



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Climate Action Plan

Part Two



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Windermere

“We are at a crossroads. The decisions we make now can secure a liveable future. We have the tools and know-how required to limit warming.”

Hoesung Lee (Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2019)

Cllr Giles Archibald
Cabinet Member
for Climate and
Biodiversity



Foreword

Westmorland and Furness Council is a brand-new council. This provides a huge opportunity to create a fresh vision for our communities, residents and our environment. We are driven to act in response to climate change by our values; being ecologically aware, ambitious, inclusive, collaborative and responsible. We accept our responsibility in tackling climate change, and we will aim to provide local trusted leadership in the drive to become net zero.

We are committed to:

- Demonstrating leadership by becoming net zero as a Council by 2037 for Scope 1 and 2, and 2050 for Scope 3 at the latest, through the decarbonisation of our assets, operations and footprint;
- Working with our partners and communities in the drive to become net zero by 2037 across the Westmorland and Furness area;

- Engaging with our communities on how we respond to climate change, with increasing levels of locally led action; and
- Preparing our communities and leading on adaptation solutions for potential climate risks including flooding.

I welcome this Action Plan as an important first step in outlining how Westmorland and Furness Council will meet these commitments while delivering our essential services and meeting our Council Plan priorities.

Cllr Giles Archibald

Cabinet Member for Climate and Biodiversity

Introduction

Building on its Council Plan priority to tackle climate change and provide leadership on the drive to net zero, in July 2023, the Westmorland and Furness Council's Cabinet approved the Climate Action Plan Part One, signalling its ambition, through working in partnership with others, to achieve a net zero Westmorland and Furness by 2037.

Part One (Appendix 1: Climate Action Plan Part One) sets out the council's vision and objectives in delivering climate action. It showcases ongoing climate action; projects, policy and activities the council is delivering and supporting. In short, Part One set out our commitment and actions already undertaken, while Part Two is focused on what we will do going forward, as a council, to address the climate crisis.

This Plan will review the context of the climate crisis: climate impacts and greenhouse gas emissions. We will introduce our cross-cutting themes which will guide how we take climate action and balance our council priorities. The identified actions show how we will reduce emissions across the area, support a just transition for our communities and become a low-carbon council.

This Action Plan is led by the visions and priorities set out in the Council Plan, linking to the sustainability principles of equity, economy and environment running through the ten delivery themes within the delivery framework.

This plan will sit alongside many strategies and action plans being created by the new authority, including: the New Local Plan, the Economic Strategy, the Local Transport Plan, and our Electric Vehicle Strategy. We will follow this climate action plan with action plans focused on nature and biodiversity as well as on climate adaptation.

This Plan is:

- Based on our current understanding and evidence which will develop and evolve over time.
- An action plan which sets out steps the Council will take to reduce emissions within Westmorland and Furness.
- A plan that has been developed in collaboration with key partners and aims to reflect the views of residents.
- Flexible. We will update this annually to ensure that it aligns with evolving policy, legislation and council budgets.
- An action plan that builds on the positive actions taken by the sovereign councils, community groups, businesses, partners and residents.
- Designed to support, coordinate, and facilitate climate action.

This Plan is not:

- The overall solution to becoming net zero by 2037, it's a step along that journey.
- A fixed pathway to reduce emissions in a linear way.
- Perfect: We are a new council, and we are developing our strategies, projects and approach. We will not get everything right in achieving net zero but will learn from any mistakes and be open to feedback.

Each action that does not come with externally sourced funding will need to go through the council's decision-making process at the appropriate time and require a full business case.

Strategic Context

Westmorland and Furness Council has identified six key strategic priorities in our Council Plan:

1 Climate
providing leadership to become carbon net zero

2 Communities
confident, empowered and resilient communities

3 Customers
customers at the heart of everything we do

4 Economy and Culture
sustainable, inclusive economic growth

5 People
supporting people in need, reducing inequality. Supporting active healthy lives for young and old.

6 Workforce
confident, empowered and inclusive workforce

Within the ten detailed missions set out in our Council Plan Delivery Framework, aiming to deliver carbon net zero by 2037 is identified as one of the key measures of success in our environment mission.

All ten missions are grounded in the three sustainability pillars of equity, economy and environment. The delivery themes supporting the Council Plan priorities are found in Figure 1.

We recognise that in developing this Climate Change Action Plan that there are both positive impacts across these three pillars and potential tensions between them that must be recognised and considered carefully as we progress.

As such, this Climate Action Plan delivers clearly on the Council's strategic vision and priorities and provides a vital framework for how the council will develop future strategies and policy.

Westmorland and Furness Council has agreed a Target Operating Model to guide the development of the council's approach to delivering services. Our approach to tackling climate change sits across all layers of the operating model.



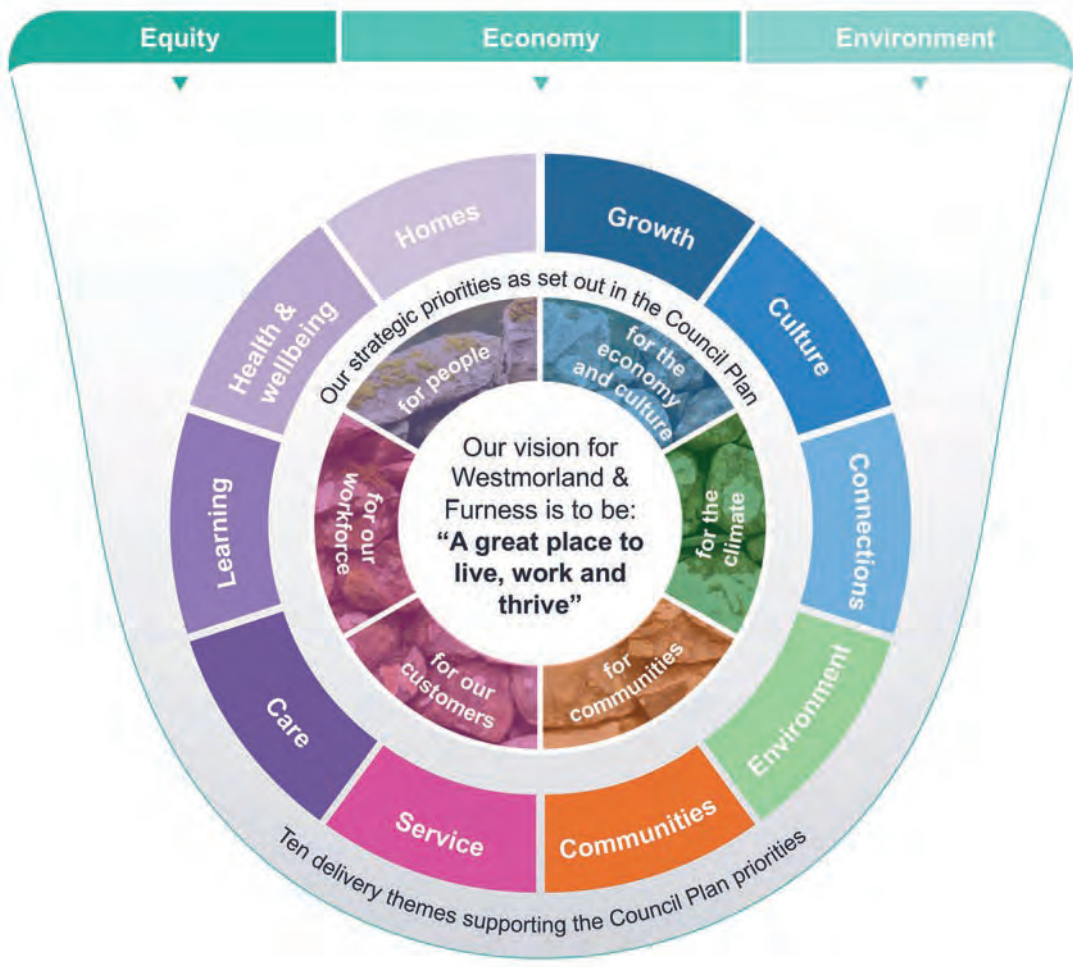


Figure 1: Westmorland and Furness Council's strategic priorities and delivery themes as set out in the Council Plan.

The Council's Sphere of Influence and Scope of this Plan

When considering the scale of emissions reduction required to become net zero and the vision set out by this action plan, it is important to consider the different levels of influence that Westmorland and Furness can have on mitigating climate change in the district.

As a unitary authority, Westmorland and Furness is in a strong position as the local authority responsible for all local government functions within the area. These functions include, but are not limited to, planning, transport, waste, flood management, public health, culture and events, housing, air quality and council tax.

Therefore, it is helpful to identify what Westmorland and Furness' sphere of influence on net zero is. The Climate Change Committee has identified six 'spheres of influence' that councils have over carbon emissions, as illustrated in Figure 2.

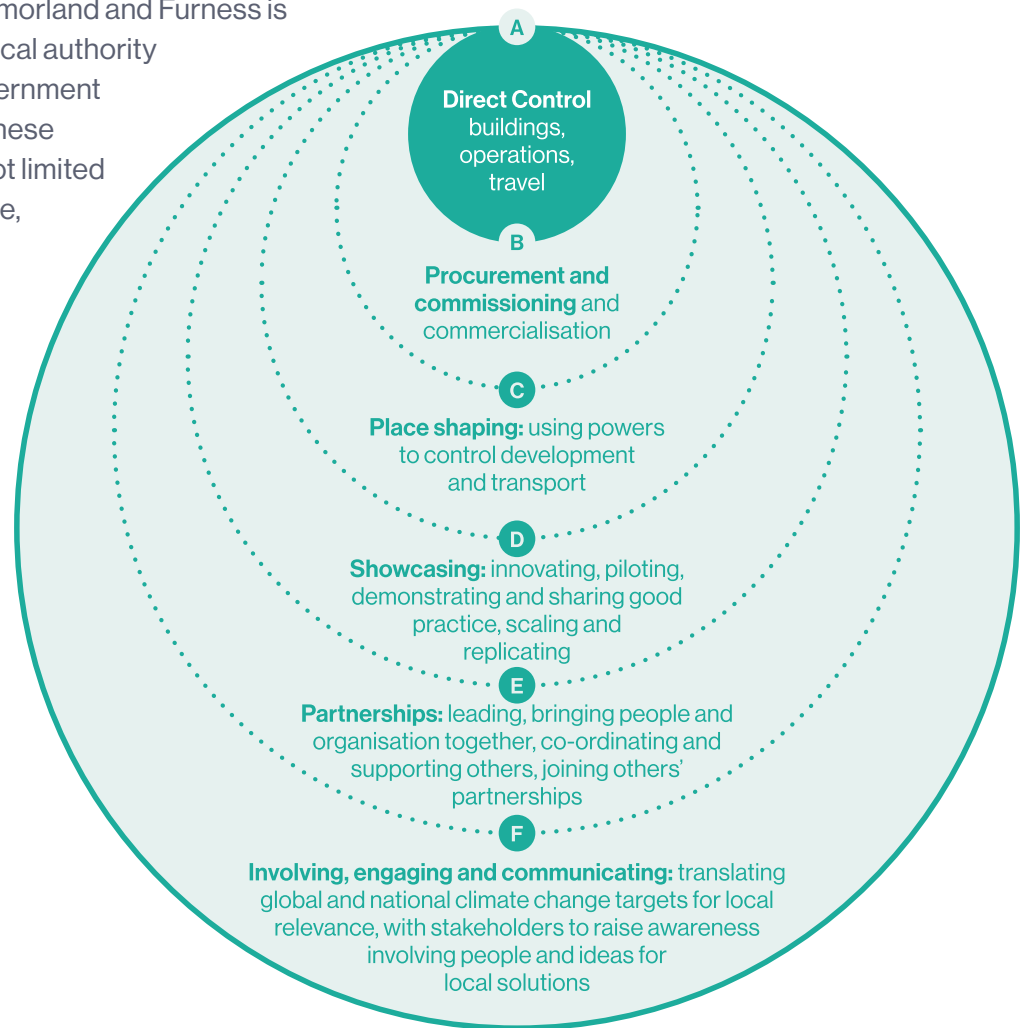


Figure 2: The Spheres of Influence Local Authorities have over carbon emissions. (Climate Change Committee. 2020. Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget - <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Local-Authorities-and-the-Sixth-Carbon-Budget.pdf>)

Whilst local authorities are only directly responsible for 2-5 per cent of local emissions, through their policies and partnerships they have strong influence over more than a third of emissions in their area (Climate Change Committee, 2020).

