



Northumberland  
County Council

# Agriculture in Northumberland – Climate Change

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[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

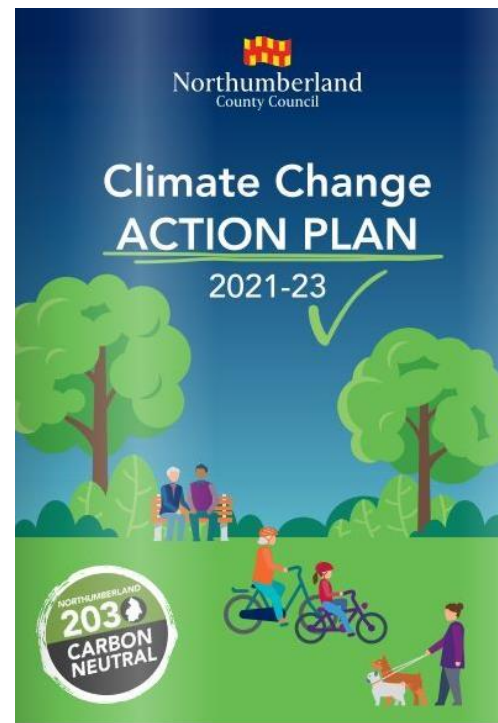
# Agenda

- NCC Climate Change commitments
- Climate Change Action plan 2021-2023
- Future of Farming Inquiry
- National policy perspective
- Opportunities and challenges for the agriculture sector



# Our Climate Commitments

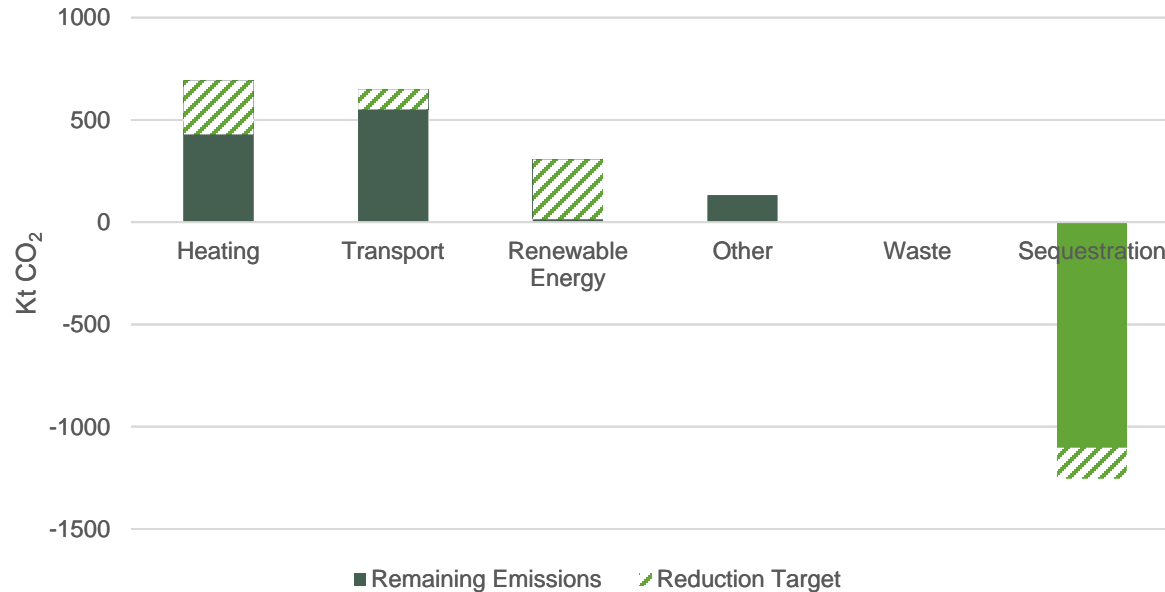
- Climate Emergency declared in 2019
- Climate Action Plan 2021 - 2023
- Reduce NCC emissions by 50% by 2025 (from a 2010 baseline)
- Achieve carbon neutral (net-zero carbon) for county of Northumberland by 2030



