

# **Denbighshire County Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration**

## **Public Engagement Response Summary**

**January – February 2020**

# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

## Foreword

Thank you very much for your time and contributions during our public engagement period on the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration that we ran during January and February this year.

We were delighted with the response from our residents and excited to hear about your ideas for the Council but also the activity our residents are already undertaking themselves in their communities.

Your ideas and feedback will help us develop our Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Council to get us to our 2030 net carbon zero and ecologically positive goals.

We recognise that work may not be able to progress as quickly as originally hoped because of the significant impact upon the Council of the coronavirus pandemic. However, we remain committed to our goals and look forward to working with our communities to achieve them.



Cllr Brian Jones

*Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment*



Cllr Graham Timms

*Chair of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group*



Cllr Tony Thomas

*Lead Member for Housing and Communities*

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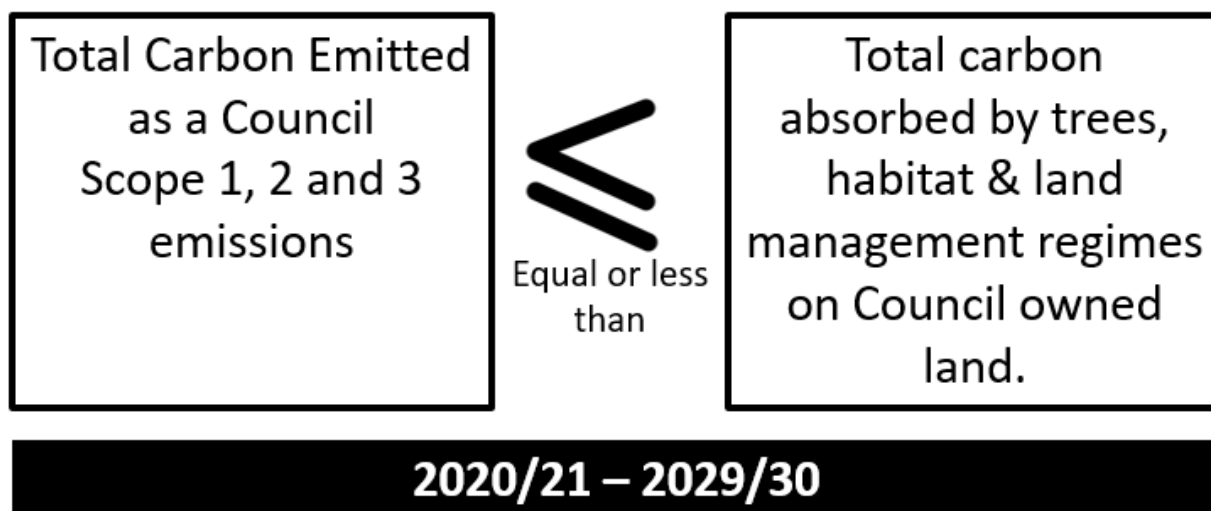
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# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

## About Denbighshire County Council's Climate and Ecological Change Emergency Declaration

Denbighshire County Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency on 2nd July 2019 and since then has been developing its plans to transition to become a net carbon zero and ecologically positive Council by 2030 at the latest.

### Net Carbon Zero Council



For the Council to become net carbon zero by 2030 the total carbon we emit as a Council will need to be equal or less than the total carbon sequestered (absorbed) by trees, habitat and land management regimes on Council owned land that we manage.

The Council needs to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions from the following sources, which collectively are known as scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions:

- Energy use in our buildings (heat and electricity)
- Electricity use in street lighting
- Fuel use in the fleet vehicles owned by the Council
- Fuel use in travel by our staff in carrying out their work (business travel)
- Fuel use in travel by our staff to their workplace (staff commuting)

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- The water we use in our buildings and operations
- The waste generated by the Council
- Buildings leased to us for the Council to deliver its work
- Buildings we own as a Council that we lease to others
- What we buy as a Council (our supply chain)

The focus will first be on reducing our carbon dioxide emissions as far and as fast as is pragmatic and practical. We will not be able to decarbonise completely and we will seek to offset our remaining carbon footprint by increasing the extent and/or concentration of trees, habitat and land management regimes which absorb carbon.

## Ecologically Positive Council



For the Council to become ecologically positive by 2030 we will need to conduct all our business - the projects, operations and interventions we undertake as an organisation- in a way that delivers ecosystems that are diverse, connected, adaptable and resilient and to the scale, extent and condition that maintains and enhances biodiversity.

