

**Environment and Sustainable  
Communities Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee**

**30 April 2019**

**Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan**



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**Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To Provide the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with detail of progress made in relation to the County Durham Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan and to engage in the development of the new Climate Emergency Response Plan.

**Executive summary**

2. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee have received regular updates on the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan since 2012 via presentations.
3. The role of Overview and Scrutiny in monitoring the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan was further strengthened when Cabinet approved on the 15 July 2015 the Climate Change Strategy with the cover report specifically highlighted the role that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had played and recommended:

‘That Cabinet continues to support the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s role in monitoring progress.’

4. The last progress update was considered by the committee at its meeting in November 2017. However, the committee at its meeting on the 13 July 2018 agreed to include in its future work programme a

further progress update on the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan.

5. The report provides members with detail of the current position in relation to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in County Durham, renewable energy capacity, energy from technology other than wind, detail of delivery plan progress via the priority actions document and details of actions undertaken in relation to the plan.
6. It also presents an update on progress, following the Council Adoption of the 'Climate Emergency' motion in February 2019 and the subsequent new plan that is currently being developed to outline the challenge and opportunities in meeting these new targets.

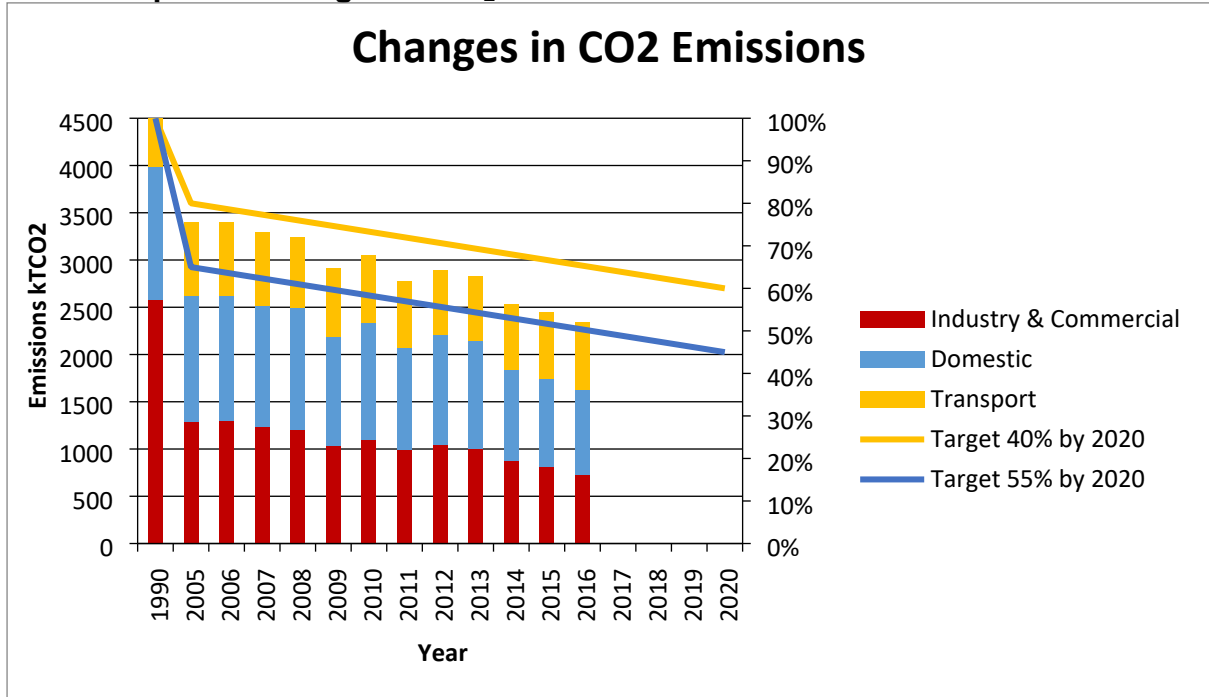
### **Recommendations**

7. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the content of the report and presentation.

