

Council Policy on Climate Change

South Lakeland District Council acknowledges that climate change is occurring, that man-made greenhouse gas emissions are a primary cause and that climate change will continue to have far reaching effects on people and places, the economy, society and environment in the District, across the UK and across the world.

South Lakeland District Council seeks to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits which come from combating, and developing resilience to, climate change and developing a sustainable economy. South Lakeland District commits to playing its part in meeting emissions targets set internationally and through UK Carbon budgets.

South Lakeland District Council will work in partnership to respond at a local level, encouraging and helping local residents, local businesses and other organisations to reduce their energy costs, to reduce congestion, to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities.

We commit our Council to

- Be seeking to achieve net carbon neutral as a Council by 2030
- Supporting a Cumbria wide target of carbon neutrality by 2037 and taking the necessary steps within our powers to achieve this
- Work with central government and neighbouring Councils to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the target for carbon dioxide reduction set out in the UK Carbon budget by 2022.
- Participate in local and regional networks for support.
- Develop plans and support projects with our partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to our local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.
- Publicly declare, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authority's operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.
- Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and our communities of climate change impacts and adapt accordingly.
- Encourage all sectors in our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Monitor the progress of our plans against the actions needed and publish the result.