

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2025**

*PRESENT –
Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price (Chair)*

Councillors

*Zafar Ali
Chris Church
David Cockburn-Price
Ash Sutcliffe
Yvonne Tennant
Lola Whipp*

Co-optees

*Sue Fairweather
Jane Wood*

Officers in attendance:

Iftikhar Bokhari, Head of Economic Growth

Also in Attendance:

*Jack Spees - Ribble Rivers Trust
Ian Chapman
Sylvia Godfrey
Stephen Sykes*

(Apologies for absence were received from *Phillip Spurr, David Penny and Ryan Gifford*)

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1. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG) held on 23rd June 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

2. LANCASHIRE PEAT PARTNERSHIP

CEWG didn't receive a presentation from Lancashire Peat Partnership and it was resolved to ask them to present at a future meeting.

However, a presentation was given by Matthew Moll – LCC (Lancashire County Council) on its Integrated Transportation Strategy.

He explained that there were five bus operators and twelve smaller operators on the region in addition to four rail operators and fifty-two railway stations. He outlined that LCC was supporting bus operators to purchase zero emission busses with a budgeted allocation of £5.5m which would support the purchase of an estimated 20 vehicles.

He also touched on the BSIP which is being rolled out over the next few months which will give live updates to passengers in bus shelters. Following the renewal of town centre bus shelters recently, suburban bus shelters are now also to be upgraded.

He explained that there was the future rail local transport plan consultation to forecast transportation needs for the next 10 - 15 years and the consideration of the re-establishment of the Colne to Skipton line.

The local campaign of Skipton – East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership (SELRAP) was discussed by members.

AGREED

- (1) That the content of the presentation be noted and sent round to all CEWG members.
- (2) That thanks be given to Matthew Moll for attending the meeting and for his informative presentation.

3. LOCALISATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CEWG received a presentation from Stephen Sykes on localisation of the sustainable development goals.

Stephen outlined the 2030 Sustainability Hub and how it supported the wider conversation on challenges of sustainability with the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) outlined by the United Nations.

AGREED

- (1) That the content of the presentation be noted and sent round to all CEWG members.
- (2) That thanks be given to Mr Sykes for his impressive presentation.

4. DISCUSSION ON RECENT ENGAGEMENT OF CEWG WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Discussion on Recent Engagement of CEWG with National Government - CEWG members reviewed responses from the National Government on the following issues and agreed on a way forward.

- i. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government on unevenness nationally of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and how viability as currently defined in the National Planning Policy Framework is leading to a de facto Greenfield First situation in Pendle.
- ii. DEFRA on the cancellation of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) without warning and the effect this is likely to have for Pendle's farmers.
- iii. DEFRA on Protection of Peatlands.
- iv. DESNZ on a balanced range of green, sustainable energy sources and the potential need for oil and gas while these sustainable, clean energy sources are brought on stream.

AGREED

That the responses from Government did not truly address the questions being asked.

5. CONFIRMATION THAT THIS WORKING GROUP SIGN THE PLANT BASED TREATY

The Chair reported that only positive affirmations had been received after the last meeting, but a vote would now be taken which sought confirmation from the CEWG that this Working Group would sign the Plant-based Treaty.

Upon being put to the vote, the confirmation of the Working Group was agreed to sign the treaty

AGREED

That the CEWG sign the Plant-based Treaty.

6. UPDATES FROM THE ECONOMIC GROWTH TEAM

The following updates were given by the Economic Growth Team:

- i. Verbal progress update on providing EV chargers in Pendle Car Parks
- ii. Verbal update on ways forward on a reusable nappies campaign for Pendle
- iii. Verbal update - progress on recruitment of a Climate Emergency Officer
- iv. Verbal update Peat Policy for Parish and Town Councils update

AGREED

Given the potential for a significant tonnage saving of waste comprising disposable nappies being sent to landfill and the other benefits real cotton nappies bring, the Chair agreed to contact Lancashire County Council to see what support they could offer, perhaps via the Family and Wellbeing Service, so that this region supplies the support that other areas do to families who wish to avoid using disposable nappies.

7. LOBBYING OUR MP AND HM GOVERNMENT ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY ISSUES

The CEWG finalised and approved an agreed response to Jonathan Hinder, MP and Ed Miliband, MP on the proposal for the Calderdale Energy Park and CEWG's potential suggestions for amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

The CEWG also discussed and agreed on what additional issues to lobby Government for and it was agreed that the Chair should draft an email to the Government on 30 by 30 Treaty, putting forward potential locations in Pendle to be included.

AGREED

That the agreed response on the Calderdale Energy Park be sent to Jonathan Hinder, MP and Ed Miliband, MP.

8. ITEMS FOR NOTING

The CEWG offered its congratulations to Trawden Forest Primary School who not only achieved Big Gold for a garden they designed for the Southport Flower Show, but had achieved the RHS Level Five School Gardening Award and had been mentioned in the RHS newsletter and featured in a slot on the BBC North West television news. The children in the school's gardening club and their teachers, Mrs Nelson and Mr Lomax, are exemplars of eco best practice and are willing to share their expertise with other schools.

AGREED

The CEWG congratulations be conveyed to Trawden Forest Primary School.

9. ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

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

- Re-invite the Officer from Lancashire Peat Partnership
- Update on the potential for re-usable nappies
- Update on the recruitment of Climate Emergency Officer
- Update on the use of pesticides from Pendle Council's Green Spaces Manager
- Invite officers involved in the Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy to address us
- Invite the Tree Nursery Officer from the River Ribble Trust to give a presentation
- Invite the team behind the Safer, Healthier, Greener Streets project to address the Working Group
- Invite representatives from United Utilities to address the Working Group to explain what measures are being taken to increase resilience, prevent

flooding and ensure that our water sources are kept clean and free from pollution

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

That next meeting of this Working Group be held on the following date:

Monday, 15th December 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Chair _____