



Full Commission Meeting
Friday 8th April 2022 - 10:00 AM
Slaithwaite Community Centre & MS Teams

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

A full list of attendees is appended (see Appendix 1 – Attendees).

Apologies were received from: Lisa Woods (LW), Kathy Scott (KS), Cllr Will Simpson (WS)

Welcome to Dr John Lever (University of Huddersfield), who was invited to observe this meeting.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

PR asked attendees to consider the minutes of the previous KCC meeting (04/02/22).

GR raised correction for p.3 - Community Interest Company (CIC) which would give legal status and would not cover the issues of liability and indemnity.

Members agreed no further corrections were required and that the minutes were an accurate account of events.

ACTION: Secretariat to make correction and upload with correction agreed final version of minutes to website.

Minutes from previous meetings are available on the KCC website:
<https://www.kirkleesclimate.org.uk/meeting-agendas-notes>

3. Sub-group updates

PR invited each of the sub-groups to provide an update to the wider Commission on recent activities.

a. Movement & Transport

Professor John Allport (JA) led the update.

Key points:

- Dr Alexandros Nikitas is a new member of the group. He is the Founding Director of the Future Mobility Lab, a new sustainable transport and smart mobility research initiative.
- Dr Alexandros Nikitas is currently working as a PhD candidate in Sustainable and Shared Transport in partnership with Kirklees Council. JA highlighted that this gives a close tie in with the Council, University and hopefully now KCC.
- No further updates regarding the A629 Halifax Road consultation paper.
- PR noted that the Secretariat has provided a provisional list of sub-group co-optees from relevant services across Kirklees Council.
- PR referred to the new publication from the IPCC ([Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change](#)) and recommended that Commissioners read the Summary for Policymakers.

ACTION: Secretariat to send sub-group chairs details of the relevant Council Officers that have been suggested as co-optees.

ACTION: Secretariat to include link to IPCC report in the minutes and circulate the link to Commission members.

b. Buildings & Homes

Chris Herring (CH) led the update.

Key points:

- The group currently has 9 members and work is ongoing to develop sub-group membership to include developers and interested parties.
- The group have identified four key areas of focus:
 - 1) Development of a readiness report – the preparation for this is likely to begin in the Autumn.
 - 2) Development of a best practice template – a draft has been completed and this will be discussed further at the next sub-group meeting.
 - 3) Hold an event(s) for building developers to raise awareness and share information on energy efficiency and eco-builds – a programme of development is underway to run a short four-hour online event in approximately mid-June. The aim will be to look at new build residential first. The next event following this will be residential retrofit. These events can also be used to share good practice and challenges faced by organisations.

- 4) Skills development – the group are working alongside Commissioner Daniel Bedford from Kirklees college and Professor Adrian Pitts.
- Daniel Bedford (DB) provided an update on skills development regarding electric vehicle charging installations, air source heat pump facilities, and working on the external wall rendering training facilities. This also links in with the university for higher level skills.
 - A brief has been produced for prospective members which contains the aims and objectives, and this will be circulated after this meeting.
 - Packages of funding were discussed by CH, PR and Abdul Ravat (AR). It was highlighted that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) has recently made some investments as part of the devolved agenda around retrofitting homes in Bradford and other places. This would be a good opportunity to work jointly with them in terms of accessing funding for the Kirklees area.
 - Tom Taylor (TT) referred to a piece of on-going work around voluntary and community sector economic and investment strategy, in partnership with Kirklees Council. This has identified the number of community buildings that are serving disadvantaged communities particularly. Linking in with the buildings sub-group regarding this would be useful in looking at opportunities for training people and developing programmes to support these community buildings in reducing their energy demand.

ACTION: CH to circulate the brief for prospective members to the wider Commission.

4. Business & Economic Activity

Bill Macbeth (BM) provided an update.

