



REPORT FROM:	Director of Place
TO:	Climate Emergency Working Group
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CARBON REDUCTION TARGETS- UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the CEWG of the review of the Council's carbon reduction targets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the CEWG notes the report.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To better streamline our monitoring of the Climate Emergency Declaration and strengthen PBC's ability to deliver on it's carbon reduction targets.

ISSUE

PBC declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, with an aspiration for PBC to be carbon neutral by 2030. This is a huge undertaking involving the decarbonisation of the Council's states, fleets and services and working with partner organisations, businesses and communities to encourage action whilst ensuring the Council is resilient to a changing climate.

It's important to distinguish between 'carbon neutral' status and 'net zero carbon'. Carbon neutral includes the use of carbon offsets, to compensate for emissions created elsewhere. This is usually achieved through tree planting and peatland restoration etc. Net zero carbon means making changes to reduce carbon emissions to the lowest amount – and offsetting as a last resort.

Although PBC monitors the emissions it generates, it should be noted that the Council currently does not have a system in place to calculate its carbon off setting levels.

In the absence of any annual off setting data, this report focusses on a carbon net zero, rather than a carbon neutral, journey.

Current position

The Council currently assess its annual carbon emissions footprint through two reporting mechanisms:

- The Annual Emissions Report
- The annual Performance Indicators

Both use the same data sets but are presented in different formats. Both have been in operation since prior to 2019.

With the Place Directorate now taking the strategic lead for climate change, it seems a timely opportunity to review both these reporting mechanisms to better streamline the monitoring system and ensure alignment with any longer-term carbon neutral or carbon net zero aspirations.

PBC Annual Emissions report

Each year, PBC calculates its carbon emissions generated from our building stock, fleet and staff travel to produce its Annual Emissions report (using DEFRA Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors). For the Emissions Report, the data is captured as either Scope 1, 2 or 3 and methodology applied has remained unchanged since 2009.

Scope 1 refers to gas consumption in council owned and managed buildings and emissions from our fleet. Scope 2 is electricity consumed within Council owned and managed buildings. Scope 3 currently reflects PLT as an outsourced service area. It should be noted that carbon offsetting is not considered in PBC's Annual Emissions report.

On the back of assessing 2022/23 performance via the Annual Emissions report, the Executive will consider any revised targets and associated Performance Indicators at a future meeting.

Performance Indicators

PBC's current Performance Indicators, which the Council report on annually through PBC's performance management process, are not currently aligned to our Annual Emissions report, nor to our Climate Emergency Declaration.

The Council currently reports on the following PIs, both of which historically have been assigned to the Localities and Policy Team (LCP) and have remained unchanged since 2012:

- LCP 9a Carbon dioxide emissions reduction from local authority building stock (2%)
- LCP 9b CO2 emissions reduction from local authority fleet (5%)

It should be noted that LCP 9a does not include PLT energy data. LCP 9a combines both electricity and gas generated emissions from PBC building stock whereas these are recorded separately in the Annual Emissions report (Gas is in Scope 1 and Electricity captured in scope 2).

