

NOTES OF MEETING

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 25th July 2024, 4.00pm

Attendees:

Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim	Nature Connected, Climate Partnership
Cllr Gill Wood	Deputy Chair Climate Partnership, LCRC Deputy Cabinet Member for Net Zero
Cllr Liz Grey	Wirral Council
Peter Owen	Energy Projects Plus
Nicky Crosby	Extinction Rebellion
Rob Allen	United Utilities
Stephen Sykes	2030 Hub
Megan Bennett	Knowsley Council
Andy Evans	Friends of the Earth
Sean Maher	LCRCA, Policy Officer
Rachel Waggett	LCRCA, Lead Officer - Environment (meeting admin)

Apologies received from:

Archie McCluskey	LCRCA, Environment Officer
Tim Jago	LCRCA, Senior Policy Lead, Place & Net Zero
Colm Bowe	Liverpool John Moores University, Nature North
Mike Cockburn	Wirral Council
Annie Merry	Faiths for Change
Stephen Hudson	Wirral BC – LCRC Youth CA
Andy Judd	Environment Agency
Andrea Watts	Sefton Council

1. Welcome and introductions/ apologies for absence

GBT (Gideon Ben-Tovim) welcomed attendees and attendees introduced themselves as above.

2. Declarations of interest

- No declarations of interest

3. Notes of last meeting for agreement

Minutes from previous meeting agreed. Nicky Crosby asked for the date of the new waste contract that was mentioned in the presentation.

POST MEETING NOTE: RW has confirmed that the waste disposal contract is due for renewal in 2029. Work is commencing to re-procure this contract well in advance due to its value and complexity.

4. Matters arising

- Nicky Crosby – would like to see the notes and presentations from the meetings uploaded to the website as this appears to have stopped?
- Sean Maher – yes we can get them on, a combination of updating the website and General Election requirements has meant delays in uploading.

5. Update on latest carbon emissions data release and LCR dashboard (*Rachel Waggett presented on behalf of Eamon Magdoubi, Data Analyst, LCRCA*).

- Rachel Waggett – shares slides prepared by colleagues Eamon Magdoubi and Matt Mason (LCRCA)
- The slides show the latest Government provided update on carbon emissions for the UK. Government provide these each year broken down by Local Authority, so these figures are the combined totals for the 6 Local Authorities that make up the LCR.
- Note that the figures are for 2022 – Government provide the figures with a two-year lag. Despite the lag, it enables us to see whether we are on track or not with our carbon emissions.
- The data shows that compared to 2021, we have seen a reduction of approximately 8.6%, one of the largest falls that we have seen since data reporting started in 2005. As a city region, carbon emissions are now less than 50% of the carbon emissions in 2005.
- The data shows that much of the carbon reduction between 2021 and 2022 has been from reductions in domestic gas consumption. Reduced consumption is good if it is a result of efficiency or a transition to non-fossil fuel heating. However there is a concern that this is due to the price of gas and might be resulting in people being cold and uncomfortable.
- There are some good points also with reduced emissions from waste. In addition, transport emissions, whilst not reducing much, haven't shown a return to the pre-COVID transport levels, which is excellent.
- Per capita carbon emissions for LCR are now the lowest in the Northwest.
- Slide shows the approximate trajectory for a future pathway to net zero – whilst our reductions are very positive, this trajectory is still not enough to get us to net zero, so we cannot be complacent despite these positive signs.
- RW introduced the data dashboard that the team have provided, which uses Power BI to enable users to investigate the data. The buttons allow you to sort the data by Local Authority area, or by energy type, or by sector.
- The link to access the data dashboard is shown on the slides and here: [LCR Carbon Emissions Data Dashboard](#)

Questions:

