

Emerging Decision – Briefing for SLT, Cabinet Members and Climate Change Review Panel

Subject: Appendix 1 - Working towards a Carbon Neutral Community and Council – A proposed approach for 2021-22

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Creating a carbon neutral (CN) Council Programme

This appendix provides some illustrative examples of what Torbay Council could develop in 2021-2022 as part of the work to create a CN Council.

1. Corporate Policy

An example of a corporate policy relating to tackling climate change is attached below. Torbay Council will need to develop its own relevant policy and provide a clear definition of what it means to be a CN council with a set of principles all staff can understand and use.

Principles

To enable clean growth across our organisation, the Combined Authority will:



1. Reduce energy and carbon emissions

We will minimise energy use and reduce carbon dioxide emissions arising from the Combined Authority's estate through the introduction of energy efficient measures, renewable and clean energy generation (where possible) and staff behavioural initiatives.



2. Minimise waste and water consumption

We will minimise operational waste that arises across the Combined Authority's estate through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and staff behavioural change initiatives.



3. Tackle air quality and improve health

We will improve local air quality and cut harmful pollutants and carbon emissions by supporting healthier and more sustainable modes of business travel and by influencing low emission transport across the region



4. Use sustainable resources

We will reduce the environmental impact of our services, projects and programmes through making sustainable choices on the goods and services we procure.



5. Enhance our natural environment

We will integrate green and blue infrastructure and climate resilience into our estate and work where practically possible.



6. Integrate clean growth decision making

Through the Assurance Framework and other internal decision-making procedures, we will review, advocate and embed clean growth considerations into our activities wherever possible.



7. Measure and report our performance

We will monitor, benchmark and report annually on energy, water, waste consumption and carbon emissions to ensure we are meeting our targets

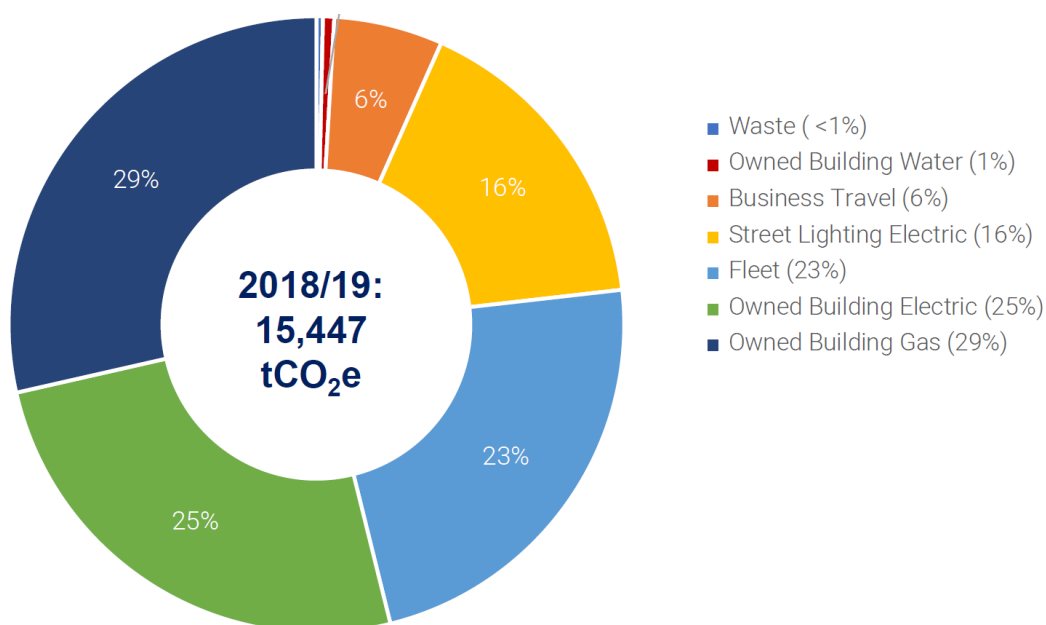
Source: West Yorkshire Combined Authority [Clean Growth Policy](#) 2019

2. Carbon Footprint

An organisation focussed carbon footprint allows you to understand:

- Current carbon emissions an organisation is responsible for
- The sources of those emissions
- Indicates where to prioritise future decarbonisation actions

It is vital to annually collate a carbon footprint, monitor progress and set improvement targets in line with council/community CN targets. The Council will need establish its own carbon footprint in 2021.



Source [Cheshire East Council](#)

3. Strengthen decision making in light of the Climate Emergency

All Council reports now include a section on tackling climate change. However, further support is needed to ensure staff understand what to consider. The use of a qualitative climate change impact assessment tool at the project initiation stages/approval stages of a project is one way to achieve a more consistent and meaningful response. Such an example is below.

Priority 4: Clean Growth and tackling the Climate Emergency



How will the scheme/policy/other...	Positive	Negative	Unclear	No Impact	Description of impacts
...reduce carbon emissions by reducing energy, water and waste consumption (including where appropriate construction, implementation and operational stages of schemes)?	x	x	x	x	
...reduce carbon emissions by generating local low / zero carbon energy?	x	x	x	x	
...contribute to the delivery of a low emission transport system?	x	x	x	x	
...increase the City Region's resilience to current and future climate change by considering how our climate might change and what we can do to minimise these threats for your scheme/policy.	x	x	x	x	
... reduce flood risk?	x	x	x	x	
... integrate green and blue (GB) infrastructure (such as trees) into its design/other and/or enhance existing schemes/other?	x	x	x	x	