

York Climate Strategy Summary

The City of York Council has published the draft of its Climate Strategy for York, and it is now open for public consultation. Planet South Bank is keen that as many local people as possible see the draft and take part in the consultation.

We're sharing this short summary in the hope that it gives people a better understanding of what the Strategy entails, and we encourage you to read the full draft and submit your own response to the consultation.

You can submit your comments to the Council by filling out [the online survey](#).

Once adopted, the Strategy will influence a more detailed 'action plan' that will lay out more specific commitments and how they will be achieved. Some are proposed in the draft, such as the ambition for carbon reduction to meet the Council's target for 2030. However, the Council only expects 54% carbon reduction, compared to 76% reduction that would be necessary to meet the Paris Agreement.

This, and other key questions raised by the strategy might be:

- Should food be included?
- How will the citizens of York be kept up to date?
- Where can more be done to make the 54% turn into a 76% carbon reduction?
- What plans are already in place for the action plan?
- Who will be accountable?

Public consultation is open until midnight on 5th August.

The full Climate Change Strategy draft is available here:

<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/8121/draft-climate-change-strategy>

Key Theme	Objective	Detail of Commitment
Engagement	Clear communication and information	"Providing accurate, timely and relevant information about climate change and its impacts."
	Increase awareness and understanding	"Empowering our city by making climate change understandable and relatable."

	Build relationships and networks	“Working together with stakeholders [to] develop a climate change partnership and/or charter, which encourages collaboration, builds understanding, and shares expertise.”
	Identify best practice	“Sharing experiences to inspire action.” 8 Case Studies are shared in this Strategy.
Buildings	Improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings	“3,600 houses to receive a ‘medium’ retrofit; 29,100 houses a ‘deep’ retrofit.”
	Reduce emissions from new buildings	“All new houses to be built to the highest energy efficiency standards.”
	Move away from gas heating systems	“47% of heating systems in domestic buildings are to be electrified; 39% of heating systems to be electrified in non-domestic buildings.”
	Switch to low carbon appliances and green energy tariffs	“Replace our home and business appliances to use less energy and save money; and purchase energy from renewable sources.”
	Make our buildings climate resilient	Continued investment in flood defences.
Transport	Travel shorter distances	“25% reduction in the average number of passenger miles travelled

		per person.”
	Fewer journeys by car	“3% reduction in road transport use; 25% increase in bus use; 8% increase in rail transport; 33% increase in active travel [walking or cycling].”
	Switch to electric vehicles	“89% of cars are EV or Hybrid EV; 90% of buses and 75% of trains are electric.”
	Reduce emissions from freight	“9% reduction in road freight mileage and a 71% increase in efficiency.”
	Future proof infrastructure	“Ensure our transport infrastructure can withstand extreme weather events.”
Waste	Reduce the amount of waste produced across the city	“24% reduction in the volume of waste.”
	Increase recycling	“50% increase in the recycling rate.”
	Promote a circular economy	“Increase the amount of resources that are reused or repurposed, saving raw material inputs and waste outputs.”
	Replace the use of fossil	“23% reduction in oil fuel usage; 3% increase in

Commercial and Industrial	fuels	electricity consumption; 2% increase in natural gas usage.”
	Increase efficiency of industrial processes	“Process emissions to be reduced: 14% for chemicals; 10% for metals; 11% for minerals; 50% for other industries.”
	Support the growth of green economy	“Create new investment and green jobs through initiatives such as BioYorkshire, sustainable construction, and transport.”
	Business resilience	“Ensure businesses are not adversely affected by the changing climate and identify new opportunities for growth.”
Natural Environment	Plant more trees	“Increase York’s tree canopy cover to 13%.” Includes the York Community Woodland project.
	Increase carbon storage	“By 2050, there is a 3% decrease in grassland and 1% decrease in cropland to allow for increased forestland / carbon sequestration.”
	Promote more sustainable land management	“Diversify and innovate within the agricultural sector.”
	Reduce impact of extreme weather events	“Use our natural environment to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding and overheating.”

Energy Supply	Increase renewable generation capacity	“More of our energy is produced locally from renewable technologies.”
	Support innovation in energy flexibility and storage	“Develop projects that reduce peaks in energy demand and increase local energy storage.”
	Encourage local community energy projects	“Empower communities to own and manage local clean energy generation.”
Governance	Open and transparent reporting	“Reporting on progress in an accessible and transparent way... through public meetings (Council, Executive and Scrutiny) and the York Open Data Platform.”
	Assign responsibility	“Each objective and action will have a named stakeholder responsible for the activity.”
	Track actions	“A city inventory of which actions are underway and who is responsible for them.”
	Monitor progress	“Year-on-year progress to be tracked using identified Key Performance Indicators.”