West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

# Our new West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan

## Stakeholder engagement document

# What is the purpose of this document?

We want you to have your say on our new Climate and Environment Plan. It is a plan to help West Yorkshire reach our shared ambition to be a net zero carbon region by 2038.

The plan will set out actions that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, partners and stakeholders need to take to meet our target. We also have asks of Government.

This stakeholder engagement document is a summary of our emerging plan for 2025-2028. It contains key information on our work so far, our evidence base, our long-term delivery framework and areas we will act on.

This document is designed to help you respond to our engagement. Read this summary and then get involved and tell us how you can help. Your feedback will shape our final plan.

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# The story so far – What we have achieved

# Our current plan

In 2021, we developed our Climate and Environment Plan 2021-2024 to help us progress towards our net zero carbon target. We developed this plan using evidence from our Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways (CERPs). These pathways set out three possible routes for West Yorkshire to reach net zero by 2038 based on comprehensive research.

The Climate and Environment Plan 2021-2024 has helped us make investment choices and to deliver projects, programmes and actions to tackle the climate emergency.

# What have we done so far?

Our Climate and Environment Plan 2021-2024 has helped us to work towards our net zero ambition. Here are some of the things we have achieved since 2021. We want to build on these successes to create a new, ambitious Climate and Environment Plan for 2025-2028.

## Energy

- Installed solar panels on seven bus stations, generating 175k kWh of energy per year and saving 250 tonnes of $CO_2$
- Influenced the Government and Ofgem on their proposals for energy system reform
- Launched the Strategic Climate and Environment Partnership, collaborating with the private sector to facilitate net zero interventions
- Began developing and delivering Local Area Energy Plans and researching into deploying hydrogen energy in West Yorkshire

## Transport decarbonisation

- Taken a decision to bring buses back under public control and started delivery of zero-emission buses, saving up to 17,000 tonnes of $CO_2$ per year
- Started development on a programme for Mass Transit to enable spades in the ground by 2028
- Developed and gained approval for the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund programme
- Awarded £36 million in funding for active travel schemes and launched the Leeds City Bike scheme, providing more people with access to short term bike rental

# What have we done so far?

## Resilience and flood management

- Secured £310,000 in funding and launched six research projects alongside partner engagement for the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation programme
- Gained approval for 16 projects within the Capital Flood Risk Infrastructure and Natural Flood Management programmes
- Invested £12.5 million in the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme two. Approved three capital flood projects, investing a total of £5.65 million
- Approved three natural flood management projects, investing a total of £3.02 million, with four more projects in development

## Natural environment

- Began developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), engaging with stakeholders
- Built a strong local partnership with local authorities, government agencies and ecological experts
- Collaborated with DEFRA and Natural England to support local resourcing and delivery of nature recovery
- Supported tree planting with White Rose Forest, urban greening with Green Streets and the Calderdale sphagnum moss project

## Housing

- Secured £45 million to upgrade and retrofit 4,500 social homes through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
- Launched a low-interest retrofit loan, solar collective buying scheme and started Calderdale and Leeds area-based schemes
- Gained approval for one-stop shop, launching in 2025, and West Yorkshire Housing Partnership solar project
- Secured £837,000 from Net Zero Hub to test providing energy advice to digitally excluded groups to inform one-stop shop

# What have we done so far?

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Business support | Supported 147 small businesses with emergency energy grants, saving 495 tonnes of $CO_2$ equivalent a year, and safeguarding 210 jobs | Engaged with over 500 businesses and prepared 348 sustainability action plans | Approved 62 projects, generating over 2.75 million kWh of renewable energy and saving 1,000 tonnes of $CO_2$ per year | Launched the flood resilience fund and provided 39 vouchers to businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and prepare net zero plans |
| Skills | Convened the Mayor's Green Jobs Taskforce, bringing together stakeholders including young people to identify actions to deliver green skills and jobs | Trained 104 people across five employer-led Adult Upskilling courses in green skills in 2023-24, with 46 trainees progressing into green jobs so far | Piloted green careers programme for pupils across 30 primary schools, raising aspirations and inspiring young people about the green economy | Piloted activity to increase take up of green skills across diverse audiences through Employment West Yorkshire in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds |
| Leadership | Launched the Mayor's Big Climate Chat, engaging with people in West Yorkshire about climate, receiving 1,483 responses | Launched the Mayor's Community Climate Grants, awarding funding to 81 projects | The Mayor led in prominent roles at COP26, Yorkshire Sustainability Week, Yorkshire Climate Conference and UKREiiF | The Mayor was awarded co-presidency of UK100, committing to leading a rapid transition to net zero |

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# The story so far – Carbon emissions in our region

# What is carbon dioxide?

Carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) is a naturally occurring gas. It is the main gas responsible for climate change.

$CO_2$ is emitted when we burn fossil fuels including oil, gas and coal. It is also often emitted when land use is changed – for example when forests are cut down and replaced with agricultural land.

A tonne of carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) is approximately the size of a cube eight metres by eight metres at standard temperature and pressure.