Key points:

- Sustainable Huddersfield Green Skills Webinar
 - Webinar is taking place on the 21st April with invitations being sent on the 8th April, sent by Barry Sheerman MP's office.
 - The workshop will consist of speakers from Higher Education, Further Education and Vocational Education, and some key sector and emerging sector views.
 - Brendan Bilton is going to talk about new skills, new jobs in the hydrogen electric vehicle sector.
 - BM and JA are also speaking at this event.
- Apprenticeships
 - Working on getting all apprenticeship programme to introduce and deliver a module on sustainability, in every occupation. We have the northern training providers network (based in Brighouse) - Alex Miles is going to talk about how we might pilot that nationally.
 - University of Coventry are offering a new apprenticeship (Level 7) - Sustainable Business Specialist Integrated Apprenticeship (MSc). This is for people already employed at a senior level as sustainability specialists. Coventry University have stated that if BM get a cohort of 20 people together this can then be delivered locally and held at the Textile Centre of Excellence (change to spelling)
 - BM will be meeting Monday 11th April with the University of Coventry to discuss this further. This would then provide a group of networked champions within companies who are going through the same programme.

- Connect Skills
 - There is a new programme called Connect skills for skills that no one is currently delivering.
 - If we can collect evidence of a programme of employer demand for a programme that we compile, put together and deliver we can get it funded.
 - There is a big gap in the market and a need for shorter introductory programs covering the basics of climate change and how to get started with implementing sustainability
 - Need for short, targeted programs for business professionals – thought is that we can put one together and drive it through both through
 - Following webinar, hope to have a group of interested parties and we can put together a framework for the programme, run it past the KCC and look for funding to pilot it.
- Discussions have been ongoing around re-establishing the Kirklees Enterprise Foundation as the Green and Digital Enterprise Foundation. The application for funding by the Community Renewal Fund was not successful. BM is still in talks with Kirklees Council about how to do something locally.
- An option for funding this could be via the shared prosperity fund.
- Visits to Leeds and Huddersfield Universities looking at the latest developments for business on Industry 4.0, working alongside WYCA.

ACTION: BM to send link for Green Skills webinar on 21st April.

Secretariat also added event to KCC website:

<https://www.kirkleesclimate.org.uk/event/sustainable-huddersfield-green-skills-webinar>

c. Nature & the Countryside

Tony Newham (TN) and Karen Hill (KH) led the update.

Key points:

- Looking at how to support rural organisations to create and adopt their own climate action plans.
- The sub-group have been in discussions about sustainability offset options:
 - Sub-group had guest speaker Adrian Barraclough (Strategic Consultant, [Palladium](#)), who gave a presentation about the work he is involved in. Adrian is involved in another project called [Revere](#).
 - Revere is delivered through a partnership between Palladium and [National Parks UK](#).
 - One of Revere's projects is to restore blanket bogs around the UK and some of this is within the Kirklees area.
 - Restoring blanket bogs is proven to be more effective than planting trees.
 - Revere is a commercial scheme – the sub-group is positive about the options this scheme offers to UK business to pay to offset their carbon emissions.
 - Developers must ensure when putting forward schemes for planning that they include an action plan as to how they are going to offset the biodiversity impact that their scheme will have on the environment. Alternatively, developers can

offer to pay the Council to offset the biodiversity impact that their scheme would have.

- TN suggested that the KCC ask Kirklees Council that the funds they receive for biodiversity offsetting is expended on a scheme such as this blanket bog scheme in Kirklees.
- Kirklees in trying to drive forward a net-zero plan, and this is a quick win and as such would have more control over it.
- Whilst it is evident that Revere has a commercial interest here, there are commercial schemes which could speed up and enhance the carbon offset that is needed.
- Adrian Barraclough is going to become a member of the sub-group.
- Networking with local community groups and putting together a support package as to how businesses can adopt a zero-carbon action plan. We will be meeting with the Business & Economic activity group to assist with this.

