

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 13TH MARCH, 2023**

PRESENT –

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

David Albin

Co-optees

Sylvia Godfrey

Officers in attendance:

*Phillip Spurr Director of Place
Gill Dickson Programme Manager
Jessica Robinson Committee Administrator*

Also in Attendance:

*Eddie Boyd North West Net Zero Hub
Jon Gluyas Durham Energy Institute*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Anwar, Councillor A. Sutcliffe, David Penney, Dr Caroline Spencer-Palmer, John Turley and Jane Wood).



**1. NORTH WEST NET ZERO HUB, PUBLIC BUILDING DECARBONISATION
 SKILLS SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

The Working Group received a presentation from Eddie Boyd on the North West Net Zero Hub's (NWNZH) Public Building Decarbonisation Skills Support Programme (PBDSSP). Some areas of discussion included:

- The type of support that could be offered by the NWNZH through its PBDSSP which included:
 - Collaborative working with Local Energy Leads;
 - Advice and support;
 - Making interventions locally and nationally;
 - Budget and funding help through identifying and attracting funding;
 - Future strategy and planning for change and;
 - Public Sector Building Decarbonisation.
- Heat pumps were identified as the best alternative to gas boilers that would be phased out by 2035 along with improved insulation in Municipal Buildings, Leisure Centres and Crematoria.
- The transition away from gas would present a major challenge but should be supported by the Service Industry once momentum was gained.

- The Council had not made any bids for funding to date but there would be opportunities for applications for grants to support the decarbonisation of its assets to be submitted with the help of the NWNZH.
- The turnaround from submitting an application to receiving funds would be approximately 5 months and any project would need to be delivered in the same financial year as the grant was awarded. Grant awards could range between 12% and 40% of the total value of any project.
- The Council would need to develop an expression of interest should it wish to engage the services of the NWNZH. There was scope for a Pan-Lancashire approach to be taken in which Pendle could be involved. Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council had already shown interest.
- Inviting Robin Jones, the Local Energy Lead for the Lancashire area to a future meeting of this Working Group.

2. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY POTENTIAL FOR PENDLE

The Working Group received a presentation from Professor Jon Gluyas on Geothermal Energy Potential for Pendle. Some areas of discussion included:

- Geothermal energy was a renewable and sustainable energy source which used water from flooded abandoned coal mines and had the potential to have a zero carbon footprint.
- Pendle was unlikely to have significant mine energy resource but was not entirely without potential.
- There was an alternative approach that Pendle could take which would involve drilling carboniferous sandstones or possibly limestones at depth and further using heat conduction. The resource potential could be significant.
- Although some surface water flooding and seismic activity was possible the risks would be minimal.
- Professor Gluyas recommended that a resource evaluation of the Pendle area be conducted. This evaluation could either be conducted by Commercial Companies but for costs in the region of £10,000 or significantly reduced cost by Professor Gluyas' own Students at Durham University under his supervision or other Students at Universities in Liverpool or Manchester.
- In the short term, Professor Gluyas strongly recommended that insulation be considered including Solid Wall Insulation and Aerogel and referred Members to the following links:
<https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/durham-energy-institute/research--impact/current-projects/swii/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-64636384>
- Opportunities for using heat from industries were also being looked at and Professor Gluyas would share a paper with the Group on this.
- Professor Gluyas chaired an equivalent Committee at Durham County Council who could provide this Group with advice and examples of best practice. Professor Gluyas would link, Ellie Grimes, a fellow Committee Member with the Council's Programme Manager.

Chairman _____