This highlights that we cannot and will not do this alone, we must link in with partners, businesses and communities to all play a part in helping the area of Westmorland and Furness reach net zero.

As a local authority aiming for net zero by 2037, there are many limitations. The National Government is responsible for setting laws, budgets, environmental policy, agricultural policy and planning policy. Subsequently, the National Government has a much greater sphere of influence in tackling production emissions. Local Authorities also have limited influence over industry and business, which is responsible for commercial and energy production-based emissions, and much of the consumption-based emissions.

We are aiming high, with an ambition to achieve net zero by 2037, recognising that much can be achieved in partnership and through leadership.



Walney Wind Farm



Skelwith Fold

Context (What is Climate Change)

Climate change can be characterised as a long-term shift in global temperature and the change of local and national weather patterns. The changes observed in the Earth’s climate since the 20th century are primarily driven by human activity and particularly, by burning fossil fuels which increases the amount of greenhouse gases in the Earth’s atmosphere.

Climate change causes a wide range of negative impacts including increased heat, drought, intense storms and rising sea levels; these impacts in turn harm wildlife, damage habitats, risk lives and cause serious disruption to people’s livelihoods.

The dangers associated with climate change have been explored for decades but in 2015, the legally binding treaty known as the Paris Agreement was adopted by 196 Parties at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 event held in Paris. This Agreement aims to limit global warming to below 2°C – or preferably 1.5°C – when compared to pre-industrial levels. Whilst varying efforts have been made by individual countries, in 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published their Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and their Climate Change Synthesis Report in 2023, which identified that limiting warming to 1.5°C and 2°C involves an immediate greenhouse gas emission reduction (Figure 3).

Limiting warming to 1.5°C and 2°C involves rapid, deep and in most cases immediate greenhouse gas emission reductions

Net zero CO₂ and net zero GHG emissions can be achieved through strong reductions across all sectors

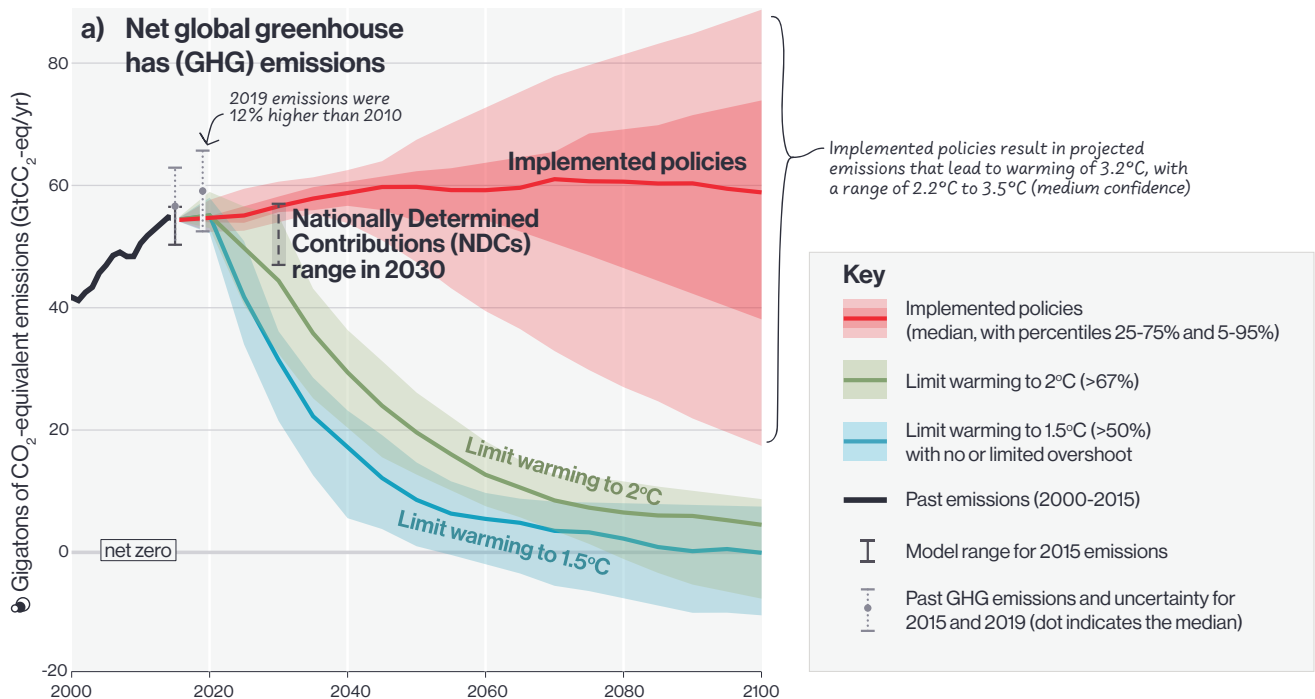


Figure 3: The IPCC (2023) Climate Change Synthesis Report (IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf)

Figure 3 shows the global emissions pathways. The red ranges represent the emissions pathways assuming that the policies were implemented by the end of 2020. The light blue ranges represent the limit warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot and the green ranges shows the limit warming to 2°C.

In 2018, the IPCC (Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C) emphasised that without increased and urgent mitigation in the coming years, leading to a sharp decline in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, global warming will surpass 1.5°C in the following decades. This will lead to irreversible loss of the most fragile ecosystems, and crisis after crisis for most people and societies, especially those in vulnerable situations.

The report found that global emissions must be reduced by at least 45% by 2030 to meet the 1.5°C target and the IPCC expressed that international governments, businesses, and communities must cooperate to reach this goal. Global emissions must therefore reach net zero, which is the target of negating the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activity, such as through reducing emissions and implementing carbon sequestration methods.

This was a scientific global call to action, which was answered nationally and locally. The UK adopted a net zero 2050 target based on the Committee on Climate Change's 2019 report and Westmorland and Furness shadow authority set out a motion confirming we face climate and biodiversity crises on 18 September 2022.

However, in 2022, a UN report found that the international community is falling far short of the Paris goals, with no credible pathway to 1.5°C in place (UN, 2022. Emissions Gap Report 2022). Based on current levels of worldwide commitments and policies, we are on track to experience in the order of 2.8°C globally. This will lead to catastrophic changes in global climatic conditions including major sea level rise due to polar ice cap melt. These changes have already affected Westmorland and Furness through extreme weather events such as Storms Desmond (2015) and Arwen (2021). A temperature rise in the region of 2.8°C or more would risk further fluvial flooding, coastal flooding, droughts and heatwaves in the Westmorland and Furness area.

Westmorland and Furness will use its influence as a local council where possible, but to address climate change we must work with partners, businesses and communities. For example, through linking with key partners within the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership, Westmorland and Furness Council have agreed to set our area target date as 2037 which was showed to be possible by the Cumbria Carbon Baseline Report in 2020 commissioned by the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP). We will be relying on the data from an updated version of this report (Appendix 2: Zero Carbon Cumbria – Summary of greenhouse gas emissions in Westmorland and Furness and trajectories to net zero, June 2023 – Small World Consulting on behalf of ZCCP), for our action plan as it is the most relevant data available for our locality.

Westmorland and Furness' Climate

The Cumbrian climate is influenced by the North Atlantic Drift, along with the mountainous terrain. This combination makes Cumbria the wettest region in England. The average annual precipitation is about 3,000mm but this varies greatly depending on the location.

Figure 4 shows that the annual mean temperature for the Northwest of England and the North of Wales has been following the same tendency as the global earth temperature (shown in Appendix 1: Climate Action Plan Part One). Since 1884, the temperatures are getting progressively warmer.

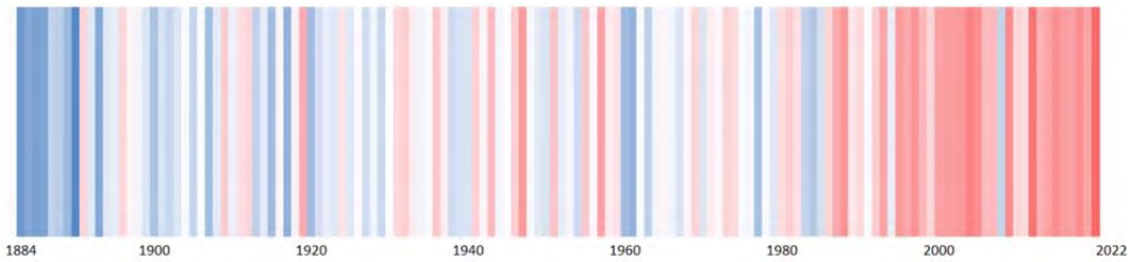


Figure 4 : Northwest England and North Wales warming stripes, 1884-2022



Emissions

Our understanding of our carbon emissions in Westmorland and Furness is supported by the work of the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership and Small World Consulting, who have developed an emissions baseline for the area (found in Appendix 2: Zero Carbon Cumbria – Summary of greenhouse gas emissions in Westmorland and Furness and trajectories to net zero, June 2023 – Small World Consulting on behalf of ZCCP).

Although the data available does have its limitations, it is an excellent indicator of the scale of the challenge facing Westmorland and Furness' net zero target. Similarly, the data shows the key sources of emissions that are influenced by the behaviour and choices of Westmorland and Furness' residents and visitors. Details on the methodology used for calculating the Carbon Baseline can be found in Appendix 2 (Zero Carbon Cumbria – Summary of greenhouse gas emissions in Westmorland and Furness and trajectories to net zero, June 2023 – Small World Consulting on behalf of ZCCP).

Figure 5 shows the GHG emissions associated with Westmorland and Furness. (All figures are tonnes CO₂ equivalent).

Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Westmorland and Furness (2019)

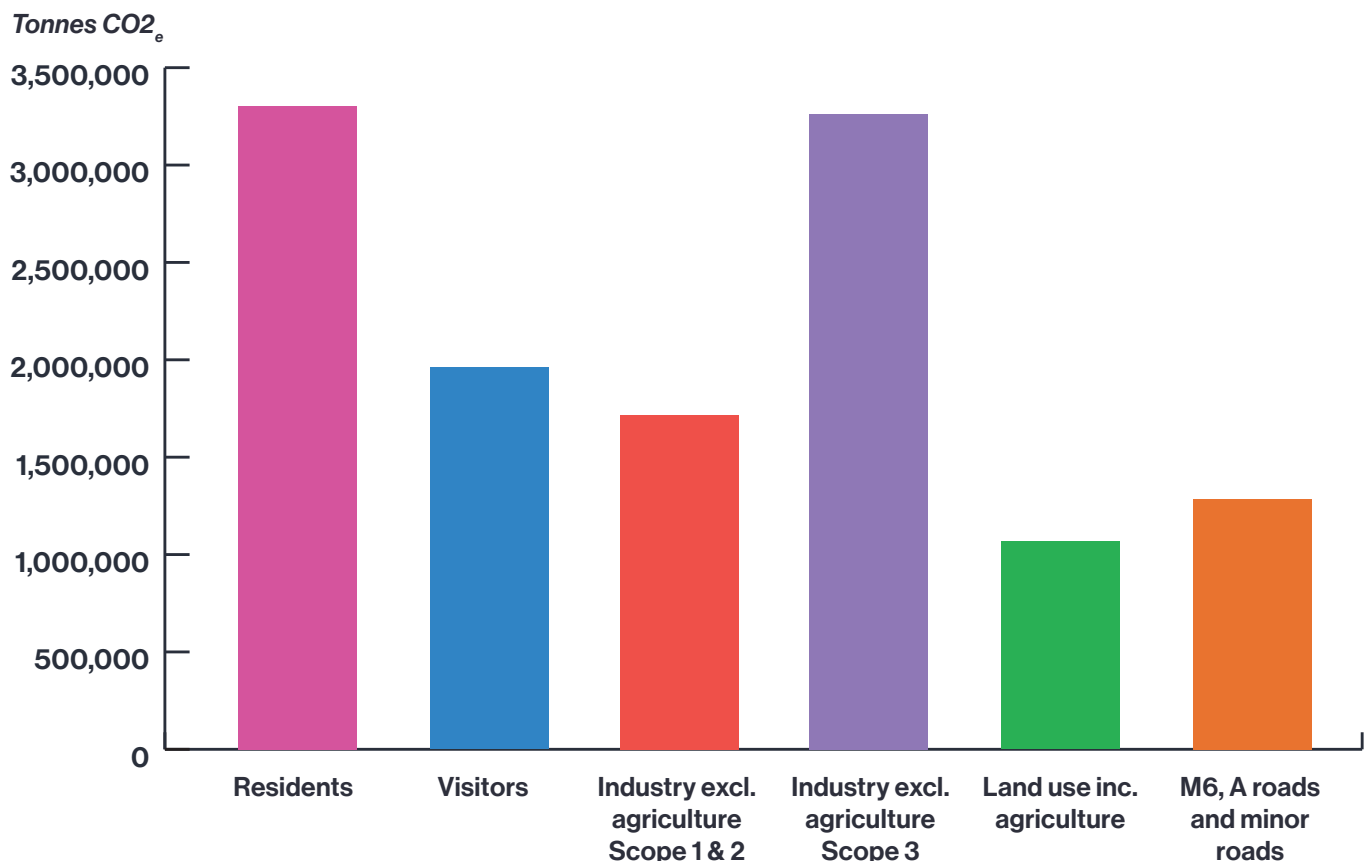


Figure 5: Sources of emissions in Westmorland and Furness (2019) from the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP) emission baseline report.

Notes on the calculations:

- The resident, visitor and industry emissions have been calculated on a consumption basis to take account of the emissions produced in Westmorland and Furness (Scope 1 and 2) and those associated with the upstream supply chains (“upstream Scope 3”).
- The emissions from land use including agriculture have been calculated on a territorial (aka production basis, or “Scope 1 and 2”), with inclusion of emissions from the energy supply chains.
- The emissions associated with roads have been calculated on a consumption basis and include the tailpipe emissions of vehicles travelling along these roads (including through traffic) and the associated fuel supply chains.
- The methodology for the emissions baseline produced by Small World Consulting is focused on a consumption-based emissions profile. Which means emissions production, which is predominantly energy production, is not captured in their carbon baseline data.

Impacts

As outlined in Part One, climate change causes a wide range of negative impacts, or climatic events, which can harm wildlife, damage habitat, cause serious disruption to people’s livelihoods and may risk human life.

Five key climatic impact themes have been identified as being the most severe climate risks for Westmorland and Furness. The themes discuss the broad hazards that the region faces from climate change.



River and surface water flooding

Westmorland and Furness is susceptible to river and surface water flooding. Climate change is projected to increase winter rainfall, to increase the likelihood of severe winter gales, and increase the likelihood of intense summer rainfall events, further increasing the vulnerability of the area to flooding.

Extended dry periods leading to pressure on water supplies

Reduced summer rainfall in Westmorland and Furness will increase the likelihood and duration of drought conditions and water scarcity. Prolonged periods of reduced water availability will affect commercial forestry, agricultural productivity, as well as habitats and species. Extended dry periods increase the risk of wildfires, a key climatic impact to Cumbria identified by the Met Office.

Extreme temperature changes (heatwaves and cold spells)

Average temperatures, the number of hot days and periods of extreme heat are expected to increase because of climate change. Likewise, the frequency and severity of cold spells are expected to increase. Extreme temperatures are likely to cause disruption to travel, negative health implications, negative effects to habitats, and increase the risk of pathogens and pests.

It is important to note that projections for changes in the gulf stream and ocean current would likely result in extreme low temperatures across the UK.



Climate change is impacting the stability and variability of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), the warm surface and deep-water currents in the Atlantic Ocean. A recent study suggests the AMOC is losing stability and is at risk of collapse, due to the rising temperatures and associated ice melt affecting the salinity of the ocean (Boers, 2021). While a weakening AMOC would still see rising temperatures with climate change (Met Office, 2023), a total collapse would cause much colder weather.

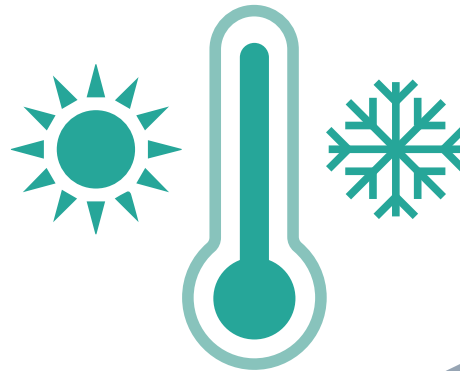
Sea level rise (coastal erosion and flooding)

The total rise in sea level around the UK coast may exceed one metre by 2100 (Met Office, 2018, UKCP18 Marine Report). With a 4°C increase in global temperature by 2115, projections suggest sea level in north-west England could rise by between 0.9-1.25m. Wave height, storm surges and offshore wind speed are also expected to increase because of climate change, resulting in more intense storm events and greater impacts from coastal flooding and erosion.

Cascading impacts

Multiple hazards occurring unpredictably or sequentially create cascading impacts, which may cause significant disruption to services and natural systems. The interaction between cascading impacts increases the vulnerability of Westmorland and Furness' communities, infrastructure and natural environment, and require significant planning and response from our Joint Emergency Management and Resilience Team.

As well as the climatic impacts above, there are social and mental health impacts of a changing climate on our residents. In 2022, the IPCC stated that there is a very high confidence that climate change has adversely affected mental health. Whether it's the mental health impacts of flooding, or prevailing Eco-Anxiety, of which a national YouGov poll commissioned by Friends of the Earth (2020) found two-thirds of people in the UK experience.



Climate Adaptation

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is essential in ensuring that we do not experience catastrophic changes in global climatic conditions, including sea level rise and increased frequency of extreme weather events causing irreversible damage. However, with impacts of climate change already experienced in Westmorland and Furness, it is evident that emission reduction alone is not enough.

It is also necessary to prepare for these worsening climate impacts, a process known as Climate Adaptation.

Our target for adapting to climate change is:

“Westmorland and Furness Council will continue to respond to climatic events and build resilience within our communities, industries and natural environment.”

Whilst this Climate Action Plan largely focusses on net zero and emission reduction, climate adaptation is considered and a separate Climate Adaptation Plan will be developed by the end of 2025 and will be based on an understanding of the climate risks we face locally, as well the national adaptation policy. We will be aiming to protect Westmorland and Furness’ communities in vulnerable situations, businesses, infrastructure, services and natural environment from unavoidable changes from climatic events.

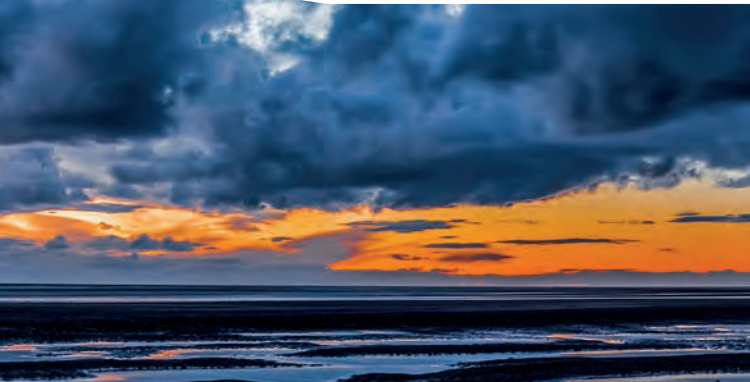




Nature and Biodiversity Action Plan

Tackling the nature emergency is imperative to the work we do at Westmorland and Furness Council. We are committed to working with partners and embrace opportunities to achieve nature recovery at a landscape scale in Westmorland and Furness. Therefore, a Nature and Biodiversity Action Plan will be published in 2024, outlining Westmorland and Furness Council's commitment to nature recovery, biodiversity net gain, nutrient neutrality, habitat restoration, species protection and creating accessible green space. In addition, the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be developed in 2024 to generate investment into nature recovery.

This Climate Change Action Plan Part Two, and our actions in Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions, focuses on net zero and emission reduction for the way we enhance nature. The actions, therefore, will explore the potential to decarbonise the management of our natural environment, the potential for carbon sequestration in nature and actions helping to create resilient environments.



Co-benefits

In our Part One (see Appendix 1: Climate Action Plan Part One), we outlined the importance of the co-benefits of our work to reduce emissions across the area. Through the development of our council plan delivery framework, and understanding our key priorities as a council, we have developed four themes (health, equality, rurality and green growth) which will underpin and inform our climate action. These themes will be considered in the development of this action plan and future projects.

Health

Supporting our residents to have healthy lives is part of our Council's ethos and climate change represents a significant risk to our residents' health. Our climate action will be targeted at limiting impacts on health and adapting to the health risks of a changing climate.

The health of the environment we live in is closely related to our health and wellbeing. Extreme weather, including flooding, storm surges and heatwaves, can directly impact on our physical and mental health through injuries, illness and trauma (Rocque et al. 2021). The impacts of climate change on the environment also indirectly impact health, by increasing the risk of infectious diseases and increasing the likelihood of illnesses associated with poor air quality (Rocque et al. 2021). Furthermore, climate change can also indirectly impact health by reducing the availability of safe drinking water and food caused by rising sea levels, droughts and reduced crop production, leading to malnutrition, scarcity of resources and forced migration (Adger et al. 2014).

The health effects of climate change will disproportionately impact some people in society more than others (Institute of Health Equity, 2020). Health inequalities are unfair, avoidable and systematic differences in the health and wellbeing of different groups and communities in the population. There is a risk that climate change will widen these disparities in health inequalities through greater impacts on communities already facing disadvantages (Institute of Health Equity. 2020).

Therefore, acting on climate change will have both direct and indirect positive effects on health and wellbeing, as well as reducing health inequalities. Health equity must therefore be at the centre of our local priorities.

Equality

Our populations that are in vulnerable situations are likely to be disproportionately impacted by climate shocks and be slower to mitigate their emissions. We will, therefore, ensure a just and fair transition to net zero.