Further discussion points:

- KA highlighted issues around ensuring that carbon reduction is still the primary focus, with offsetting being the last resort for reaching net zero. Consideration must be given to the commercial interests in all types of offsetting. The main beneficiary needs to be the environment and that it does not distract from the key goal of reducing carbon and protecting nature.
- KH stated that at present, there is not yet sufficient technology to reach net-zero and as such need to do some carbon sequestration alongside this. KH highlighted that there are Councils across the country that have policies on biodiversity offsetting.
- PR stated that the scheme, and similar schemes should be explored further. Whilst KCC will always encourage the avoidance of environmental damage which causes climate change, in those instances where this is not currently technologically possible, then offsetting would be acceptable as a short term measure.
- GR stated that things have moved on hugely with offsetting. It is now about economic and social value as well as what is environmentally right to do, which is something to be mindful of.

ACTION: KH to reach out to GR regarding a proposed sub-group member from Natural England.

d. Young People

Daniel Bedford (DB) led the update.

Key points:

- Latest Youth Panel meeting took place on the 28th March via MS Teams between schools, Kirklees College, and the University.
- 3 schools attended, which is lower than the previous meeting – sub-group are looking at alternatives for promoting the meetings, as well as developing a more formal structure.
- Kirklees Council organising a youth climate event for October 2022:
 - LW is also working on producing a video on KCC for the event.
 - Kirklees College is also going to host the events at their sites in Huddersfield & Dewsbury.

- LW has been invited to Denby Dale Parish Council event in June to promote the Youth Panel to local schools.
- LW has been contacted by some schools to enquire about KCC's legal status.
- Kirklees College have planted 300 trees donated by Woodland Trust.

Further discussion:

- PR introduced Dr John Lever (JL) from the University of Huddersfield and highlighted that it would be good for JL to discuss his work with the Young People's sub-group.
- JL has been chairing a new food partnership for Kirklees Council. This is looking at developing new pilots in food growing and working with schools.
- JL mentioned a visit to a new fish farm in Huddersfield called Aquaponics.
- KS discussed the village green which is a community run greengrocers in Marsden and they are currently looking at how they can supply schools. Agrees to liaise with JL, who is also looking for representation from small businesses.
- JA stated the University, through engineering and applied sciences, are working with New College and Greenhead College on energy from waste. The University has is in the process of making an application for this for this year's Earth Shot prize.

e. Energy & Waste

Gideon Richards (GR) provided an update.

Key points:

- Previous meeting was cancelled on 7th April due to illness, this will be rearranged in the next couple of weeks.
- 13 members at present, with representatives from both areas and from across the public, private & third sectors.

f. Community Engagement & Involvement

Tom Taylor (TT) led the update, with input from Kath Shackleton (KS) and Kiran Bali (KB).

Key points:

- Workplan has been agreed – the focus of this sub-group to shift to focus on community engagement.
- Group has co-opted Richard Byrne, who is from a small PR company focused on diversity and inclusion.
- TT highlighted the recent meeting for Kirklees Third Sector Leaders (24/3/22) had a climate change theme. TT gave a presentation on KCC.
- TT has circulated '[Net Zero Places](#)' document with members - this document looks at the issue of climate change and the needs of communities together.
- TT highlighted issues with inequality in climate change.
- Group would like to work together on community engagement and involving the Youth Panel

- Group would like to consider what might Kirklees really look like if the community was involved in driving climate change action. There is a real need at local level for communities to get together and realised that by acting together, they can make changes.
- Need to improve communication between the 3rd sector and KCC.
- There is a community buildings network meeting on 19th May, looking at how to help community buildings reduce their energy use and take other climate actions.
- Businesses that deliver public sector contracts are required to demonstrate social value. One the ways they can do this is to engage with communities particularly on environmental projects. There is a piece of work looking at putting some structure around this at present.
- KS is part of the Kirklees cultural leaders' group, where sustainability is a key part of their agenda.
- CH went to see Proper Jobs Theatre who are looking at how to keep the building warm
- KS highlighted that there is quite a lot of simple work that could be done to show that lots of small actions can add up to larger scale change - is there a way that the KCC can collect people's pledges?
- KS mentioned the [Kirklees Year of Music](#) and the focus across the borough on musical activity and engagement through music. Climate is one of their key aims.
- They have proposed that everyone involved in this Year of Music puts sustainability at the centre of what they do and demonstrate how they are making these changes in their work.
- KS raised the idea of roadshows across a year within the community, where the KCC could be involved in a voluntary capacity to promote climate change action, this could include practical items on mending clothing or electrical items, or top tips for saving energy. KB supported this.
- KB highlighted that places of worship will benefit from the community buildings network.
- KB updated that she has just returned from a project with the UN Environment programme in Asia. This showed the challenges in other parts of the world that people are facing.