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A project by project, intervention by intervention, activity by activity approach will be taken. Wherever possible the Council will need to do no harm to biodiversity. Where harm is unavoidable officers will be expected to review the overall value and impact and deliver the activity in a way that provides a positive impact for biodiversity.

## **Reaching our goals**

The Council will be producing a 9-year action plan which will include actions needed each year for the Council to meet its goals to become net carbon zero and ecologically positive by 2030.

This was the basis on which we started our public engagement period in January 2020.

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## **About the Climate and Ecological Change Emergency public engagement period**

The public engagement period ran from 21st January to 25th February 2020.

### **What we asked**

We asked for the public's feedback on the Council's goals to become a net carbon zero and ecologically positive Council by 2030.

We asked for the public's ideas for any specific actions which could be included within the 9-year action plan we are producing.

### **How you contributed**

The public gave their contributions in a number of ways:

- During a public meeting that was held on the 25th February
- By completing the "Ask a Question" online form
- By completing the "Your Feedback" online form
- By email
- Via Twitter and Facebook



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## **The number of responses and feedback submissions**

We had 115 response submissions from people living/working across Denbighshire which represents 0.1% of Denbighshire's population.

### **Public Meeting**

Over 60 people attended the public meeting in person on 25<sup>th</sup> February and over 30 questions were answered "live" by a panel of Council officers on the night.

The public meeting was webcasted live and 104 people watched the meeting online on the night.

You can watch back the public meeting by following this link:

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/climatemeeting>.

### **Online and by Email**

We had 73 online submissions of public feedback during the public engagement period and 6 submissions via email.

### **Twitter and Facebook**

We promoted the opportunity to give feedback to the public via Twitter and Facebook posts during the engagement period.

26,936 people saw our Facebook post or tweet ("Impressions"). From which we had 610 "engagements" including comments, likes, retweets, shares and post clicks.

6 questions were submitted via Twitter on the night of the public meeting by those watching live via the webcast.

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## What you told us

### General feedback on our net carbon zero and ecologically positive Council goals


There was the opportunity to give general feedback during the public engagement period on the Councils goals. Overarching comments included the following:




**“I think it is wonderful that action is being taken towards a carbon neutrality. In particular, I support the plan to preserve our green spaces, promote access to nature and plant more trees to increase biodiversity”.**



**“We’d like to see the council produce a strategic plan to reduce emissions. And also to provide a number of example projects that illustrate to people how the planned changes will improve their lives.”**



**“What about climate change adaptation?”**



**“What about collaborating with neighbouring counties?”**

# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

There were a number of common themes within the respondent's feedback and responses have been grouped into the following:

- Leading by example
- Communicating our progress
- Not just our own operations
- Funding
- Target date
- Decision making

## Leading by example

Many respondents noted that by the Council leading by example, by taking a concerted effort in reducing its emissions, increasing carbon sequestration and improving biodiversity others in the county would be encouraged to follow suit.

- *"This is a way of Council leading the way and showing what can be achieved to local businesses, schools, town councils and households".*
- *"For climate change top down leadership is essential to provide a context and framework for others to follow, support and align with".*
- *"I hope that Denbighshire CC can lead other government and NGOs in finding ways to stop use of fossil fuels".*

Respondents were encouraging to the Council to be bold and ambitious.

- *"Dramatic changes, drastic action is certainly needed. You should not be afraid of taking unpopular actions".*
- *"I believe that the powers possessed by the council enable it to make a significant local impact on meeting the many challenges of climate change".*
- *"Thank you for taking this matter seriously".*

Also to recognise what can be led by the Council and also what can be led by others.

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- *“There should be a broader societal effort to reduce carbon and seek an ecologically positive future”.*
- *“From an ecology perspective there is much that can be achieved as a bottom up approach with individual’s actions contributing the greater whole”.*

Having said that, many respondents put a challenge to the Council, that the strategy and action plan should be not just focused on own operations but that the Council should use the full range of its influence to bring about environmentally positive change throughout the county. This is described more in the next section.

