

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

Summary Report for “Power” Section

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 Power section of the Routemap.

Questions	Key themes from stakeholder feedback
Are we focusing on the right strategic priorities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong consensus that we are focusing on the right strategic priorities for Power. • Stakeholders provided feedback that further emphasis is required for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving energy infrastructure in rural areas ○ Community and personal/business energy generation ○ Affordability • Some stakeholders suggested focus should be on boosting low levels of renewables, not unproven tech like BECCS and hydrogen • Drax have confirmed revised plans that halve the CCS ambition – need to reflect in ambition. • Suggestion to expand Priority 1 to incorporate battery storage. • Suggestion to clearly reference deploying the widest possible mix of renewable technologies (including geothermal, wave, tidal etc.) • Stakeholders challenged the level of confidence that H2 will have a role by 2034? • Importance of regional spatial planning for future business planning for all types of organisations and developers.
Have we missed any priorities that you feel are important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to make it easier to get planning permission for energy technologies, especially in/near protected landscapes. • Need headline mention of strengthening rural power infrastructure. • Specify that large-scale renewables must be sited appropriately (link to nature, biodiversity, landscape character and tourism). • Narrative to reflect that energy infrastructure keeps pace with swift electrification, and is resilient to increasing climate change risks. • More emphasis on energy storage required. • Local, community energy should be a strategic priority and have the potential to catalyse successive related low carbon projects rather than 1-offs. • Include focus on energy efficiency/reducing energy demands across all sectors. • Question over whether hydrogen fuelling stations should be included.
Are we focusing on the most impactful interventions in the Power Sector Action Plan (“How” section)?	<p>Overall consensus that we’re focusing on the most impactful interventions, with specific feedback around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including specific financial support for farmers to install low carbon energy technologies • Provide clarity on difference between PSDP in Power and Heat & Buildings sections • Public buildings support welcome, but timeline too ambitious and will require more focus on supply chains • Need to see the Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) before making fair comments

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs more emphasis on implementing now, rather than planning to get funding for demonstrators • Over-reliance on BECCS and H2. • Funding for SMEs to invest in low carbon generation needs to be pushed for at all levels. • Need to include specific national policy influencing points, specifically for planning • Include specific action for supporting large scale renewables.
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to emphasise rural grid infrastructure upgrades, especially critical for business cases for other renewables. • Focused support for small-scale community energy, outside of the Energy Accelerator programme, enabling SMEs and communities to co-invest. • Transfer of learnings from Public Sector Decarbonisation Programme to commercial via targeted communications. • Availability of funding to deliver these interventions. • Smart metering and smart grid tech for demand reduction and flexibility. • Infrastructure for EV charging and vehicle emission tracking tools. • Role of transmission system and how changes might influence Routemap, and work the National Grid ESO to check alignment.
<p>Please detail below any further feedback that you would like to provide on this section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncomfortable with the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Energy from Waste ambition level. • Third Energy intervention reads like case study rather than intervention – suggestion to widen to ‘promote green energy parks/large scale renewables generation’. • Question over why the power sector deadline is 2035, rather than 2034 for overall net zero aim. • Question over whether there is the opportunity for rail transport of waste to Allerton Park. • Need scrutiny on Drax’s total carbon emissions (including offshore) proportionate to total subsidies received. • Solar farms not to be on cropland.
<p>Key Actions</p>	<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 incorporate feedback around grid capacity, renewables, energy storage, community energy and reducing energy demand. Show linkages with other sectors to address feedback around supporting SMEs, farmers and building decarbonisation.</p> <p>Further partner & stakeholder engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAEP Steering Group: discussion around how LAEP process can support the delivery of rural grid infrastructure (at meeting on 05/05). • LAEP Challenge Group: consideration of how LAEPs will ensure impact on biodiversity (June). • Best practice: Identify best practice to measure scope 3 emissions / whole life carbon costs and engage with organisations to utilise learnings.