Discussion points:

- BM highlighted actions that will link the business and community group together, such as the stitching academy. This could give people the skills to repair or upcycle garments. KCC could look at finding funding and this could then possibly build into a community enterprise scheme. Companies would participate in under the banner of corporate social responsibility and work with the Community Group. This would need to be specific though as to what you require from the company.
- TT stated that there are lots of individual actions that are helpful, but KCC also needs to listen to communities about collective action.
- CH highlighted that this also came out of climate voices that a collective action is vital.
- TN referred to an example of a good community energy generation which is a hydro-electric scheme in Buttermere. It would be positive to have communities in Kirklees create schemes like this.

- BM stated the importance of linking work between this group and the Business sub-group.
- KA highlighted the importance of applying behavioural science to community engagement.

5. Draft Commission Work Programme & Matrix

Professor Peter Roberts (PR) advised that this has now been updated but is to remain a live document. Commissioners who need to update the Work Programme can contact the Secretariat Team.

6. Resources, Legal Status & Governance

PR provided an update.

Key points:

- After a series of meetings with the University of Huddersfield, a small management group has been established to progress this work area.
- RD, TT, KH, CH, JL, GR have been involved in these meetings.
- The University of Huddersfield is offering a workspace for the KCC, with access to the library and other information facilities.
- KCC can also establish a university-based email address
- The University is keen to become involved in joint bidding arrangements for both research and learning projects.
- Another meeting is needed to organise the next steps in registering for legal status.
- TT emphasised the importance of KCC remaining seen as a separate entity from the University.

7. Discussion on policy changes that are dissuading investment in renewable energy projects

JA led this item, referencing an article on changes to licensing costs for hydropower schemes.

Article web link: [Community hydropower schemes face being shut down by new £13,000 licensing costs | Environment Agency \(headtopics.com\)](https://www.headtopics.com/news/2018/07/26/community-hydropower-schemes-face-being-shut-down-by-new-13000-licensing-costs/)

Key points:

- JA highlighted the issues concerning the new licensing costs for hydropower schemes.
- JA discussed the work they are doing at the University looking at the old mill dams that are currently in the river.
- Environment Agency (EA) wants to remove all of them to allow for fish passage.

- There are some of them that cannot be removed for example Snow Island Weir, as this tops up the Canal. Weirs such as this are prime sites for hydro-generation if there is a fish passage built into this.
- Part of this work is to look at developing a customisable application to bolt onto these weirs rather than huge civil engineering works, and something that doesn't affect local ecology.
- The EA licenses are essentially extraction licences that were targeted at farmers who remove large amounts of water for irrigation.
- Hydropower does not extract the water it simply utilises it and places it back a short distance downstream. Therefore, it could be argued that it should not come under this new law.
- The generator power required is anything between 5kW to 100kW, but this is all dependant on the weir. This is all very low cost.
- The University have agreed to buy the power from the project and the funding from this will go back into the Kirklees Linear parks that are being developed.
- PR highlighted that there should be a difference between community hydropower schemes and commercial schemes.
- PR will contact the local MPs on behalf of the commission and request that they ask a set of parliamentary questions requesting to have an exemption scheme for community-based projects.
- TN stated that there are lots of dams and streams around Kirklees that can accommodate small hydropower generators.
- BM suggesting lobbying for exemptions or grants for people who wish to get involved in hydropower schemes.
- GR stated that the EA should make the licensing application a simpler process. Need to work more collaboratively between the industries that want to get involved in hydropower schemes and the communities.
- TT stated that perhaps one of the exceptions put to parliament could be if a significant proportion of the profit from selling this energy goes into community organisations that have a clear public benefit.

