

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 22 FEBRUARY 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT - REPORT BY LEAD MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

At the last CAT meeting members concentrated on what activities they could bring to the proposed event starting on the 11th March.

The main activities that councillors could undertake was to prompt all the local groups that they had contact with to ask if they would organise an event or program to promote the main theme of increasing the public's awareness of what they can do to help their area reach the net zero target ambitions of both the District and County councils.

In order to obtain the widest audience, we agreed that both of the local newspapers would be approached to see if they would contribute towards our aims.

NDC Comms are able to circulate requests and information to all the North Devon Parishes and CAT members will provide helpful content for their reference.

All items were to have been presented to coms for compilation by Friday 3rd February.

The local government association has provided evidence to the Climate Change Task Group, which has produced the "Mission Zero" report by former energy minister Chris Skidmore. It recognises the important part that local authorities at all levels play in delivering the 2050 net zero goal.

It states that: there must be more place based, locally lead action on net zero; and that decarbonising the public sector estate can reduce energy demand significantly, build workforce capacity and stimulate supply chains.

The review recommends a new broad 'net-zero duty' on councils, however, the LGA's view is that this duty is not necessary: councils do not lack the will or leadership on this issue, they lack the backing from government in policy and funding.

These aspects are recognised in this councils carbon plan and reinforced by the recent web based training that you have all been requested to undertake.

Within the joint local plan review, I and this council's members have been trying to include polices that will move the planning requirements towards the legal (2050) goal.

I have attended a couple of climate webinars since my last report and the information provided in this week's will be very useful for our awareness efforts.

References and further information:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/net-zero>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-net-zero>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution>