
Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 10 January 2022

Subject: **Climate and Environment Monitoring Indicators and Response to Crisis**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To present the latest position on the State of the Region monitoring indicators relating to Climate and the Environment.
- 1.2 To respond to requests from Committee members for further information relating to State of the Region indicators and additional indicators.
- 1.3 To update the Committee on latest developments on cost-of-living crisis.

2. Information

Monitoring Arrangements

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 27 March 2022, the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee agreed a new approach to monitoring and reporting. The Committee approved a set of indicators relevant to its remit and agreed to receive regular reporting against these indicators, with this topic becoming a standard item on the Committee's agenda. These are the key regional indicators that measure the outcomes that the work of the committee is seeking to improve. Indicators will be reported on by exception i.e. when fresh data becomes available for each indicator, allowing the analysis to be updated.
- 2.2 The indicators have been incorporated into State of the Region 2022 report, the Combined Authority's annual stock-take of West Yorkshire's socio-

economic performance. The State of the Region indicators are intended to provide a high level, strategic picture of performance against this priority rather than a detailed examination of operational performance of specific projects.

The Indicators

2.3 The core indicators agreed by the Committee are set out below. A headline overview of performance against these indicators is provided in **Appendix 1**.

- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent)
- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent) by sector
- Greenhouse gas emissions intensity ratio
- Building energy efficiency
- Premises at risk of flooding
- Households in fuel poverty
- Access to greenspace

2.4 The analysis contained in the appendix is unchanged from that presented at the October meeting.

Requests for Additional Information and Suggested Additional Indicators

2.5 During the last meeting of the Committee on October 4th there were requests from members of the Committee for further information on the indicators presented at that meeting. These are detailed below:

- **Why are per capita greenhouse gas emissions in West Yorkshire lower than the national average?** Figure 3 in the appendix shows the sectoral differences in per capita emissions between West Yorkshire and England. It indicates that West Yorkshire has lower per capita emissions for Agriculture and Industry. These differences explain West Yorkshire's lower overall per capita emissions.
- **What are the trends in renewable electricity generation in West Yorkshire?** At the last meeting figures were presented to show the changes in generation between 2014 and 2020. The Committee asked to see the trend data between these two points. Local authority level data for 2021 has now been published and Figures 10 to 14 of the appendix show the full trend between 2014 and 2021 by source and by local authority. It should be noted that the latest figures include significant downward revisions for renewable electricity generation in Leeds and Kirklees in 2019 and 2020 compared with those shared at the last meeting. Some of the trend data appears to be anomalous and we are following this issue up with BEIS.
- **What are the sources of electricity generation from Plant Biomass in West Yorkshire?** The Committee queried whether the Plant Biomass generation figures for West Yorkshire included Drax. It was confirmed that these were not included and were instead assigned to North Yorkshire in the statistics. BEIS' paper [Regional renewable](#)

[electricity in 2021](#) indicates that the Ferrybridge Multifuel Power Station in Knottingley is a major source of bioenergy capacity on a national scale and it seems likely that this facility is the main contributor to biomass generation in West Yorkshire, although there are a total of 9 biomass generation sites in the region.

2.6 Additional indicators were also suggested by the Committee, and it was agreed that these would be investigated to ascertain whether data is available to enable measurement at West Yorkshire level. The suggested indicators and available data sources are detailed below.

Indicators suggested by the Committee in October	Potential sources	Comment
Renewable heat See figures 20 to 22 of appendix	Non-Domestic and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) monthly deployment data. Energy Efficiency of Housing, England and Wales - Percentage of dwellings by main fuel type or method of heating used in central heating.	Unlikely that RHI deployment covers all renewable heat activity. More importantly this scheme is now closed to new applicants – data becoming out of date. The second source (based on Energy Performance Certificate data) provides better coverage of installed base of domestic heating including renewables.
% local electricity demand met by renewables See figure 23	Subnational electricity consumption, Great Britain, 2020 - Total consumption (GWh) Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 – 2021 – generation figures in MWh	It is possible to present ratio of renewable electricity generation to total electricity consumption in local area. This gives a broad indication of the extent to which renewables contribute to meeting demand. Major caveat is that renewable electricity generated locally is not exclusively consumed locally and local needs are partially met by electricity generated outside the area.
Public vs private sector renewables generation	This breakdown does not seem to be available.	
Biodiversity	Local level data do not seem to be available.	

Indicators suggested by the Committee in October	Potential sources	Comment
Food security / self-sufficiency, Food poverty	Data relating to food security are available at national level and international level but our understanding is that they are not available for sub-national geographies.	University of Sheffield have modelled local food insecurity based on national survey data from Food Foundation. New map shows where millions of UK residents struggle to access food News The University of Sheffield
Sectoral breakdown / contributions – emissions pathways	Officers are exploring potential to commission additional analysis / modelling in this area	

Crisis in the Cost of Living and Doing Business

2.7 A paper on the crisis in the cost of living and doing business crisis was presented to the Combined Authority meeting on 8 December. The paper summarizes the latest economic and business intelligence, key headlines from the Autumn Statement and regional activity to support businesses and households and to influence Government decisions. It is provided as appendix 2 to this report. Key points relating to the challenge around cost of living include:

- It is estimated that around 30% of households in West Yorkshire or 300,000 in total are currently in fuel poverty, with the potential for this to increase further as the threshold for the Energy Price Guarantee is raised next spring (see Figures 10 and 11 of appendix 1).
- West Yorkshire’s fuel poverty situation is partially due to its relatively poor performance on energy efficiency of dwellings, making them more expensive to heat.
- Research commissioned by the Combined Authority shows that 67% of businesses are concerned about the survival of their business as a result of the cost-of-living crisis.
- There are 1,751 firms in West Yorkshire that are both energy intensive and operating in internationally competitive markets, accounting for an estimated 57,000 employees and £8 billion in turnover.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 The indicators and monitoring arrangements enable us to assess West Yorkshire’s progress in tackling the climate emergency.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 The indicators feature several with direct implications for inclusive growth, including those relating to fuel poverty, energy efficiency and access to green space.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 State of the Region report brings out equality and diversity implications across all indicators, where availability of data allows, for example the impact of fuel poverty on different communities.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 The schemes detailed in the report will be delivered or managed by existing teams within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Committee notes the headline analysis of the indicators.
- 10.2 Considers the analysis provided for suggested additional indicators and its potential value to the Committee in terms of future monitoring.
- 10.3 Notes the latest intelligence, discusses the implications of the current economic situation for businesses within the region, notes the action taken so far by the Combined Authority, and notes the next steps following the Autumn Statement.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1: Indicator report

Appendix 2: Combined Authority Cost of Living / Cost of Doing Business Report