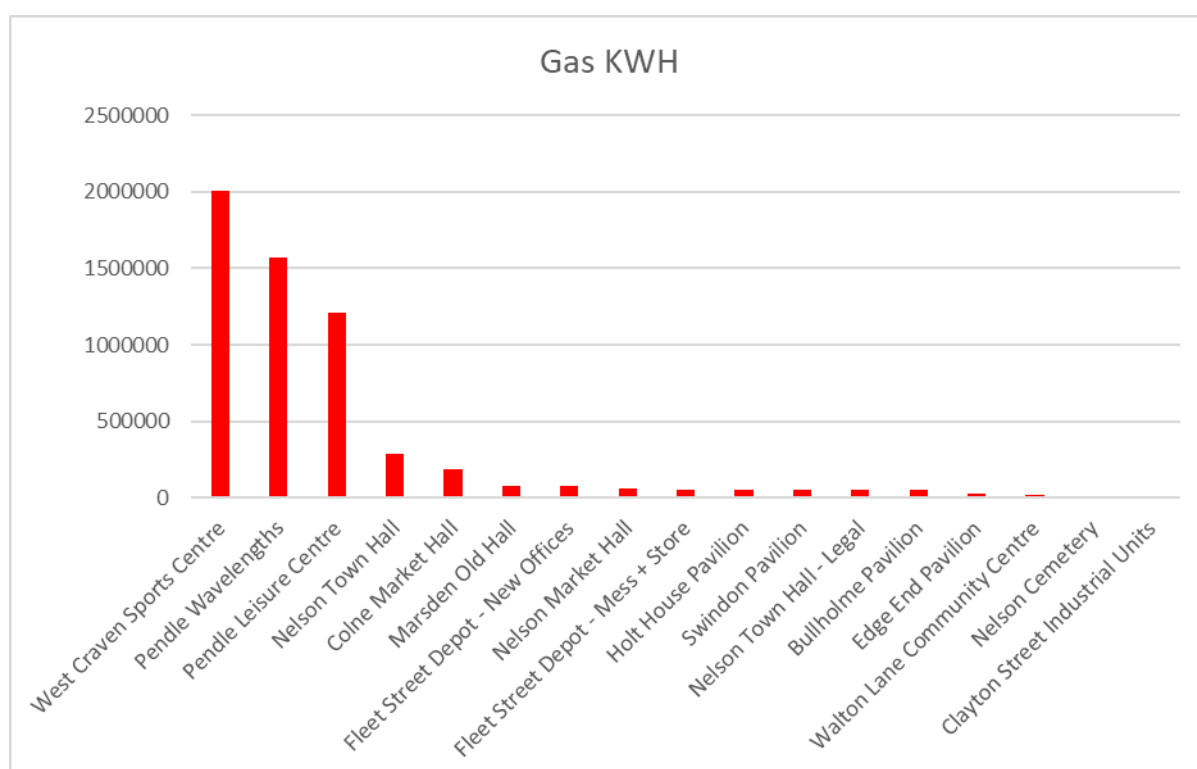
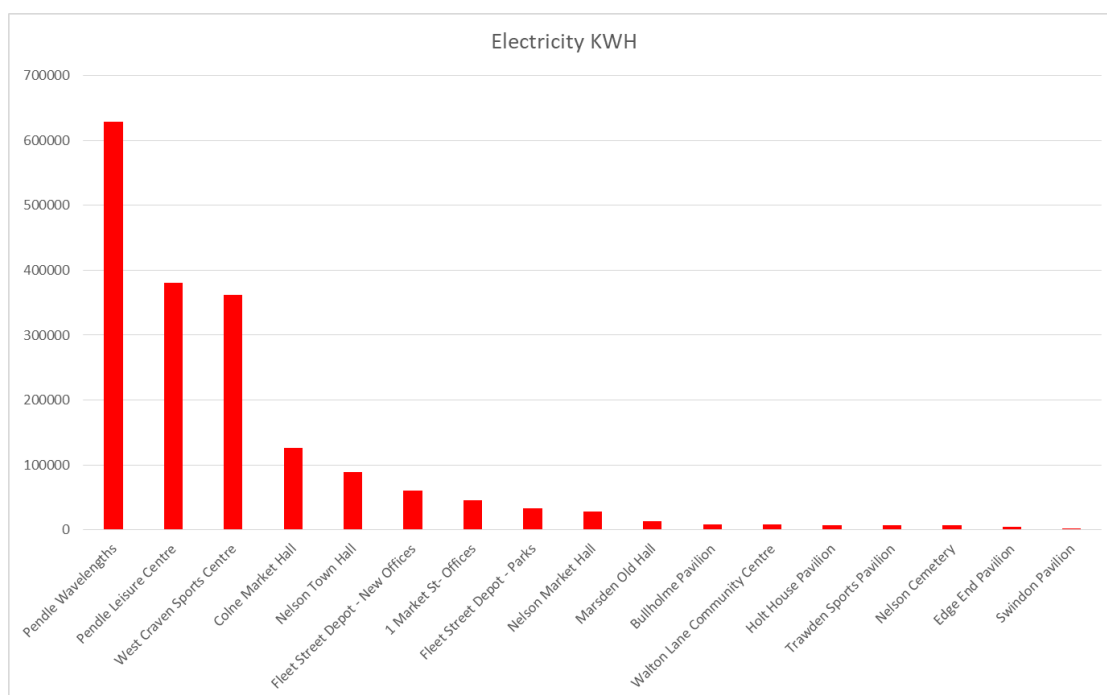
LCP 9b (fleet data) is also captured under Scope 1 of the Annual Emissions report.

These PIs have numerous weaknesses, which together make them unsuitable for any long term climate change target (they were established prior to the 2019 Climate Change Declaration).

A percentage decrease target based on the previous year would never actually lead to net zero. However, using a baseline year could easily resolve this weakness.

But if the Council were to use baseline PIs, its current ones are not strong enough to enable achievement of its 2030 carbon neutral ambition.

Also, these PIs are quite limited in scope: they only include PBC generated emissions and exclude PLT, despite PLT being the largest generator of carbon emissions, as reflected in the graphs below which shows energy consumption across PLT and PBC sites:



Annual gas and electricity consumption alone for the three leisure facilities results in excess of 1,000 tonnes of carbon being produced. Given this significance, any commitment to reduce carbon emissions by PBC should really have the energy consumption of the leisure centres as a key priority; it should be included in Scope 1 and 2 of the Annual Emissions report and feature in any annual PIs going forward.

