

Clean Growth Policy

**Supporting clean growth across our
organisation**

September 2019



Background

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority brings together local councils and businesses to ensure everyone in our region benefits from a strong, successful economy and a modern, accessible transport network. By harnessing our combined efforts, our vision is to make the Leeds City Region known globally as a place where everyone can build great businesses, careers and lives, supported by world-class transport, housing and digital connections.

To achieve this vision, we have four corporate priorities:

1. Boosting productivity
2. Enabling inclusive growth
3. Delivering 21st Century transport
4. Supporting clean growth

Aims

Our Action Plan sets out how we will achieve our fourth priority – supporting clean growth – by growing our regional economy whilst also cutting greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide. This plan also sets out how we will respond to the climate emergency which was formally declared by the Combined Authority and its partner councils in June 2019. Additionally, clean growth is one of the grand challenges within the Government's Industrial Strategy plans and must be addressed through all Local Industrial Strategies. Our Strategic Economic Plan and Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan committed the City Region to achieving a net zero carbon economy by 2038 at the latest, with significant progress by 2030.

The Action Plan aims to:

- Enable the Combined Authority to lead by example and reduce its environmental impacts, tackle the climate emergency and create clean growth.
- Ensure that all staff and members are fully aware of what clean growth means and what we plan to deliver.
- Empower staff to play a vital part in delivering clean growth.
- Help the Combined Authority to save money by understanding the energy and natural resources it uses and how to use them more efficiently.
- Establish short term actions to work on for the next two years.

Scope

- This policy applies to all West Yorkshire Combined Authority employees.
- It covers activities in our operational control including the primary estate¹ that enable us to operate and deliver our services. See appendix 1.
- It also applies to services, policies, projects and programmes within our financial control and governance of the Combined Authority².

¹ Offices and bus stations

² Financial control boundary. See p6 of

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/206392/pb13944-env-reporting-guidance.pdf

Principles

To enable clean growth across our organisation, the Combined Authority will:



1. Reduce energy and carbon emissions

We will minimise energy use and reduce carbon dioxide emissions arising from the Combined Authority's estate through the introduction of energy efficient measures, renewable and clean energy generation (where possible) and staff behavioural initiatives.



2. Minimise waste and water consumption

We will minimise operational waste that arises across the Combined Authority's estate through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and staff behavioural change initiatives.



3. Tackle air quality and improve health

We will improve local air quality and cut harmful pollutants and carbon emissions by supporting healthier and more sustainable modes of business travel and by influencing low emission transport across the region



4. Use sustainable resources

We will reduce the environmental impact of our services, projects and programmes through making sustainable choices on the goods and services we procure.



5. Enhance our natural environment

We will integrate green and blue infrastructure and climate resilience into our estate and work where practically possible.

6. Integrate clean growth decision making



Through the Assurance Framework and other internal decision-making procedures, we will review, advocate and embed clean growth considerations into our activities wherever possible.

7. Measure and report our performance



We will monitor, benchmark and report annually on energy, water, waste consumption and carbon emissions to ensure we are meeting our targets

Appendix 1. Programme Scope.

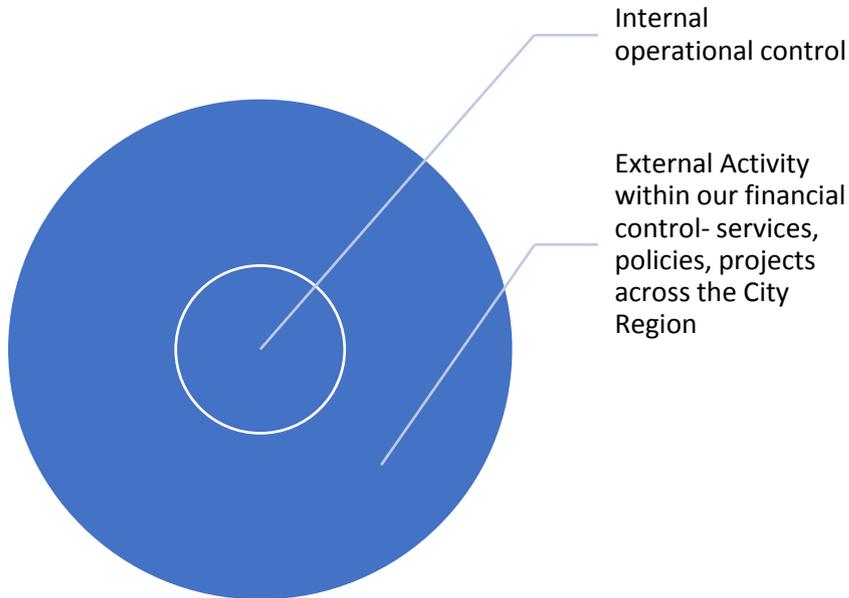


Figure 1. Proposed focus of activity (this is illustrative only and not to scale)

Find out more

westyorks-ca.gov.uk

[@WestYorkshireCA](https://twitter.com/WestYorkshireCA)

enquiries@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

+44 (0)113 251 7272

All information correct at time of print (October 19)