One tonne of $CO_2$ is equivalent to the electricity consumption of 0.65 average households for a year, driving a petrol car for 5,000 miles, or taking 72 high-speed train trips of 300 miles each.

We have pledged to be a net zero carbon region by 2038. To do this, we need to reduce our $CO_2$ emissions.

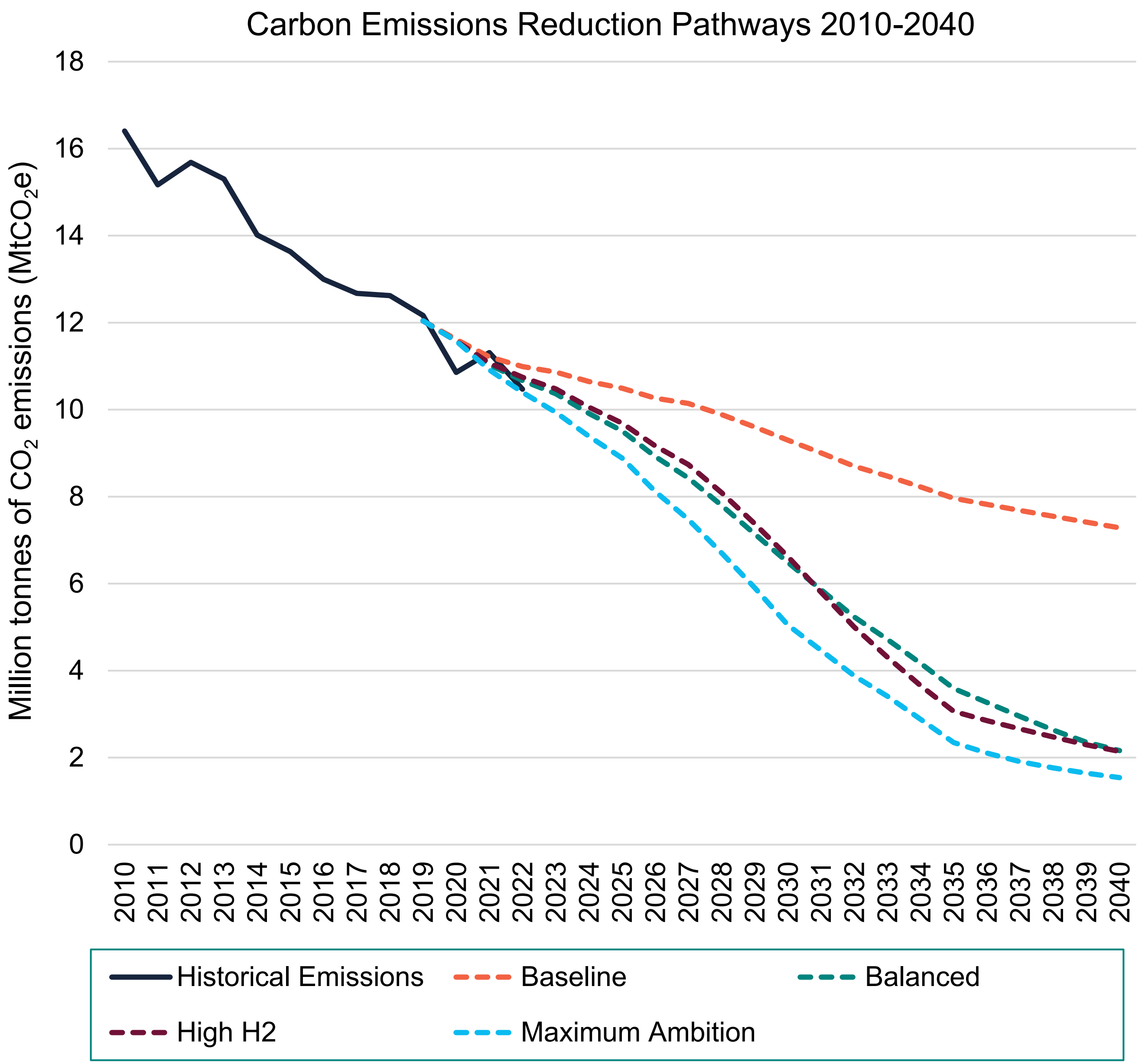
# Where are we currently with emissions reduction?

This graph shows the trend in West Yorkshire's greenhouse gas emissions in comparison to our 2021-2024 Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways (CERPs), which set out three different possible routes towards net zero.

Our total greenhouse gas emissions fell in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and rose in 2021 as our economy reopened. However, the 2021 rise was more than offset by a 7.4% reduction in emissions in 2022.

The reduction in 2022 returned emissions to somewhere between the three reduction pathways, close to the current maximum ambition scenario from our 2021-2024 CERPs.

The reduction in emissions was probably in part driven by the cost-of-living crisis and commodities price shock of 2022. We may see our emissions in coming years diverge from the CERP scenarios.



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# Our evidence base –
## Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways

# Our new evidence base

Since producing our current plan, the evidence has moved on and technology has advanced. As such, we have been working on identifying one clear pathway that we could take to reach net zero carbon.

This Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathway (CERP) is helping us to develop our new draft Climate and Environment Plan.

Please read this summary of our new evidence base that informs the draft objectives and actions for our new West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan.

# What are the findings of our updated maximum ambition pathway?

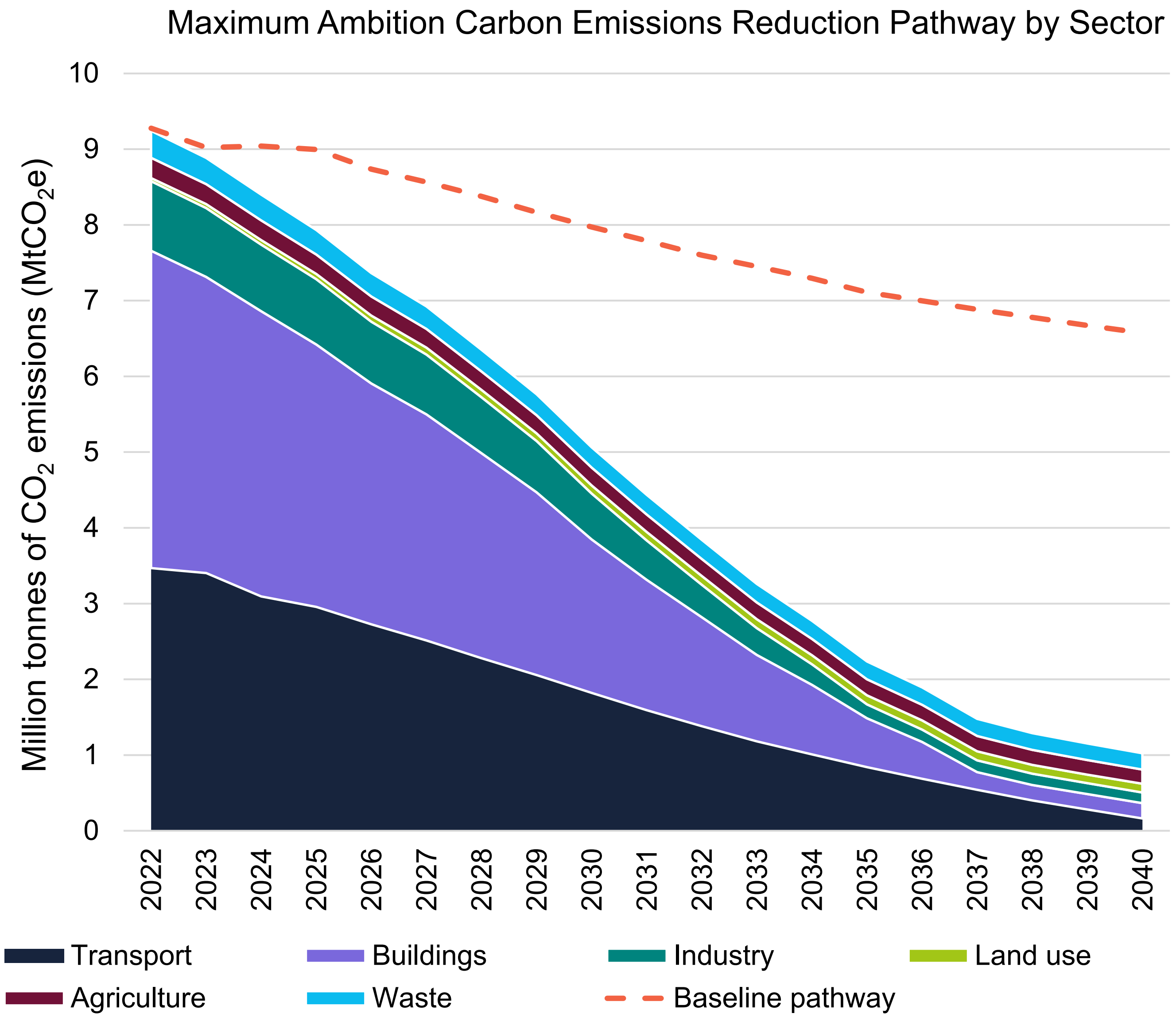
Our maximum ambition Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathway shows the emissions reductions we could achieve through local leadership and determined action from everybody, if we are all focussed on our 2038 target.

This pathway would achieve an 81% reduction in emissions by 2038. It is ambitious and at the limit of what is credible. Achieving it will be challenging.

This chart shows that all sectors could significantly reduce emissions if wide ranging incentives are in place and investment is made. For example, we would need to change the way we travel and convert to using low carbon technology to heat our homes.

A fully decarbonised net zero West Yorkshire by 2038 is possible, but would require national government support and funding, quicker lifestyle shifts and technological innovation.

You can read more about the key implications of the pathway for West Yorkshire later in this document.



