal communities such as Copeland are remarkable and beautiful places but have some of the worst health and wellbeing outcomes in England. This is due to a number of factors, many of which are apparent in Copeland. Several risk factors which are important drivers of health outcomes have a strong correlation with deprivation.

In Copeland, while we have access to some of the most beautiful natural environments in the world with good air quality and access to green space, 14% of households experience fuel poverty, 14% of children live in low-income families, and many wards are in the lower deciles of indices of multiple deprivation nationally. Where people live, the extent to which they are affected by environmental factors and their health outcomes are inextricably linked. Socio-economic circumstances and health inequalities can also limit agency to make the behavioural changes required to respond to climate change.

This presents a challenge – continuing to protect public health and meet the urgent needs of our most vulnerable residents, while responding to climate change with limited resources. Yet, we know that climate action can deliver co-benefits for Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion, Job Creation and the environment, so our focus must be on “win-win” interventions. **An equitable transition to a low carbon economy is a priority for Copeland.**

All policies and projects resulting from the actions identified in this Plan are subject to the Council’s Equality Impact Assessment, which takes into account the following in line with the Equality Act 2010:

- Intergenerational/age inequalities
- Socio-economic inequalities
- Gender and sexuality
- Disability
- Marginalised communities/protected characteristics
- Race inequalities
- Religious inequalities

The Council’s Social Inclusion Board will offer oversight of any projects under this Strategy to ensure that, where possible, the impact on our vulnerable residents is minimised and appropriate support is in place. It will also ensure that opportunities around the co-benefits for health, wellbeing and inclusion are maximised and delivered through established and emerging partnerships. Projects that have an impact on social inclusion will be included in the Social Inclusion Action Plan, which is monitored quarterly.

This Climate Action Plan can contribute to an equitable future for all people in Copeland, making Copeland ***a Sustainable Place with Thriving Communities.***