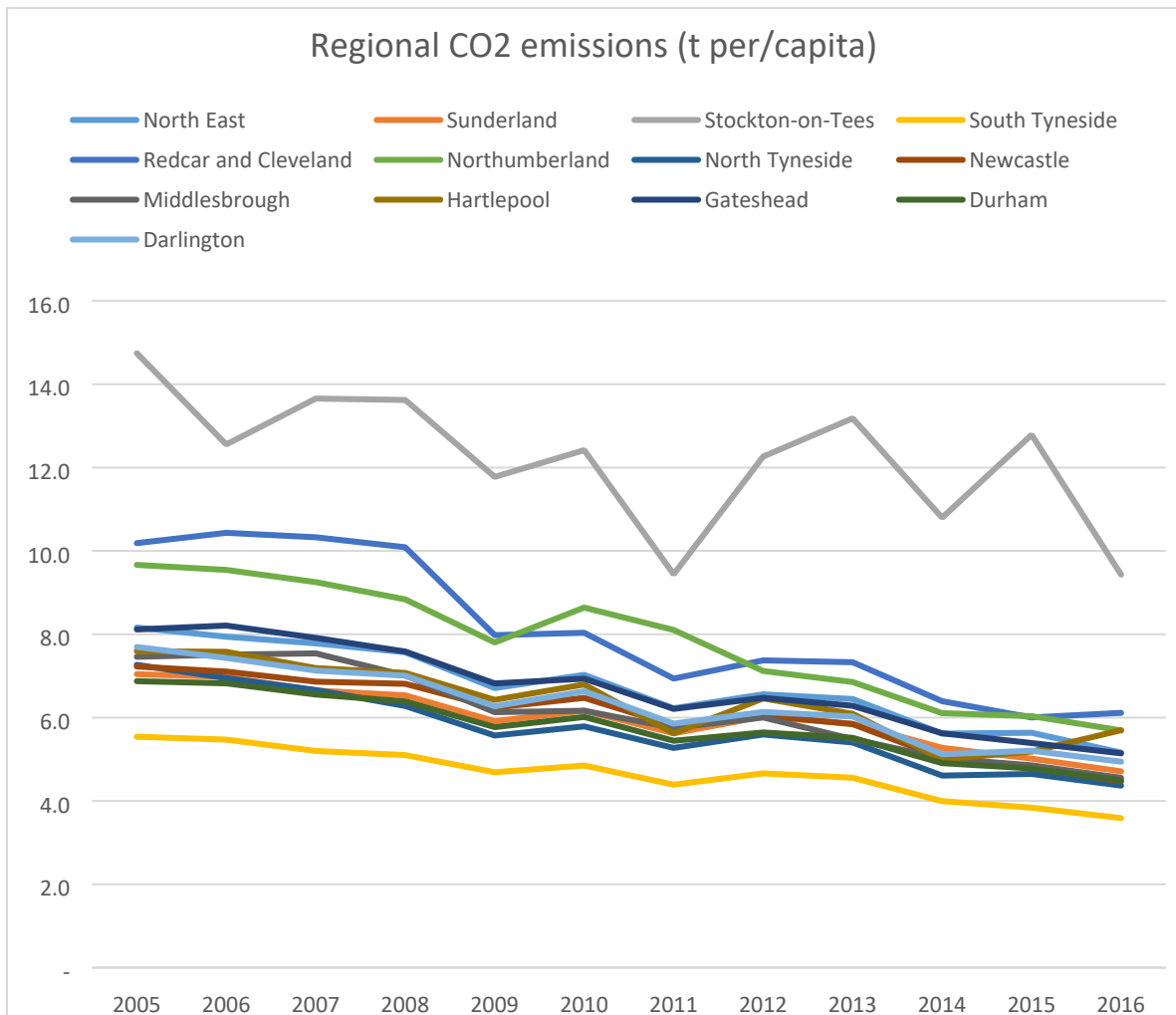
### **Background**

8. The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan run up to 2020, this is therefore the final presentation pertaining to the existing strategy. Furthermore the Carbon Management plan, the plan that focuses solely upon the Council's emissions is also being updated, given that this also runs to 2020.
9. This report relates only to County Wide emissions and does not cover the ongoing activities of the Council's Carbon Management Plan.
10. In 2016 County Durham emitted 2344.3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, an 107t decrease from the previous year and an overall 52% (per capita) reduction since 1990. The reduction in emissions comes mainly industrial, commercial and domestic emissions. However for the third year running we have seen an increase in Transport related emissions. The likely causes of the overall decrease include increased energy efficiency (including national decarbonisation of the electricity grid), and slightly higher annual temperatures for the North East, which reduces the use of heating. Graph 1 shows the changes in CO<sub>2</sub> over time, plotted against the 40% reduction target. As can be noted, emissions are well below the expected level. County Durham is on course to achieve a 55% reduction by 2020.