# What are the benefits of acting on the climate and environment emergency?

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Health and wellbeing | Better air quality improves the health of people, flora and fauna | Public health and safety is improved by changes in the environment | People's mental health and wellbeing is improved by access to green and blue spaces and social support | |
| Environment | Improved resilience: capacity to adapt to heat, rain and other climate risks | Improved water and soil quality | Improved biodiversity | Improved access to high quality, close-by green spaces |
| Economic prosperity | People have new opportunities for local green skills training and jobs | People's income improves which reduces poverty | Reduced cost of living and more sustainable public services | Opportunities for local small and medium businesses to grow |
| Essential public services | People have warm, comfortable, low-carbon homes | People have improved access to clean and affordable transport | People have improved access to reliable and affordable clean energy | Reduced waste and demand for resources through circular economy networks |
| Inclusivity and civil society | Communities are represented and participate in local actions and decision-making | Targeted support improves equity for communities, households and businesses | | |

We will work to deliver these benefits when designing every scheme under our Climate and Environment Plan, alongside emissions reductions.

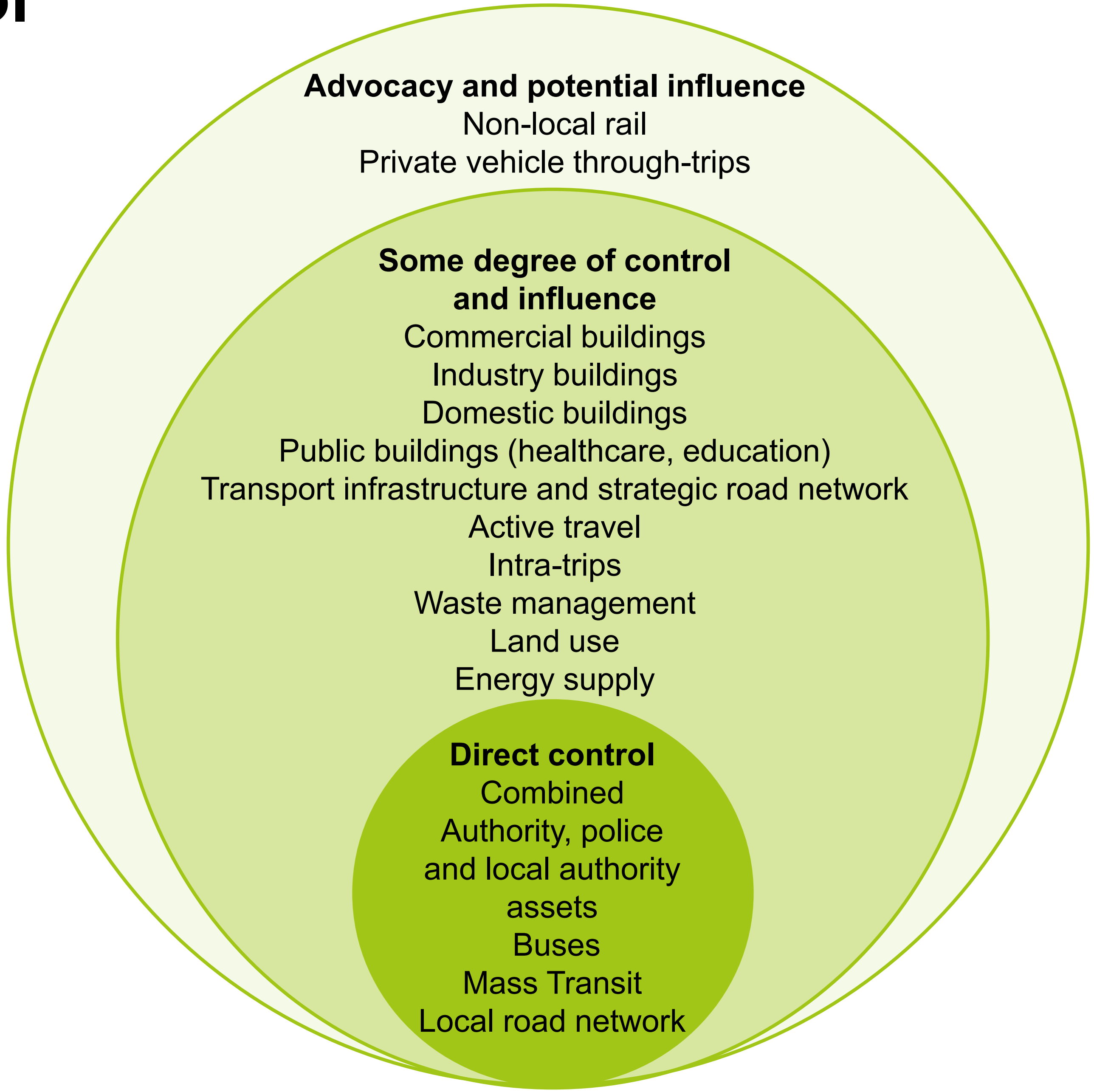
# Who has influence and control over emissions?

Delivering our emissions reduction pathway is the responsibility of all. The Combined Authority and our local authorities can only control or influence a relatively small proportion of emissions. We want to focus on driving emissions reductions in the areas where we have direct control or meaningful influence.