## Not just the Council’s own operations

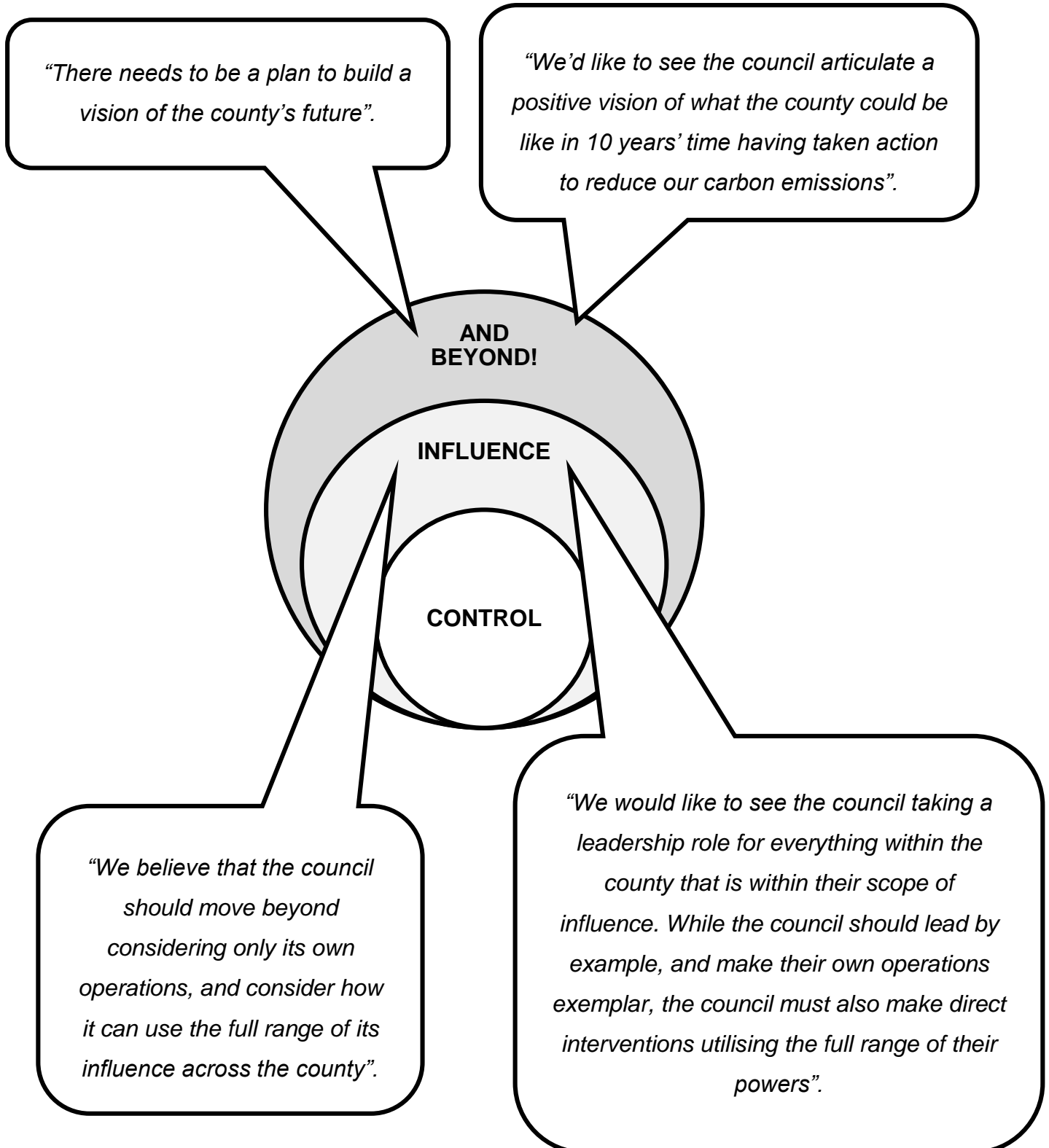
Respondents were keen for the Council to reconsider the proposed scope of the net carbon zero and ecologically positive goals beyond the Council’s own operations.

- *“We would like to see strategic, positive and inclusive change in the county in order to lower emissions and improve biodiversity. With the council leading by example, but quickly reaching out beyond internal operations to the whole county”.*
- *“The initial observation of the declaration is that the definition and scope of the proposed plan is very much confined to DCC’s own direct activities. Whilst this shows great leadership on these crucial matters, there is no apparent linkage to others in the County such as communities, business, schools, agriculture etc. Nor is there reference to how the declaration aligns with Government policy and to international agreements. It would be helpful if DCC was to recognise its leadership and co-ordination role to track all activities and determine whether the County as a whole is moving in the right direction”.*

There was a desire amongst respondents for the Council in its strategy and action plan to think about how it could use its influence and consider what its role was beyond that in this agenda. Respondents saw a role for the Council in educating, helping and facilitating residents to act accordingly to tackle climate and ecological change.

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- *“The council should show people how they can live differently, and facilitate them doing so”.*



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## Communicating our progress

The next theme that came out strongly amongst responses was communication. Respondents saw it as crucial to keep everyone in Denbighshire updated on the Council's work in response to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration.

