

Scrutiny & Policy Panel Report

Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel and Report Author:
Councillor Paul Rickett



Review of the Carbon Reduction Plan and associated carbon reduction activity at ELDC.

What we were asked to do

1. To review the Carbon Reduction Plan and how the Council is implementing the aims;
2. To look at how the Council is working with its partner organisations to influence their carbon reduction;
3. How the Council's net zero target is being considered as part of Council construction projects;
4. How is carbon reduction and sustainability being considered in procurement processes, given the recent adoption of the sustainable products policy which the Council is implementing.

Findings

- East Lindsey District Council's carbon footprint for the calendar year 2019 was calculated to be **2,583 tCO₂e**.
- For 2023, this has reduced to **1886.7 tCO₂e** (draft figure).
- This shows a reduction of **27%** reduction over the time period.
- Locally, we found other Councils have similar priorities for carbon reduction work, and fleet is seen as the biggest barrier to reaching net zero targets.
- We have made good progress in a number of areas, and regular monitoring is key to continuing that progress, as the technology is constantly evolving in this area.

Analysis.

- Carbon Reduction Action Plan – most actions are underway and on track. Where they are not, we are recommending a full review and update to ensure the Plan and Action Plan stays relevant and achievable within the timescale.
- Not all new projects are viewed from a net zero perspective from the outset and change to working practices needs to happen to embed that mindset within the organisation. A number of our recommendations will help achieve this and in turn help achieve our net zero target.
- The Procurement Team at PSPS do have good systems in process from the beginning. ELDC need to learn from this so we as a Council can lead by example for our partners and the wider community.

Recommendations

1. For the Procurement Team to provide an annual update to Overview on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting, and after 12 months an additional update on any data and performance monitoring that has been undertaken as part of the newly introduced procurement processes;
2. For tenants and operators of leased assets to be made aware of the Councils Net Zero ambitions and be provided links to relevant policies e.g. Environment Policy / Sustainable Products Policy and also strongly encourage them to make decisions that align with those policies, for example as part of a new lease or lease review;
3. To undertake a full review of the Carbon Reduction Action Plan and update where appropriate – to take place within the next 12 months and regularly reviewed thereafter to ensure we stay on track;
4. Following the above review, provide annual updates on the Carbon Footprint and Action Plan progress to Overview with updates to Executive Board and through the Leader's Report to Council;
5. To embed a new Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment Tool within the governance processes of Council and all Project Management processes to ensure the Net Zero ambition is considered at the outset;
6. To create a 'Green Team' with representatives from different directorates in the Council that would meet at least quarterly to discuss ideas, innovations and review progress;
7. To ensure that as part of the review of the local plan that planning policy reflects both the Councils own Net Zero ambitions and those of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership;
8. Extend the mandatory Carbon Literacy Training beyond the Corporate Management Team to the wider staff via an e-learning module.