

Leisure & Climate Change: A Public Leisure Organisations Approach

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Councils and Climate Emergency: The UK wide picture

UK Net Zero Strategy – October 2021

- This strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet the UK's net zero target by 2050.
- The policies and spending brought forward in the Net Zero Strategy mean that since the Ten Point Plan, £26bn worth of government capital investment for the green industrial revolution has been mobilised.
- The commitments made will unlock up to £90bn of private investment by 2030 and support 440,000 well-paid jobs in green industries in 2030.
- The strategy backs a prominent role for local authorities in decarbonisation and announced that council funding for climate change actions will be simplified.

6th Carbon Budget (2032 to 2037 period)

- CCC 9th December 2020
- 120 pages for local government
- Long term goal net zero by 2050
- By 2035 cut greenhouse gas emissions by 78% on 1990 levels
- By 2019 we achieved a 41% reduction on 1990 emission levels

Actions in 4 key areas

- Reducing demand and improving efficiency
- Take up of low carbon solutions
- Expansion of low carbon energy
- Offsetting emissions

Areas for LA's to focus

- **Buildings**

- Public buildings phase out gas, no new gas boilers by 2030, no new oil boilers by 2025/26, should achieve EPC C rating by 2028
- Shift to renewable energy usage - batteries, smart meters

Transport

- Rapid shift to EV during next decade and beyond, 2032 all sales of new cars & vans EV. 1/3rd of all cars EV's by 2030, 90% 2040
- Charging infrastructure, car parks, battery storage facilities
- Shifting 33% to 35% of trips to walking, cycling and public transport
- Increase car occupancy, car clubs, E-bikes
- Bus fleet, zero emissions electrification / hydrogen. Air quality, public realm etc

Waste

- Reduce waste, increase recycling by 70% by 2030, Food waste 50% to 60% reduction
- Phase out landfill, biodegradable waste by 2025, all waste banned by 2040

Electricity generation

- Electrification of heat and transport. Demand increase by 50% by 2035, 100% by 2050
- Offshore wind dramatic increase, renewables contributing 90% of generation by 2050. Also onshore, solar, nuclear
- Need for places to locate solar, wind, battery storage etc

Land use

- 30,000 hectares of trees per annum by 2030, 50,000 by 2035
- 20% reduction of consumption of meat and dairy by 2030, 35% by 2050
- Energy crops for biomass, 5% of agricultural land by 2050
- Flood prevention schemes, outdoor leisure, walking cycling encouraged

Leisure pointers

- Carbon emissions from facilities
- Active travel
- Mental health, social prescribing, outdoor exercise – less carbon intensive
- EV car clubs based out of leisure centres, car parks there already
- E-bike hubs, bike libraries, repair and lend

Leisure examples – APSE Members

- Asset investigation - Boiler
- Solar car ports - Nottingham
- Trajectory reports
- Energy audits
- Solar on leisure centre roofs & co-locating



Climate Change & Physical Activity Position Statement

Purpose

- Set up a working group – sub group of LGPAP
- Aim – to discuss climate related issues in the leisure sector and opportunities for the sector to address climate change
- Pull together a vision for what good practice looks like
- What kind of resource and assistance is needed in order for us to achieve this vision
- Common voice for the sector ahead of COP26 and CSR

Process

- 3 meetings
- Representatives from key public leisure bodies
- Formulated a position statement based on discussions
- Sent draft statement to the working group and wider LGPAP group for edits/suggestions

Position Statement

- Sedentary behaviours are carbon intensive behaviours
- Investing in this sector is one of the best long-term investments that the government can make in terms of physical health, mental health, and social cohesion
- It is important to be proactive in reducing emissions from the leisure sector's higher carbon emitting areas

Position Statement – Headline Ask

- We request that £10 billion of additional funding is made available to local authorities through the Comprehensive Spending Review in autumn to be distributed over the next 10 years through a decarbonisation capital replacement programme, which would see enough money allocated to each UK local authority to build/refurbish a leisure centre to Passivhaus standards

Position Statement

- We need to assess our current facilities stock in the context of other local facilities and the communities they serve
- This is an opportunity to reshape and redesign our current leisure sites to also act as community hubs
- These hubs can be thought about in relation to other key agendas such as the 20-minute neighbourhood idea and wider spatial planning

Position Statement

- Public leisure plays a key role in town and city development, and with this contributes to active lifestyles
- Providing more opportunities for people to engage in sport and physical activity in a carbon friendly way will support the Government's health agenda to reduce sedentary lifestyles and behaviours and prevent long-term health conditions
- Specifically, the Government's prevention agenda, obesity strategy, the school sport and activity action plan, and the staying mentally well: winter plan 2020 to 2021

Position Statement – Other Asks

- Funding for Community Hubs
- Investment in community outreach
- Support a national campaign for sport and physical activity
- Put requirements in place for buildings to prioritise energy efficiency
- Create a specific funding package that would allow all leisure venues to carry out carbon reporting
- Incentivise and invest in active travel networks
- Appoint an Active Nation Commissioner for England

Conclusion

- Increasing financial support to the public leisure sector is one of the best long-term invest to save initiatives that the government can make in terms of physical health, mental health, social cohesion and addressing climate change.
- Overall, this piece demonstrates a holistic way forward, underpinned by evidence and a credible vision. The main message is that we can be part of the solution for a variety of environmental and public health agendas if we receive some investment.

Questions?



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