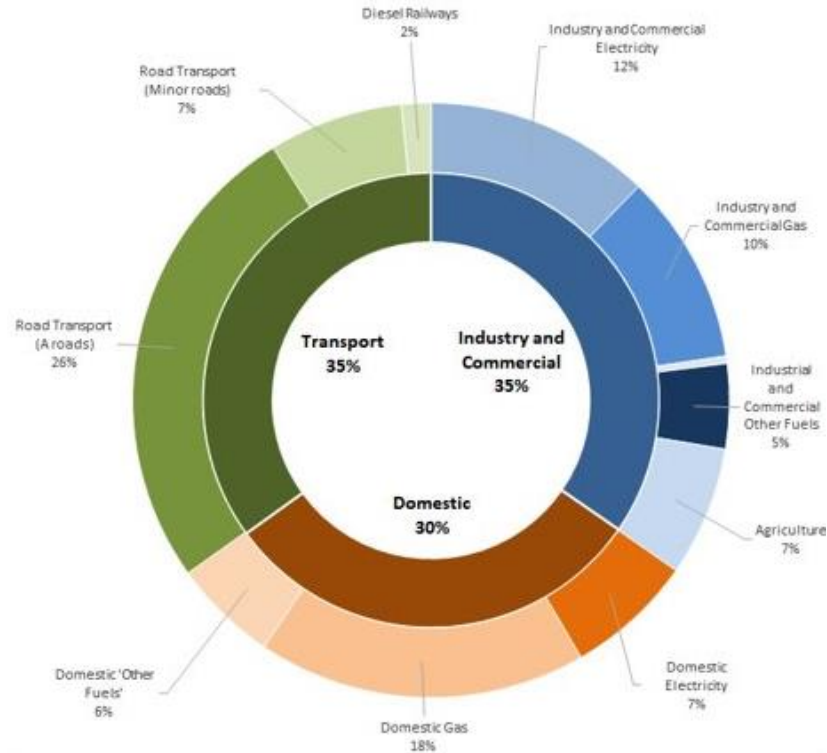
# Reaching Net Zero Carbon



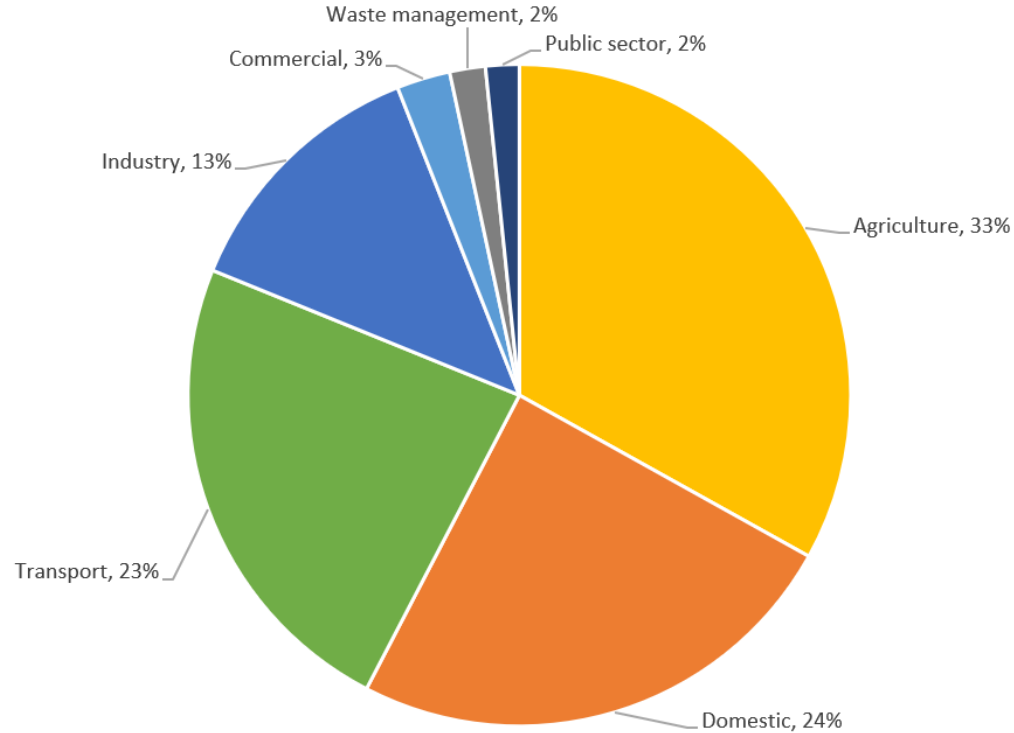
## 2030 Emissions Savings Targets

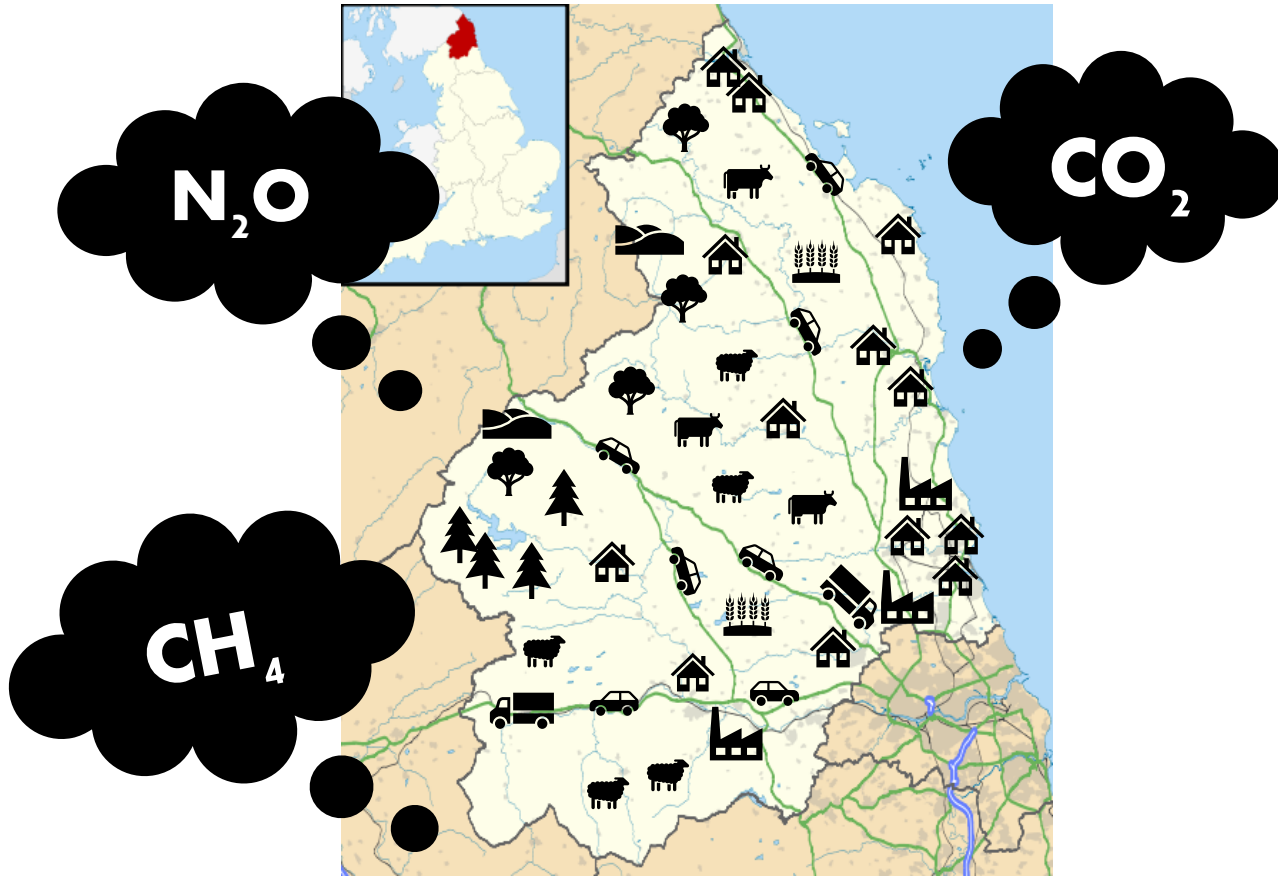


# Northumberland Emissions (2019)

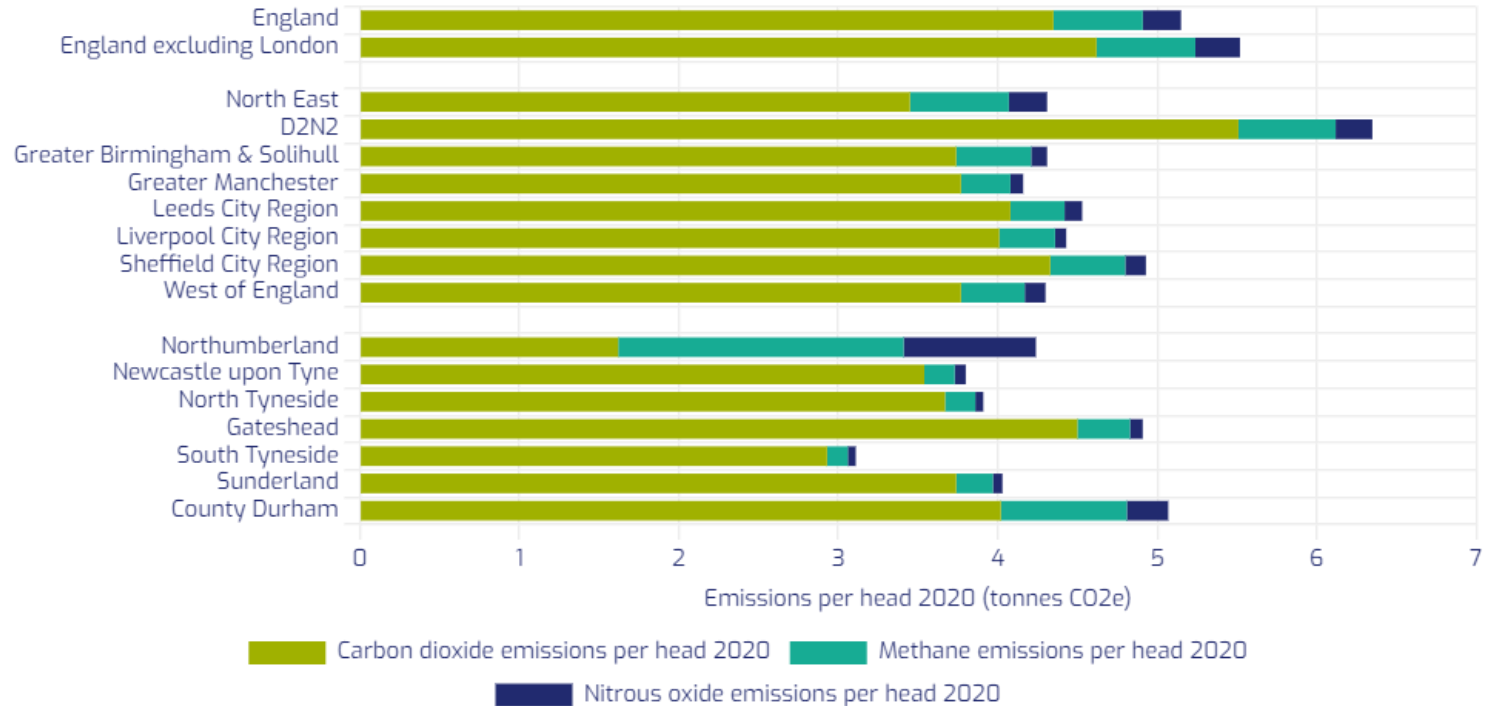


# Northumberland Emissions (2020) - CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O





# National Emissions per head (2020)







## NFU Net Zero 2040

Means reducing greenhouse gas emissions across supply chain including:

- Improving farming's productive efficiency
- Improving land management and changing land use to capture more carbon
- Boosting renewable energy and the wider bioeconomy

# Achieving NET ZERO

Farming's 2040 goal

NFU supported by



NFU Mutual



# Future of Farming Inquiry

- Heard from farmers and landowners across the county
- Asked the following:
  1. In an ideal world, what does success look like for **farming in Northumberland in 2030?**
  2. What are the **opportunities and barriers** to achieving this success, from your understanding of the current operational context?
