

Climate control consultation.

Michael Vasey, lead energy officer.

[Michael Vasey]

Durham County Council has declared a climate emergency. We've set ourselves a target of decreasing our emissions by 60 per cent, based on a 2008 baseline, by 2030. And we've also set a wider target of reducing the entire county's emissions to neutral by 2050. If you live; work; travel or shop in Durham we need your views on how we should approach this problem. In October 2018 The International Panel on Climate Change briefed a special report which stated that we have 12 years remaining to take drastic action to mitigate climate change. [Council logo]

In response the council has produced a report which outlines potential pathways to being carbon neutral. The report explores what the council needs to do to reduce our emissions, what the county, as a whole, needs to do to enable us to meet our targets. [picture of boiler]

At the moment we use natural gas to heat our homes and other [close up of boiler] buildings. Most of our electricity is produced [close up of flue] by burning natural gas and coal and our buses, trains and cars run on [close up of exhaust] fossil fuels which as well as Co2 pollution can also lead to worsening health effects in city centres such as poor air quality. As the level of CO2 in the atmosphere increases it will lead to more extreme weather events like storms; flooding; draught and heatwaves. We need to act now to mitigate this as well as prepare ourselves for these weather events when they do happen. We believe we need to increase investment in renewables such as the new solar farm at Tanfield, the council is building. We need to invest more in efficiency measures like LEDs and insulation.

[Close up of car charger] We need to change our [picture of electric car] transport to low carbon solutions such as ultra-low emissions vehicles [close up of car charging] and we need to strive to protect and enhance our woodlands and peatlands which are important carbon sinks.

[Drone footage of peatland] Now it's time for you to tell us what you think. Go to our website by clicking the link below and giving us your views.

Ends.