

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP  
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS  
ON 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

*PRESENT –*

*Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price (Chair)*

**Councillors**

*Zafar Ali  
Chris Church  
Kieran McGladdery  
Ash Sutcliffe  
Yvonne Tennant*

**Co-optees**

*Sylvia Godfrey  
Angela Moran  
David Penney  
Stephen Sykes  
Jane Wood*

**Officers in attendance:**

<i>Phillip Spurr</i>	<i>Director of Place</i>
<i>Iftikhar Bokhari</i>	<i>Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Bruce Corden</i>	<i>Facility Manager</i>
<i>Gill Dickson</i>	<i>Programme Manager</i>
<i>Victor Equere</i>	<i>Climate Programme Manager</i>
<i>John Halton</i>	<i>Principal Planning Officer (Policy)</i>
<i>Jessica Robinson</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

*(An apology for absence was received from David Webber from The Trawden Community Group).*



**1. MINUTES**

**AGREED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

**2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Victor Equere, Climate Programme Manager, Pendle Borough Council, and two newly co-opted Members, Angela Moran representing Eco-Barnoldswick and also Silentnight, and Stephen Sykes representing East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and also 2030hub (Liverpool), the world's first UN-recognised Local 2030 Hub, as its co-founder, were welcomed to the Working Group then invited to introduce themselves. Stephen Sykes was joining the meeting from the COP29 Conference in Baku and offered an interesting 'on the ground' insight into its

proceedings.

One further newly co-opted Member, David Webber representing Trawden Community Group, had given his apologies for this evening's meeting.

The Executive at its meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 had approved the appointments of all three new Members and they now joined the following existing co-opted Members:

- Sylvia Godfrey representing Greenpeace
- David Penney representing Lancashire Climate Action Network (LancsCAN)
- Jane Wood representing Friends of the Earth

The Chair then invited all attendees in turn to introduce themselves to the new Members of the Working Group.

The Chair also gave sincere thanks to Gill Dickson, Programme Manager for all her excellent work and all the advice and assistance she had provided, often in difficult times, to the Working Group since its inception in 2019 as it would be her last meeting. This, the Chair added, was particularly remarkable because at no time was it within the scope of her job description.

There was confidence that the Working Group's renewed membership, with the new, dedicated Climate Programme Manager would help to push its aspirational agenda.

## **AGREED**

That a presentation on the work of the 2030hub (Liverpool) be delivered by Stephen Sykes at a future meeting of this Working Group.

### **3. ANNUAL EMISSIONS REPORT**

The Head of Economic Growth submitted a report to provide the Working Group with an overview of the Annual Emissions Report 2023/24 and also an update on the impact of climate initiatives and its contribution to Pendle Borough Council's (PBC's) reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>. A copy of the Annual Emissions Report was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The emissions data was captured within one of three categories defined as Scope 1, Scope 2 or Scope 3 in DEFRA's Guidance.

Within Scope 1, there had been a consistent downward trend for both gas consumption in Council owned and managed properties, including Pendle Leisure Trust sites, and transport. Between 2019/20 and 2023/24 there had been a 16% reduction.

The reductions in Scope 2 for the electricity consumed within Council owned and managed buildings, also including Pendle Leisure Trust were greater. Between 2019/20 and 2023/24 there had been a 37% reduction.

There had been a 52% reduction between 2019/20 and 2023/24 within indirect Scope 3 emissions (business travel and outsourced services).

There was a need to take account of anomalous COVID-19 pandemic related results from 2020/21 which had skewed the data within all scopes but overall, between 2019/20 and 2023/24, the reduction in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> gross emissions in Pendle was 26%.

The overall trend, based on the current forecast, was that there could be approximately 1,700 tonnes carbon reduction per annum (p.a.) by 2030 and approximately 1,300 tonnes p.a. by 2050. Currently, the forecast would suggest PBC was unlikely to meet its net zero carbon target by 2030. A greater level of activity and investment would be needed to meet this target. The recent appointment of the Climate Programme Manager, however, would support the meeting with as many climate change targets as possible.

PBC's position on purchasing renewable energy for Scope 2 was enquired about, as it could attract instant carbon savings. This had been done at Silentnight. PBC's electricity supply had to be procured through the Crown Commercial Framework and whilst green electricity products were available, they attracted a premium and couldn't be guaranteed to be 100% renewable.

