



**Preston**  
City Council

# Lancashire Crematoria Decarbonisation Working Group



# Background and Context

---

Lancashire local authorities have declared climate emergencies since 2019.

---

These climate declarations have committed the local authorities to becoming Net Zero emissions in operation by a range of dates, with the earliest being 2030.

---

Preston City Council is committed to Net Zero operations by 2030.

---

In 2022 Preston City Council commissioned APSE Energy to conduct a baseline emissions inventory for the council and a decarbonisation trajectory, based on 2019 data.

---

The emissions inventory stated that the crematorium accounted for 24.4% of the council's natural gas use and 8.5% of the CO2e emissions.

---

Preston current cremator was installed in 2012 and officers are currently looking at replacing in 2027.

---

Lancashire Local authorities have worked together in the past on joint procurements.





# Lancashire Crematoria Decarbonisation Working Group (LCDWG)

The LCDWG was established in June 2023. The group is made up of officers from bereavement services, climate change and environment and operational property across the 14 local authorities.

The groups focus is on how the Lancashire local authorities can work together to develop a decarbonisation pathway for their cremation services.

The ultimate aim is to design a joint procurement between the local authorities, to benefit from economies of scale and reduce carbon emissions across a difficult sector.



# Lancashire Crematoria Study

The North West Net Zero Hub has provided a £50,000 grant to the LCDWG to commission a study. The funding supports a study that meets these two criteria.

1. That the study can be used as a base to support other local authorities in the North West.
2. That the study learns from what others in the U.K have already done.

Preston City Council will be the lead authority on the study, managing the procurement and contract.



# Terms of reference of the study

The Feasibility study will cover the following.

- A summary of the sites in Lancashire, operated by Local Authorities
- A breakdown of potential cremation technologies, currently available in the U.K.
- A literature review of electric cremation in the U.K.
  - Including case studies where other organisations have transitioned from gas to electric cremation.
- Comment on the potential effects of new guidance and legislation, and how recommendations made in the study would interact with this.



## Continued

- Market review of low carbon cremation
  - Current models of cremator on the market, Capital costs, delivery timelines.
- Service impacts of transitions
  - How moving to election cremation would change working conditions for staff.
- Review national grid capacity at cremation sites

The study will be complete by January 2024

