

York and North Yorkshire’s Routemap to Carbon Negative – Consultation Feedback

Summary Report for “Enabling Transformation across the Economy: creating systems change”

The initial draft of York and North Yorkshire’s Routemap to Carbon Negative went out to consultation between the 28th February and 17th March. The consultation aimed to gather feedback on the draft Routemap, with a specific focus on the “strategic priorities” and “actions plans”.

This report provides a summary of key themes from the consultation feedback focused on the Enabling section of the Routemap. This includes: Research, Strategy & Planning; Communication, Engagement & Movement Building; Collaboration & Innovation; Developing Skills; Programmes & Demonstrator Projects; Infrastructure, Supply Chains & Green Industries; Securing Investment; Influencing Government Policy.

Questions	Key themes from stakeholder feedback
<p>Are we focusing on the right enablers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall consensus that we are focusing on the right enablers, with a strong alignment with local plans and ambitions. However, there were concerns that the enablers imply future action when there should be a greater emphasis on immediate action. • Stakeholders recognised that the enablers are inter-related / intrinsic to each other and that this needed to be made explicit. • LEP support and ownership across all areas of the Routemap would be welcome, but in particular the ‘Communication, Engagement & Movement Building’ and ‘Developing Skills’ enablers. Suggestion that industry will prioritise securing investment and influencing government policy. • Importance of continually reviewing the enablers and interventions to ensure they remain relevant. • Need to make distinct what is local vs central government policy change. • Opportunity to link to the Draft DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.
<p>Feedback around specific enablers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research, Strategy & Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for collaboration with University of York (UoY) as a potential source of innovation and resources (Policy/Research/Industry). • BDC and BioYorkshire have a key role in CE (pg. 13). • Engagement, Communications & Movement Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong support for the inclusion of this enabler. • Inclusive communication and education of all residents and employers on the benefits must underpin the whole strategy. • SMEs form the largest employer group in the YNY area and the messaging referred to in the strategy - particularly around increased income, increased productivity, procurement requirements - essentially those aspects that support growth will need to have a focus. • Needs to be a strong focus on evidence-based and tested citizen behaviour change campaigns (these are vital to support citizens on their transition to a greener society). • Two-way communication is needed, so SMEs able to engage with larger strategic organisations. This will better enable a bottom-up approach to shape larger climate activities to local needs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criticism of a top-down approach (this should only be used for larger vision). Instead, action should be built with communities and stakeholders, not telling them they have to 'buy-in' to actions already decided. • Young people need to be better engaged with the Routemap as ultimately they will be most impacted by climate change. This should include education to school kids at an early stage. • Collaboration & Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus that collaboration is key – with the public and across sectors. • Further joint-working and alignment required with the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission – to make best use of shared resource and not doubling up on any actions- will enable a more efficient, well informed, and inclusive journey. • Opportunities for collaboration and co-benefits within the health sector, given some of the innovative approaches health commissioning partnerships are also making to address climate emergency issues. • Key education partners e.g. Further Education Colleges missing from section. • Developing Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This enabler should be expanded to reference developing 'capacity', as project development can be constrained not just by a lack of skills but also capacity and resource. Employers need to have access to workers with the right skills and attributes. • More emphasis required in relation to developing skills - including funding for educational establishments to develop sustainable pathways to employment and enhance learning facilities. • Workers need to have, or be able to attain the required skills, alongside decent pay, and good working and living conditions. • Employees need to be attracted to green job opportunities. • Skills development is needed for land owners/managers, as well as employees, in order to develop skills to manage their land and business. • Support to access higher-paid jobs needs to be available for those economically inactive and those in employment but on lower wages. • Infrastructure, Supply Chains, Green Industries & Securing Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was strong support for both the inclusion of supply chains and investment. • Key barriers to decarbonisation projects include: lack of capital investment and supply chain shortages/bottlenecks.
<p>Have we missed any enablers or priorities that you feel are important?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments around specific enablers or priorities that have been missed or not given enough emphasis include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enablers to initiate immediate projects that go beyond research, demonstrators etc. ○ Creating a learning environment – reference to this needs to be more explicit and show that an environment where best practice can be shared is needed. ○ Behaviour change – to enable change and co-support physical investment. ○ Change management - Add change management thinking to the systems change as will shape the how. ○ Civil society/ third sector - also make reference to civil society groups/third sector.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste & recycling – question over whether it would be useful to have as its own priority or sector given the potential economic opportunities. ○ Green jobs – suggestion to rename the skills section to green jobs to further focus attention on this in terms of progressing change. ○ Green skills - green skills, greening, upskilling, reskilling, Carbon literacy and environmental awareness training, particularly in food production. ○ Nature based solutions – potential to incorporate in Environment section, or across the wider Routemap document. ○ BioYorkshire initiative ○ Encouraging start-up green tech companies in our region to assist with the transition ○ Reducing activities emitting carbon – vital to reduce carbon emitting activities and change behaviours (i.e. remote working to reduce car usage).
<p>Are we focusing on the most impactful interventions ?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong support for the interventions included – deemed appropriate given the emissions profile of the region and a strong evidence base. ● More focus on ownership and leadership of this challenge – need to make it clear that our collective actions will make a difference. ● Supportive of the co-benefits approach, but It would be helpful to also reference the ‘climate justice’ approach – so ‘protecting key sectors and vulnerable communities’ recognising this is a human impact, not only an economic one. This could apply to all the sectors and the overall approach. ● Scale of interventions - E.g., list major programmes such as housing retrofit, but the interventions only refer to small scale incubation projects. ● Pace of change – there’s too much focus on large scale, single actions when accelerating smaller/local immediate reductions in carbon emissions will be essential to ensure the targets are reached. YNY should be leading on these enabling activities.
<p>Do you feel there are any gaps in the interventions to ensure York & North Yorkshire reaches net zero by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040?</p>	<p>Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emphasis on immediate action and public communication, not waiting around to be finalised. <p>Research, Strategy & Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There needs to be greater alignment of public sector (Councils/LEP etc.) and private sector strategic visions – examples of this include YHCC’s cross-sectoral working group style approach. ● Include the NHS as a key stakeholder to ensure the circular economy is embedded in all levels of NHS structures/investment across York and North Yorkshire. ● Opportunity to mention collaboration with the University of York. <p>Local Planning Policy Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There should be explicit mention of the need to understand viability for new build and retrofitting, as this is often flagged as a concern by developers and could undermine schemes. ● Local Plan Review interventions must occur proactively as a number of Councils are currently undergoing Local Plan Reviews. Learnings from previous Plans should be applied to the next Local Plan. <p>Communication, Engagement & Movement Building</p>

- Suggestions to achieve **positive communication programs** included: clear, well-evidenced; creating a ‘movement’ with three messages to get behind; coordinated and higher profile communications that are ongoing throughout the year; campaigns that feel local and relevant.
- **Build on existing campaigns** that tie in with how climate action can have co-benefits of particular issues facing given communities.
- **Region-wide public facing campaign:** the campaign should have a focus on the co-benefits of climate actions that are targeted to the community engaged.
- **Raise awareness of market opportunities** and improve sectoral knowledge and marketing of the opportunities available to the relevant industries (i.e. retrofit opportunities in Construction).
- There needs to be a **greater emphasis on the people who this will impact**, their co-benefits, and subsequently empowering communities to lobby for change. The **voice of communities** is important in this work, and equally as a LA/Anchor institution it will be those people who may have service changes as a result of interventions so they really need to be central.
- Lack of mention of the **climate action/environmental groups** that are already in existence in the region. Economies of scale could be achieved combining the Climate Action groups with councils.
- The circular towns and communities network is a good example of a cross-cutting network. Again, the hope is that there will be an offer to support the **establishment of other networks across the region.**
- **Positive behaviour based changes around diet**, as this factor has the potential to reduce agricultural GHG emissions substantially and is a key policy finding of the CCC towards meeting NetZero for Land Use. Diversification of dietary options has the potential for sizeable economic investment and growth for local SMEs and wider food production.
- Emphasise the role of **empowering community climate action.** Again, LAs need the freedom to make this locally relevant
- **Work with schools**, e.g. FixOurFood platform ‘Leaders for Change’ initiated by Health Sciences at York; Public Food Procurement with Grow Yorkshire.

Collaboration & Innovation

- We recommend that this section include an intervention around **leveraging investment through scale – including procurement, joint grant funding bids** etc.
- **Innovation section** is relatively light. The Yorkshire Circular Lab is a highlight and should be strongly supported, with it or similar innovation initiatives between academic/community/private sectors covering as much ground as possible for the inevitable innovation required, from biochar to heat pumps.

Developing Skills

- **Skills section:** Headings are for ambitions (not interventions). How does this change the meaning of the actions? This section should include drawing out the importance of the building retro-fit supply chain capacity, in order to meet the required number of interventions across the region.
- **Skills gaps** to be addressed include not only the latest technological advances key to the transition, but also a relative dearth in the ‘hands-on’ skills in the landscape economy.