It was asked why only two of a possible fifteen categories had been selected within Scope 3. Purchased goods and services was given as an example of a Scope 3 category which could account for up to 80% of an organisation's emissions. There had been limitations in terms of data collection methodology and available data, but the aim in future was to have a more comprehensive Scope 3.

#### **AGREED**

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the expansion of Scope 3 be considered by Pendle Borough Council for future Annual Emission Reports.

#### **4. BUILDING STOCK DECARBONISATION PROGRAMME**

The Working Group received a verbal update from the Facility Manager on the Building Stock Decarbonisation Programme.

Heat Decarbonisation Plans (HDPs) for Pendle Borough Council (PBC) owned operational buildings with a gas boiler, including Pendle Leisure Trust (PLT) sites, had now been completed. HDPs were a prerequisite for any Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) application. The closing date for Phase 4 PSDS applications was 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the Climate Programme Manager's immediate focus had been preparing a submission for PLT's Leisure Centres which had been prioritised, as they were the biggest consumer of gas within PBC's building stock.

#### **AGREED**

That the update be noted.

#### **5. EV CHARGING POINTS IN CAR PARKS**

The Working Group received a verbal update from the Head of Economic Growth on EV Charging Points in Car Parks.

Lancashire County Council (LCC) had recently been trialling three different types of cross-

pavement channels or cable trays in Nelson for on-street EV charging using Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Funding with a view to a Borough wide roll-out, if successful. LCC was also looking at a number of other initiatives, including integrating charging points into street lighting columns to make use of existing infrastructure and would be open to any other suggestions. Technical solutions for each of Lancashire's districts would not be 'one-size-fits-all'. A point of contact at LCC was Kate Wood, who could be invited to a future meeting of this Working Group to discuss this further.

Pendle Borough Council (PBC) was currently developing a Parking Strategy for the Borough. The installation of EV charge points on the periphery of car parks was being considered as part of this process.

PBC would also be developing a Climate Change Strategy which would incorporate EV charge points.

All three actions were currently running in parallel, and a further, more detailed update would be reported at a future meeting of this Working Group once it was available.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the update be noted.
- (2) That Kate Wood of Lancashire County Council be invited to attend a future meeting of this Working Group to discuss the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding Scheme.
- (3) That a further, more detailed update be reported at a future meeting of this Working Group.

## **6. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE**

There was an opportunity for Members of the Working Group to share examples of good practice, but none were put forward.

## **7. ITEMS FOR NOTING**

- **Climate FRESK at The Muni.** This was a thought provoking and interactive evening with Tom Deacon and the In-Situ team. Through guided discussion, groups were shown all the interactions and interrelations of the various scientifically proved actions and effects on the climate. Everybody learnt something and there were masses of quite horrifying statistics. It was very clearly demonstrated that human activity had led to all of these negative effects and how the cumulative effects were leading to a rapid increase in the pace of change, encompassing ecology, meteorology and oceanography. It was powerfully demonstrated that no one area could be protected from the change wrought on another, seemingly unrelated sphere. The same team would now deliver a much bigger version of this event, again at The Muni, to young people and businesses.
- **Climate Change Strategy.** Since the last meeting Pendle Borough Council (PBC) had developed a consultant's brief to help develop the Climate Change Strategy, based on the original climate change priority list.

A Consultant had now been appointed following a procurement process and their initiation meeting was on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The Climate Programme Manager, who was now in post, would be supporting the strategy's development and was currently in the process of developing and submitting the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme application.

- **COP29.** COP29 (the UN Climate Change Conference) was taking place 11<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November in Baku. The key themes were: Action for Climate Empowerment and Children and Youth, Adaption and Resilience, Capacity Building, Climate Finance, Climate Technology, Co-operative Activities, Gender, Global Stocktake, Innovation, Transition, Landuse, Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples, Market and Non Market Mechanisms, Mitigation, Pre 2020 Ambition and Implementation, Science and The Ocean.

World Leaders were being encouraged to engage and enhance ambition and enable action to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, and address loss and damage, to implement and transform key climate related decisions into concrete actions and credible plans to tackle climate change.

More could be found out via this link, which included webcasts: <https://unfccc.int/cop29>.

- **Gib Hill.** A first meeting had been held and a second had been scheduled now Gib Hill had been formally declared a Local Nature Reserve with Natural England, and that planning permission had been granted by PBC. It was confirmed that both Colne and Nelson Town Councils had made funding available for Gib Hill that could be used for projects or as match funding. Management roles were filled, with Will Stephenson becoming Chairman and Andrew Ashworth becoming Treasurer. After the meeting, David Foat came forward as Secretary.

