



Public Consultation

STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING NOTE

CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE
REPORT, Sept 2019

Regeneration and Local Services

EVENT:	Climate Emergency Update Report – Public Consultation
DATES:	The consultation period runs between: Thursday 19th September to Thursday 31st October 2019.
OBJECTIVE:	To actively engage with a wide variety of individuals and stakeholders (internal and external) to get their opinion on the actions and priorities set-out in the Climate Emergency Update Report so that the Low Carbon Economy Team can develop an Action Plan to help meet the Council’s own as well as the county’s carbon reduction targets.
KEY MESSAGES TO STAKEHOLDERS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are in a climate emergency, what action should be taken to address it?• What can you do as an individual, household or a part of your local community to help?• We have provided an outline of the type of actions we think are necessary, but we need your views to understand what we need to prioritise.

Background



Durham County Council declared a [Climate Emergency](#) in February 2019, which committed the Council to a **60% reduction in its own emissions by 2030** and to investigate what further actions are necessary to **make the county carbon neutral by 2050**.



In response to this, officers in the Low Carbon Economy Team prepared a [Climate Emergency Update Report](#), which identifies a range of projects, measures and opportunities that could be implemented and investigated further to help achieve the Council's pledge. On 17th July 2019, full Council agreed to undertake public consultation on all the actions that we need to take. Responses will be used to help write a detailed Action Plan for the County that will help us deliver change and successes in the fight against climate change.



In addition to the consultation, please be aware that work is continuing on our existing Council and countywide carbon reduction projects.

You can see how we're doing on these as well as how we are embedding sustainability into new development [HERE](#).

What are we consulting on?

The Climate Emergency Update Report: Explores what the Council needs to do to; what everyone in the county needs to do, working in partnership; and what we need central Government to do to enable us to meet our targets.

Specifically, we want to know people's opinions on:

1. Council Emissions: Are we targeting the most important (e.g. heat, transport, electricity, schools) to meet the Council's reduction target and are the projects proposed appropriate?

2. Countywide Emissions Target: Are our suggested milestones towards meeting the countywide 2050 carbon neutral target appropriate?

3. Countywide Emissions: Have we identified the carbon emissions that we can influence as a county together (e.g. electricity, buildings, transport, land use and agriculture, shipping, waste and infrastructure) and what actions should we be taking to minimise and off-set these emissions?

4. What Others Can Do: What other actions should and could be taken by residents, communities, business and public organisations in response to the Climate Emergency?

5. How Others are Already Responding to the Climate Emergency: We want to hear what residents, organisations, businesses etc are already doing so that we can share good news stories to inspire us all.

Who are we consulting and how?



Effective active public consultation is important as this is an issue that affects us all. We want opinions of as many individuals, organisations, and partnerships from across County Durham as possible. We propose to use a variety of stakeholder engagement techniques from online to face-to-face.



Online:

Report summary, short questionnaire open to all including staff, web content and video.



Presentations:

Attending various partnerships, boards, forums and Town/ Parish Councils.



Email:

Personalised emails for professional individuals and organisations in key sectors (e.g. energy, transport, waste, utilities, environment, etc)



Events:

As the youth movement has led the way in raising the profile of the climate emergency, we are planning two specific events for young people

- (i) Children and Families Youth Forum at Parkside School on 17th September
- (ii) Young Persons' Stakeholder Event at County Hall on 20th September.

Next Steps

- We encourage you to take part in this consultation and complete our online survey.
- All the feedback received will be used to develop the Action Plan.
- It is anticipated that the Climate Emergency Action Plan will be reported to Councillors in early 2020.