

Feedback on PCC climate change report

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, December 2019

First of all, we'd like to support the aim of the local authority to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2030. This is an ambitious but necessary aim in this climate emergency.

However this aim appears to only include what you call 'scope 1' emissions, the emissions that the local authority directly controls. In the light of this it is very important that all documents make it absolutely clear that your zero carbon target does not include all greenhouse gas emissions caused by the activities of the local authority, let alone of the people and businesses in Pembrokeshire as a whole.

While this aim is a good start, the Council can't stop there.

We are asking the PCC for wider reaching leadership here, considering the councils indirect emissions as well as the emissions of the county of Pembrokeshire as a whole. We need to aim to reduce all our greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2030, and who is going to lead on this if not the local authority?

Friends of the Earth Pembrokeshire have campaigned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for decades, and we are also part of a national and international organisation developing resources on this issue. You can find a guide here for councils specifically, developed by FoE UK:

<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/33-actions-local-authorities-can-take-climate-change>

Some more specific feedback on the report and the sub-streams Joshua Beynon identified in his email:

1. Building: There are many really good initiatives included in the report. The aim needs to be to reduce carbon emissions of existing buildings and only allow zero carbon new housing as a minimum. This needs to be enshrined in the revised LDP and planning legislation. Even if the PCC is not fully in charge of this you can campaign on making the necessary changes at Wales and UK level.
2. Transport: We suggest a much stronger focus on active travel, developing an infrastructure countywide that supports walking and cycling, as well as a much improved public transport network. There should not be any new road infrastructure except for improved road safety. The money should instead be spent on improving public transport.
3. Land: We campaign to double the tree cover in the UK, and we would urge the PCC to aim to double the tree cover on the land it owns. We see many really good projects in the report and support these, but would like to see a more quantified approach that shows how much of the PCC owned land is covered with trees and what the projects will achieve. We know that the Woodland Trust works with councils on tree planting schemes, and you may already be in touch with them. We would certainly like to become involved in any tree planting initiative where you find you need help.
4. Behaviours: We need to communicate the climate emergency more clearly and honestly. A start would be to rename this report 'PCC climate emergency report'. PCC needs to be very clear what the climate emergency will mean to the county of

Pembrokeshire when sea levels will rise, severe weather events will threaten the beautiful nature we take for granted, as well as our everyday lives and business activities. You will be aware of the Creative Climate Communications projects run by Transition Bro Gwaun and Renew Wales. More initiatives like these are needed to get across the urgency of the situation.