Programmes & Demonstrator Projects

- **Delivering pilot projects**, acting as an early adopter will be important for York as we aim to achieve net zero faster than the regional timescale.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replication and Scale-up are important considerations for demonstrator projects and should be embedded in projects/programmes to accelerate decarbonisation. • Promotion of pilot projects success and progress - case studies, peer networks and investment prospectus to support scale-up and replication. • There needs to be a co-ordinated lead with oversight of the regional demonstrator projects and supporting the scale-up and replication activity. • ‘Exemplars’ developed to show SMEs how to transition to a greener model. • The high growth potential of BioYorkshire could be considered in Programmes & Demo Projects. <p>Securing Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A central role needs to be created in establishing a joint approach to attracting external investment. • Support for businesses needs to be identified, alongside strategic investment, as one of the barriers for business transformation to net-zero is nearly always funding. As the market for products and services grows prices will likely become more competitive but in the short to medium term this will be a barrier for many. • On influencing government policy, there is no specific reference to business voice. Many businesses may not understand the role of the LEP (particularly if they become subsumed within a future MCA). Perhaps reference the wider business networks and trade bodies as each have their own routes into shaping Government thinking. <p>Influencing Government Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the scope of the waste hierarchy to ensure a circular economy that goes beyond simply recycling. Reuse and repair not only help deliver net zero targets but have a positive economic impact (as shown by WRAP research).
<p>Please detail below any further feedback that you would like to provide on this section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback around the strategic framework – considered as very effective to convey the key messages. • Concern that the ambition for organisations is high, but less ambitious for the public. • Uncomfortable with the idea that York and North Yorkshire needs to lead in everything, as this is a global challenge that requires collaboration to resolve local and national issues. York and North Yorkshire need to be early adopters of best practises from across the whole carbon reduction space. • It may be worth referencing that the enablers are not mutually exclusive. For example, collaboration could also be tied in with influencing Government Policy, so that we work directly with Government departments on specific issues. • Needs to be a greater emphasis on ‘community’. Communities are those that are impacted by many policy changes and they are a true enabler (or disabler) for implementation. • Understand the scope of this document is “mitigation” focused and not adaptation. This does present a risk of the two areas becoming decoupled, and “adaptation” is not as strongly planned as the “mitigation” strategy presented here. Need both areas to succeed to get to Carbon Negative. • Climate Change mitigation is a ground up movement. It needs many voices and unified lobbying across all authorities nationwide. • Strong link to data-led approaches across all areas. How we assess progress and adapt strategies if progress is not being made. • Speed of delivery are absolutely key, but based on evidenced outcomes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication strategy: Always concentrate on the positives outcomes i.e. cost savings, improved air quality, health benefits etc. • Funding requirements to deliver activities must be carefully considered and be an enabler and not a barrier. • The Routemap is a critical strategic document to bring the many ‘areas of influence’ on climate change together and to bring confidence to delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It should recognise the challenges and barriers to achieving this vision, particularly in respect of the external funding and investment required to deliver the increase in pace and scale of decarbonisation activities required. - ‘Business as Usual’ will not be sufficient to drive this change. - Routemap should acknowledge the whole life carbon cost of replacing the various products outlined in upgrading energy efficiency measures, low carbon heating systems and EVs. - Where % reduction or increase figures are provided as part of the ambitions, it would be helpful to have the baseline position referenced to ensure measurement is possible. - It would be helpful to demonstrate interdependencies throughout the strategy. For example, reducing demand for power (page 25) is very much linked to communications / engagement (page 18) and energy efficient housing (p.33). • There's little mention of ICT hardware. There is considerable embodied CO2e emissions associated with the production of this hardware, so it's crucial that organisations and individuals across the region adopt circular practices.
Key Actions	<p><u>All feedback has been reviewed and will be addressed where deemed appropriate and feasible. Headline actions from the consultation include:</u></p> <p>Update narrative and strategic priorities: to address key points around definition/scope of enablers, identified gaps, importance, associated challenges and interdependencies.</p> <p>Further partner & stakeholder engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon Negative Circular Economy Steering Group: key challenges discussed at meeting (26/05) – including delivering pace and scale of change, empowering communities, integrating circular economy approaches. • LA Climate Action Leads: key challenges discussed at meeting (10/05) – including scaling up existing LA-led projects; ensuring communities are able to influence the Routemap & strategic projects; how we can better empower communities to take climate action. • Skills stakeholders: YNY LEP Skills Team to lead engagement with key stakeholders to develop the draft skills priorities into an action plan. • “Community climate action” workshop: session with stakeholders to co-design approaches to empower community climate action (June). • Engagement with Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission: To identify and agree areas of joint-working and ensure no duplication of effort.