



**July 2019**

**Business Case: A Citizen's Jury in Kendal to explore and action plan for net zero carbon emissions**

This paper is a request for financial support from Kendal Town Council. The town council declared a climate emergency at their April 2019 meeting (the motion is included as Appendix A) and, as part of the declaration, committed to holding a Citizen's Jury so that the creation of an associated action plan will be ground-up, inclusive and has input from a broadly representative sample of the community.

There is a strong and emerging body of evidence about the power and effectiveness of Citizens' Assemblies (Citizens' Juries are merely smaller versions of the same process, at a scale more appropriate to the size of Kendal). More detail about what they are and what they achieve is given on page 4 of this document.

The smallest of the three tiers of local government, Kendal Town Council has a turnover of £430k compared, for example, with the district council's £48 million. Nevertheless, the town council has voted to commit £5,000 this year towards commissioning a Citizen's Jury, the likely total cost of which is £20,000. We are therefore seeking match funding of £15,000 from public, private, charitable and individual sources.

Although this proposed Jury will be recruited from Kendal, we anticipate that the outcomes from it will have implications which are wider. The district, the county and other sectors will, through this Jury, be able to make a judgement on the likely public support for implementing the measures needed to achieve carbon neutrality.



### Science/policy context

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report in October 2018<sup>1</sup> which concluded that we have less than 12 years to act to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Their report describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise. It told us that limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities. As well as increasing temperatures and more extreme weather, human activities are also having a massive impact on nature. The worldwide population of mammals, birds, fish and aquatic creatures, amphibians and reptiles have plunged by almost 60 percent, since 1970. Current rates of species extinction are 100- to 1,000-times higher than the 'standard rate' of extinction<sup>2</sup>. There are also huge health impacts associated with fossil fuels: for example, air pollution causes 40,000 excess deaths every year in the UK and reduces average life span globally by 2 years<sup>3</sup>.

To reduce the chance of runaway global warming and limit the effects of climate breakdown, it is imperative that, as a species, we reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible<sup>4</sup>. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. The good news is there are many social, environmental and economic benefits in doing so.

<sup>1</sup> [www.picc.ch](http://www.picc.ch) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. Set up by the UN and World Meteorological Society with 195 countries as members.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/30/humanity-wiped-out-animals-since-1970-majorreport-finds>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/20/air-pollution-cuts-global-average-lifespan-by-nearly-two-years-study>

<sup>4</sup> Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> & GHG emissions of all world countries, 2017: <http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc>

More recently (1<sup>st</sup> May), the UK government's independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommended the adoption of a new net zero emission goal for 2050 to replace the current target of an 80 per cent against 1990 levels. Launching the report, CCC chair Lord Deben said:

*"We can all see that the climate is changing, and it needs a serious response. The great news is that it is not only possible for the UK to play its full part, but it can be done within the cost envelope that Parliament has already accepted."*

## Business sector reception

The UK Committee on Climate Change's net zero by 2050 recommendation has been well-received. Indeed, it is difficult to find a cool response. Here's the press release from the CBI's Chief Economist:



02 MAY 2019

## The CBI commented on the independent Committee on Climate Change's proposal that the Government commits to a net-zero reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the UK by 2050.

Rain Newton-Smith, **CBI Chief Economist**, said:

"The Committee on Climate Change's report and recommendations mark a new dawn for climate change action in the UK.

"The UK, and its Devolved Administrations, already have ambitious targets to reduce carbon emissions across a range of sectors. But **the evidence that the UK must go a major step further and become carbon neutral by 2050 is substantial.**

"We have already made a good start, especially in the energy sector. The UK has the world's largest offshore windfarm capacity, we are generating more than half of our electricity from low-carbon sources, and we are leading research into technologies that capture carbon and re-use it. But **if we are to reach the new target, we need a step change in Government policy, business action and the way each of us lives our lives.**

"Recent protests have shown the strength of public passion and sense of urgency that the UK should do all it can to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change, on society, the economy and the environment. What we need now is a supportive and timely response from the UK Government to enact this ambitious target, so businesses and the public can get on with reaching it."

The CBI has been joined by 120 UK businesses, including BT and Unilever, who collectively wrote to Teresa May urging her to push through legislation as soon as possible to make the net zero by 2050 target legally binding.