- *"The Council should further ensure the people it represents fully understand the actions the Council is taking on climate change and their importance to the future of our community".*
- *"We think that the council should take every opportunity to inform the public about the climate crisis and the actions the council is and will be taking to combat the crisis. This could involve setting up a roadshow and further consultation in order to encourage engagement. Possibly an online climate emergency micro-site could be added to the existing website".*
- *"Communication is important throughout. The Council should start putting the climate emergency front and centre in all its communications".*
- *"As a plan is developed over the coming months, updates should be issued in an accessible, reader friendly format".*

Further to the Council informing the public of its work, some respondents also took the view that the Council should more readily involve the public in developing its net carbon zero and ecologically positive plans.

- *"The Council should consult in a continuous way; what about a citizen panel?"*
- *"Opportunities for the public to participate should not delay planning, but should be quick and easy for the public to get involved with. As such, expert advice must be sought, and the public given options based on that expert advice".*
- *"There should be the involvement of all age groups in achieving these goals, and in particular involvement of young people and school age children".*

# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

Respondents saw a role for communication of the Council's progress as a way to then encourage residents and businesses to change.

- *“Informing the public of the decisions and actions taken by council will encourage householders to improve their own behaviours”.*
- *“Raise awareness and share best practice with private households/ residents”.*
- *“Motivate commitment to our long term goal”*

## Funding

The theme of funding and finance featured in many responses and it was noted that actions that contribute to carbon neutrality are often actions that also save money.

- *“I believe that sufficient funds should be made available for dealing with the climate crisis”.*
- *“Clearly actions require resources. Therefore, the Council must establish a budget for tackling climate change”.*
- *“I want to see financial commitment to implement meaningful changes necessary for action”.*

## Target date

Respondents were positive that the Council had set a target date for its net zero positive and ecologically positive goals. There was a challenge to the Council to bring forward the target date to sooner than 2030.

- *“The council should bring forward the date to be an 'ecologically positive organisation' as it will lead by example”.*
- *“The council should bring forward the date to be an 'net carbon zero organisation' as it will lead by example”.*

# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

- *“Setting a target for becoming a net carbon zero organisation is essential to give a clear objective to aim for. Achieving this by 2030 should be entirely doable”.*

## Decision making

The final theme within the general feedback responses was around decision making. There was a desire amongst respondents that the Council considers the impact of its actions on climate and ecological change whenever a decision is made.

- *“The council should put reducing and improving the climate change at the heart of all decision making”.*
- *“We would like to see the council go beyond the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and put climate considerations above all else.*
- *“Provide new well-being measures for the county based on improving climate and ecological change”.*



# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

## Ideas for policies in our strategy

A policy is a principle to guide decisions, it is a statement of intent, the default, the rule of thumb.

We intend for our Climate and Ecological Change Strategy to include a set of policies by which the Council is guided in its management of public affairs in the county. These policies will be the supporting foundation for the organisations transition to net carbon zero and ecologically positive by 2030.

Many respondents gave us examples of policies that could be considered for inclusion in the strategy document. The ideas for policies submitted to the Council have been sorted into two groups for further consideration:

- Policies that will reduce carbon dioxide emissions
  - o Performance
  - o Planning policies
  - o Finance and funding policies
  - o Business and economic development policies
  - o Housing policies
  - o Energy management policies
  - o Procurement policies
  - o Catering policies
  - o Event management policies
  - o Waste and recycling policies
  - o Road policies
  - o Fleet management policies
- Policies that will increase carbon sequestration and/or improve biodiversity
  - o Planning policies
  - o Public realm policies
  - o Land and water management policies
  - o Green infrastructure policies

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## POLICIES TO REDUCE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

### Performance:

- Every council employee to have dealing with the climate crisis in their personal performance objectives.
- Every service manager to have a target based on identifying and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

### Planning:

- Impact on the climate and the environment to be the leading deciding factor on planning applications.
- Installation of renewable energy- solar panel arrays for electricity and ground source heat pumps for heating- compulsory for all new house building within the county.
- The elimination of the use of fossil fuels within Denbighshire to be the leading design factor of the Local Development Plan.
- No planning permission granted to new buildings which do not deliver
  - Energy efficiency – standards of insulation
  - Renewable energy – heating, hot water, electricity
  - Sustainable transport – EV charge points
- No planning permissions granted to car based developments.
- The climate emergency to be the leading design factor of the Local Development Plan.

### Finance and funding:

- The elimination of the use of fossil fuels within Denbighshire to be the leading design factor of a grant allocation system.
- Increase of council tax to pay for combating the climate and ecological emergency.

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- Section 106 monies and Community Infrastructure Levy to be used to fund measures to tackle climate and ecological change.