Certain social groups are particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. These include single parent households and carers (who are disproportionately female), people with a disability and the elderly. Some of the reasons for their vulnerable situation lies in the intersectionality of their geographical locations, their financial and socio-economic circumstance, their cultural and gender identity, and their access to services and decision making. Communities that are in the most vulnerable situations can also be disproportionately impacted by climate change mitigation measures, which can place a higher financial burden on low-income households. For example, decisions that expand public transport or carbon pricing may lead to higher public transport fares which can have a greater impact on rural, low-income groups. Although there are also opportunities through addressing climate change issues to also help other issues, for example better insulation for housing can help reduce fuel poverty.

We will be mindful of, and consider carefully, the potential impacts of the choices the Council make in tackling climate change, aiming to maximise the benefits to communities.

Rurality

Westmorland and Furness is a predominantly rural area. These areas face a different set of challenges to that of urban areas especially when tackling climate change. Some of those challenges faced by our residents include limited availability of public transport, or access to suitable employment. The rural nature of the area also poses challenges to the Council, for example, we need more vehicles and crew to complete waste collection rounds. Westmorland and Furness Council is demonstrating national leadership in overcoming these rural challenges through the Pathfinder Places project and will continue to assess our climate action through a rural lens.

Green Growth

Westmorland and Furness Council is committed to maximising the opportunities to deliver green and inclusive economic growth. In order to achieve net zero by 2037, we must ensure our climate action is creating favourable market conditions to invest in net zero technologies and invest in our natural capital.

Westmorland and Furness Council can support local businesses to decarbonise; giving advice, funding opportunities and working with partners to help facilitate this.

The Council is providing up to £571,359 of funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support the establishment of Cumbria Action for Sustainability's Green Enterprise Hub. Working with a range of partners, this will support up to 300 local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint by March 2025.

We will also work closely with other partners including the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership, Farmer Network, Cumbria Tourism and Business Improvement Districts to ensure that decarbonisation, climate action and green growth goals are embedded in all business support provision in the area.

We will encourage inward investment, business growth and the delivery of new commercial and residential developments that can provide inclusive, green and sustainable growth.

Investment in innovative and green industry sectors such as clean and renewable energy will be promoted. This will be backed by a skills and employment plan which looks to support the education and training provision needed to create new and sustain existing green jobs. Westmorland and Furness Council are supporting the Land and Nature Skills Service to help us understand our needs and opportunities in our area. We must ensure we upskill local people so that all can have access to "green jobs", this can help with community wealth building, helping to support local firms transition to the green economy.

Climate and nature ambitions can be integrated into the delivery of Government growth deal funding including the UKSPF, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, Levelling Up Fund and Brilliant Barrow Town Deal.

Climate action and sustainability will be built into the design of new town centre regeneration and public realm schemes. This will include encouraging active travel options, creating and improving green spaces and providing improved public recycling and waste options so that environmental sustainability is at the heart of our town centre offer. We will also work with partners such as Cumbria Tourism to encourage green growth of the visitor economy and sustainable tourism.

Trajectories to Net Zero

We have committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2037 but this is dependent on the scale and pace of action locally, regionally and nationally. We are aware that becoming net zero by 2037 will be difficult and we must be realistic that it is heavily reliant on action outside of our control and sphere of influence (see Figure 2). However, it is crucial we do everything within our power and control to reduce emissions in our area, inspiring partners to do the same.

ZCCP's baseline report (See Appendix 2: Zero Carbon Cumbria – Summary of greenhouse gas emissions in Westmorland and Furness and

trajectories to net zero, June 2023 – Small World Consulting on behalf of ZCCP) found that to deliver Westmorland and Furness' share of the global efforts to limit warming by 1.5°C, we will need to achieve an overall trajectory to net zero emissions by 2037 for energy use in buildings, resident, visitor and industry travel, food and drink, other goods/products, industrial processes and land use (excluding agriculture). These priority areas have a 2019 baseline of 4.8 MtCO₂e.

As shown in Figure 6, Small World Consulting recommends the following trajectory, starting from the 4.8 MtCO₂e 2019 baseline.

Trajectories to net zero by 2037 - Westmorland & Furness

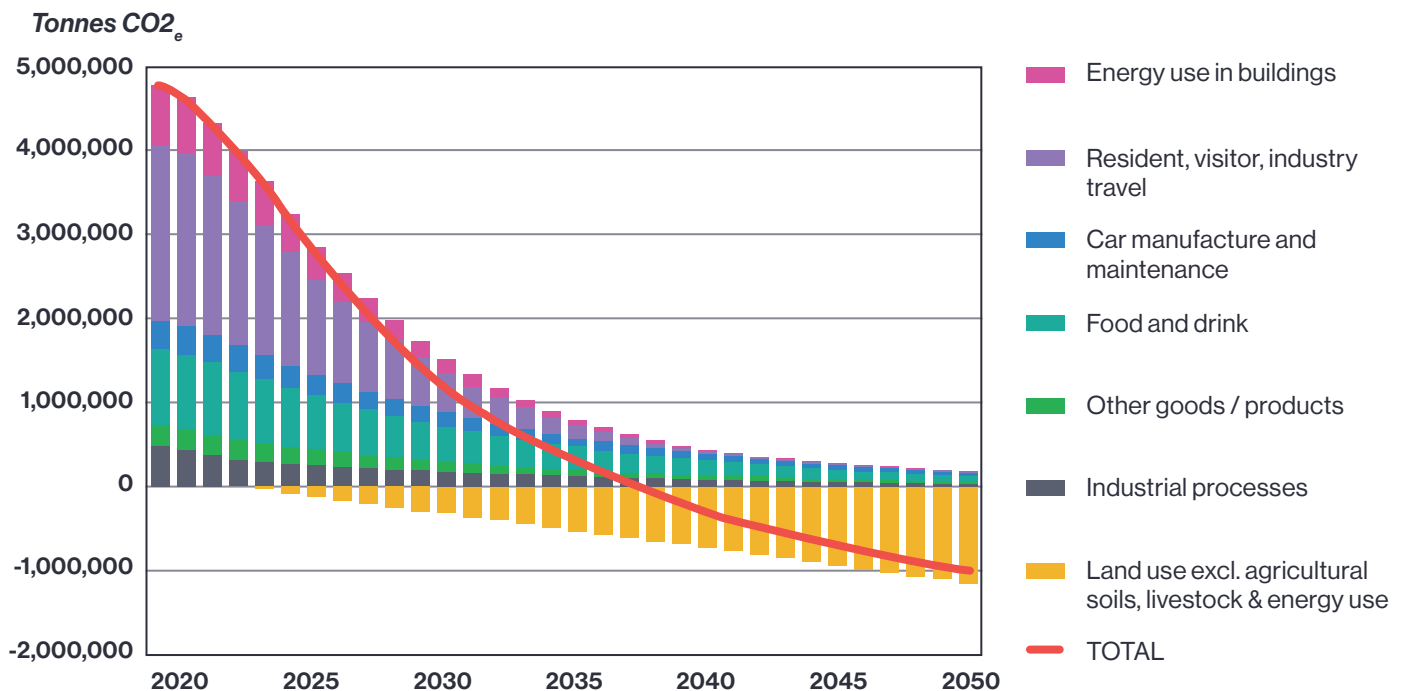


Figure 6 : Westmorland and Furness' trajectories to net zero (Small World Consulting data from a 2019 baseline).

The trajectory shown in Figure 6 outlines the magnitude of the challenge ahead.

Actions (how we will deliver)

We have developed a 5-year Climate Action Plan which explains how the Council will achieve key steps towards our net zero pathway by 2029 and embark on aiming to deliver net zero across Westmorland and Furness by 2037.

This Climate Action Plan seeks to build on the progress delivered already by the sovereign councils. Our actions, found in Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions, are a range of projects, policies, activities and processes Westmorland and Furness Council are committing to, to reduce emissions and tackle climate change across the district.

We have included a timescale on the actions whether they are:

Ongoing – to be delivered continually

In progress – already underway from year 1

Short Term – aiming to be achieved within 5 years

Long Term – actions that will help the Council achieve its 2037 target.

We have linked the Actions to Crosscutting Co-Benefits Themes which are also key priorities of the Council, these are:



Health



Green Growth



Equality



Rurality

How have actions been identified?

The actions identified in our Climate Action Plan have been developed by:

- Preliminary analysis of the recommendations of the two climate citizen juries (Furness and Kendal);
- Preliminary analysis of actions contained within the Barrow Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan, the Cumbria County Council Carbon; Management Plan, Eden District Council Zero Carbon Strategy, and South Lakeland Climate Change Action Plan;
- Using best practice from across the UK and further afield including the One Planet net zero Navigator Tool;
- Incorporating the recommendations of the Westmorland and Furness Local Government Reorganisation sub-group and member workstreams;
- A Westmorland and Furness senior leadership Climate and Nature away day
- Analysis of the Council's Feasibility study from the Pathfinder Places;
- A two-month internal engagement process, meeting, discussing, and enabling thinking with every department across the Council;
- A series of Climate conversations with residents in Barrow, Kendal, Penrith, Ulverston and online; and
- A workshop with community groups part of the Cumbria Sustainability network.
- Using the Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (CTIP –our Local Transport Plan) which contains reference to our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and LCWIPs.

Six Key Themes:



Figure 7: Westmorland and Furness Council's key themes to reach net zero

We have identified six key themes to categorise our climate action, as shown in Figure 7. These themes incorporate the six areas Westmorland and Furness Council will prioritise emission reduction actions within the Council and across the area, including; housing, industry, energy generation, waste, transport and the management of our natural environment. Below, we will outline the principal data and our key climate actions identified for each of the six themes.

The way we live



Nationally, housing accounts for over 21% of the UK's total carbon emissions, with approximately 85% of UK homes connected to the gas network and three-quarters of these emissions come from heating systems (Energy Saving Trust, 2021). Retrofitting homes to improve their energy efficiency and use low carbon heating systems is a key challenge to achieving net zero. As the UK continues to aim for net zero emissions by 2050, there is a clear focus on heating efficiency, insulation, electric heating systems (e.g. air source and ground source heat pumps, which will be supported by the Government's commitment to decarbonise grid electricity by 2035), and renewable electricity supply in new and existing buildings.

In addition to housing, agriculture and farming contribute to greenhouse gas emissions in the way we live. Globally, food systems account for over one third of greenhouse gas emissions and have become significantly more energy intensive over time. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2022) statistics show that in the UK, agriculture accounts for 69% of total nitrous oxide emissions, 48% of all methane emissions and 1.7% of carbon emissions. However, in the last 30 years, emissions associated with agriculture in the UK have reduced by around 16% as sustainable farming methods are adopted.

Locally in Westmorland and Furness, the most emissions associated with domestic and non-domestic buildings are released from fossil fuels in homes, as shown in Figure 8.

