

Climate Coalition lobby of Parliament: Wednesday 17th June 2015:
List of Actions prepared by Calderdale's Energy Future and Calderdale Council
How we can take action together around Energy,
Climate Change & Green Growth

In 2012 Calderdale Council approved its **Calderdale's Energy Future** strategy for climate change and energy, setting a target for the district of a 40% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 (from 2005 baseline). At the moment, with five years to go - a period which coincides with the lifetime of this government 2015-2020 - there is a significant shortfall in achieving that reduction target. So we need to plan and then be able to take more effective action.

In February the leaders of the Conservative, Labour & Liberal Democrat parties nationally agreed these 3 pledges:

- **To seek a fair, strong, legally binding, global climate deal which limits temperature rises to below 2°C**
- **To work together, across party lines, to agree carbon budgets in accordance with the Climate Change Act**
- **To accelerate the transition to a competitive, energy efficient low carbon economy and to end the use of unabated coal for power generation**

The pledges have also been supported by Holly Lynch MP for Halifax and Craig Whitaker MP for Calder Valley.

The *Calderdale's Energy Future* panel - which brings together the public, private and voluntary sectors - has also agreed a specific **Local Pledge for Calderdale:**

The government to proactively support local initiatives and activity to assist Calderdale to achieve its 2020 carbon reduction target, and in particular a large-scale programme of residential and commercial energy efficiency measures – which will also reduce fuel poverty and pressures on the NHS, and create employment – and measures which will boost the success and competitiveness of Calderdale's low carbon businesses

This pledge is based on a recognition that during the 2010-15 government there was insufficient engagement between what we attempted to do in Calderdale and what happened in Westminster, with the consequence that insufficient progress was made to reduce emissions and increase low carbon competitiveness and employment. Therefore **Calderdale Council** and the **Calderdale's Energy Future** panel have drawn up the following list of opportunities and actions where we would welcome the support of our MPs and the Government.

Dialogue between Calderdale and Westminster/our MPs - about energy/climate change where issues, problems and opportunities can be discussed, passed up to government and progress chased. A first meeting could help us understand collectively how the agenda of the new government will affect Calderdale.

Residential energy efficiency/ 'Warm Homes for All'

- Above all Calderdale needs a significant increase in **domestic energy retrofit** to be able to deliver our carbon reduction targets, and to meet the challenges of the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy. When Green Deal and ECO started in 2013, there was a substantial decline in activity to only 600-800 households p.a which then fell further after the reduction in subsidy rates for boiler replacements for low income households.
- A **rethink of the funding regime** including a subsidised interest rate for an affordable 'pay as you save' finance mechanism for insulation, heating and renewable energy technologies, so as to create a stable supply chain in the green economy and allow businesses to establish longer term delivery plans. This hasn't been possible with the short term, rapidly varying subsidies, vouchers & other market stimulus of the last 2 years.
- Calderdale in particular needs solutions for properties with narrow stone cavities and those with solid walls, because these types of '**more expensive to treat**' properties are prevalent.
- We also support the action requested by the **Climate Coalition nationally to achieve 'Warm homes for all'**: making the retrofit of existing homes a government infrastructure priority; making 2 million of the UK's low-

income homes highly efficient by 2020, and all 6 million low income homes highly efficient by 2025; and ensuring new building regulations for homes and buildings in England are zero-carbon.

- Greater local ability to set **low/zero carbon building standards** in planning.
- Greater local resources are needed to monitor and where necessary enforce valid **Energy Performance Certificates** being in place, especially for the growing private rented sector which contains some of the coldest and least energy efficient housing stock.

Other issues: the possibility of a clear separation of the energy supply and energy reduction sectors so that energy companies should partner and negotiate with the local authority in order to agree a portfolio of schemes to be tackled.

Low Carbon Business and jobs

- **Low Interest loans for SME businesses** to take up energy efficiency
- Regional **business support units** to provide advice to SME's in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects (through Local Enterprise Partnerships and/ or Chambers of Commerce)
- Further measures to **encourage 'green growth'**, the low carbon economy and green jobs in Calderdale
- Recognition that **strategically-important high-energy-use industries** need to have appropriate price-tariffs (request of the Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce)

Energy

- Incentives for Local Authorities to share assets and skills so as to further **community energy** projects.
- Local authorities should be empowered and supported to develop **municipal utility service companies** that supply energy and also help communities develop community renewable energy schemes.

Flooding

- Establish a funding formula that provides a fairer distribution of funds for Calderdale and enable us to deliver our **£15 million flooding mitigation programme**.
- a commitment from Government Agencies with responsibility for the **management of upland areas** to make appropriate water containment, drainage and run-off arrangements.

Other issues: adoption of permeable road surfaces, drive ways and patios to help avoid a repeat of the Calderdale 2012 flash flooding events. Encourage and support the planting of trees and other biomass by schemes in Calderdale.

Transport

- Support for **Calder Valley line electrification**, currently a Tier 1 priority being assessed for Control Period 6 (2019-24)
- A **new station at Elland** to increase the sustainability of proposed development
- Support for Calderdale proposals within the government's '**Northern Powerhouse**' and **HS3 plans**.
- Continued assistance in protecting the **core bus network** to allow people to get to work/hospital etc sustainably.

Other issues: Ensure that rail fares are set at affordable levels so as to encourage the public to make greater use of the rail network. Provide greater incentives to motorists to use low-carbon emitting vehicles; a Commitment by Government that all public service vehicles should have engines which embrace low-carbon emission technologies.

Devolution to Leeds City Region/Combined Authority

- Support energy and climate agenda at the **Leeds City Region/ WY Combined Authority level** so that devolution will enable improved local action on climate change; to encourage regional authorities to develop local energy strategies through devolution of national funds and responsibilities; to devolve ECO funds to the Leeds City Region.

This document was prepared by the Calderdale's Energy Future partnership (including input from the Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce) and Calderdale Council