## Business and Economic Development:

- Focus all business and economic development support on businesses which help reduce carbon dioxide emissions and/or improve biodiversity.

## Housing:

- When existing plant needs changing in social housing properties, that all properties are refitted with air source heat pumps instead of gas/oil systems.
- All future Council houses (including those in planning stages but not yet built) to be sustainable, Passivhaus or zero carbon.

## Energy Management:

- All heating in Council owned buildings fuel via renewable energy.
- All future Council owned buildings (including those in planning stages but not yet built) to be sustainable, Passivhaus or zero carbon.

## Procurement:

- Only suppliers who meet low emissions targets in delivering the work set for them will be contracted to work for the Council (e.g. drain clearing).
- Purchasing choices to be made which delivers the lowest whole life cost.
- All procurement should be carried out on a 'total cost' basis including environmental cost in that calculation e.g. waste disposal, delivery emissions etc.

## Catering:

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- All Council owned and operated food premises, including schools, to offer diet options with lower associated carbon dioxide production, and run promotions for these options- reducing their price, by adding a small premium to other more carbon intensive options.
- Every school to set aside an area in their grounds to grow fruit and vegetables and provide this to their school canteens. Council to provide small grant to the school for hand tools and PPE.

## Event Management:

- Only large scale events which benefit the environment to be organised by the Council.

## Waste and recycling:

- All settlements above a certain size should have a waste re-use enterprise centre. A 'too good to tip' area gone large, with small enterprise encouraged to make use of the resource (e.g. the Nightingale House shop at Wrexham's Bryn Lane recycling centre). Repair shops and reuse artisans could set up in or near the facilities.
- Bring in "pay as you throw" model for residents for waste collection and disposal.

## Road:

- Place a temporary ban on road building in the county.

## Fleet Management:

- All vehicles owned by Council to be fully electric.
- Lease cars and car loans authorised only for electric cars.

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## POLICIES TO INCREASE CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND/OR IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY

### Planning:

- Planning applications to be determined on the principle of "net gain" to determine whether developers are being ecologically responsible in their proposals. (The system monetarily values the negative implications of any proposal and then seeks actions in the development proposal to compensate those losses with specific improvement benefits).
- Cumulative impact assessment undertaken on the impact on aquatic environments and considered when determining planning applications

### Public Realm:

- Reduce mowing to minimum requirements.
- Stop spraying pavements with herbicide.
- Extend biodiversity verge cutting policy to residential areas in the County.
- No plastics allowed in cemeteries (e.g. artificial non-biodegradable flowers/foilage, plant pots, plant and bouquet wrappers, statues and decorations, etc.) which pose a threat to wildlife and pollute waterways.

### Land and waterway management:

- Biodiversity to be the leading factor in decisions and actions on land management, both urban and rural.
- Commitment to sustain rivers included in the Council's "mission statement".
- Increasing biodiversity and reducing flood risk to be the leading consideration in river and moorland management.

### Green Infrastructure:

- Green infrastructure to be installed on all Council buildings.

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## Ideas for projects in our action plan

Many ideas for projects were submitted as part of the public engagement period.

One suggestion was to create a 'bank' of ideas which could be called on when the time was strategically right and also shortlisted into the biggest wins and easiest wins for the Council to deliver.

Also the point was made that when looking to make changes in the wider county, any actions taken must be equitable and progressive, taking the approach that the 'polluter pays'.

The ideas for projects/actions submitted to the Council have been sorted into two groups for further consideration:

- Projects that reduce carbon dioxide emissions
  - o From all sources
  - o From buildings
  - o From travel and transport
  - o From water use
  - o From waste
  - o From the supply chain
  - o By increasing renewable energy generation
  - o Through behaviour change
- Projects that increase carbon sequestration and/or improve biodiversity

Some of the projects suggested go beyond the proposed scope of the net carbon zero and ecologically positive Council goals- that of the Council's own operations- but are included below for completeness.

## **REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS PROJECTS**

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## From all sources

- Make carbon and climate change reduction a part of every member of staff's job description.
- Give each service area of the Council individual carbon reduction targets.
- Urgently review the draft Local Development Plan to increase its potential impact in eliminating greenhouse gas emissions.
- Conduct a full analysis of all the implications of tourism for greenhouse gas emissions in cooperation with other bodies in order to create a Green Tourism Vision for the County's future
- Evaluate the suitability of each of the 3 overarching and 33 more specific actions suggested by Friends of the Earth and add to the Council's idea bank (<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/33-actions-local-authorities-can-take-climate-change>)

## From buildings

- Close more Council offices and move more staff to work from home.
- Invest in insulating many more homes using the funds from energy businesses to help subsidise costs.
- Set up a loan scheme to home owners to increase insulation in their properties which is paid back as savings are made. If this scheme already exists, promote it more widely to residents.
- Provide energy monitoring equipment to schools, and put them in full control of their energy use, especially with regard to heating.
- Examine whether centralising or decentralising Council staff has a positive impact on reducing overall emissions.
- Employ more in-house staff to maintain buildings, street lighting and schools effectively to reduce carbon emissions.