- Liz Grey – how consistent is this data between the different Local Authorities?
- Rachel Waggett – there is good consistency because the data is collected centrally by Government based on the same data sets for each authority. There are some assumptions which means that it is best to look at trends rather than individual data points, but consistency is good so broad comparisons can be drawn. There is a link on the front page of the data dashboard that links to the government data itself. This includes spreadsheets of all the data used and also protocol reports about how they have derived this data, in case anyone wishes to investigate that.
- Nicky Crosby – is it correct that this data doesn't include aviation and shipping?
- Rachel Waggett – that is correct. If you follow the link to the Government page, there is information there about aviation and shipping and why it has been excluded at present. Government have said they would like to include it, but it's tricky to attribute these emissions – do they belong to the destination country or the source country? Also, it's important to note that these figures don't include what we call 'scope 3 emissions', the emissions associated with manufacture of goods or food that we import, for example. Nevertheless this data does give us a useful set of targets for us to focus on and clear steer for us is the need to prioritise domestic gas and transport.
- Liz Grey – would we be able to have some indication of the policies that would be required to get to the net zero pathways shown? Some indicative policies that would help us to understand what we'd have to do, if we were going to achieve the reductions these graphs show we need?

- Rachel Waggett – yes, we are already working on trying to turn this into something a bit more illustrative, for example, how many homes per year would need to be removed from the fossil gas network. There are a lot of assumptions needed, but as an illustration we think it would be very powerful.
- Liz Grey – it would be good if it was something people could use themselves, so they could see what impact all of these different changes would make, it would help people to understand the scale of change we need to make?
- Rachel Waggett – that might be possible, we’ll speak to the data team and see what they can suggest. The Power BI used for this dashboard is really simple to use so perhaps something similar to this initially? We will talk to colleagues and report back.
- Peter Owen – when comparing the Local Authorities, it does depend on the size of the authority, as some are much bigger than others. Is there a way to see this per capita rather than total emissions?
- Rachel Waggett – yes, there is a button on the dashboard to allow you to choose to display the figures per capita. What you see when you use that function, is that the local authorities become much closer to each other and show very similar patterns.
- Andy Evans – the data is really useful as is the graph comparing different net zero routes. But climate science is changing all the time and it’s clear that the consequences are happening earlier than we expected, weather changes and so on it’s a worry that we may be reaching some ‘tipping points’ that will really impact us. But that’s not really understood by most people so it’s important that we communicate the reason this is vital, the consequences of not acting as fast as these graphs show.
- Gill Wood – This has also been recognised in the Combined Authority’s new corporate plan, which says that it’s necessary to aim for net zero carbon by 2035 with an understanding of how urgent action is needed now more than ever and how the result of climate change also means we now need action in other areas like water management for heavy rain and so on.
- Rachel Waggett – will add a link to the new Corporate Plan into the notes of the meeting here: [LCRCA Corporate Plan 2024-2028](#).
- Rob Allen – Looking at the reduction in domestic gas use, it is really worrying that this could potentially be because of people not using gas heating when they need it, due to fuel poverty. Has there been any analysis of whether this is the case, or comparing to other areas across the region or nationally?
- Rachel Waggett – will speak to colleagues in the wider team about whether there are proxies we can use to see if this is the case, and perhaps those working on health inequalities, it may be that there is data we can use to try and understand what underlies this headline data.
- Stephen Sykes – On the subject of ‘tipping points’ there was a document produced by University of Exeter that looked at tipping points, both worrying ones, some of which we have already breached, and also positive tipping points which is a useful way to frame some of these discussions.
- Rachel Waggett – will add the link to that study to the notes of the meeting here: [Positive Tipping Points, University of Exeter](#)

6. Five Year Climate Action Plan – Dashboard Update (Sean Maher presented on behalf of Archie McCluskey, LCRCA)

- Sean Maher – shares slides prepared by Archie McCluskey
- This is a very quick overview of progress on the actions in the Five Year Climate Action Plan. We have continued the simplified ‘RAG’ type system which helps you to see that most actions are in progress or completed already. Some are shown as ‘not started’ which is to be expected as we are only one year into this five year plan.

- The breakdown shows progress against the short, medium and longer term actions separately, so you can see that most of the short term actions are in progress or completed. Those that are not started yet tend to be in the longer term category.
- As Gill mentioned we have a new Corporate Plan, so we are now mapping these actions against the corporate plan to assess any blockages and prioritise so that we can target action properly.
- The actions are also sorted by the combined authority's role, so those what we are leading on are making good progress which is encouraging.
- There are some examples shown of actions across all of these categories which shows the breadth of actions being undertaken, from delivering funded retrofit projects through to delivering climate literacy across the organisation there is a huge amount of work ongoing. There are examples of completed actions, in progress actions and some where we are not where we'd like to be at the moment, so that you can see examples of the complete picture.