2019 emissions associated with domestic and non domestic buildings in W&F

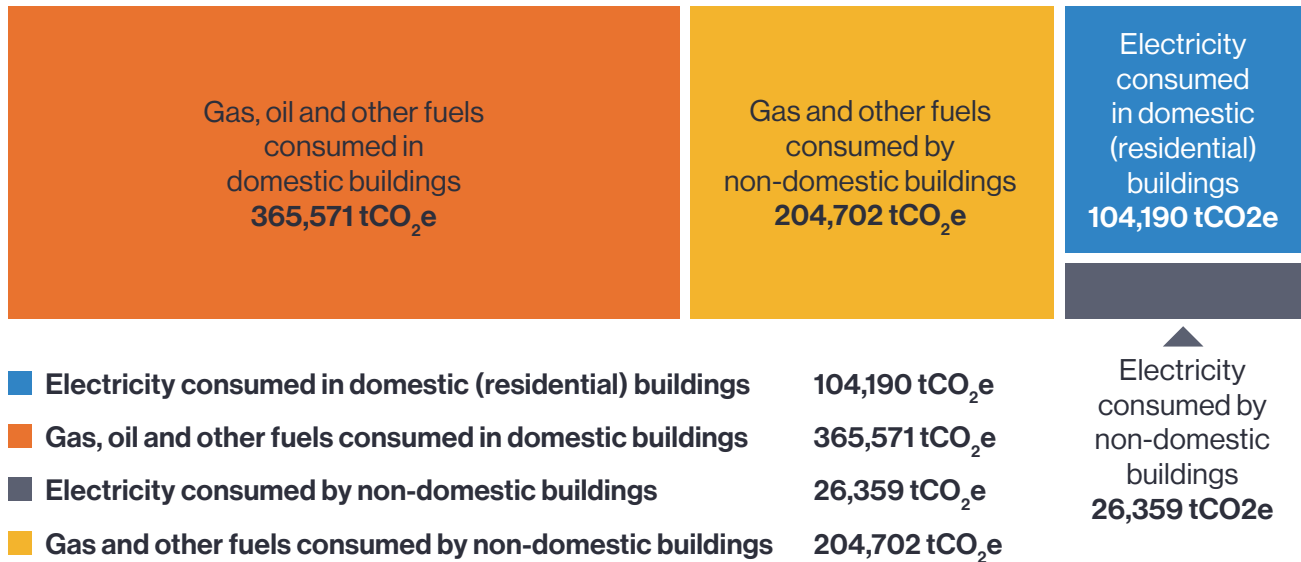


Figure 8 : emissions associated with domestic and non-domestic buildings in Westmorland and Furness (Appendix 2: Zero Carbon Cumbria – Summary of greenhouse gas emissions in Westmorland and Furness and trajectories to net zero, June 2023 – Small World Consulting on behalf of ZCCP).

Consequently, existing housing is a significant area of concern for Westmorland and Furness Council, due to the rising fuel poverty in the area and the associated emissions from our housing stock. While limited, the Council does have some powers regarding the Domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard which sets a minimum energy efficiency level for domestic private rented properties. The Council will respond to government policies such as the Future Homes Standard (2025), which should reduce emissions from housing development by 75%.

Additionally, the Council's role in delivering emissions reduction from housing is focused on the national retrofit schemes, such as the Sustainable Warmth competition and the Housing Upgrade grant (HUG) schemes. Westmorland and Furness council has delivered £10 million worth of home retrofit work, retrofitting 1000 properties across the Council area. These schemes have identified the funding gap in delivering retrofit and that there is a skills gap in

delivering retrofit locally. The Council will work with local education and training providers to address this skills gap and provide locally accredited training courses through PAS 2035.

Through planning, the Council can influence developers to ensure that future development occurs in line with our net zero target. The Council is developing a new local plan to help shape our developments to ensure we are transitioning into a low carbon society. For example, the Local Plan focuses on accessible development with easy access to services by foot or cycle, reducing the need to travel and providing good Electric Vehicle (EV) connectivity.

Further to housing, locally, agriculture plays an important role in Westmorland and Furness' economy and greenhouse gas emissions, along with hospitality and tourism (a key purchaser and consumer of food and drink in Westmorland and Furness). Decarbonising farming and the food and drink industry is a key challenge to achieving net zero by 2037, in Westmorland and Furness.

The Council is committed to working in partnership to reduce emissions from housing and agriculture, in the way we live. The Council will work with our farming community through its transition to the Environmental Land Management Scheme, working with partners on supporting more local growing through allotments and community orchards and supporting the tourism and hospitality sector through Cumbria's destination management plan. The Council will also continue to work with partners to provide energy efficiency advice and support to residents through schemes such as Cold to Cosy and The Green Doctor. Both offer free advice to residents on how to reduce bills and keep their home warm.

Westmorland and Furness Council worked with a consortium of partners including Cumbria Action for Sustainability and University of Cumbria on a Innovate UK net zero innovation project called Pathfinder Places. The £75k phase one feasibility study sets out project proposals around achieving net zero in a rural area including a food decarbonisation initiative called place to plate. The Council will be continuing this project into phase two in 2024.

A full list of actions that the Council is committing to for the next 5 years can be found in Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions. Table 1 outlines the key actions we wanted to highlight for the way we live.

Council Team	Action	Cross Cutting Themes	Timescale
Planning Policy and Development Management	Embed Climate Change and the Net Zero 2037 target into the Westmorland and Furness Local Plan.	All	In progress
Housing	Develop a social housing decarbonisation plan for council-owned social housing stock and aim for an EPC C target date.	Health, Equality and Rurality	In progress
Housing	Continue to bid and deliver national energy efficiency and retrofit schemes including Local Authority Delivery (LAD), Home Upgrade Grant Scheme (HUG) and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) to support homeowners in accessing accredited advice on house retrofitting and energy efficiency.	Health, Equality and Rurality	In progress
Cross-Departmental	Support new low-carbon development of the Marina Village in Barrow.	Health and Green Growth	In progress
Housing	Continue to support the local energy advice partnership scheme Cold to Cosy through funding and referrals.	Health, Equality and Rurality	In progress

Table 1: 5 key actions for the way we live.

Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions contains all actions linked to the way we live.



The way we work

Emissions associated with the way we work include emissions from businesses, our industry, and emissions within council operation which we have direct control over. Nationally, almost 40% of businesses are reported to be taking at least one action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, with the most common action being switching to low emission lightbulbs (Office for National Statistics. 2021). Therefore, how we work in partnership with businesses, our Council supply chain and our communities is important to tackle the climate crisis.

Locally, in Westmorland and Furness, most emissions associated with businesses and industry are Scope 3 emissions associated with upstream supply chains, as shown in Figure 9. The three scopes are defined in the glossary. Figure 10 shows the breakdown of Westmorland and Furness' industry and business emissions, with a large proportion of industry emissions associated with our advanced manufacturing sector.

W&F industry and other business emissions, excluding agriculture (2019)

Total 5 MtCO₂e

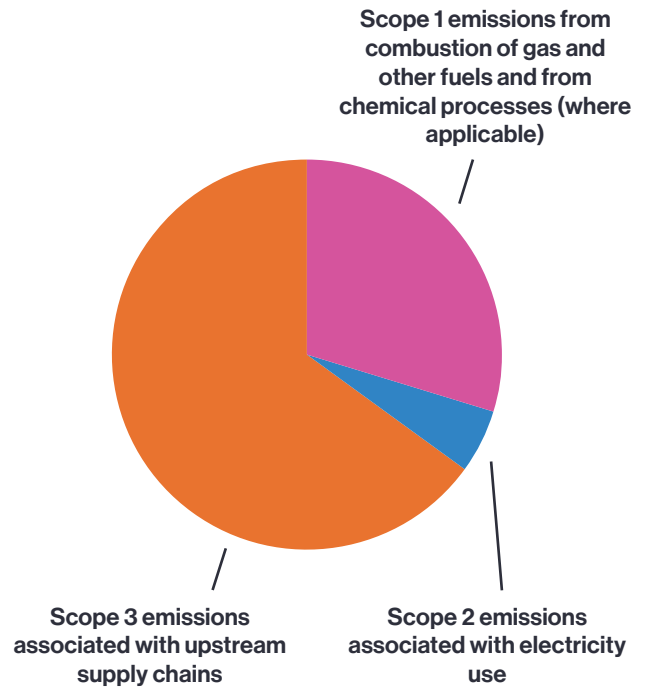


Figure 9: Westmorland and Furness Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions related to industry and business.

W&F industry and other business emissions, excluding agriculture (2019)

Total 5 MtCO₂e

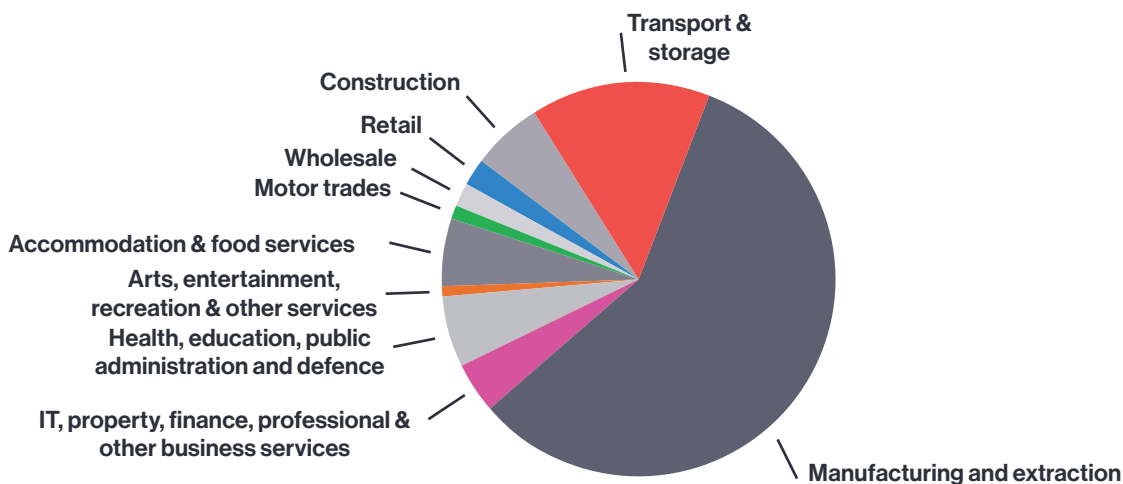


Figure 10: Westmorland and Furness carbon emissions breakdown related to the industry and business sectors.

Within Westmorland and Furness Council, we are ambitiously aiming for climate change to be a golden thread that cuts across the whole council, to develop a climate-positive council culture. Our first step is for all staff members to undertake the mandatory Awareness to Climate Change e-learning module before rolling out carbon literacy training. Currently, over 75% of councillors and senior leaders have received carbon literacy training.

To reduce carbon emissions within council operation, Westmorland and Furness Council have commissioned a comprehensive Carbon Emission Baseline Study covering all the Council's assets and services. The study assessed the total greenhouse gas emissions generated by the Council's operations and services to provide measures to reduce these emissions.

The Carbon Emission Baseline Study will inform the Council's Carbon Management Strategy, which outlines emissions reduction measures to achieve net zero buildings, transport and supply chain emissions. The Carbon Management Strategy includes actions to achieve net zero Scope 1 and 2 by 2037 and net zero Scope 3 by 2050, at the latest.

The three categories of greenhouse gas scope emissions relevant to the council's own emissions are detailed in Table 2.

Category	Description
Scope 1	Direct Emissions from buildings, plant and vehicles owned or controlled by the council e.g. natural gas used in boilers or fuel used by company owned vehicles
Scope 2	Indirect emissions associated with purchased electricity consumed by the council and its districts e.g. grid supplied electricity
Scope 3	All other indirect emissions that occur in the council's supply chain e.g. business travel, purchased goods and maintenance contracts

Table 2: Definition of Council scope greenhouse gas emissions

The full Carbon Management Strategy can be found [here](#).

As shown in Figure 5, the commercial and industrial sectors are significant contributors to climate change. It is important we work together to drastically reduce commercial and industrial emissions, whilst making sure our diverse economy thrives. Westmorland and Furness Council will work in partnership to grow the green economy, to transition to net zero and increase the capacity and skills in key sectors such as sustainable farming, electric vehicles, domestic retrofit and renewable energy.



A full list of actions that the Council is committing to for the next 5 years can be found in Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions. Table 3 outlines the key actions we wanted to highlight for the way we work.