**Graph 1 – Changes in CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions**

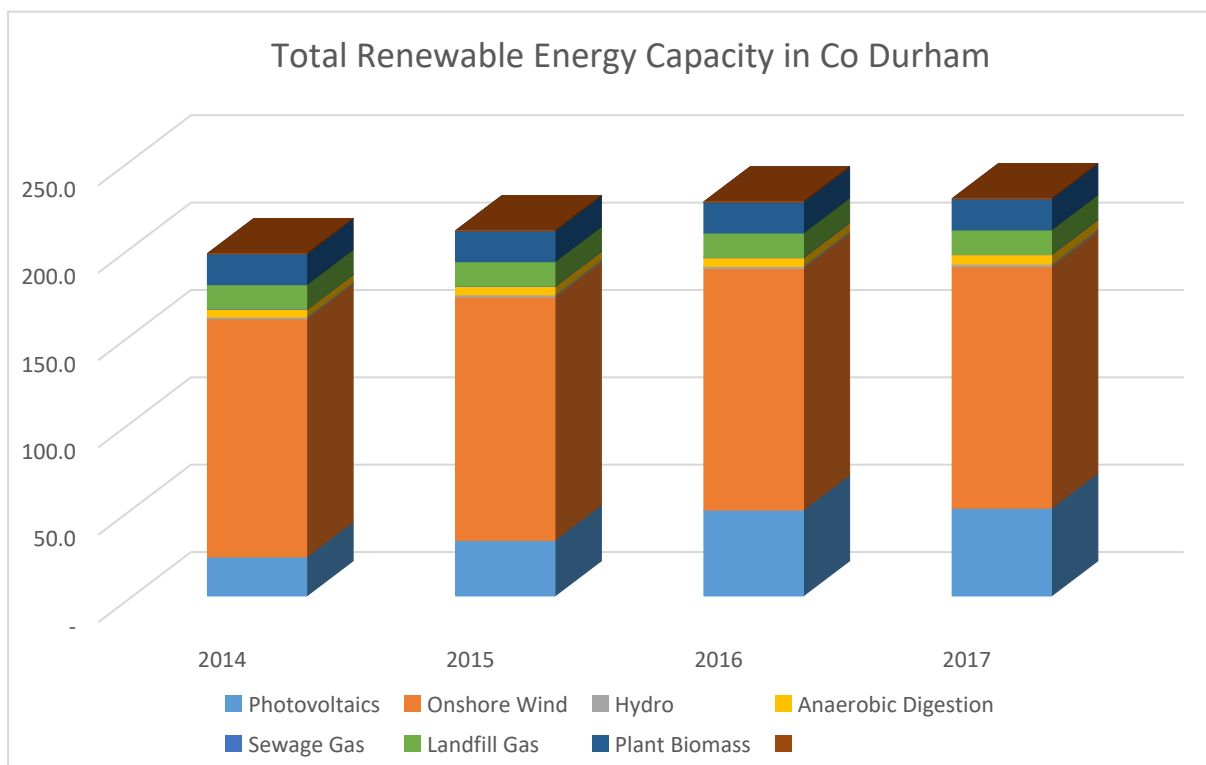


**Graph 2 – Regional perspective**



11. The regional perspective graph shows how County Durham is doing in relation to other regional LA's. Durham County has the joint third lowest per capita emissions in the region and is lower than the regional average.
12. Graph 3 show that across County Durham renewable electricity generation has increased by about 14% in the past 4 years, with the total amount of operational renewable energy capacity at 227MW (This is updated data taken from new BEIS statistics and shows an uplift from previous collated statistics)

**Graph 3 – Total Renewable Energy Capacity in Co Durham**



13. Wind continues to provide the majority of renewable energy capacity as can be seen by graph 3, there has been no new approved wind applications in County Durham since 2016 as a consequence of changes to planning guidance. There is however some optimism that BEIS are proposing changes to the planning system to be more encouraging towards wind. The County Durham Plan may also have a positive impact.
14. Solar PV has seen the largest growth out of all sectors since 2013, with 50MW now installed on homes, community centres and businesses in the County, however the end of the Feed in Tariff has led to a reduction in solar pv installations throughout 2018 despite reductions in costs.

## The Delivery Plan

15. The Climate Change Delivery Plan, which runs to 2020, is a live document designed to monitor delivery of the Climate Change Strategy/Policy and to prioritise key actions. Some of the latest developments are highlighted in the following paragraphs.
16. **Schools:** 241 or 90% of County Durham schools are supported by the ECO 2 Smart Schools Programme which engages pupils, teachers and support staff in reducing energy costs and carbon emissions through lesson plans, behavioural change and energy monitoring. A Schools LED lighting retrofit project is currently being developed.
17. **Housing Regeneration:** The Council's £2.5 million ERDF Solid Wall Insulation Innovation (SWI) project, which began in September 2017, will address fuel poverty in 220 County Durham homes by installing the latest technology in solid wall insulation. Older stone and brick homes in the former mining villages of South Moor, Ramshaw, Cockfield and Ferryhill are being fitted with innovative external wall insulation systems. Smart heating controllers are also being installed into the homes to help monitor energy usage and save over 5,040 tons of carbon over the properties' lifetime. The insulation is a world leading process that can provide an authentic stone effect in keeping with the local housing stock.
18. **Transport:** The Electric Vehicle Working Group, consisting of officers from across the Authority, is actively engaged in considering a range of projects and solutions around EV charging infrastructure, in order to help facilitate the change to Electric Vehicles.
19. **Sustainable Travel:** The team have been implementing a number of different schemes over the course of the year. The County Durham Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan was adopted in January 2019.

