

The Climate
Emergency in
County Durham –
A Holistic
Approach?

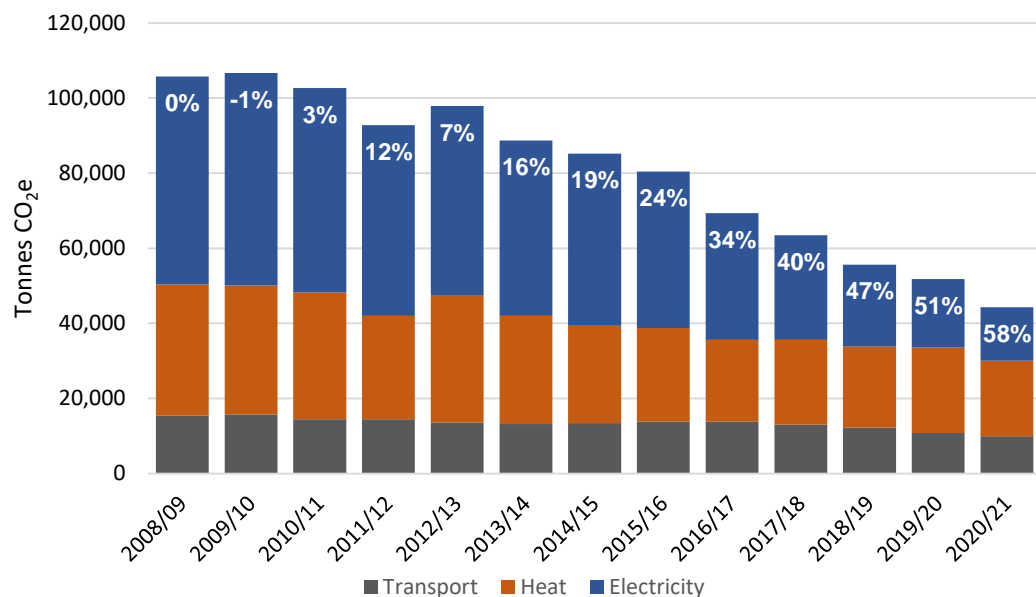


Durham County Council Low Carbon Economy Team

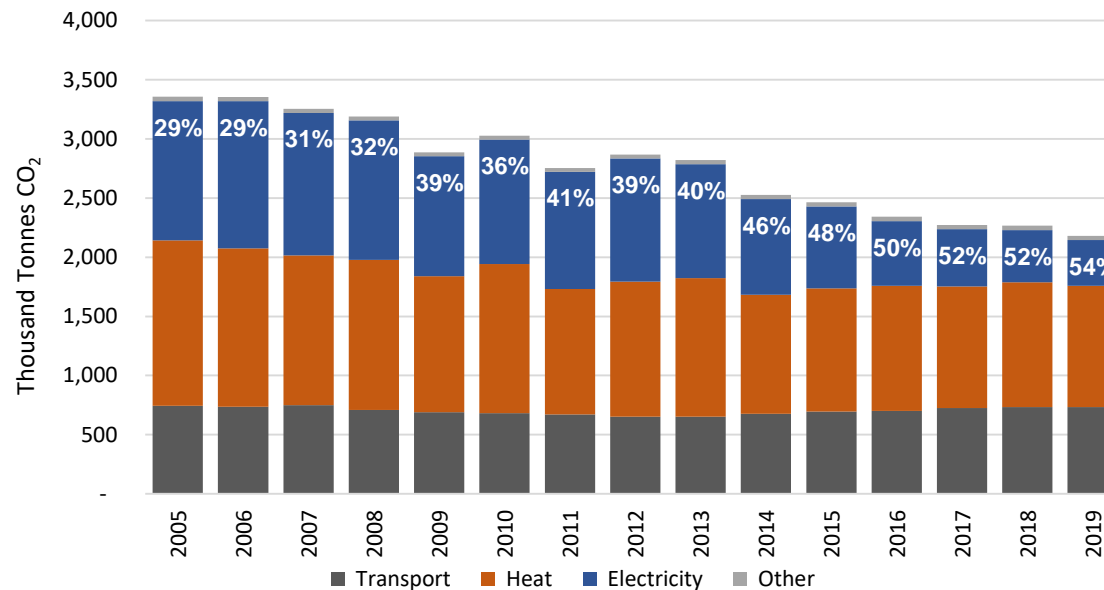
Stephen McDonald



Council Operational Carbon Reduction since 2008/09



County Durham Carbon Reduction since 2005



In both cases electricity is reducing but heat and transport remain big problems.

We know where we need to focus our efforts.



Climate Emergency Response

Action Plan: 2020 to 2022



February
2020



- Buildings and heat
- Improving the natural environment;
- Waste reduction, re-use and recycling;
- Renewable energy;
- Walking, cycling and public transport;
- Transition to ultra low emission vehicles;
- Farming / Agriculture;
- Awareness raising.