Council Team	Action	Cross Cutting Themes	Timescale
Corporate Assets, Fleet and Capital Programme	Implement the Carbon Management Strategy for decarbonising the Council Estate.	Health and Green Growth	Long Term
Procurement	Develop the Procurement Strategy to include reference to directorates informing and influencing supply chain decarbonisation.	All	Short Term
Corporate Policy	Produce a Climate and Nature impact assessment tool which will be implemented for council projects, reports and key decisions.	Green Growth	In progress
Education	Work in partnership with schools to adapt the national low-carbon toolkit for schools and create a support offer for schools to reduce carbon emissions.	Health and Green Growth	Short Term
Green Growth	Encourage the creation of green jobs and support the provision of green skills training for existing jobs.	Green Growth	Long Term

Table 3: 5 key actions for the way we work.

Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions contains all actions linked to the way we work.





The way we travel

Nationally, transport is the largest emitting sector of greenhouse gas emissions, producing 26% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2021, with over 90% of emissions associated with road vehicles (Department for Transport, 2023). Whilst domestic transport emissions have decreased by 15% since 1990, compared to other sectors this has remained static. Therefore, the transport sector raises a real challenge for local authorities aiming for net zero emissions.

Locally, in Westmorland and Furness, transport accounts for over a quarter of our residents' carbon footprint, and over 75% of our visitors' carbon footprint. A breakdown of the total 339,630 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions associated to the way we travel in Westmorland and Furness are shown in Figure 11.

The Council has ambitious plans to get more people cycling, walking and wheeling in Westmorland and Furness, making active travel the natural choice for everyday short journeys. To encourage active travel, we have established a programme to identify, develop and secure funding to deliver high quality infrastructure improvements. A key component of this programme is the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) which identify and prioritise future improvements to the local cycling and walking network over the next 15 years (2022-2037). LCWIPs have been developed for Barrow-in-Furness, Kendal, and Penrith. In addition, the Council is committed to improving our footpaths to encourage more people to be active, committing £1 million for local sustainable transport schemes from the Council's Priority Investment Fund.

Breakdown of initial priority area - travel

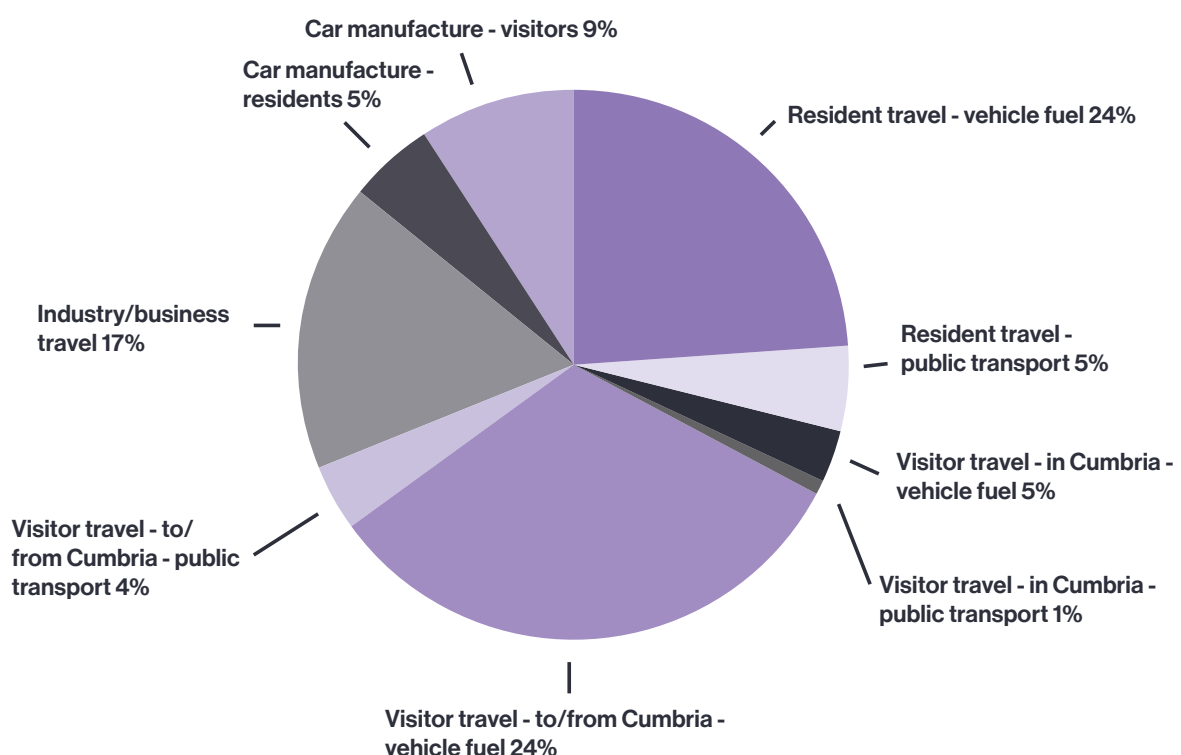


Figure 11: Westmorland and Furness carbon emissions breakdown related to travel



Gooseholme Bridge, Kendal

Further to prioritising active travel, reducing the emissions associated with private vehicles remains a concern for Westmorland and Furness Council. The introduction of 20mph speed limits and zones in the correct places in Westmorland and Furness has been identified as one of the new council's key priorities, to promote safer roads, reduce vehicle pollution and noise and enhance the environment for walking and cycling. The policy also states that, where appropriate, all new residential and urban roads will be designed and implemented as 20mph roads. With added traffic calming infrastructure, 20mph speed limits can make it safer for those participating in active travel such as cycling and walking, and therefore make active travel a more viable option to residents.

In addition to 20MPH zones, the uptake of EV ownership is on the rise, providing an important solution to reducing emissions associated with road vehicles. In quarter one of 2023 there were 2067 plug in vehicles registered in Westmorland and Furness, a 492% increase since 2019. To meet the growing demand for EV charge points, Westmorland and Furness is committed to developing EV infrastructure. The Council are set to receive over £4.2million from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) scheme, to install more off-street chargers in public car parks, but also delivering on-street EV chargers, for residents without driveway or garage access. For more information, see **[Westmorland and Furness EV Strategy Part 1](#)**.

Westmorland and Furness Council are working closely with key transport partners such as National Highways, Network Rail and our public transport operators with a shared ambition to reduce emissions through supporting mode shift, electrifying fleet and providing EV charging facilities.

A full list of actions that the Council is committing to for the next 5 years can be found in Appendix 3. Table 4 highlights key actions for the way we travel.

Council Team	Action	Cross Cutting Themes	Timescale
Highways	Deliver on £4.3 Million LEVI funding for EV infrastructure.	All	Short Term
Fleet	Develop a fleet decarbonisation strategy.	Health, Green Growth and Rurality	Short Term
Green Growth	Active travel investment around Westmorland and Furness, including town centres and rural areas.	All	Ongoing
Community Infrastructure	Ensure walkways, cycle lanes and bike storage to/ at council buildings (such as leisure centres and libraries), parks and playing pitches are available, well-maintained and clear, to encourage active travel to leisure facilities.	Health	Ongoing
Highways and assets	Upgrade all streetlighting to LED and smart systems to reduce energy and for the benefit of dark skies.	Health, Equality and Rurality	In Progress

Table 4: 5 key actions for the way we travel.

Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions contains all actions linked to the way we work.



The way we use things

Nationally, waste management is responsible for 18.7 million tons of CO₂e in the UK. In 2021, 70% of these emissions are related to landfills, and the primary greenhouse gas emitted is methane (Tiseo, 2023). Furthermore, the UK carbon emissions associated with the consumption of goods, services and importation was around 582 mtCO₂e in 2020 (Defra, 2023).

Locally, greenhouse gas emissions from waste management practices currently account for approximately 3% of Westmorland and Furness' carbon footprint. These are mainly attributed to household waste, which is incinerated through an energy from waste process.

Use of other consumer products which are bought and used by residents and visitors are summarised in Table 5.

Category	CO ₂ e
Emissions from other products bought and used by residents	204,905
Emissions from other products bought and used by visitors	54,138
Emissions associated other products	259,043

Table 5: emissions associated with consumer products in Westmorland and Furness.

While the emissions in Table 5 cover products in Westmorland and Furness, in 2022/2023 a total of 180,000 tonnes of residual waste were processed across Cumbria, in a joint contract with Cumberland Council. Of these 180,000 tonnes, 22.1% was recycled, 31.4% was recovered for energy generation and 15.2% was landfilled.

To reduce the carbon footprint of our waste activities in the Westmorland and Furness area, we will need to reduce how much waste we produce by keeping resources in use for as long as possible and prevent waste by re-using materials and products. The waste hierarchy (Figure 12) is a useful guide for reducing emissions, prioritising action further up the hierarchy. Westmorland and Furness Council is developing a waste strategy, which aims to achieve a 40% recycling rate.

Waste Hierarchy

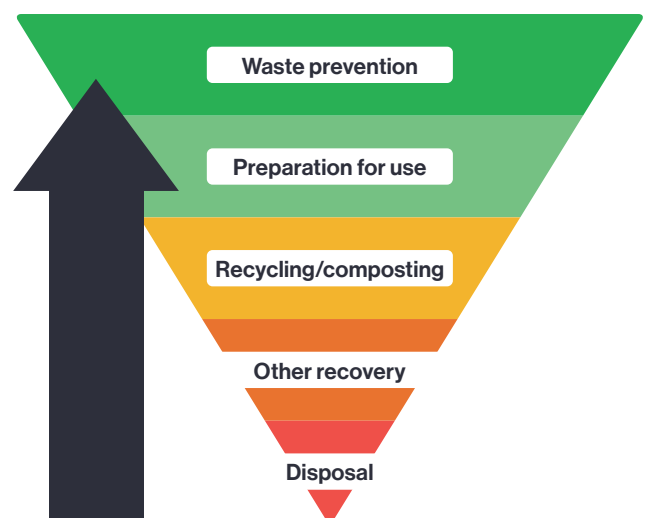


Figure 12: Waste Hierarchy <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/waste-hierarchy-challenges-and-opportunities/>

The Council will look to support becoming a circular economy (see Figure 13), to move away from the linear process of taking materials from the earth, making products out of them, and throwing them away. We want to create a more cyclical process where materials flow, with a focus on recovery or regeneration of resources, and the design of products that can be made and made again.