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## From travel and transport

### *Electric Vehicle Infrastructure:*

- Install Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points throughout the county which can charge the Council's own EV fleet but also be made available for the public to utilise.
- Put in place this EV infrastructure in order to aid in low emission transport transition and to pre-empt the demand for such infrastructure, which we as a society will soon be heavily reliant on.

### *Active Travel:*

- Conduct a survey of staff at County Hall who daily fill the car park to overflowing, why they choose to come to work by car, and what would make them change.
- Install a purpose built dedicated cycle track from Denbigh or Ruthin so that people can use it for commuting or going to school.
- Improve the network of cycle paths.
- Design and deliver a campaign to encourage and facilitate schools in setting up walking buses to school.
- Go for more Active Travel funding from the Welsh Government perhaps in partnership with other counties, so that longer routes, along old railway lines perhaps could be re-opened.
- Assess options for trunk routes between settlements for Active Travel and include in Active Travel planning. Longer journeys and difficult terrain can be combated with electric bike technology.
- Purchase a small number of practical e-bikes, or come to an arrangement with a cycle shop, so that the Council is able to offer e-bike on medium term demo. This will enable people to see how an e-bike could fit into their lives, and whether it could replace car journeys. An e-bike roadshow could be staged by providing the bikes to community groups which then run events to promote the bikes.



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## *Bus Travel:*

- Conduct a feasibility study to establish the number of people journeying to and from Glan Clwyd Hospital from the County's main towns with a look to put in place a regular bus services (say every 10/15 minutes) from the main towns to the hospital at either no charge or at a significantly lower cost to reduce the number of journeys as well as alleviating the hospital parking problem.
- Work with Arriva Bus services to provide buses with bike racks and facilitate use of bikes and public transport for commute to work to reduce the use of cars. This "bus & bike" model has worked well in Vancouver Island in Canada.
- Work with Arriva Buses to put on direct electric powered worker express buses from Rhyl and Prestatyn to Ruthin via Denbigh which take less than one hour (currently at least 2 hours with changes) in the mornings and afternoons.
- Trial a more frequent service on the 14 and other local bus services in view of the increased interest in using local transport.

## *Car parks:*

- Develop an out of town parking levy which are generally only accessible by motorised transport and typically offer free parking to customers. Investigate whether this free parking advantage can be negated through a new levy, fee or tax on out of town parking, even on private land.
- Car sharing car parks, "Park and Share" locations to be built as low cost facilities alongside major roads. These encourage people to park up and share their journeys. A55 junctions would be ideal, but also along A-roads between centres.

## *Monitoring and charging:*

- Monitor particulate matter (PM) and air quality in high traffic and industrial areas.
- Deliver a trial for introducing road pricing on a route by route basis, following an investment in public transport along that route. So say Ruthin-Denbigh, invest in

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running a regular and low cost bus between the two locations, then make it less desirable to drive between the two locations.

## From water use

- Install rainwater harvesting systems in all Council buildings that provides all toilet flushing need (at least) to reduce the amount of clean water used from the water network.

## From waste

- Design and deliver a publicity campaign saying that waste inspectors will be visiting various areas to check on where the problems are.
- Deliver waste update sessions in each local community to help gain support on proper recycling, including a community league table e.g. best recycling village, best waste management town etc.
- Monitor emissions from waste disposal facilities/ incinerators if not already doing so.
- Encourage communities, via community groups or leaders, to set up 'FreeCycle' groups using social media. These are like a buy and sell page, but reduce waste by encouraging people to share things they would not have sold.
- Design and deliver a support package for schools to become plastic free.

## From supply chain

- Provide more allotments to satisfy at least the number of requests on the waiting list so that produce can be grown locally.
- Purchase food supplies from local business who make it a priority to provide plastic free and organic produce.