Questions:

- Nicky Crosby – Interested in the electric vehicle charging action mentioned which is obviously a good thing, but is there anything on reducing number of vehicle journeys?
- Sean Maher – yes, our latest work on developing local transport plan puts people at the heart of transport planning rather than vehicles, with much more focus on making it easy for people to use active travel and public transport as well. This vision around modal shift is central to the plan, and crucial to reaching net zero. Perhaps we can bring this to a future meeting?
- Gideon Ben-Tovim – that would be welcomed and it would be good to have a discussion on this. We will ask colleagues at the CA to bring this to a future meeting later this year please.

7. Horizon Scanning – climate and environmental Government action relevant to LCR (Rachel Waggett presented on behalf of Tim Jago, LCRCA)

- Rachel Waggett – shares slides prepared by Tim Jago
- Since the new Government were elected there have been a large number of environmental and carbon-related announcements which these slides try to summarise. This is a very fast-changing picture and likely that they will be out of date quickly, but as a snapshot of what we currently understand it might be helpful.
- There is a slide on energy-related announcements and updates, including the launch of GB Energy and its role, plus an enhanced role for the Crown Estate which does impact us in LCR.
- Verbal updates from Government have included a potential financial incentive for communities that host clean energy infrastructure, which doesn't exist at the moment and would be really helpful. There have been helpful statements on solar energy and onshore wind energy.
- There has also been mention of a new Land Use Framework which will be needed to balance all the different pressures on land in the best way possible.
- On the environmental side there hasn't yet been as many announcements made. An acknowledgement and renewed commitment to our targets under the Climate Change Act is very welcome and sets the context. Some welcome statements about decarbonisation infrastructure which we are very interested to see. There are also announcements on water company action and mobilising the private sector investment that needs to happen to address the ageing infrastructure that we heard about last meeting. Similarly on housing, there are positive statements but we don't yet know the detail or what this will mean for LCR.
- There is less so far about nature and adaptation, but we are hoping that we will see resources for delivery rather than just strategy-making. There have been some welcome statements about protecting and promoting nature recovery on land and at sea.
- We are expecting to see a lot more information and statements coming forward particularly in Autumn, so we will bring back updates to this group.

Questions:

- Gideon Ben-Tovim – The corporate plan that was mentioned earlier sets a new more rapid net zero carbon target of 2035, so will there be a revised action plan to take account of this? What are we going to do to speed up progress?
- Rachel Waggett – There is no doubt that it's clear we need more progress and faster. It is very encouraging to see that Government now appear to agree and we hope that some of the barriers we have faced will start to be overcome in the short term which will give us the opportunity to plan more action. We are considering how we can respond to the new target because it does indicate a change in pace that we need to factor into all our work. We will come back to the group on this in the future.
- Rob Allen – From a water company perspective, we have had our draft determination from Ofwat on what we can deliver in the next period and we are currently reviewing that. We are very keen to align Government action with important water issues, such as making sure all the new houses proposed have reduced water demand and don't add more pressure to surface water management. We would really like national Government to implement Schedule 3 [the requirement for sustainable drainage systems in all new development] which would help to deliver all sorts of benefits including biodiversity.
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8. AOB

- Nicky Crosby – Attended a Community Energy England conference recently and would be interested to hear anything that the combined authority are doing to support and promote local community energy generation projects.
- Rachel Waggett – Will speak to our colleagues at the North West Net Zero Hub who are leading on this and we will arrange for them to attend a future meeting to update us.
- Peter Owen – Notes that the Community Energy Fund is providing funding to groups who have a project they wish to develop so it would be good to circulate the link to this with the notes. It won't fund the installation of the energy generation but it will potentially fund the development and planning expenses.
- Rachel Waggett – I will attach the link to the notes here [Community Energy Fund bidding information](#) and would encourage everyone to share it with their networks, we would be very keen indeed to have more community energy projects coming forward in LCR. [NOTE that the funding round closes at midnight on 1st September so please pass to your networks asap].

9. Next Meetings

Thursday 19th September 4pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 21st November 4pm – 5.30pm