We are directly responsible for 2-5% of the region's emissions through our buildings, operations and travel. We can influence a further 33% of emissions through procurement, place-making, showcasing, partnerships, engagement and communication with communities.

We can advocate for and influence best practice in climate interventions through our services, planning and enforcement roles. This impacts housing, regeneration, economic development activities, education and skills.

We can use our devolved powers and regional voice to influence government and national, regional and local organisations to accelerate progress to our net zero target. This diagram shows examples of areas that we have different levels of control and influence over.



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# Our draft Climate and Environment Plan – Evidence, objectives and actions

# What is included in our new plan?

Our Climate and Environment Plan sets out a framework for the long-term through our objectives to achieve our 2038 target, as well as the actions we want to take in the next few years (2025-2028).

Our new plan focuses on areas that we as a Combined Authority have some control over, such as transport, housing retrofit and business support. It also covers areas we can influence – these actions will need to be delivered by others.

On the next slide, you can see the structure of our draft plan. We have positioned the plan in the context of our West Yorkshire Plan vision and our regional net zero target. We have then set five objectives.

Our objectives span wider than just decarbonisation, so that we can consider the broader benefits of taking action on the climate emergency.

# The structure of our draft Climate and Environment Plan

**Vision**: A sustainable West Yorkshire, making lives greener

**Mission**: Tackling the climate and environment emergency and becoming net zero carbon by 2038 in an equitable and inclusive way

**Objectives**

- Secure, cost effective, clean energy for all
- Reliable, affordable, integrated zero-emission transport
- Climate-resilient and nature-rich region
- Warm, comfortable, low-carbon homes
- Decarbonised businesses, good green jobs and a skilled workforce

# Our draft actions

We have drafted actions for each of our five objectives. In the following slides we set out the evidence for intervening in each objective followed by the actions.

The actions we are proposing are informed by evidence such as our maximum ambition CERP, feedback from the Mayor's Big Climate Chat and conversations with partners and stakeholders. They will support achieving carbon savings which contribute to our maximum ambition pathway. We will review and refine these actions in response to your feedback.

All our actions speak to what we need to do to reduce our emissions across our objectives. However, to enable the best use of funding and resources, we have identified six flagship actions: key areas of focus for delivery where we have particular control and influence over emissions.

**We would like your views on both the proposed structure of the plan and the actions. We would like to know if you think these are correct and how you could contribute during the period 2025 to 2028 (or beyond) to tackle the climate emergency.**

# Where our action will have the most impact

Our evidence base tells us that approximately 37% of West Yorkshire emissions are from transport, around 45% from buildings (including 31% from residential buildings) and the remainder is from other sectors (with industry the largest component of those).

Using the baseline from our maximum ambition CERP, 2022 emissions in WY were 9.3 $MtCO_2$ e. Thirty-eight percent (3.5 $MtCO_2$ e) of these emissions are in the direct control or influence of the Combined Authority and our partner councils. Given our role and our areas of control and influence (and considering the role of other actors), the highest carbon savings through us investing and taking action in the next four year period (to 2028) are likely to be:

- **Decarbonisation of transport and modal shift -** people having the choice to use active and public transport modes rather than private vehicles, and for internal combustion cars to be replaced with EVs.
- **Low carbon heating in homes -** no longer using gas but clean technology such as heat pumps.

# Where our action will have the most impact

Our action will be targeted at driving the decarbonisation of transport and modal shift and low-carbon heating in homes. However, we know that to meet our net zero carbon ambition, change – including changes across the region in the ways we travel and heat our homes – will need to occur at a scale and pace that we have not yet seen. This will require a substantial national effort, with funding to match. The diagram below shows these key areas of investment in transport and housing and the carbon savings they could achieve. It also shows what else we need to do to be able to achieve these actions.

**Decarbonisation of transport and modal shift** could reduce 1.3 Mt $CO_2$ e

**Investment in active and public transport** is a foundation for achieving modal shift as it gives residents and business the choice to use private vehicles less

**What we need to be able to achieve our highest carbon savings**

**Reform to the energy system** is a foundation for delivery of low carbon interventions such as electric vehicles and low carbon heating systems for homes

**A skilled workforce, a healthy supply chain and decarbonised businesses** are required to deliver improved public transport and building decarbonisation

**Public and private funding** is an enabler for all action taken to tackle the climate and environmental emergency

**The natural environment** is the foundation for our lives. Everything we do depends on our natural environment which is in decline

**Investment in residential retrofit** including installing insulation and setting up a one-stop shop tackles current barriers to progressing low carbon heating in homes, it will enable others to also take action and invest

**Low-carbon heating of homes and retrofit** could reduce 0.8 Mt $CO_2$ e

# Our six flagship actions

This slide sets out the flagship action for each of our five objectives and an additional cross-cutting priority. These actions are a key focus for the Combined Authority in our emerging plan as they are areas where we have control or significant influence.

| Cross-cutting | Secure, cost effective and clean energy for all | Reliable, affordable, integrated, zero-emission transport | Climate-resilient and nature-rich region | Warm, comfortable, low-carbon homes | Decarbonised businesses, good green jobs and a skilled workforce |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Launch a multi-million climate fund to support the derisking of net zero schemes and leverage private investment | Collaborate with pan-Northern Mayors to influence energy reform and deliver energy projects at scale | All buses to be under public control by mid 2028 and deliver zero-emissions buses. Progress the programme for Mass Transit Phase 1 | Develop our Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), supporting peat restoration, tree planting and urban greening | Deliver a one-stop shop for all residents to provide energy efficiency and low-carbon heating information and advice | Provide support to businesses of all sizes to decarbonise and become more sustainable |

# Secure, cost effective and clean energy for all

## What is the rationale for intervening?

Becoming a net zero carbon region by 2038 will require West Yorkshire to be powered by electricity generated by wind, solar and other low-carbon sources. Our pathway models that electricity demand will increase substantially as interventions such as zero-emission vehicles and low-carbon heating are adopted. This demand will need to be met in large part by renewable energy.

We need to make our electricity supply more diverse, secure and affordable. This will help to tackle fuel poverty and maximise the region's growth potential. We also need to consider the role of hydrogen in our energy mix.

Our proposed actions focus on planning our energy infrastructure, increasing our energy generation assets, working to secure more funding for net zero energy projects and using our powers and influence to bring down the costs of electricity.

We also need to engage fully with energy system reform, ensuring that we use opportunities arising from the implementation of the new National Energy Systems Operator and Regional Energy Strategic Plans to develop the right energy infrastructure for West Yorkshire.

## What are the implications for West Yorkshire in 2038?

- Needing to meet the increased demand with electricity demand increasing to 15.9 terawatt hours (TWh) per year in 2038, up from 10.1 TWh per year in 2022.
- Renewable energy generation in the region contributing 1.2 TWh per year of clean, secure power to meet our demand for electricity in 2038.
- Increasing investment in renewable electricity, grid reinforcement and capacity means more low carbon electricity can be used in the region.
- Catering for 20% of industrial demand for energy via hydrogen.

# Secure, cost effective and clean energy for all – actions 2025-2028

## Leading

- Establish a multi-million-pound climate fund
- Collaborate with pan-Northern Mayors to influence energy reform and deliver energy projects at scale
- Decarbonise the public sector, including developing and delivering a West Yorkshire Combined Authority Corporate Climate Plan
- Identify suitable locations for implementing different heat decarbonisation technologies and mechanisms, including heat network zoning

## Partnering

- Deliver our West Yorkshire Local Area Energy Plans
- Secure funding and leverage investment into net zero projects

## Influencing

- Identify and implement new opportunities to install solar PV and storage at scale across the region
- Support communities to develop their renewable and low-carbon energy aspirations, plans and projects
- Take a place-based strategic approach to delivering key infrastructure, ensuring interventions account for future energy demands within an area

## Asks of Government

- Equalise levies on gas and electricity bills, ensuring costs are spread fairly
- Engage local and regional government on energy reform and Regional Energy System Plans (RESPs) to ensure that the right local energy infrastructure is delivered, including in respect of electricity distribution, heat, transport and industry ensuring costs are spread fairly

# Reliable, affordable, integrated, zero-emission transport

## What is the rationale for intervening?

Transport is currently one of the highest emitting sectors in the region, accounting for 37% of all greenhouse gases emitted. Road transport is the biggest contributor to roadside air pollution, and West Yorkshire's urban areas have some of the highest levels of transport emissions in the UK.

We therefore need to decarbonise our transport network at a faster rate, change the way we travel and ensure our transport network is resilient and reliable.

Our CERP shows that, to decarbonise transport in West Yorkshire, we need to see (in summary): more journeys completed by active modes and public transport, widespread uptake of electric vehicles and the switching of freight to sustainable modes.

Our proposed actions focus on planning our regional transport through the Local Transport Plan, as well as what we will do to make key modes of transport more sustainable, including the introduction of our Mass Transit system.

## What are the implications for West Yorkshire in 2038?

- Shifting away from cars, with 54% of passenger kilometres by private car (down from 80%), 15% by train (up from 7%), 8% by bus (up from 6%), 12% cycling (up from 1%), 5% walking (5%) and 5% car sharing.
- Widespread adoption of clean vehicles, with 85% of vehicle kilometres travelled by car and 100% of vehicle kilometres travelled by bus being zero-emission.
- Providing residents and business with opportunities and options to travel in a low carbon way, including reliable and integrated public and active transport and access to electric vehicle charge points.

