

## **North Norfolk District Council a Climate Change Journey**

January 2022

### **NNDC perspective, actions and progress.**

Me – Cllr. Nigel Lloyd. 12 years representing my Ward. NNDC Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment.

My Career: I began my career as a Chemist in the Oil and Gas industry. Worked abroad, Offshore and ended my career as Terminal Manager of a gas interconnector at Bacton in 2017. Took a degree in Environmental Science, graduating in 2000.

May seem odd to have worked in fossil fuels but I had mouths to feed, mortgage to pay. I did become increasingly uncomfortable in the industry. I used my influence to promote environmental matters to good effect to make processes as clean and environmentally friendly as they could be. Now feel I am atoning for my sins!

### **NNDC Journey**

- Declared a climate emergency in 2019 with a net zero pledge of 2030.
- Why? We believe the science! The Intergovernmental panel for climate change (IPCC) had issued a stark warning that to avoid the worse effects of climate change we needed to limit global temperature increases below 1.5 degrees.
- What does this mean for North Norfolk? With over 40 miles of coastline, much of it under threat from rising sea levels, we felt we had a duty to our residents. Also concerned about future generations, Biodiversity loss and the planet's health as a whole.
- We wanted to set an example to our residents by taking positive actions.

### **Where to start?**

- Norfolk's first Climate change forum, August 2019. Followed by a 2 day consultation event at Greenbuild in Sept 19 where we asked residents what they wanted us to do. Turns out climate change action was overwhelmingly Popular. We used resident feedback from these events and other smaller events to shape our strategy.
- Published our Environmental Charter – our promise to Residents (1) What we will do (2) What we will do as Community leaders (3) What you can do
- Net Zero Action Plan – A detailed document outlining raw data and actions required for us to meet our 2030 target.

## What is Net Zero?

The term Net Zero refers to the balance of emitted and sequestered emissions coming into and out of the atmosphere. In the case of NNDC this amounted to the carbon emissions emanating from all our activities as a Council.

## What did we Do?

Measured our baseline carbon footprint for the year 2018 / 19. Carbon Trust.  
– 3 scopes.

Scope 1 emissions are emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels from sources and operations that are owned or controlled by the organisation. They include emissions from on-site energy use in buildings (from oil or gas boilers) and from company vehicles that are owned or leased.

Scope 2 emissions are from the generation of electricity from an energy supplier, These arise at the point of production. One method of reducing Scope 2 emissions includes purchasing energy from renewable sources instead of fossil fuels.

Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions that are not included in Scope 2 but occur because of the use of goods or services provided to the organisation These indirect emissions arise from travel, employee commuting, leased assets, waste arising from operations and investments. The organisation has little control over these emissions, unlike Scope 1 and 2, save as part of the procurement process. Scope 3 can often be the largest contributor to an organisation's carbon footprint.

So what was NNDC's carbon footprint?

18/19	6635 tonnes CO2 (baseline)	19/20	5031 tonnes CO2
20/21	4866 Tonnes CO2	21/22	2841 Tonnes CO2 (draft)

50% + Carbon Reduction to date

## **How have we made progress in cutting emissions?**

Not rocket science! We picked the low hanging fruit!

Reorganised waste collection rounds to maximise efficiency and save fuel

Introduced lower emissions waste collection vehicles

NNDC changed to a 100% renewable electricity supply

Introduced EVCP in 6 market towns across NN

Encouraged contractors to switch to electric vehicles – Serco now have a fleet of EV's on the road.

NNDC are introducing their own EV fleet as leases expire.

Switch to LED lights

Replacement swimming pool – enhanced insulation measures and efficiency

Solar array on the roof of NNDC Offices. 150KW capacity.

Flexible working for staff

Switching off the lights, computers, and equipment when not needed

Reducing meat in our canteen

More efficient toilet blocks (39 in the District)

Expectation on major contractors to publish their own footprints and show annual improvements

We now consider the carbon footprint of all new projects and initiatives

Held further GreenBuild (Annual environmental show case) events in 2021 and 22

Although not counted as part of our footprint we are planting 110,000 trees in North Norfolk over 4 years. 100,000 already in the ground. Rewilding garden areas across the district.

Norfolk Councils have formed a Climate Change Partnership. Several meetings and a conference held so far. Gaining momentum. Not all Norfolk Councils have declared an emergency but it is a positive step that we are working together.

Continual campaigns on recycling, reuse, waste reduction. Discarded fishing gear. Safer seals campaign. Coastal adaptation.

We expect the last 15 – 20% of our emissions to be the hardest to tackle and have not discounted offsetting (yet).

## **What we plan do?**

Decarbonise our assets. Cromer Council Offices, The iconic Cromer Pier, Fakenham Connect centre, leisure centres at Fakenham and North Walsham, Sheringham little theatre and more.

Improve insulation.

Solar over car parks.

Introduce a lift share scheme for staff

Introduce incentives for staff to purchase EV's

Continue to take the public with us on our journey

Reduce waste

Consider changing over to HVO fuels for waste collection vehicles.

Encourage and influence rewilding on council property and offer help and advice to the public

## **What were / are the challenges?**

Are we reducing carbon fast enough? – No! But we will meet our 2030 pledge.

Essential Council services must be maintained, cant drop everything else!

Cultural. It was a struggle getting the whole council on board at times - Particularly at first. Changing ways of working, changing priorities. People are set in their ways!

We spent time and energy training all Directors, Mangers and Staff in many aspects of climate change and asked them to make personal pledges.

We are now witnessing a real step change in attitude among staff.

Covid. The Council priorities rightly switched to protecting our communities during covid and it was difficult making progress during that period.

Money.

Many climate change actions not only cut carbon but ultimately save money for the Council and our tax payers, but they require capital expenditure up front – we are continually looking for grant money.

UKPN Capacity for supply and receiving electricity in NN

## **My Message?**

If we all make even small changes in our lifestyles and working practices it adds up to a lot of saved carbon. Do what you can! Spread the word and be climate change influencers!

Be optimistic!

The World has a track record in tackling global climate issues.....

In the 1980's the planet faced a severe loss of ozone in our atmosphere. It seemed insurmountable but the ozone hole has now reduced. The World eliminated lead from fuels.

We can do this!

Please visit NNDC Web Pages [www.north-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk) where we have set out our stall on climate change in much more detail.