

Net Zero Leicestershire Consultation 2022

Summary of key findings



Leicestershire County Council (LCC) declared a climate emergency in 2019, and from this arose two key ambitions:

- To achieve net zero carbon for our own operations by 2030, having already reduced emissions by 74% since 2008-09
- To work with others to achieve net zero carbon in Leicestershire by 2045 (in line with UK 100's campaign for Local Authorities to target net zero 5 years ahead of national policy)

To facilitate this, LCC commissioned research into Leicestershire's carbon emissions baseline and pathways to net zero and used this research to develop the Draft Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan.

To obtain feedback on the draft strategy and plan, LCC invited residents and stakeholders to have their say by delivering a 12-week consultation, between 4th May and 26th July 2022, consisting of:

- A 'Have Your Say' consultation survey
- Events and activities, including meetings, roadshows, and workshops
- Youth engagement undertaken by independent specialists, Participation People



How did we meet our consultation objectives?

Consultation Objective	Achievements
a. Inform residents and stakeholders about climate change and the need to reduce carbon emissions urgently.	Over 200,000 social media impressions across a range of platforms. Attendance at 13 public events and dedicated Roadshow events.
b. Provide an overview of the draft countywide Strategy for achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the county by 2045.	1,900 views of the consultation page. 1,117 full strategy / consultation summary downloads.
c. Invite feedback on the draft countywide Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan and support to define and shape existing / additional asks and actions.	Feedback from c.1,400 people across the range of engagement delivered. 593 main survey, 570 youth survey responses, plus workshops and events.
d. Test agreement between the priority objectives and the important issues for organisational stakeholders.	12 key themes identified from consultation responses, to be considered in the final draft of the strategy and action plan.
e. Open discussions on working together to deliver the net zero target, build productive relationships and invite others to pledge support.	Feedback was sought and obtained on respondents' ability to support net zero action and a range of individual pledges were made. Held successful stakeholder workshops with c.20 organisations.
f. Hear diverse views on carbon reduction actions and lived experience of interventions.	Respondents profile was broadly comparable to the Leicestershire population. In the Have Your Say survey, females, and under 25s were underrepresented, whilst those aged 45-84 were overrepresented, although this was counteracted by the dedicated youth engagement.

200,000+



SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS
across a range of platforms

13



**ROADSHOWS
& PUBLIC EVENTS
ATTENDED**



**FEEDBACK FROM
1,400 PEOPLE**
across the range of
engagement delivered

1,117

downloads of the
**FULL STRATEGY
/CONSULTATION
SUMMARY**



**SURVEY
RESPONSES**
593 main
570 youth
plus workshops
& events

**12 KEY THEMES
IDENTIFIED**
FROM CONSULTATION PROCESS



Successful stakeholder
workshops held with

20 ORGANISATIONS

What did we find out from consultation responses?

We have analysed over 1400 consultation responses and have found 12 key themes that respondents are keen for us to address.

These are summarised in the table below.

Consultation Objective	Consultation Comments and Actions Raised
Collaborate and work with others to deliver net zero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together and in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including the public sector, landlords / landowners / developers, businesses, schools, universities, organisations, district / borough councils and residents. • Involvement in decision making. • National government seen as central to delivery. • Supporting businesses and SMEs.
Leadership, buy in and ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCC to lead by example, use purchasing power and have strong to enforce change. • Buy in from residents through ensuring their understanding and making it easy to change behaviours. • The Strategy could be more ambitious, through bringing deadlines forward or going further (e.g. negative carbon).
Ensure the Strategy is understandable and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase clarity through giving more detail about how net zero will be achieved. • Accessibility for all residents, for example through explaining key terms and phrases, using easily understandable language and producing short summary videos with sub-titles.
Interim targets, monitoring, and achievement reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More short term / interim goals with regular monitoring and achievement reporting. • The use of SMART targets. • Identify clear actions. • Experiences of taking action (both positive and negative)
Cost benefit implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost implications and affordability for residents, particularly those on lower incomes. • Adoption of lower carbon lifestyles (through retrofitting, alternative fuel vehicles etc.) with consideration of cost barriers. • Cost-benefit analysis of the Strategy. • Financial support for residents, businesses, and SMEs.

Consultation Objective	Consultation Comments and Actions Raised
<p>Raise awareness, engagement, education and behaviour change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased provision of training, events and education, including within schools. • Education for businesses/SMEs so that more informed decisions could be made. • Increased communications activity and introduce rewards / enforcements. • Time and resource support for community groups who can help spread educational messages locally. • Increased levels of understanding / awareness can encourage a move away from unsustainable / high carbon lifestyles such as over consumption, over reliance on personal vehicles and fast fashion.
<p>Improve and promote transport solutions (public, active and freight)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport to be improved through better reliability, efficiency, hours of service and a move to alternative fuel vehicles. • More inclusion of rural areas and expand rural services. • More investment in active transport infrastructure e.g. safe walk and cycle paths, bike storage. • Encourage the use of active and public transport to discourage car use. • Sufficient and reliable infrastructure for the transition to alternative vehicles (e.g., charging points). • Reduce freight related emissions through less airfreight and a move from road to rail.
<p>Importance of local planning policy and growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stricter planning policy to ensure that new building developments are energy efficient, e.g., solar panels, insulation, heat pumps etc. • New developments to be built near existing transport links and amenities. • Reduce developments on greenfield sites. • Encourage more businesses to set up locally. • Some concern that net zero cannot be achieved alongside economic growth, while others saw net zero as an opportunity for growth through job creation e.g. the production of renewable infrastructure, retrofitting of homes, installation of infrastructure.

Consultation Objective	Consultation Comments and Actions Raised
Importance of renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in renewable energy, such as solar and wind. • Ensure secure capacity and reliability of the grid.
Prioritise energy efficiency and low carbon heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise energy saving behaviours. • Retrofitting. • Reduce demand for heat and introduce low carbon technology. • Encourage shared workspaces and home working.
Importance of nature and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the environment through tree planting, rewilding, wetland protection, increasing biodiversity and supporting nature recovery. • Reduce the amount of weedkiller and pesticides used. • Improve air quality. • Dissatisfaction of carbon offsetting. • Allow appreciation and better relationships with the environment.
Waste management service, education, and provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of more materials at the kerbside and at Household Waste Recycling Centres. • Introduction of food waste collections. • Encourage reuse and repair activities, to discourage consumption.

Respondents to the Net Zero Consultation were generally aware of net zero as a concept. However, their views were split between agreeing with the visions and goals, calling for more ambition and stating that climate change is a natural phenomenon or not an issue.

Additional feedback was also provided on the length, complexity and functionality of the 'Have Your Say' survey.

The outcomes of the Net Zero Consultation have helped define and shape the final Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan, which will be published on our Net Zero Leicestershire webpages, once approved at County Council on the 7th December 2022.

If you would like more information about the outcomes of the Net Zero Consultation, including the full consultation summary report, please visit our 'You Said We Did' webpages.



Thank You!

Leicestershire County Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all residents and stakeholders who participated in the Net Zero Consultation, your comments and views have been invaluable in shaping and improving our plans to achieve a Net Zero Leicestershire. Please note this is not the end to the engagement with Net Zero Leicestershire, a key next step is for the council to develop a Net Zero Stakeholder and Engagement Plan, as we look to continue the conversation and encourage climate action across Leicestershire.

To find out more about Leicestershire's Net Zero plans visit:
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/netzero