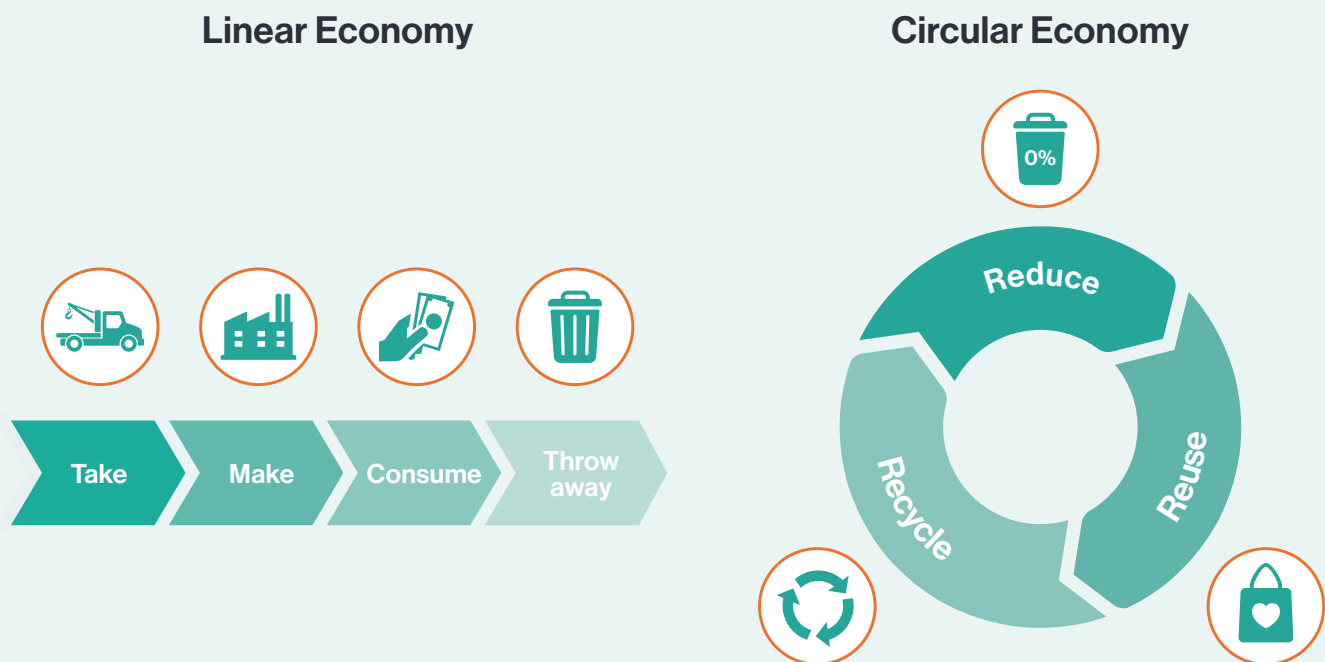


Figure 13: Difference between Linear economy and Circular economy

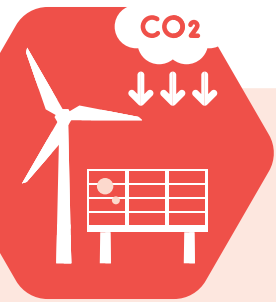
The circular economy, shown in Figure 13, will require partnership action across all sectors of society, as the Council only has limited control over the full life cycle of products and materials.

A full list of actions that the Council is committing to for the next 5 years can be found in Appendix 3. Table 6 highlights some of the key actions for the way we use things.

Council Team	Action	Cross Cutting Themes	Timescale
Waste	Develop an area-wide waste strategy to reduce waste and encourage reuse, with the aim of a 40% recycling rate in Westmorland and Furness.	All	Short Term
Waste	Optimise waste vehicle collection routes and trial EV / Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) waste trucks in Westmorland and Furness .	Health and Green Growth	Short term
Facilities	Monitor and actively work to reduce waste within council operations.	N/A	Short Term
Waste/ Climate and Nature	Encourage a sharing economy within local communities, such as Repair Cafes, peer-to-peer networks and Library of Things.	Equality and Rurality	Ongoing
Green Growth	Incorporate improved public recycling and litter bins into council regeneration developments and Public Space Improvement Projects where appropriate.	Green Growth, Rurality and Health	Ongoing

Table 6: 5 key actions for the way we use things.

Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions contains all actions linked to the way we use things.



The way we produce energy

Nationally, in 2022, 82.2 MtCO₂e of carbon emissions were emitted in the UK from energy production. The carbon emissions associated with energy production are rising, increasing by 1.7% (1.4 MtCO₂e) compared to 2021 (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023). However, the UK has significantly switched from coal and natural gas to renewable energy. In 2022, coal only accounted for 2.4% of fuel used for electricity generation, compared to 65.5% in 1990.

Locally, the way we produce energy has traditionally been a large source of emissions, due to the use of coal, natural gas and other fossil fuels. However, considerable progress has been made in the UK to reduce emissions associated with the power sector, with over half of the UK's total emission reduction since 1990 largely due to the phase out of coal and uptake of renewable energies. The sources of renewable energy in Cumbria are shown in Figure 14. This progress must continue, and the UK's independent Committee on Climate Change has shown that the power sector can reduce emissions from 98 million tonnes of CO₂e in 2018 to only 3 million tonnes of CO₂e in 2050 through low carbon technologies and investment in renewable energy.

SOURCES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN CUMBRIA

Offshore Wind



6 wind farms
accounting for
15.9%
of UK energy generation by source

Onshore Wind



239 wind installations
accounting for
1.6%
of UK energy generation by source

Plant Biomass



3 plants
accounting for
1.3%
of UK energy generation by source

Photovoltaics



8,686 installations
accounting for
0.8%
of UK energy generation by source

Anaerobic Digestion



22 anaerobic digestion
installations accounting for
1.6%
of UK energy generation by source

Hydro



59 schemes
accounting for
0.4%
of UK energy generation by source

Figure 14: Sources of renewable energy in Cumbria (Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership's Clean Energy Strategy 2022).

Westmorland and Furness are positive contributors to renewable energy production in the UK. Offshore wind in the Furness peninsula account for 20% of the UK's installed wind capacity, including Walney Extension operated by Orsted which is one of the largest operational wind farms in the world, generating clean energy for nearly 600,000 homes. Locally Cumbria accounted for 4.3% of all installed UK capacity in 2020 (MW) and 5.6% of all UK electricity generation (GWh). Increasing the capacity of renewable energy locally will support the decarbonisation of buildings (The Way We Live), businesses (The Way we Work) and help encourage switching to Electric Vehicles (The Way We Travel).

Westmorland and Furness Council is committed, through its Council Plan, to supporting sustainable growth and empowered communities by working closely with partners such as the North-West Energy Hub, Electricity North-West, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.

Our climate actions for the way we produce energy will be tailored towards an enabling and leadership by example role. We will develop policy to enact our vision, we will collaborate with others towards shared goals, and we will show leadership by example through developing our own renewable energy projects.

A full list of actions that the Council is committing to for the next 5 years can be found in Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions. Table 7 outlines the key actions we wanted to highlight for the way we produce energy.

Council Team	Action	Cross Cutting Themes	Timescale
Corporate Assets, Fleet and Capital Programme Team	Actively engage with Electricity Northwest on grid issues; demand, peak, infrastructure and to explore opportunities to collaborate on low carbon technologies and grid innovation projects.	Green Growth	Ongoing
Corporate Assets, Fleet and Capital Programme Team	Explore commercial opportunities to develop Council owned energy.	Green Growth and Equity	Long Term
Corporate Assets, Fleet and Capital Programme Team	Identify roof mounted solar opportunities on council buildings which would generate return on investment.	Equality and Green Growth	Long Term
Planning Policy	Develop energy efficiency topic papers to help inform policy decisions through the development of the Local Plan.	Direct Control	Short Term
Climate and Nature/ Green Growth	Work with partners to help the development of a Local Area Energy Plan.	Green Growth	Long Term

Table 7: 5 key actions for the way we produce energy.

Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions contains all actions linked to the way we produce energy.



The way we enhance and protect nature

Nationally, trees provide an important carbon store, storing over 200 million tonnes of carbon across the UK. Likewise, in the UK, the value of trees for flood protection is estimated to be £6.5million, and £6.1million for urban cooling (Woodland Trust, 2023). Further to trees, peatlands store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined. In the UK, peatlands make up 12% of the UK's land area and store over 3 billion tonnes of carbon (Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, 2023). Therefore, nature has the potential to store carbon, alleviate flooding, improve air quality and boost health and wellbeing.

Nationally, nature-based solutions are being adopted. Nature-based solutions are measures to tackle climate change by not only minimising climatic impacts but also to increase our resilience, these include:

- Restoring our peatlands and increasing our woodland cover, both of which provide opportunities for carbon sequestration;
- Natural flood management, which can reduce the impact of rainfall events, as well as helping to deliver wide range of biodiversity and water quality benefits;
- Sensitive management of coastal habitats such as saltmarshes to assist in coastal defence measures; and
- Increasing the connectivity of biodiverse habitats allows for species to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Locally, in Westmorland and Furness, urban tree canopy cover is below the target suggested by Forest Research, varying from 7.6% in Barrow-in-Furness to 14.2% in Penrith (Forest Research, 2021). Similarly, our peatland is generally in poor condition which will increase carbon emissions from our natural environment. For example, a 5% loss of UK peat soils would be equal to the entire annual man-made carbon emissions (Cumbria Wildlife Trust, 2023). Peatlands are degraded from unsustainable land management including overgrazing and burning. However, healthy peatlands are a large carbon store, create a species rich habitat, improve water quality and provide flood protection.

Westmorland and Furness Council is committed to tree planting and peatland restoration. Several tree planting projects have been undertaken and are being developed, including the Community Forest project in Barrow, planting with the Cumbria innovative Flood Resilience (CiFR) programme, and community orchards and micro woodlands proposed across the area. In addition, Westmorland and Furness Council is funding a land assessment to identify the potential to enhance nature on all council-owned land. This can also help identify if there are opportunities for carbon offsetting.

Further to enhancing the environment to sequester carbon and alleviate flooding, to reduce emissions associated with how Westmorland and Furness Council maintains green spaces, the Council is reviewing its land management and maintenance practices to support sustainable ground maintenance practices and reduce carbon emissions.

Much of the rural landscape is managed by farmers and private landowners but significant areas are also in the ownership of public bodies, including Ministry of Defence, United Utilities and the Forestry Commission, as well as conservation bodies including the National Trust. Nature based solutions will need to be based on catchment and habitat boundaries rather than ownership boundaries, therefore a strategic and partnership-based approach will be required to maximise the benefits that nature can provide when addressing the challenges, we face from climate change.

Therefore, Westmorland and Furness Council are working closely with the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, the Rural Panel of Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and both of our National Parks, to try to coordinate a Cumbria approach to these challenges. Through the development and implementation of the Nature and Biodiversity Action Plan and the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Westmorland and Furness Council, along with the Supporting Authorities (Cumberland Council, Natural England, Lake District National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales National Park) and the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, will focus on these local actions.

A full list of actions that the Council is committing to for the next 5 years can be found in Appendix 3. Table 8 outlines some key actions we wanted to highlight for the way we use things.

Council Team	Action	Cross Cutting Themes	Timescale
Climate and Nature	Produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and work with partners to implement the strategy to generate investment in nature recovery, which could have carbon sequestration potential.	All	Short Term
Climate and Nature	Support partners in landscape scale upland peatland restoration projects that would benefit habitats recovery and carbon sequestration.	Rurality and Green Growth	In progress
Community Infrastructure	Assess council-led maintenance practices for parks, leisure pitches, cemeteries etc. to support sustainable grounds maintenance practices.	Health	Ongoing
Climate and Nature	Work with partners to encourage community growing and increased local food security.	Health, Equality and Rurality	Long Term
Arboriculture	Develop a tree strategy to support partners, residents and landowners with tree and hedgerow planting for improving natural flood management, air quality, carbon sequestration and enhancing habitats.	Health and Green Growth	Long Term

Table 8: 5 key actions for the way we protect and enhance nature.

Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions contains all actions linked to the way we enhance nature.

Engagement

In our Council Plan, we outline our commitment to engaging with our communities to develop plans and strategies. We aim to provide leadership to increase participation in local decision making within under-represented communities. As a council, we are aware that climate change represents a shift in the role and responsibility of local government. With increasing powers, funding and guidance from national government to reach their net zero target, we must ensure we deliver on this transition, for you, our residents.

In preparation for this Climate Action Plan Part Two, we launched a period of informal public engagement, through a series of Climate Conversations and a dedicated workshop with local community groups. Over 200 residents across Westmorland and Furness attended the climate conversation events, including landowners, business owners and Parish Councillors. It became apparent we can all work together to raise awareness of climate change and undertake climate action in our locality.