ACTION: PR to contact MPs to request parliamentary questions requesting an exemption scheme for community-based projects.

8. Launch of a Sustainability Strategy Programme

BM delivered this item as an update on the programme's development.

Presentation information from this item is appended (see Appendix 2 – Notes & Slides from Item 8).

- Project to begin in May 2022, running to December 2022, working with companies to help them develop their own sustainability strategies.
- The 8-month programme will provide a series of monthly sessions.
- There will be 10 textile and fashion companies taking part.
- Sessions facilitated by Dr Mark Wade alongside learning content input from the IMD in Lusanne, Switzerland.

- By the end of December this group of companies will have sustainability strategies that are going to have a massive impact on their companies
- BM has raised £100,000 from various organisations in the clothing industry to support the cost of 10 companies to participate in this programme.

9. Kirklees Council - Environmental Sustainability Strategy & Ongoing Climate Work

Katherine Armitage (KA) talked through slides on the early stages of the strategy.

Presentation slides from this item are appended (see Appendix 3 – Slides from Item 9).

Discussion Summary:

- Discussion between Council colleagues and KCC members on engagement and involvement with the environmental sustainability strategy and climate action plan development. KA highlighted that the team wants to engage with KCC, particularly around how they can support the implementation of actions.
- BM raised a query around changes to the procurement policy for the Council as part of this work. KA responded that the Council would have to consider the sustainability of the organisations that are used for purchasing goods.
- TT agreed that it is good to focus on wider environmental sustainability and that it should be done as quickly as possible. KA highlighted that regarding timescales for completion of the strategy, it is also vital to engage with a range of stakeholder, which will take time.
- KH asked if the Council is still a Fairtrade Council – to update for next meeting.

ACTION: KA to report back on the status of the Council in regard to Fairtrade status.

10. Any Other Business

PR highlighted the importance of the upcoming local elections and that the Commission should remain independent and objective.

Meeting date forward plan:

- Friday 10th June 2022, 11:00 – 13:30 – University of Huddersfield
- Friday 2nd September 2022, 10:00 – 12:30
- Friday 4th November 2022, 10:00 – 12:30

Appendix 1 – Attendees

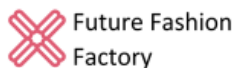
Name	Initials	Role
Professor Peter Roberts	PR	Chair of the Commission
Abdul Ravat	AR	Commissioner
Alistair Branch	AB	Commissioner
Bill Macbeth	BM	Commissioner
Chris Herring	CH	Commissioner
Daniel Bedford	DB	Commissioner
Gideon Richards	GR	Commissioner
Karen Hill	KH	Commissioner
Kath Shackleton	KS	Commissioner
Kiran Bali	KB	Commissioner
Professor John Allport	JA	Commissioner
Stephen Moore	SM	Commissioner
Stuart Sugarman	SS	Commissioner
Tom Taylor	TT	Commissioner
Tony Newham	TN	Commissioner
Katherine Armitage	KA	Kirklees Council – Senior Officer Representative
Karen Rispin	KR	Secretariat
Riognach Dewhirst	RD	Secretariat
John Atkinson	JAtk	Secretariat
Shaun Berry	SB	Secretariat
Dr John Lever	JL	Observer

Appendix 2 – Notes & Slides from Item 8

Sustainability Strategy Programme Pilot:

8 month programme of Education, Skills development and practical support for companies to develop their Sustainability Strategy

- Led by Dr. Mark Wade, Founder Member of Shell Sustainable Development Group.
- Practical and knowledge training from the International Institute of Management Development, Lusanne.
- 20 delegates from 10 companies, starting May 2022. Recruiting now.
- 5 Phases
 - Induction
 - Initial Assessment
 - Learning & Benchmarking
 - Planning & Doing
 - Review & Evaluation
- Programme will incorporate support from WYCA & other agencies.