Cross Service – Whole Council Approach

Embedding the Whole Council Approach

- Climate Emergency
- Climate Emergency Response Plan
- Climate Change Directorate
- Job descriptions
- Training
- Awareness Raising
- Branding
- Website





New Website

<https://climatecountydurham.org.uk/>



A Few Projects

Carbon Management Plan considers all buildings, schools, fleet, ICT, procurement, and processes.

From LED lighting and Behaviour Change
To Solar Farms and Heating Retrofits

Building infrastructure for electric fleet
And future heat networks



“We are continuously looking for ways to adapt to a greener future and to fulfil our carbon management plan.”

Oliver Sherratt, Head of Environment at DCC



A few more projects

- ECO₂ Smart Schools
- BEEP
- Domestic Housing (ECO/LAD/WHF)
- Seaham Garden Village
- Woodland planting
- Peatland Restoration



Future Actions – CERP 2

Continually updating the plan:

- Carbon budgeting for all years
- Engagement with all
- SCALE!!!!!!
- Actual reduction to 80% (not just net or neutral)
 - PLUS additional offsetting

Themes:

- Green Recovery
- Fair and Just Transition
- Community and People Centred

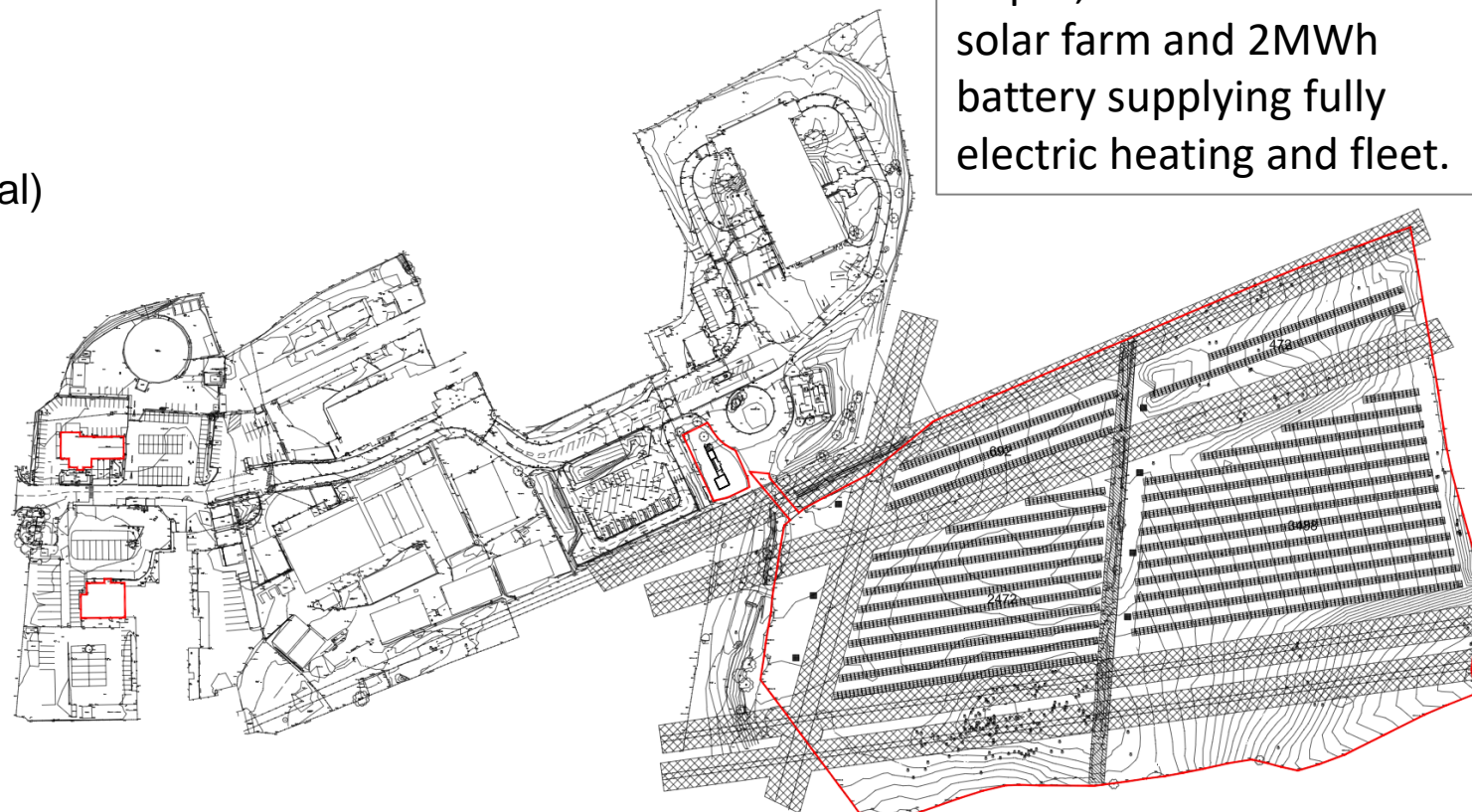