Work would now be put in to develop the terms of reference and constitution of the Group. It was agreed that it was important to involve schools in the project. The Chair of this Working Group, Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price, volunteered, and was accepted, to be the schools/young person's liaison. PBC's Green Spaces Manager discussed some of the necessary infrastructure improvements. Some were to facilitate access for tractors for mowing works, including installing some piped crossings in the ditch lines, whilst others were concerned with improving sludgy paths in the woodland with informal aggregate pathways. Several areas of woodland required thinning out, including removing dead ash trees which were planted at plantation forestry density, allowing for initial death and poor take-up.

There were a number of suggestions for a group name, including Friends of Gib Hill, Gib Hill Action Group and the Gib Hill Hill Billies among others. It was suggested a competition for schools to come up with the best name and logo be held. It was agreed it was possible to have two names for the Group, a catchy working name and a more legitimate name for official use and grant applications.

- **Herbicide / Pesticide Usage.** Research into other Councils' herbicide / pesticide usage was ongoing. An update would be provided a future meeting.
- **LancsCAN Bid Application.** With a deadline of the end of October, the LancsCAN group was submitting a diverse range of projects to the Climate Action Fund within the National Lottery Community Fund. It was good this Working Group was at the table for this pan county effort. A few of the proposed projects were concerned with outreach, for example, climate juries, the development of climate action apps, young peoples' outdoors learning and activity and some arts and culture events. Of great interest to this Working Group was the strand that focussed

on making homes more sustainable and here the Blackpool Eco Hub was taking the lead, along with some community energy schemes, such as Rossendale Valley Energy. Then there was a nature and biodiversity strand that also linked to green social prescribing. Finally, there was the identification of various special green spaces for extra monitoring and intervention, specifically the Wyre Estuary and Morecambe Bay.

This Working Group's own David Penney had put forward some suggestions to the LancsCAN team, including:

- Community Composting, Recycling and Reuse Share Schemes – which would cut down the use of peat, reduce waste, share unwanted items for use by others, such as clothing or household items as well as establishing a Communal Store for such items as tools which people could use and return to the store for others to use.
- Creating a Tree and Plant Nursery in Pendle from which community groups and the PBC Green Spaces Team could draw upon for tree/plant planting on green spaces including greening streets to improve biodiversity, reduce CO2 emissions and create healthier living streets.
- Establishing a Climate Educational Programme, led by this Working Group, to engage with and involve the Community Groups, Churches, Schools/Colleges, Health, Business and Farming Sectors in action to combat Climate Change and its impacts.
- Setting up a Community Renewable Energy Group/Company to increase the sources of renewable energy and control them locally, under the auspices of the Council, with the aim of maximising the potential of such Schemes as well as ensuring that Housing had access to these sources of energy, so reducing the pollution from fossil fuels and the cost of energy to residents.

These aligned to the various strands within the grant application. The Chair of this Working Group had joined the LancsCAN group.

## **AGREED**

That the items be noted.

## **8. ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

The following were suggested for inclusion on agendas for future meetings:

- Climate Engagement Programme
- Community Energy
- Community Heat Networks / Geothermal Energy
- EV Charging Points in Car Parks
- Guest Speaker(s) from Environment Agency and/or Ribble Rivers Trust
- Guest Speaker from Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) new Active Travel Team
- Guest Speaker from LCC on the potential for introducing a re-use shop or repair café at the Household Recycling Centre in Barnoldswick
- Guest Speaker (Kate Wood) from LCC on the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Funding Scheme
- Guest Speaker from LCC's Transport Team
- Herbicide / Pesticide Usage
- Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Update
- Peat Usage
- Presentation on 2030hub

- RecycleIT (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZHNnwnkYsA&t=8s>)
- Review of Key Decisions made at COP29
- Rossendale and Reuse 360 HUB Burnley Visits

A paper submitted by a Working Group Member following the publication of this meeting's agenda, in which a number of actions were suggested, had been circulated prior to this meeting and was appended at Appendix 1. It was hoped that some, if not all, of the actions could be taken forward by this Working Group if they were deemed to be appropriate.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the listed items of business be included on agendas for future meetings of this Working Group.
- (2) That a letter be sent from the Committee Administrator to all parish and town councils in Pendle to ascertain their position on the use of peat-based compost.
- (3) That some, if not all, of the actions detailed in Appendix 1 be taken forward by the Working Group should they be deemed appropriate.