Where are other districts up to?

The majority of district councils in Lancashire declared a climate emergency in 2019. Most are working towards a council target of being carbon neutral by 2030, with Hyndburn having already achieved this. Wyre differs in that it has set a target to reduce the council's carbon emissions by at least 78% by 2035, achieving net zero by 2050.

Many authorities have recently reviewed and updated their climate change strategies and action plans in light of the approaching 2030 target, and to ensure resources are in place to meet targets and attract external funding through schemes such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Appendix 1).

Next steps

Recognising the climate emergency the world faces, its imperative that the Council has a long term, realistic yet stretched target with aligned annual performance indicators. PBC is currently in the process of reviewing its targets and annual PIs, to be considered by the Executive in November, along with resource implications.

It is proposed that the Council continue producing the Annual Emissions Report, albeit with revised methodology to include PLT in Scope 1 and 2. The PIs would then be revised to directly align with the Annual Emissions Report.

Ownership of the PIs would move from Resource Directorate to Place, who now provides the strategic leadership for climate change.

The Council is in the process of calculating its 2022/23 emissions. Once complete, in its revised format, PBC will have a comprehensive baseline which will enable a review of its carbon neutral ambitions and associated annual carbon reduction PIs.

The PBC Annual Emissions Report will be considered by CEWG at the meeting in October, prior to seeking Executive approval for any revised target/ annual PIs, budget and the Annual Emissions Report, in November.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: PBC declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. The Council is currently reviewing its position and associated PIs to establish a fit for purpose target and annual Performance Indicators.

Financial: Any resource implications for delivery of any revised targets will be considered by the Executive.

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: Without changing our course of action, the Council run the risk of not delivering on the climate emergency declaration.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: Addressing climate change and reducing the council's carbon footprint is fundamental for delivering on the councils carbon neutral commitment.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Progress by other Lancashire districts on delivering carbon neutral targets

District Council	Climate emergency declared	Target	Performance	Resources
Burnley	2019	Carbon neutral by 2030	The UK target is to be net zero by 2050, with an emissions reduction of 78% by 2035. Burnley Council is working alongside this target but are also carrying out further analysis and modelling works to determine if an earlier net zero target is feasible. Have adopted a Climate Change Strategy 2022-26.	Climate Change Programme Manager
Chorley	2019	Net zero by 2030	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan updated 2022 with quarterly reporting. In addition to expected measures includes a focus on business support and community engagement and behaviour change. Eg. Develop an online 'Climate Change Handbook'. A collection of information for sustainability, detailing organisations and local businesses who can support climate change initiatives, recycling, and decarbonisation initiatives	Climate Change Programme Officer
Hyndburn	2019	Net zero by 2030	Awarded the One Carbon World Carbon Neutral Gold Standard grant, one of the first in the UK. Council carbon neutral status achieved. Secured £2.3 million investment from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme together with capital investment from Hyndburn Council. Includes Hyndburn Leisure Centre reducing emissions by 75% by removing fossil fuel gas heating and replacing it with air source heat pumps, and a very large solar array with battery storage.	£1m budget from reserves Team of 4 officers
Ribble Valley		Carbon neutral by 2030	Strategy updated 2021. Produced a Sustainable Procurement Policy, Installed 14 electric vehicle charging points on	Dedicated role proposed

			council Car Parks, reduced paper used in Committee meetings, increased recycling services. Actions include to Ensure that there is sufficient capacity within the organisation for the completion of the actions within this Climate Change Strategy.	
Rossendale	2019	Carbon neutral by 2030	Annual updates to Overview and Scrutiny on Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. In addition to focusing on the council's emissions, the action plan also includes a focus on Proactively promoting the need for businesses across Rossendale to take steps to be net-zero carbon by 2030 and providing support. Climate Change Supplementary Planning Guidance produced.	Climate Change Officer
South Ribble	2019	Carbon neutral by 2030	Committed £250,000 to implement the action plan and obtained additional external funding to supplement this budget, inc £145,000 grant funding to install further solar panels to the Civic Centre. Achieved so far includes solar panels to the Civic Centre,, Installed free public electric vehicle charging points at the Civic Centre, Started to replace own fleet with electric vehicles and more.	Climate Change Officer
Wyre	2019	78% co2 reduction by 2035 – net zero by 2050	Renewed governance arrangements for climate change underway - proposal to create a sub-committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with a Climate Change theme. Actions include: Review all corporate strategies and plans to ensure these align with the council's Climate Emergency declaration.	2 x Climate Change and Environmental Projects Officer