## By increasing renewable energy generation

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- Connect energy produced by wind turbines to an electrical charging infrastructure for buses, cars etc. so that electric vehicles are powered by locally generated renewable energy.
- Set up a renewable energy generation company. Install solar panels on Council land, and use profits to pay for other projects. In order to increase engagement and possibly profits, consider setting up a virtual distribution network as proposed in Corwen at the moment.
- Investigate how the tidal lagoon project could be moved forward on the coast. This has benefits for energy production and flood defence.
- Install solar panels to Council owned properties and sell the surplus to the national grid.
- Trial new technology, be open to innovation – e.g. Modular Hydro Electric Power Plant.
- Update all Council houses with ground source heat pumps for central heating.
- Retrofit all houses in Denbighshire with Solar Panel Arrays.
- Install photovoltaic (PV) panels on all school roofs which have the correct orientation to the sun.

## Through behaviour change

- Every manager and their teams to watch the recent BBC documentary, 'Climate Change - The Facts' (duration 1 hour). S4C's, 'Newid Hinsawdd, Newid Byd' may be a comparable Welsh language resource.
- Set up web micro-site for climate and ecological change.
- Provide advice on tools such as carbon calculators that could be used to determine contributions and the impact of actions made by those living and operating in Denbighshire.
- Provide a resource to advise on carbon footprinting as well as ecological matters for those living and operating in Denbighshire.
- Design and deliver a training programme for school pupils to become energy ambassadors to reduce carbon.

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- Set up a community champions scheme on climate and ecological change open to all but particularly targeted at those who are retired and have time to devote.

## **INCREASING CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS**

- Deliver a set of rewilding projects.
- Provide a resource to advise on ecological matters for individuals and communities.
- Unmown areas and flower beds of cemeteries to be sown/planted with native wildflowers and more areas to be left unmown
- Unmown areas and flower beds of towns to be sown/planted with native wildflowers and more areas could be left unmown.
- Boundaries of land to be adapted to enable free movement and escape routes for native wildlife.
- Staff working at coastal offices to conduct their meetings down on the beach so rubbish could be collected at the same time as discussing business topics.
- Reduce mowing in parks - mow only the fringes and erect signs to explain that reduced mowing is beneficial to insects along with other wildlife and people.
- Encourage schools to work with charities (e.g. North Wales Wildlife Trust) to access funding to improve biodiversity on their grounds.
- Design and deliver a campaign to increase home composting and reduce green waste collection to increase grass cuttings, dead plants, shrubs, flowers left in people's gardens which are food, home and nesting materials for invertebrates. These worms, beetles, flies, etc. are a vital part of the food chain for all wildlife, which are declining at a dramatic rate.
- Establishment of protected reserves on part of every tenanted farm owned by the Council for the enhancement of biodiversity and to preserve existing genetic stock.
- Include biodiversity enhancing measures within the site designs within the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Programme.

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- Design and deliver partnership project with the Angling Societies in the county for anglers to report to the Council cases of invasive species (e.g. Japanese knot weed) and pull out invasive species from the fringes of waterways.
- Once farming tenancies come to an end, convert at least a section of the land over to carbon sequestration/ biodiversity, before re-letting the farm.
- Introduce a wildflower border around all primary and secondary school fields.
- Seek funding and deliver a project that plant additional trees in every school in Denbighshire and include the school children in the planting.

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## What individuals, communities and businesses could do

During the public engagement period a number of suggestions were received on what people other than the Council could do to tackle climate and ecological change.

These ideas have been sorted into 5 categories based on who the suggestion for action was for:

- Individuals
- Communities
- City, Town and Community Councils
- Food and drinking establishments
- Farmers

### Individuals

- Make low carbon choices in your home e.g. solar panels, a ground source heat pump, rain water harvesting system.
- Make low carbon choices in your car purchase e.g. electric car.
- Ensure that we all dispose of our waste properly and in the correct bins, ensuring all recyclable items go in recycling bin and not in general waste.
- Convert at least some of our front and back gardens into biodiversity enhancing spaces.

### Communities

- Communities and neighbours to encourage each other to live their lives in a low carbon way.
- Convert community owned spaces into biodiversity enhancing spaces.

### City, Town and Community Councils

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- To include and be clear on expectations around ecological improvement in City, Town and Community Council 'owned' Neighbourhood Plans, e.g. like the biodiversity section of the Llanfair DC Neighbourhood Plan which it seeks ecological improvement when considering planning proposals.

## Food and drinking establishments

- All pubs and clubs to stop serving straws with drinks unless it's made of a material with low associated carbon dioxide production.
- The takeaways in the county should have a levy on polystyrene with a discount on your next meal if you return it.