"By being the first major economy to legislate an ambitious, domestically-achieved net-zero target.. ..the UK can show leadership on a global level while strengthening the UK economy," reads the letter, also signed by the chief executives of retailer John Lewis, insurer Aviva and utility Anglian Water.

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## Businesses urge UK to set net zero emissions target for 2050

Theresa May encouraged to put bold climate goal into legislation before leaving office



Businesses want the UK to 'show leadership' on climate change © Getty

🐦 f in Save

Leslie Hook and Jim Pickard in London MAY 31, 2019 67 🖨

More than 120 UK businesses have sent a letter to Theresa May urging the prime minister to legislate for a **net zero emissions target in 2050**, a bold climate goal that could become one of her most important legacies if passed before she leaves office.

The letter from leaders of businesses including telecoms company BT, consumer group Unilever and the CBI employers' lobby, asks Mrs May to push through "immediately" a legally binding requirement for the UK to slash greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The UK's current target is an 80 per cent reduction in emissions from 1990 levels.

Source: <https://www.ft.com/content/19a0ba7a-82d0-11e9-b592-5fe435b57a3b>



### **Citizens' Assemblies & Citizens' Juries**

A Citizen's Assembly is a fairly large body of citizens that come together to deliberate on an issue of local, regional or national importance. Participants are randomly selected to create a 'mini-public' that is broadly representative of the demographics of the population.

The participants learn about a topic through a combination of presentations from experts and facilitated workshops. This is followed by a dialogue phase that encourages participants to explore their own opinions on what they have heard and develop a wider understanding of the opinions of others.

The deliberation phase of the Assembly involves participants coming to some conclusions on what they have learnt through the process. Citizen's Assemblies tend to be quite high profile events. The relevant decision makers will often have involvement by dint of being members of an Oversight Panel.

Citizens' Assemblies typically have 50-250 participants. Citizens' Juries are composed of the same key features, but at a smaller scale. Advised by Peter Bryant of Shared Future - a Kendal-based social enterprise seen as leaders in these kind of deliberative democratic processes - we intend to commission a Citizen's Jury composed of 24-30 participants.

The notion of the Citizen's Assembly as a means of making progress on large, possibly thorny, contemporary issues has diverse and growing support, from the likes of the RSA, the Electoral Reform Society and MPs from across the political spectrum.

In terms of evidence of their effectiveness, one of the most relevant UK examples is the Citizens' Assemblies that in 2015 looked into English devolution. With ESRC funding, these assemblies were run and evaluated by an alliance of university researchers and civil society organisations led by Professor Matthew Flinders of the University of Sheffield. Here's an extract of their final report:

What we have found is that citizens' assemblies offer a promising response to broader concerns regarding political disaffection and the withdrawal of certain sections of society from traditional forms of democratic expression. Although this was a pilot project and citizens' assemblies are not a panacea for the challenges of democratic governance, the existing research suggests that they offer a way of building new political engagement, legitimising decision-making and defusing apathy to some extent. They can also produce evidence-based recommendations that are shaped by a close understanding of the needs of local, regional or national communities and may therefore lead to more effective and efficient policy-making.

Source: Democracy Matters: Lessons from the 2015 citizens' assemblies on English devolution, Prof. Matthew Flinders et al



## Outputs, outcomes and impact

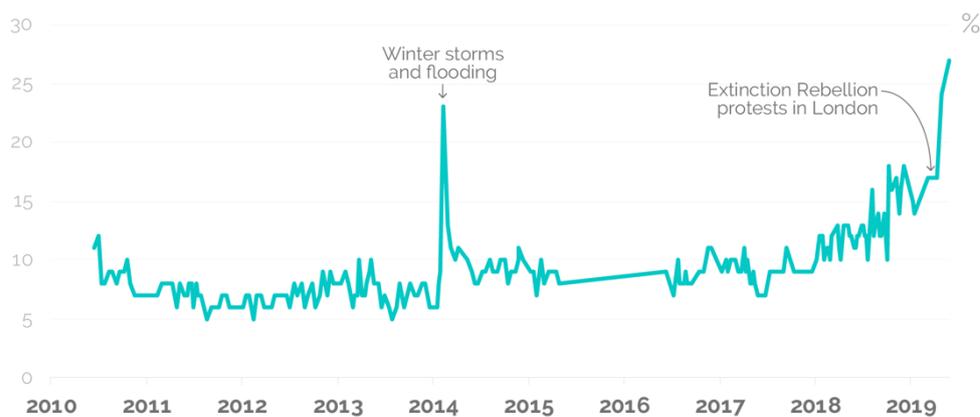
The key tangible output from what we are proposing will be a community-led action plan for the achievement of net zero by emissions within Kendal. We expect that the final report will be worked up as a high-quality, printed and web-based document delivered to high design standards, and the brand/identity of donors/investors will be prominent on this report.