Sustainability Strategy Programme Pilot

- In business, large companies are increasingly requiring compliance from their supply chains and some investors are seeking 'climate related financial disclosures'. For companies, cost and risk concerns can be outweighed where manufacturers can identify new opportunities arising from the circular economy and lever value from sustainability, moving beyond compliance to generate competitive advantage.
- The Centre has recognised a need for a practical programme to provide manufacturers with the analytical tools to identify where to start to identify and prioritise risks and opportunities, providing support to plan, implement change and develop a company strategy involving all employees, recognising the 'corporate capacity' of SMEs.
- Pilot programme developed and tested at series of workshops.
- Capacity to deliver two pilot programmes.
- Financial support sought from Fashion & Textile organisations to fund pilot of 20 delegates from 10 sector companies – secured.
- Financial support sought from Kirklees Council/WYCA to fund pilot of 20 delegates from 10 other organisations - awaited.

Appendix 3 – Slides from Item 9



Background - Kirklees Climate Emergency

- **Climate Emergency declared 2019.**
- **Net zero target for the district by 2038.**
- **Phase 1: baseline, governance and some key actions:**
 - Science based target (Tyndall).
 - Environmental Audit (2019) by Climate Emergency Working Party.
 - Environmental impact considered in decisions (IAA).
 - Climate Commission.
 - Historic work 53.5% reduction (40% target).
 - Heat network development.
 - Electric vehicles, charge points, low emission parking, fleet.
 - White Rose Forest and tree planting.
 - Target to increase recycling to 55% by 2025.
 - Youth Summit, delivery School Waste Service.
 - Net Zero Assessment.
 - Commitment to Phase 2 – detailed climate plan and work programme.



Net-Zero Assessment

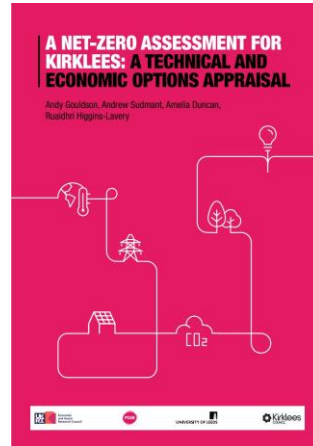
PCAN standard academic assessment looks at the Kirklees’ 2038 net-zero target, the UK’s 2050 net-zero target and Kirklees’ share of the global 1.5°C carbon budget.

Ranks measures in terms of technical ability and economic return.

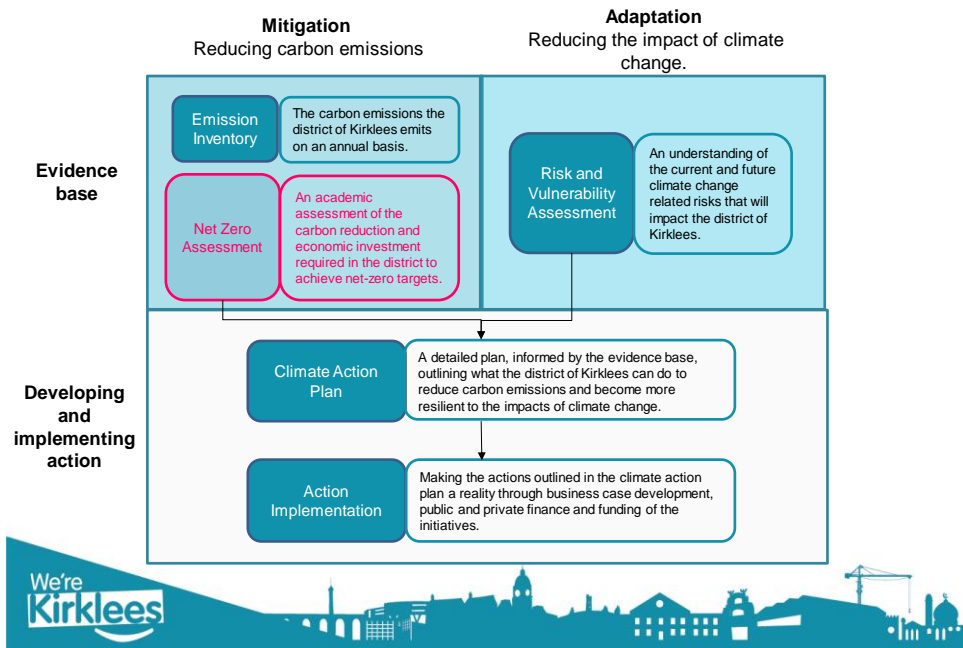
Only for scope 1 and 2 Emissions.