## EU Funding:

20. The **BEEP** project has worked with 168 SME's to date to provide them with free energy advice. The project has also approved grant funding totalling £110,486 across 25 SME's and has saved circa 850t CO2. It has hosted two national conferences addressing energy efficiency needs in SMEs. The project has had national recognition and the team are currently working on obtaining further ERDF funding for a follow up project, BEEP2.
21. **SME Power** - SMEs for a low carbon future. This new transnational Interreg Europe project addresses the importance of targeting energy efficiency in SMEs, sharing good practice from partners across Europe

to influence future policy at EU and national level. We intend to focus on how to support micro-enterprises. Durham has been invited to take part because of our achievements to date through the BEEP project. Total project cost € 189,640 (€ 161,194 ERDF grant, i.e. 85% funded) The project is due to run for 4 years from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

22. **LOCARBO** – Now in its second phase has identified Good Practices from other European partners. The project was showcased at a Community Energy England National Event and Interreg event in Florence. The action plan includes the development of a Virtual Power Station pilot activity focused on improving how ESIF carbon savings – and other project benefits/outputs - are captured and promoted across England.
23. **REBUS** – now in its second and final phase. The first phase closed with a national conference showcasing the potential for minewater heat in public and other buildings in County Durham. An Energy Renovation Pathway document has been produced to aid local authorities in carrying out their works. The action plan includes work supporting the new Low Carbon strategy for the County.
24. **Climate Adaptation:** The Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) is leading on a wide range of initiatives to tackle flooding and adaptation to climate change, one of which being the Community Safety Award. The CCU is engaging uniformed youth organisations across the county to complete the award, to ensure young people are better prepared and have a greater knowledge of how they can help themselves and their communities during emergencies. The CCU is also working with primary schools on emergency preparedness. EA are continuing to undertake natural flood management in a variety of areas including upper Weardale and the de-culverting of the Cong Burn at Chester-le-Street is due to begin.
25. **Waste:** From March to December 2018, 96% of municipal waste was diverted away from landfill through active engagement, kerbside recycling, green waste collections and sending residual waste to an energy from waste facility. In the same period 44% of household waste was reused, recycled, or composted. From March to December, the energy from waste plant generated 47,082MW of electricity, enough to power 5,138 houses for a year. The Household Waste Recycling Centre at Stainton Grove has recently re-opened and includes a re-use shop to further support our targets.
26. **District heating:** Discussions are continuing to take place to examine the potential for district heating in Durham City. There is currently

significant developer interest in the project and we are exploring next steps.

27. **Regional Low Carbon Strategy:** The LA7 (led by Durham) procured in 2018, 'Element Energy' to undertake a study examining how the region can significantly decarbonise in order to reach 2050 Zero Carbon goals. The Final report is due imminently. However initial drafts, provide useful information on the kind of projects that could have a significant impact upon Regional and County emissions.
28. The Council is continuing to develop relationships with key Stakeholders, including Northumbrian Water, Northern Powergrid and Northern Gas Networks and the NELEP.
29. **Minewater:** DCC are examining a range of opportunities around the potential for utilising minewater within the County. There has been progression on the DCC Louisa Centre project, which will be detailed in the Carbon Management Plan report, however further development work around mapping of the minewater heat resource and demand is also in development.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

30. Following the adoption of the 'Climate Emergency' motion by Full Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, the Low Carbon Team have been tasked with developing a new Climate Emergency Response Plan. This will replace the Climate Change Strategy and also sit above the Carbon Management Plan.
31. The outline of the new Plan will be presented to Full Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> July. It is anticipated that this will include an outline of the Low carbon activities that will need to be considered in order to meet our new 60% Council reduction target and the proposed zero carbon by 2050 County Wide target.
32. The structure for the new report is included in the accompanying report from the Head of Environment Services

## Background papers

- The Climate Emergency Motion
- The Climate Change Strategy - <http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/media/12895/Durham-Climate-Change-Strategy/pdf/DurhamClimateChangeStrategy.pdf>

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Not applicable

### **Finance**

Not applicable

### **Consultation**

The proposal is for a series of stakeholder engagement meetings and workshops on the plan to take place from autumn 2019

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

A changing climate will impact on everyone, across the world, but research suggests that the poorest people are likely to suffer the worst impacts, so reducing carbon emissions now will contribute to future equality

### **Human Rights**

Not applicable

### **Crime and Disorder**

Not applicable

### **Staffing**

Within the remit of the Low Carbon Economy Team to develop

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable

### **Risk**

Durham County Council has declared a climate emergency and set targets against a backdrop of national and international protest and will mitigate any risk by undertaking detailed planning and consultation.

### **Procurement**

Not applicable