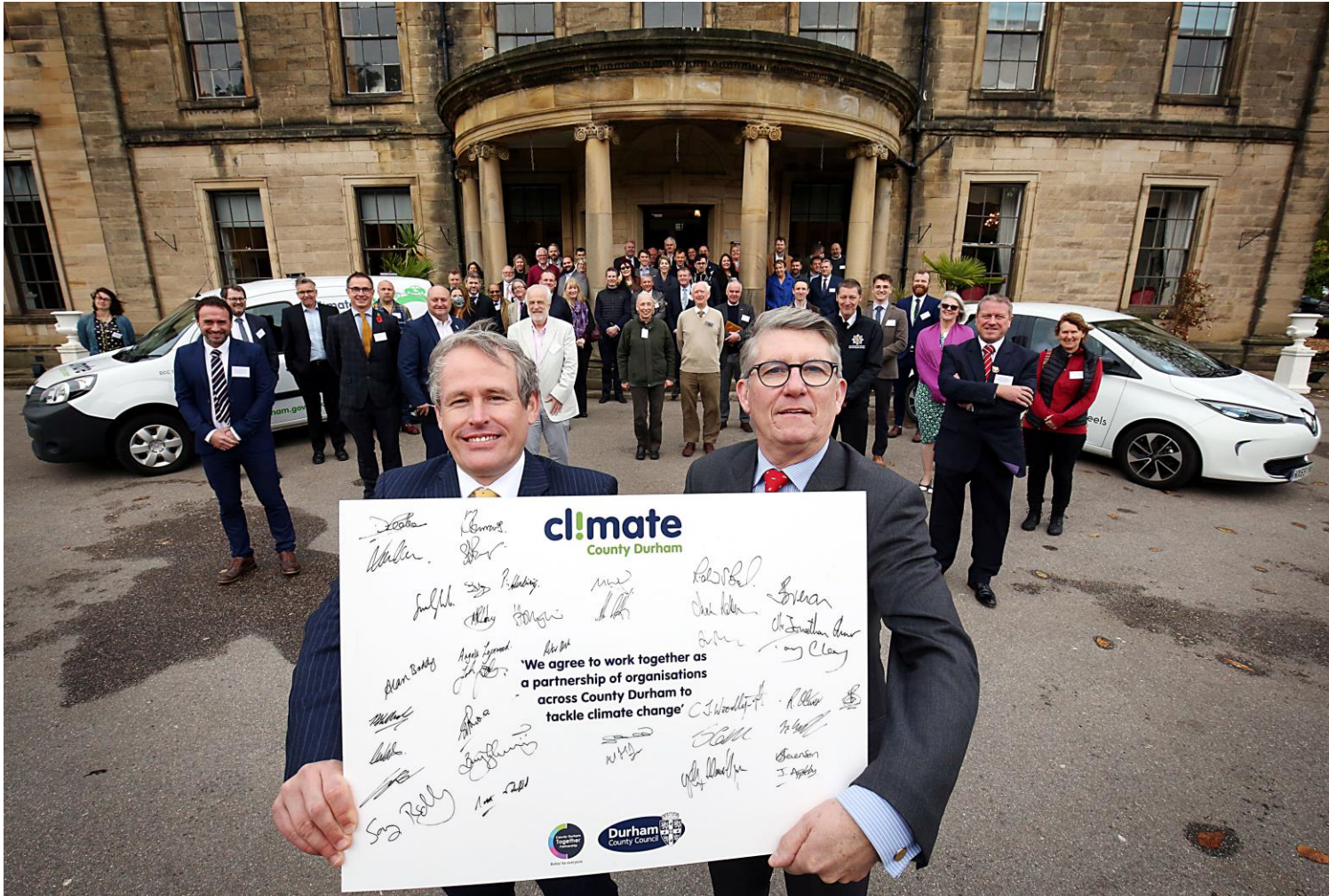


Image:
Plans for our Zero Carbon Depot, with a 3.5MW solar farm and 2MWh battery supplying fully electric heating and fleet.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RehcSshrD8&t=72s>



Conclusion

1. Our work to mitigate and adapt to the Climate Emergency involves everyone all across the Council and the County
 - Businesses, residents, public and private sectors.
 - It's **not just about our team**.
 - Collaboration with Uni, businesses, public sector, and more.
 - It's what we do across the council to address the Climate Emergency
 - With and for the **people** of County Durham.
2. We have a big carbon footprint, and a scientific budget.
 - We are **aware** of where the problems are
 - We're **doing the right actions** to tackle them.
 - We know where our weaknesses are (heat!) and we're working on them.
 - Our **in-house** expertise is well placed to confront the whole challenge.
3. We're planning for the future.
 - **CERP** updated every two years
 - Actions and plans **evolve** with the challenge
 - Not afraid of new.

Climate Change affects everyone and it's everyone's responsibility to fight it.