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 1** – Paper submitted by a Working Group Member following publication of this meeting's agenda.

## **Real Net Zero Targets or Bust**

If we don't reach real net zero by 2030, then the world will continue to reach more tipping points leading a Climate Disaster with possible Ecocide and Extinction. That's how bad the Climate Emergency has become and our need to develop a radical and adaptive Action Plan locally nationally and globally to reduce its impacts and prevent a catastrophic collapse of the earth's eco system upon which our life depends.

It is no good just aiming to be **carbon neutral** by 2050 nationally and locally by 2030. We need to aim for **real net zero** by 2030.

See Guardian Report of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/28/corporations-using-ineffectual-carbon-offsets-are-slowing-path-to-real-zero-more-than-60-climate-scientists-say?>

**Carbon neutrality** means striking a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in **carbon sinks**. In other words, the assumption is that as long as we store the same amount of carbon that we continue to emit then we should be able to stabilise and stop the climate running out of control.

Meanwhile, to **achieve Net Zero** means going beyond offsetting carbon and reduction. **Net zero requires the total elimination of all greenhouse gases** being emitted into the atmosphere and not just limited to carbon dioxide but also methane, nitrous oxide, and other hydrofluorocarbons. The world produced more fossil fuels in 2023 than ever before.

To achieve real net zero, we should stop using the discredited system of offsetting with carbon credits. This system only encourages the continuing use of fossil fuels.

New data, released at COP29, shows ["no sign" of the transition away from burning fossil fuels](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/13/no-sign-of-promised-fossil-fuel-transition-as-emissions-hit-new-high) that was pledged by the world's nations a year ago, with 2024 on track to set another new record for global carbon emissions with an already increase in the production of fossil fuels in 2023. Planet-heating emissions from coal, oil and gas will rise by 0.8% in 2024. In stark contrast, emissions have to fall by 43% by 2030 for the world to have any chance of keeping to the 1.5C temperature target. See Guardian Report of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/13/no-sign-of-promised-fossil-fuel-transition-as-emissions-hit-new-high>

**2024 is set to become the hottest year ever.** The evidence is clear that we are failing to achieve the necessary targets set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius:

- We have continued to increase CO2 emissions in the atmosphere to 423.6 ppm on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024 from the safe level of 350ppm. See World Meteorological Organisation Report: "Greenhouse gas concentrations surge again to new record in 2023" at <https://wmo.int/media/news/greenhouse-gas-concentrations-surge-again-new-record-2023#>
- Existing carbon sinks on land (trees, peatlands) and seas (seagrass, kelp) cannot absorb anymore carbon while the world is still destroying them and not replacing them in sufficient numbers to make any difference;



- The total military carbon footprint is around 5.5% of global emissions and rising as there are more conflicts resulting in ecological wastelands and climate refugees;
- As the ice caps and the tundra melt, increasing amounts of methane are being released into the atmosphere. Methane is 28–34 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), as a greenhouse gas, at trapping heat in the atmosphere over a 100-year period. Over a 20-year period, methane is 84–86 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>;
- The huge cuts in carbon emissions now needed to end the climate crisis means it is “crunch time for real”, according to the UN’s environment chief. Current carbon-cutting promises by countries for 2030 are not being met in the Report, and even if they were met, the temperature rise would only be limited to a still-disastrous 2.6C to 2.8C. There is no more time for “hot air”, the report said, urging nations to act at the COP29 Summit in November. See Guardian Report of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/24/crunch-time-for-real-un-says-time-for-climate-delays-has-run-out?>
- The dangers of a collapse of the main Atlantic Ocean circulation, known as Amoc, have been “greatly underestimated” and would have devastating and irreversible impacts with extreme weather events especially in North West Europe, as northern ice caps melt, seas rise and warm further south with the result that the Gulf Stream will stop and cooler seas from the north drift further south and around our coasts. See Guardian Report of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/23/we-dont-know-where-the-tipping-point-is-climate-expert-on-potential-collapse-of-atlantic-circulation?>
- The extreme weather event in Spain this week with a year's rain falling in 8 hours demonstrates the fact that NW Europe is going to experience increasingly worse weather events caused by the impacts of Climate Change which are a combination of interlinked different factors:

\* The ice caps in both the Arctic and Antarctica are melting twice as fast as elsewhere because of temperature rises caused by human activities. The Arctic has warmed nearly four times faster than the globe on average over the past 43 years. The Arctic is losing sea ice at a rate of almost 13% per decade.