## Farmers

- Farmers to consider a return to traditional methods of food production with a lower environmental impact (e.g. less usage of tillers, chemical fertiliser and pesticide use).
- Farmers to consider regenerative agriculture that could contribute to carbon sequestration on bigger scale, including stopping soil degradation and enriching the soil so that is more resilient to the impact of severe weather conditions.
- Farmers to consider options for including agroforestry such as silvo-pastoral methods.

# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

## Topics people were most interested in hearing more about

During the public engagement period the Council held a public meeting to give an opportunity for a 2-way conversation where answers could be provided “live” to your questions.

These questions have been grouped into the following topics that people were most interested in hearing more about:

- Overarching topics e.g. funding, carbon footprint
- Carbon reduction
- Carbon sequestration and biodiversity
- Climate change adaptation

### Overarching

- The Council’s carbon footprint currently and from what sources the Council is targeting carbon reduction.
- Examples of the different departments within the County Council working together on this agenda.
- Examples of how climate and ecological change has been considered in decision making.
- Options for Planning policy and enforcement to tackle climate and ecological change.
- Funding for tackling climate and ecological change.
- Green jobs.
- The Councils Local Development Plan.

### Carbon reduction



# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

- Carbon reduction from waste, in particular how the principles of “circular economy” can be applied.
- Reducing emissions from carbon intensive sections of our supply chain such as road repairs.
- Options for buying local.
- How the Council could use its enforcement powers to reduce high emitting behaviours in the county, e.g. businesses leaving lights on.
- How the Council can encourage everyone living/working in Denbighshire to reduce their carbon emissions including businesses.
- How the Council is going to reduce carbon emissions from transport, including staff travelling to and from work.
- Support for homes and schools to become carbon neutral e.g. funding and grants.
- Renewable energy generation.
- Installation of public charge points for electric vehicles.
- Examples of low carbon affordable homes.
- Examples of resilient and sustainable local economies.
- Examples of low carbon tourist industries.
- Resource efficiency and the ‘one planet’ agenda.
- Getting around without using petrol or diesel vehicles.
- Carbon reducing improvement of existing school buildings.

## Carbon sequestration and biodiversity

- The water quality of the rivers and water courses in Denbighshire.
- Tree planting and natural regeneration along with how residents, schools and groups can get involved.
- The Council’s agricultural estate.
- Green infrastructure and the link with flood reduction.
- Natural rewilding.

## Climate adaptation

# **Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary**

- Climate change adaptation – planning to ease the impacts of climate change particularly on food and energy supply.

# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

## What next

### How we are using the ideas and feedback received

The ideas and feedback we received during the public engagement period will be used to help us develop our Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and 9-year Action Plan for the Council to achieve its 2030 net carbon zero and ecologically positive goals. We intended to have a draft strategy and action plan to go out to formal public consultation over the summer and to then take this to Full Council in the autumn for organisational sign off.

We recognise however that work may not be able to progress as quickly as originally hoped because of the significant impact upon the Council of the coronavirus pandemic. However, we remain committed to our goals and look forward to working with our communities to achieve them.

Once in place our Climate and Ecological Change Strategy will guide the Council in its work to reduce carbon emissions, increase carbon sequestration and improve biodiversity. If timescales allow we intend for the action plan to influence the Council's budget setting for 2021/22 onwards and it will inform bids for additional resource from Welsh Government and others.

### What the Council is already doing on Climate and Ecological Change

The Council is already delivering action to reduce its carbon emissions, increase tree planting and improve biodiversity as part of our Corporate Plan, 2017-2022 ([www.denbighshire.gov.uk/corporateplan](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/corporateplan)). This work will continue this coming financial year (2020-2021) along with a number of kick start actions to help us boost our achievement in this agenda. You may be interested to read more about this in our paper to Full Council from January 28th:

<https://moderngov.denbighshire.gov.uk/documents/s35949/Climate%20Ecological%20Emergency%20Report.pdf?LLL=0>.

# Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Public Engagement Response Summary

## How to keep in touch

All of those who submitted feedback online agreed to receiving targeted information and updates on this agenda as we move forward. This email mailing list will be used as a way of communicating updates, information and notifying about opportunities for further consultation and engagement on this agenda.

We are looking into options to create a sub-group to Denbighshire County Council's Y Panel (engagement panel) which will enable the Council to host online discussion topics on specific topics within this agenda to continue the conversation with you.

A set of new webpages on [www.denbighshire.gov.uk](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk) with information about climate and ecological change and the Council's ongoing action in tackling it are being constructed. These are still in development and the launch of the new webpages is likely to be set back due to the Council needing to prioritise communication efforts on the coronavirus response.

We will use the questions you submitted during the public engagement period to inform us on what information and topics you would like to hear more from us about, as we plan these communication and engagement activities going forward.