# Reliable, affordable, integrated, zero-emission transport – actions 2025-2028

**Leading**

- Back the bus and active transport modes by funding and providing space on our highway network to allow for a connected and reliable network
- Deliver a franchised bus network
- Progress delivery of a Mass Transit system for West Yorkshire, including phase one route and depot designs
- Deliver our Zero-Emission Bus Programme and ambition for zero-emission fleet by 2036

**Partnering**

- Deliver our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) vision
- Deliver on the ambitions of the West Yorkshire Rail Strategy
- Develop an Active Travel Strategy and accelerate Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs)
- Develop cleaner, green travel options

**Influencing**

- Embed sustainable transport and promote sustainable travel choices
- Prioritise space for public transport, walking, wheeling and cycling, reviewing highways demand management and car parking approaches
- Accelerate electric vehicle charge point delivery, influencing through our Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy and delivering our Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure programme
- Support more efficient and sustainable freight and logistics

**Asks of Government**

- Continue to support our Mass Transit proposals
- Provide a sustainable funding model for bus
- Continue to invest in the maintenance of our assets, delivery of the capital programme to enable further roll out of safe walking and cycling routes
- Progress plans for decarbonisation across all transport modes by continuing to invest in infrastructure and enable greener fuel solutions, including for aviation

# Climate-resilient and nature-rich region

## What is the rationale for intervening?

Urban areas, devoid of natural systems that can manage water and heat, are highly exposed to climate events. Dealing with extreme events can be costly.

Climate change poses a significant threat to biodiversity, with national surveys continuing to show biodiversity declines. Recent decades in the UK have on average been warmer, wetter and sunnier, with each of the warmest 10 years since 1884 being recorded in the 21st century. Species and habitats face many pressures and are more vulnerable to climatic changes.

Changing weather patterns have significantly impacted UK farmers in the last few years, with higher temperatures, waterlogged ground and a lack of predictability bringing new challenges to food production.

Flood risk occurs across all parts of West Yorkshire, with approximately 39,000 residential properties and 13,000 commercial properties falling within a flood zone. Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence because of climate change. We also need to safeguard water quality to prevent crop failures and harm to wildlife.

## What are the implications for West Yorkshire in 2038?

- Protecting our urban environments, ensuring they can adapt to future climate events and provide a healthy and safe place for residents to live and work.
- Increasing tree planting and 100% peatland restoration to restore nature and reduce emissions. Continuing to safeguard nature recovery and habitats.
- Using regenerative agriculture, protecting our food supply from adverse weather conditions, and ensuring we do this in a way that makes space for nature and is good for the planet.
- Continuing to ensure that our region’s businesses are safeguarded and that the growth we need can be achieved.
- Managing impacts of drought to prevent risks to the drinking water supply and broader adverse environmental impacts, such as crop failures and wildlife die-offs.

# Climate-resilient and nature-rich region – actions 2025-2028

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leading | Develop West Yorkshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) | Streamline and accelerate the delivery of biodiversity enhancements in the region | | | |
| Partnering | Deliver enhanced flood protection in partnership with Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (YRFCC), the Environment Agency and other partners, through natural flood management and climate resilience | Deliver the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme, working in partnership | Assess the risk of climate change to West Yorkshire's urban centres through a climate risk assessment | Create a climate adaption plan for infrastructure, improving resilience | |
| Influencing | Enhance water quality and water storage in periods of drought by influencing partners | Support those working on schemes such as tree-planting, peatland restoration and local food systems that deliver and demonstrate sustainability | Mitigate against future extreme weather events by promoting urban greening | Deliver for nature and farmers through new farming practices, making space for nature and restoring natural features and systems | |
| Asks of Government | Provide a clear mandate to deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy with associated funding | Design robust, climate-resilient placemaking and planning policy | | | |

# Warm, comfortable, low-carbon homes

## What is the rationale for intervening?

Our State of the Region indicators show that West Yorkshire's housing is responsible for emitting 3.4 million metric tonnes of $CO_2$ per year, approximately 30% of the region's total emissions. Most of these emissions come from using fossil fuels to heat homes.

Our pathway sets out a highly ambitious rate of emissions reduction, achieved through a combination of measures that include improving the efficiency and performance of existing and new buildings and widespread adoption of low-carbon heating such as heat pumps.

The need to retrofit homes is even greater and more challenging in West Yorkshire than nationally, given the prevalence of both fuel poverty and of very old homes (pre-1919 homes represent 23% of dwellings compared to 19% nationally), which are harder to retrofit.

We need to explore long-term funding options and increase retrofit awareness and education, to enable more residents to improve the energy performance of their homes.

## What are the implications for West Yorkshire in 2038?

- Energy efficient retrofitting 100% of social and 50% of private homes means that people's homes are warm, healthy and efficient.
- Fitting 838,000 heat pumps and connecting 205,000 homes to heat networks means heating is clean and low emissions, with no gas for heating homes by 2038.
- Installing 569 megawatts of rooftop solar capacity by 2038 contributes to emission reductions.
- Delivering a regional supply chain and green skills capable of supporting widespread retrofit and low carbon heating installation.
- Ensuring new housing is affordable to run and warm, comfortable and low carbon from the outset.