Barrow

One resident said:
 “It is positive to see that climate is front and centre [of the Council’s priorities].”



Kendal



The discussions helped inform this action plan by feeding into our actions (Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions). The key topics identified across the five events and the workshop with community groups, and how these have informed our Council action are shown in Table 9 Below:

Engagement Questions/ Discussions	Climate Action from the table of Actions (Please see the Table of Actions for full explanation).
Work with Town and Parish Councils on climate action	Engage with Parish and Town Councils to ensure joined up initiatives for decarbonisation. For example, developing a Climate Change Parish and Town Council toolkit.
Demand to prioritise active travel	Continue to seek funding to deliver Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) and building our evidence base for projects and schemes. Active travel investments around Westmorland and Furness including town centres and rural areas.
Integrate climate and nature into planning regulations	Embed climate change and the Net Zero 2037 target into the Westmorland and Furness Local Plan. Integrate sustainable building principles into a Westmorland and Furness design code supplementary planning document.
Decarbonise social housing	Develop a social housing decarbonisation plan for council-owned social housing stock and aim for all social housings to achieve an EPC C rating.
Hold more open forums, climate juries and smaller/more frequent conversation to engage with residents	The Council will engage with the Furness Borough and Kendal Town citizen juries. Ongoing engagement with the public and community groups on our climate action.
Request for more support in delivering sustainability hubs across the area	Explore options to support the development of sustainability hubs in Westmorland and Furness.

Table 9: Community-led discussions from external engagement events and how these have informed our climate action

Following these Climate Conversations, the existing recommendations of the citizens juries in Furness and Kendal, as well as the need for climate action to achieve net zero by 2037, we are launching our Climate Action Plan Part Two now. However, we recognise that we will benefit from further public engagement and consultation in the future. This will be an iterative process, and we will continue to explore further methods of engaging with residents, communities and partners to develop a vision for climate action across Westmorland and Furness.



Get involved

Local level

Westmorland and Furness Council Locality Boards

Working with the three Locality Boards Furness, South Lakeland, Eden and their community development teams to regularly engage with elected members and communities to understand, influence and inform service delivery decision making and reflect community need.

Each Locality Board has developed its own Locality Plans setting out priorities based on local issues and opportunities – climate change is a key theme running throughout. Locality Boards will influence the delivery of this strategy through their thematic working groups and workshops not only through influence but also driving forward action through local leadership.

Locality Boards bring together different interest groups from the public, private, town and parish councils and voluntary sectors to work in partnership. Community development teams are the conduit for consultation and engagement with communities and local place shaping activity.

Locality Boards continue to distribute funding and grants to support locality working, projects and activities. Locality Boards are able to maximise funding opportunities to bring added value to projects and schemes.

Town and Parish Council

Parish and Town Councils, the first tiers of local government, can have an important role in decreasing local carbon emissions and reduce the impact of climate change. **The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006** enhances the UK's contribution to tackling climate change by giving Parish and Town Councils more power in relation to local energy savings and increasing small-scale production of heat and electricity from a low carbon source.

Westmorland and Furness is made up of 133 Parish and Town Councils. Parish and Town Councils can play an important role in addressing the climate and nature crises.

To help understand the sources of carbon emissions in our local area, the Centre for Sustainable Energy, working with the University of Exeter have produced a parish council carbon footprint tool:

[Impact | Community carbon calculator \(impact-tool.org.uk\)](https://www.impact-tool.org.uk)

For more information about how Parish and Town Councils can act:

- **[Ways to tackle Climate Change \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)**
- **[20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-on-the-climate-and-nature-emergency.pdf \(huntingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.huntingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**



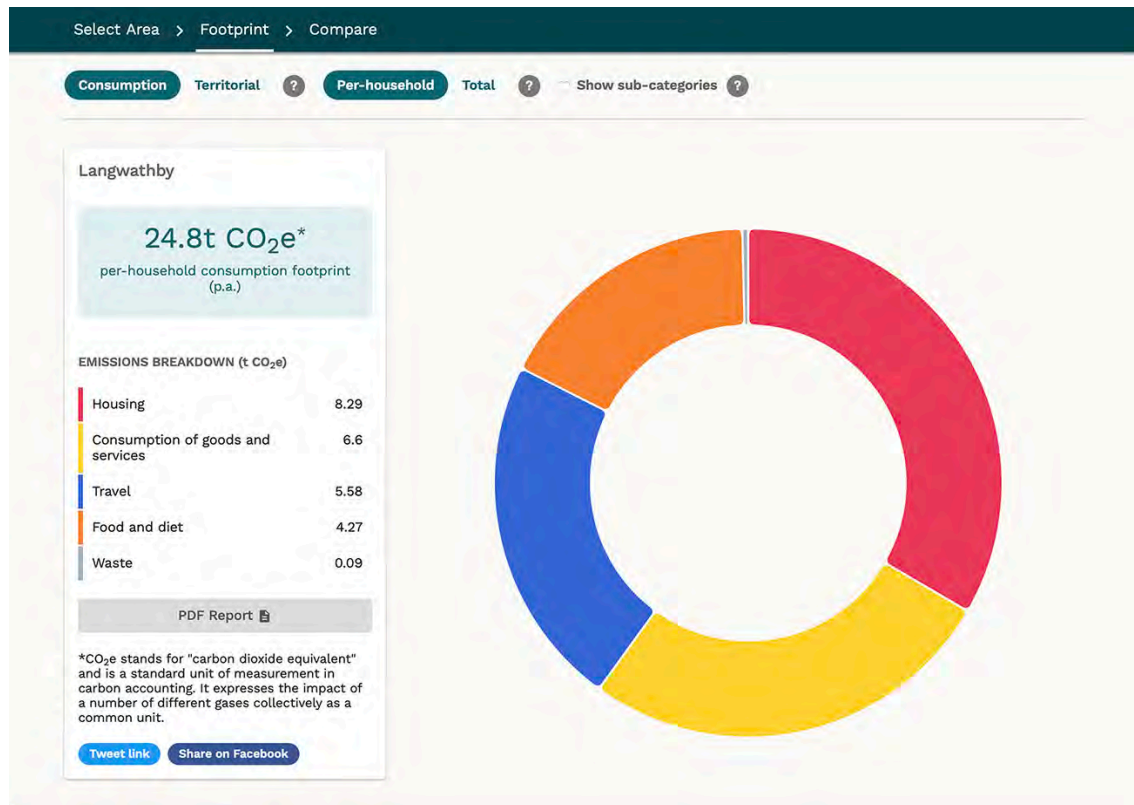


Figure 15: An example screenshot of a parish within Westmorland and Furness.

The Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) is a membership organisation run by local councils for the benefit of local councils. Its objectives are to support a council's daily operations and to advocate on their behalf. This membership organisation is open to all Town and Parish Councils. For more information: **Cumbria Association of Local Councils : Welcome to CALC**

CALC has coordinated many useful tips and documents to help town and parish councils with climate action and biodiversity loss.



Want to know more and have your say?

- Sign up for our quarterly Climate and Nature Newsletter [here](#).
- Engage with our key partners through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership [here](#).
- One of the key charities working to help communities to decarbonise is Cumbria Action for Sustainability, please check out their website for information that can help you and your community address climate change: cafs.org.uk
- Another key partner of ours for restoring peatland and exploring other nature based solutions are the Cumbria Wildlife Trust cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
- But we cannot do it alone and rely on many key community partners and encourage new communities to come together to help.
- We'd love to hear from you, what you are doing to help address climate change or any ideas you have that the Council could help with. Please email: climateaction@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Next Steps

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

We will continually monitor and evaluate the progress of this action plan reviewing and refining it based on lessons learnt.

The plan is intended to be a live document and will develop as we continue to increase our understanding of emission sources and the most effective ways to reduce them, working closely with partners on this journey.

Progress Reporting

Performance monitoring on the action plan will take place each year to track progress against agreed actions and performance, with a summary document made publicly available. A full review of the action plan will take place within 5 years.

This plan will tie in with other key strategies and action plans across the council, including but not limited to:

Key Strategy	Date Due
EV Strategy Part 1	Link
EV Strategy Part 2	2024
Nature and Biodiversity Action Plan Part 1	2024
Nature and Biodiversity Action Plan Part 2	2024
Westmorland and Furness Carbon Management Strategy	2024
Local Nature Recovery Strategy	2024
Climate Adaptation Plan	2025

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Climate Action Plan Part One
- Appendix 2: Zero Carbon Cumbria – Summary of greenhouse gas emissions in Westmorland and Furness and trajectories to net zero, June 2023 – Small World Consulting on behalf of ZCCP.
- Appendix 3: Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Actions



Glossary

Adaptation

The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may enable adjustment to expected climate and its effects.

Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)

A large system of Atlantic Ocean currents, also known as the gulf stream, brings warm water northwards and provides the UK with its mild winters.

Anthropocene

The current geologic age, used to describe the most recent period in Earth's history when human activity started to have significant impact on the planet's climate and ecosystems.

Carbon Sequestration

The uptake of carbon dioxide (CO₂), in terrestrial or marine reservoirs. Biological sequestration includes direct removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere through land-use change (LUC), afforestation, reforestation, revegetation, carbon storage in landfills and practices that enhance soil carbon in agriculture (cropland management, grazing land management). It can also be used to refer to Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS).

Climate Change

A change in the state of the climate that can be scientifically identified and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use.

Climate Crisis

This term acknowledges that we are in a state of crisis and need to take radical action to reduce carbon emissions.

Climate Impacts

Effects on natural and human systems from extreme weather and climate events and of climate change. Impacts generally refer to effects on lives, livelihoods, health, ecosystems, economies, societies, cultures, services and infrastructure due to the interaction of climate changes or hazardous climate events occurring within a specific time period and the vulnerability of an exposed society or system. Impacts are also referred to as consequences and outcomes. The impacts of climate change on geophysical systems, including floods, droughts and sea level rise, are a subset of impacts called physical impacts.

Co-benefits

The positive effects that a policy or measure aimed at one objective might have on other objectives. Co-benefits are often subject to uncertainty and depend on local circumstances and implementation practices, among other factors.

Emission Scopes

Category	Description
Scope 1	Emissions from the combustion of gas and other fuels and from chemical processes (where applicable).
Scope 2	Emissions from the use of electricity.
Scope 3 (upstream only)	Emissions associated with the upstream supply chains of businesses in Cumbria, including the supply chains for fuels and electricity generation, as shown in Figure 4.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat. The main emissions are water vapour (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆). We calculate emissions in terms of carbon due to the abundance of it and the length of time it stays in the atmosphere, and other greenhouse gases are usually counted in CO₂ equivalents. One CO₂e is the amount of heat an equal amount of CO₂ would be expected to trap over the next 100 years.

Global Warming

The gradual increase observed or projected, in global surface temperature, as one of the consequences of radiative forcing caused by anthropogenic emissions.

Health Equity

The ambition and process to ensure everyone has the opportunity and accessibility to achieve optimal health by challenging the factors that prevent some members of our communities from attaining their best health, such as lack of resources.

Mitigation

A human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Human interventions can also reduce the sources of other substances which may contribute directly or indirectly to limiting climate change.

Net Zero

Net Zero for Westmorland and Furness means reducing greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions and physical carbon removals in the region. This removal may occur through natural sequestration by nature restoration or using technology such as Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS).

Resilience

The capacity of social, economic and ecosystems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance. Building climate resilience requires mitigation and adaptation actions that must be combined to tackle the current and future impacts of climate change.

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