We also expect coverage from local media outlets such as BBC Radio Cumbria, ITV Border and the Westmorland Gazette, and will ensure that donors/investors are name-checked if at all possible in any interviews, articles and press releases. Subject to budget, we intend to appoint an independent communications team, tasked with maximising media profile and engagement during the process.

Whilst very much a cross-party (Liberal Democrat, Green Party) initiative, we are also looking to include representation of other political parties via the oversight panel, which is a panel of local representatives of decision makers. Each sector (including businesses, education, third sector, retail, landowners, media, and others) will have a representative who will feed back to others in their sector as well as ensure that the process is rigorous and well reported. This process is intended to ensure that the outcomes of the Jury have the potential to feed into future decisions made throughout our community. In addition, this Citizen's Jury will help to inform both district and county councils in their responses to climate change.

### Concern about the environment at highest levels on record

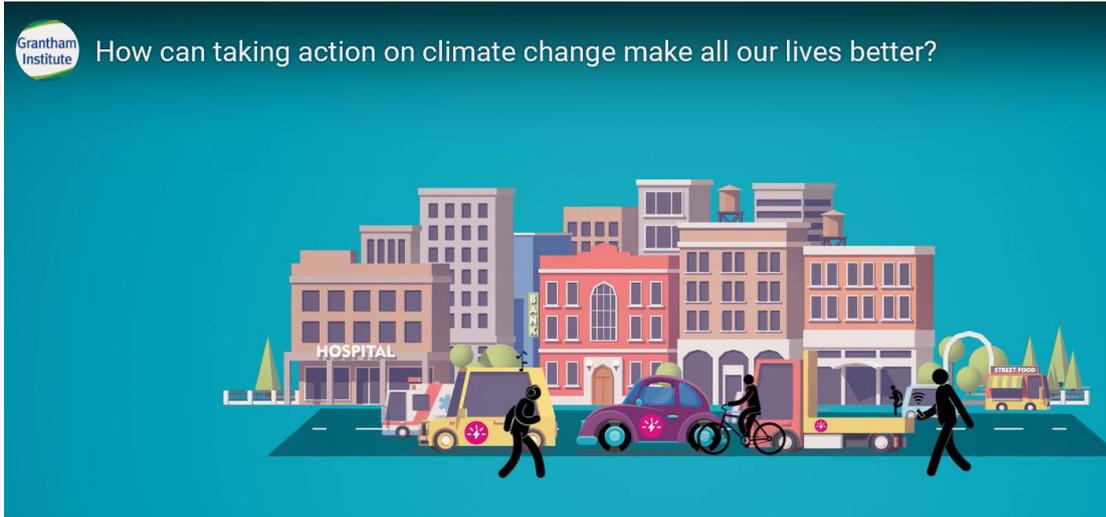
Which do you think are the most important issues facing the country at this time?  
Please tick up to three. % saying "the environment"



YouGov | yougov.com

Latest update: 28-29 May 2019

Together, we will be addressing what polling experts YouGov have found within the last month to be one of the public's top three policy concerns - the environment and climate change - and doing so by utilising an innovative, effective and participatory approach to working up a set of priorities and an action plan which is likely to have both a high profile and significant buy-in, across the community.



To touch briefly on **co-benefits**, which are the multiple – but often forgotten or inadequately considered – benefits of climate breakdown mitigation, and include public health, reduced healthcare and staff absence costs, productivity and growth in the low-carbon jobs market. The Grantham Institute at Imperial College are among the leaders in researching co-benefits. Their March 2019 briefing paper is a good primer, is accompanied by an engaging animation, and can be found here:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/publications/2019/co-benefits-of-climate-change-mitigation-in-the-uk-what-issues-are-the-uk-public-concerned-about-and-how-can-action-on-climate-change-help-to-address-them.php>

To conclude, we are clear that a Citizen’s Jury is intrinsically ‘the right thing to do’ in terms of galvanising our community to take action on the issue of climate breakdown. A range of extrinsic benefits will also accrue to those organisations and individuals who are publicly and financially supportive. Specifically there are huge opportunities for local businesses from local clean growth which is a possible outcome from widespread understanding and engagement with the implications of climate emergency. We look forward to exploring these benefits with you.