# Warm, comfortable, low carbon homes – actions 2025-2028

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leading | Deliver a one-stop shop, providing energy efficiency and low carbon heating information, advice and installations service | Create a digital platform where residents can access free and impartial information on retrofit | Engage and deliver communications campaigns to raise awareness of retrofit measures and their benefits | Test and deliver approaches to supporting households to finance retrofit, including enhanced delivery of a retrofit loan |
| Partnering | Launch a long-term plan for retrofitting social housing, delivering energy efficiency measures and developing a programme to insulate every social home by 2038 | Pilot innovative approaches to retrofit and renewables, with a view to scaling up activity across the region, addressing fuel poverty and delivering improved health outcomes | Develop a package of fiscal incentives to secure increased activity of domestic retrofit | Coproduce the long-term strategy for domestic retrofit in West Yorkshire |
| Influencing | Provide or signpost to financing through the one-stop shop to enable residents to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes | Ensure planning policy is in place to implement higher standards for new-build homes, such as the future homes standard, driving high quality low-carbon development | Develop an action plan to promote green jobs and skills to cater to increasing retrofit demand and ensure awareness within the construction industry | |
| Asks of Government | Provide a devolved, long-term approach to retrofit funding as part of an integrated settlement | Provide a stable regulatory environment with clarity on energy efficiency standards for tenure types | Support our development of objectives on low carbon homes in a more efficient and economic manner, ensuring our work meets the needs of people in West Yorkshire | |

# Decarbonised businesses, good green jobs and a skilled workforce

### What is the rationale for intervening?

While direct industrial emissions in the region are small due to limited heavy industry, there are key energy-intensive industries: large glass and chemical plants, some smaller food and drink, other minerals sites and so on. However, business and industry also contribute significantly to other emissions sectors – notably heating of non-domestic properties, transport and waste.

To reach our net zero ambitions we need to engage with business and industry to encourage decarbonisation, to deliver other objectives within the Climate and Environment Plan (for example retrofitting domestic properties) and to maximise opportunities for business innovation and growth in key sectors and clusters that will support a just transition.

Becoming a net zero region requires a skilled workforce. We need to champion green skills and collaborate with education and skills providers and employers to support provision across different education levels and employment sectors.

We also need to ensure that we develop the supply chain for the green economy to facilitate the transition to net zero and seize opportunities in the green economy sector.

### What are the implications for West Yorkshire in 2038?

- Transforming industry to be more energy and resource efficient, switching from fossil fuels to cleaner electricity and (in certain cases) hydrogen, reducing costs, providing low-carbon heat and improving productivity.
- Connecting industry (and other non-domestic buildings) to heat networks (34,000 non-domestic budlings) and using heat pumps (55,000 non-domestic heat pumps).
- Applying carbon capture and storage of emissions from natural gas, bioenergy and industrial processes.
- Building strong regional supply chains to deliver the net zero transition.
- Growing effective green skills provision to deliver the skilled workforce a net zero carbon region requires.
- Developing a green economy in West Yorkshire, in accordance with our Local Growth Plan.

# Decarbonised businesses, good green jobs and a skilled workforce – actions 2025-2028

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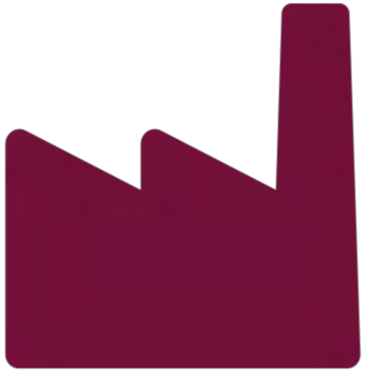
|---|---|---|---|
| Leading | Provide support and advice to businesses of all sizes to make their operations more sustainable | Deliver targeted skills interventions, increasing local labour supply and funding training required for green skills and jobs | Provide support, advice and funding for circular economy and material efficiency activity in the region, supporting the work of West Yorkshire local authorities responsible for local waste management services |
| Partnering | Develop a regional low and net zero carbon cluster, investing in niche strengths identified in the Local Growth Plan to grow the green economy in West Yorkshire | Develop the expertise and capacity needed to support businesses and individuals, partnering with education and training providers across the region | Develop robust regional supply chains to underpin retrofit and Mass Transit ambitions, promoting the development of new green tech and service offerings |
| Influencing | Champion green skills as an integral part of our net zero ambition and activities, collaborating to support embedding these principles across different education levels and employment sectors | Support regional industrial sites and clusters to decarbonise their operations | |
| Asks of Government | Create stable business decarbonisation policy and investment environment, providing clarity on targets and timescales to encourage industry confidence to scale and invest | Provide devolved funding for small and medium-sized enterprises and industrial decarbonisation support | Provide Department for Business and Trade (DBT) alignment to develop key supply chains, clusters and niches |



# Get involved

# Our stakeholder engagement

Our stakeholder engagement on the draft Climate and Environment Plan is live until 31 January 2025.

We need to hear from you to help us shape our final plan. Have your say by taking part in our survey:

https://online1.snapsurveys.com/cep

# Our timeline

**First Climate and Environment Plan in place**
December 2021

**Stakeholder engagement**
December 2024 - January 2025

**Analysis of feedback and refinement of new Climate and Environment Plan**
January - March 2025

**Proposed adoption of the new plan by the Combined Authority**
March - April 2025