The sectors covered are:

- Domestic Buildings
- Public & Commercial Buildings
- Industry
- Transport



Where the Assessment sits in our Climate work



Bigger Picture - Positioning Climate Emergency

In the SDGs Climate is one of 17 it sits within sustainability not above it



Bigger Picture – Positioning Climate Emergency

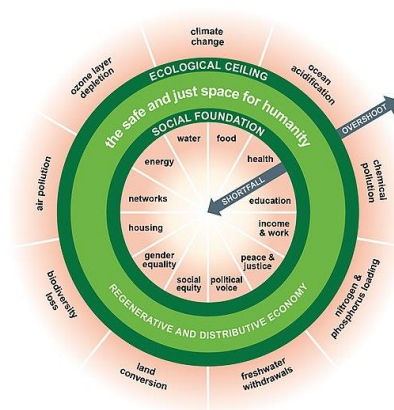
Ecological footprint

Doughnut Economics

How many Earths do we need
if the world's population lived like...



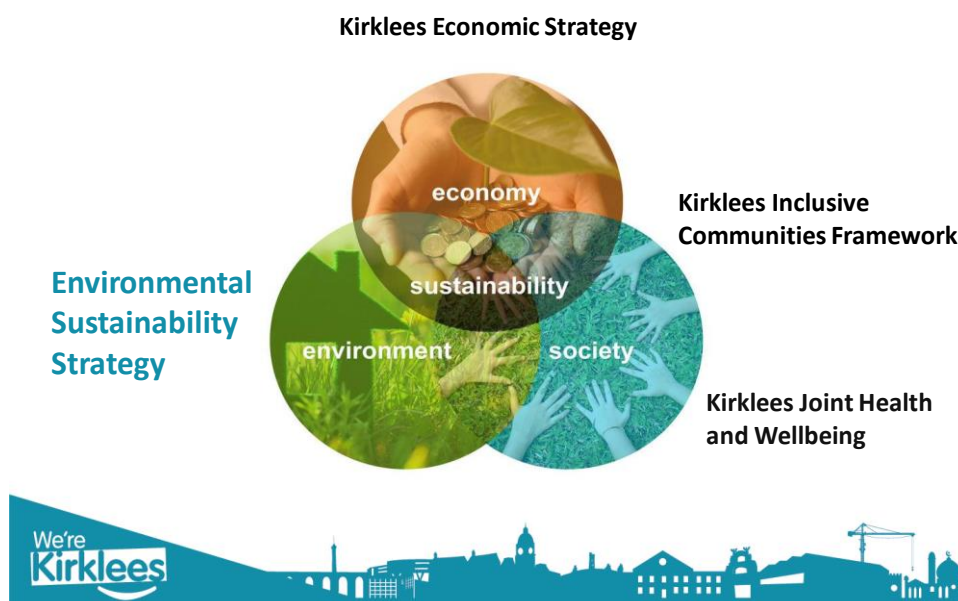
Source: Global Footprint Network, National Footprint Accounts 2018



Expanding on Net Zero



A Sustainable Kirklees – Top Tier Strategies



What does this mean for our Climate work

We are completely committed to delivering net zero – no change!

But in addition we will also:

- Look beyond scope 1 and 2, including scope 3 where possible.
- Deliver work on Climate Change Adaptation.
- Deliver an Environmental Sustainability Strategy.



Role of the Commission?

- Engagement in our Climate work both mitigation (reducing emission) the Climate Risks and Vulnerability Assessment (adaption).
- Engagement in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- Working together to deliver our Climate ambitions.
- But that's for you to decide!