**Contact details:**

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**Kendal Town Council ‘Net Zero’ group membership:**

Cllr Giles Archibald	Mike Berners-Lee
Peter Bryant	Cllr Eamonn Hennessey
Cllr Jon Owen	Cllr Chris Rowley
Becky Willis	Cllr Guy Tirvengadam

## **Appendix A:**

### **Motion to declare a climate emergency, voted through by Kendal Town Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

**For decision** - Kendal Town Council to declare a climate emergency and seek match funding for a Citizen's Jury

**Authors:** Cllr Jon Owen, Chair, Environment & Highways Committee (Proposer) and Councillor Chris Rowley (Seconder)

#### **Summary**

It is now clear that the world has less than 12 years to switch away from fossil fuels to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Reducing energy use and switching to clean energy will also increase energy security, improve air quality, minimise fuel poverty, boost the local economy and provide jobs and training. It is proposed that Kendal Town Council declares a climate emergency and commits to going carbon neutral by 2030. This will raise the profile of this vital issue, exert influence on neighbouring local authorities and other stakeholders and secure external support and funding.

We also seek support for the town council's 'Carbon Neutral Kendal' sub-group to pursue match funding\* for the commissioning of a Citizen's Jury. The purpose of the Citizen's Jury will be to provide insights from a group of randomly selected Kendal residents on how to reach net-zero by 2030. It will be tasked with informing/contributing to the development of a comprehensive, serious and wide ranging action plan which the councils and local communities can deliver. The Jury will work at pace, given the urgency of the issue. This will ensure that both Council and the public become fully engaged in the issue, and support the delivery of recommended actions. An oversight group will ensure that the resulting action plan is presented not only to the council and the wider public of the area, but also to the other two tiers of local government, with appropriate emergency status.

\*Kendal Town Council have already voted to allocate £5,000 from their 2019/20 budget in the pursuit of carbon neutrality. At this stage we are not requesting more funding from the town council's 2019/20 budget.

#### **Overall science/context**

The International Panel on Climate Change published a new report in October<sup>5</sup> which concluded that we have less than 12 years to act to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. The report describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise. It told us that limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities. As well as increasing temperatures and more extreme weather, human activities are

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<sup>5</sup> [www.picc.ch](http://www.picc.ch) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. Set up by the UN and World Meteorological Society with 195 countries as members.

also having a massive impact on nature. The worldwide population of mammals, birds, fish and aquatic creatures, amphibians and reptiles have plunged by almost 60 percent, since 1970. Current rates of species extinction are 100- to 1,000-times higher than the 'standard rate' of extinction<sup>6</sup>. There are also huge health impacts associated with fossil fuels: for example, air pollution causes 40,000 excess deaths every year in the UK and reduces average life span globally by 2 years<sup>7</sup>.

To reduce the chance of runaway global warming and limit the effects of climate breakdown, it is imperative that, as a species, we reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible<sup>8</sup>. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. The good news is there are many social, environmental and economic benefits in doing so.

The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050<sup>9,10</sup>. Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'climate emergency' and committing resources to address this crucial issue<sup>11</sup>. Declaring an emergency will help to raise the profile of the issue and leverage in the extra support we need to achieve the necessary carbon reductions.

## Recommendations

1. That Kendal Town Council declare a 'Climate Emergency'
2. Pledge to make Kendal carbon neutral by 2030;
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Seek match funding for and commission a Citizen's Jury to provide insights from residents on how to reach net-zero by 2030; with the outcomes of the Jury forming the basis of a detailed action plan;
5. The town council's Carbon Neutral sub-group are to report back in six months with an update on the actions being taken to address this emergency.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/30/humanity-wiped-out-animals-since-1970-majorreport-finds>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/20/air-pollution-cuts-global-average-lifespan-by-nearly-two-years-study>

<sup>8</sup> Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> & GHG emissions of all world countries, 2017: <http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc>

<sup>9</sup> x World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-report>

<sup>10</sup> The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

<sup>11</sup> Dozens of towns and cities across the UK have declared a climate emergency, including Bath, Sheffield, Brighton and Carlisle: <https://climateemergency.uk/blog/map-of-local-council-declarations/>