

York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative

An ambitious co-owned plan to deliver net zero by 2034, and carbon negative by 2040.

Priorities & Actions for 2022-2027

Draft for Consultation: 28th February 2022

Executive Summary

Why?

As storms, floods and wildfires intensify across the world, there is growing urgency for collective action to tackle climate change. The 2021 IPCC report is a code red for humanity; we are already at 1.2°C warming and are at imminent risk of reaching the internationally agreed threshold of 1.5 °C. In York and North Yorkshire, we have a critical contribution to make to national and global efforts; we have the potential to go beyond net zero, and become England's first carbon negative region. With two national parks, three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and over 70% of our geography being used for agriculture, we are uniquely positioned to use our natural assets to capture and store carbon. As a leader in decarbonisation and world class innovation assets, we can harness the economic opportunities of the transition, creating jobs and attracting investment to the region. This Routemap provides an ambitious pathway for local authorities, businesses, charities, academia and communities to come together to deliver carbon reduction at the necessary pace and scale to reach net zero by 2034, and net negative by 2040.

What?

The series of targets and actions set out in this Routemap have been informed by comprehensive stakeholder engagement and a growing evidence base, including York and North Yorkshire's Carbon Abatement Pathways study. Our approach is based on the strategic pillars of decarbonising our energy system, moving towards a circular economy and enhancing our natural capital, which seeks to ensure that we are taking a holistic approach and delivering benefits beyond carbon to create a greener, fairer, stronger economy.

Within our places and across key sectors - Power, Heat & Buildings, Transport, Industry & Business, Land Use, Agriculture and Marine— transformative change is needed. Through our research, we understand the scale of ambition required - from doubling the current size of woodland in the region to halving private car use to retrofitting 250,000 homes. The Routemap sets out key strategic priorities to deliver these changes.

How?

We need to create the conditions to enable the movement towards a carbon negative York and North Yorkshire. Through our research and stakeholder engagement, we have identified a number of enablers – including: Research, Strategy & Planning; Communication, Engagement & Movement Building; Collaboration & Innovation; Developing Skills; Programmes & Demonstrator Projects; Infrastructure, Supply Chains & Green Industries; Securing Investment; and Influencing Government Policy.

Who?

The Routemap has been developed collaboratively, and must be delivered collaboratively. Every local authority, business, organisation, charity and community has a role to play. Every individual can make a difference. The Action Plans in the Routemap identify organisations who have a clear leadership role in delivery.

Where?

In the process of implementing the Routemap, we will need to understand 'where' projects and activities need to be delivered. Some of these decisions will be made at an organisational level, and others will require a more strategic approach across the region, such as ensuring the right tree is planted in the right place, or identifying the most viable locations for heat networks. A number of forthcoming strategic, spatial plans will fill this remaining gap – including, the underway Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) and forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Natural Capital Investment Plan.

Routemap Purpose

The overarching aim of the Routemap is to provide a clear, co-owned plan to accelerate the transformation to a carbon negative York and North Yorkshire.

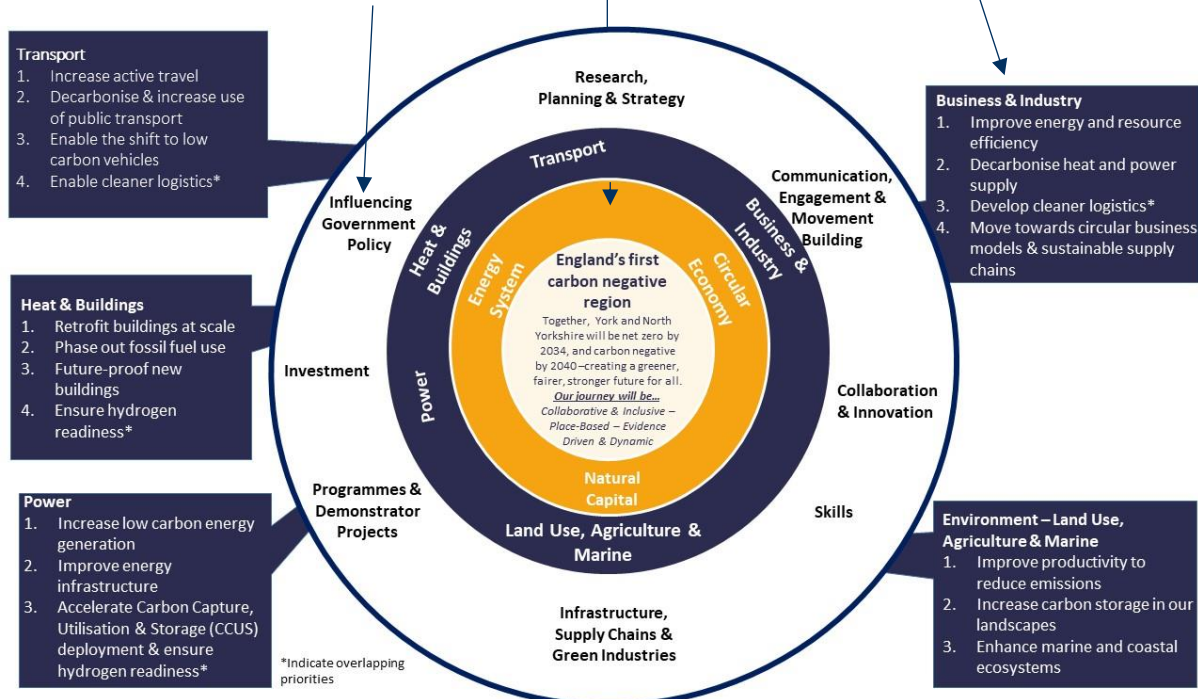
The specific objectives of the Routemap are:

- To provide strategic direction and a coordinated approach to decarbonisation;
- To catalyse collaborative action at pace and scale;
- To build confidence that reaching net zero and beyond to carbon negative is feasible;
- To harness the economic opportunities of net zero, leveraging public and private sector investment; and
- To position York and North Yorkshire at the forefront of national climate action and provide a platform to influence Government policy and funding.

Our Strategic Framework

Building on an extensive evidence base and working closely with stakeholders, our framework sets out our approach to delivering England's first carbon negative region.

The framework summarises the "what" – our strategic pillars and priorities for each sector, alongside the "how" – the key enablers to create a carbon negative economy.



What's in the Routemap?

This document is a draft version for consultation, and clearly recognises the gaps that remains in how our ambition will be delivered. The Routemap sets out a long term direction of travel, but focuses on priorities and actions between 2022 and 2027 - due to key decisions needing to be made at a national level which will impact our pathway to net zero. The document includes the following sections:

- Why Carbon Negative? The Case for Action
- Our Journey to Carbon Negative
- Enabling Transformation across the Economy: Creating Systems Change
- Reducing Emissions across the Economy: Sector Action Plans
- Governance, Performance Monitoring & Reporting