\* Melting Tundra and Arctic Ice Caps are releasing Methane, a powerful greenhouse gas;

\* Leading to a vanishing of white ice with its "albedo effect" to reflect harmful solar energy back into space with the result that these rays are now warming more seas;

\* Leading to a rapid warming and rising sea levels globally;

\* Leading to the collapse of AMOC, including the Gulf Stream, with cooler melting ice drifting South from the Arctic. The total collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) will have many effects on the UK, including:

- Colder temperatures: The AMOC carries heat from the tropics to the UK, so a collapse could cause temperatures to drop by an average of 3.4°C. The UK could become as cold as Scandinavia.
- More extreme weather: The UK could experience more intense winter weather, including heavy snowfall, and more frequent storms with high winds.
- Rising sea levels: A collapse could cause a sudden rise in sea levels.
- Changes to rainfall: The position of rainfall and arid climate zones could change.
- Impact on agriculture: Only 7% of Britain might be suitable for arable farming, compared to 32% now.
- Impact on marine industries and marine life.
- Impact on renewable energy production: less solar and more wind is needed.

- More moisture rising from warming seas will increase the amount of rainfall on land, as is the case in the Mediterranean where temperatures have risen to an average of over 22 Degrees Celsius, with up to 31 Degrees Celsius off the coast of Libya, which emits vast amounts of vapour into the atmosphere leading to catastrophic down pours of rain in a very short period of time with resulting overwhelming floods and loss of life, over 200 so far, in the eastern coastal Valencian region of Spain. The situation was made worse by the fact heavy rainfall fell on already baked land stopping drainage, following a period of drought, causing a massive run off of torrential rain flooding a vast area, which has been declared a Disaster Zone.
- These changes to the temperature of the seas are also affecting where the Jet Stream is situated in the atmosphere and do have a direct bearing on where extreme weather events occur.
- It is clear that extreme weather events are already with us and are caused by Climate Change. Please see and sign the Avaaz Petition at [https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/climate\\_action\\_spain\\_floods\\_1\\_4/?bfZrHdb&v=162334&cl=21760056260&checksum=d6305708b15374ae0b7e40ccea50801278be6a3880d9d05cbf2d0fcd3756c7ec](https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/climate_action_spain_floods_1_4/?bfZrHdb&v=162334&cl=21760056260&checksum=d6305708b15374ae0b7e40ccea50801278be6a3880d9d05cbf2d0fcd3756c7ec)
- The proof that the deadliest weather is made worse by Climate Change is contained in a Report by scientists from the **World Weather Attribution Group** at Imperial College London.

See Guardian Report of 31st October 2024 at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdxvnx10xz2o#:~:text=Human%2Dcaused%20climate%20change%20made,killing%20more%20than%20570%2C000%20people>

- Meanwhile, Humanity is “on the precipice” of shattering Earth’s limits, and will suffer huge costs if we fail to act on Biodiversity Loss. Humanity depends on Biodiversity for Life on Earth. Biodiversity and Climate Change are two sides of the same coin. To put it bluntly, no Biodiversity, no Life. That is why there is an urgent need to save Nature at key global Biodiversity talks in Columbia at COP16. See Guardian Report of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/21/humanity-earth-natural-limits-biodiversity-warning-cop16-conference-scientists-academics?>
- As COP16 has come to an end, and as COP29 begins, one thing is clear—the **climate and nature crises cannot be solved in isolation**. They’re deeply interconnected—and it’s time for the UK’s approach to be as well. Despite commitments like the Paris Agreement and Global Biodiversity Framework, the UK’s ambitions are (still) siloed. **We need the Climate and Nature Bill’s** binding, joined-up plan that treats climate and nature action as intertwined—not separate—issues. Read Zero Hour Blog of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at: <https://www.zerohour.uk/cop29/>

In the light of this evidence, Pendle Council’s Climate Emergency Working Group should recommend that the Council is committed to:

- Achieving a real net zero target by 2030 rather than a carbon neutral target with a radical adaptive Action Plan to reduce the impacts of climate change;
- Urging the UK Government to pursue the same target by 2030 rather than 2050;
- Calling on the UK Government to lobby COP29 to adopt these targets.