  3. What are the **three main support strategies** that need to be in place to optimise the value of farming in the county by 2030?
- Recommendations to the Secretary of State for Environment, Rural Affairs and Agriculture.



# National Policy perspective

- **Current agriculture transition,**

- 'Farming in England is now going through the biggest change in a generation' – DEFRA, 2022
- Moving away from subsidies to 'invest the money in farm productivity, the environment, and animal health and welfare'.
- Payments will be offered in two ways: **one-off grants and ongoing schemes.**

- **Sustainable Farming incentive**

Farmers will be paid to provide public goods, such as:

- improved water quality
- biodiversity
- climate change mitigation
- animal health and welfare

- Future indicative support includes; hedgerows, agroforestry, nutrient management and advanced soil standards.





## OPPORTUNITIES

### NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Nutrient management plans: assess current usage and needs and plan to match these.

### ROTATIONAL CROPPING

Helps plants to become more resilient to drought, flooding and disease reducing demand on irrigation and fertiliser.

### ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Ensure all buildings including animal housing, grain dryers, barns, greenhouses etc are fit for purpose and efficient in their energy use.

### USE OF HEDGEROWS

Provide shelter and shade for livestock, prevent soil erosion, improve biodiversity.



## CHALLENGES

### TENANT FARMING

Northumberland has the highest percentage of tenant farmers in the country.

### MEDIA MESSAGING

Mainstream information should position farmers as part of the solution.

### BALANCING PRIORITIES

Farmers have many other important responsibilities, business ownership is at the forefront of their concerns.

### LACK OF INFLUENCE

A sense of distrust from messaging brings a disconnect to climate change.



## Next steps

- Understand BEIS data further – how can we influence reduce emissions across agriculture sector within Northumberland?
- Agriculture in next iteration of action plan
- Recommendations from Future of Farming inquiry
- Build relationships and engage with relevant stakeholders