



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

Climate & Environment Plan Progress

To tackle the climate emergency and protect
our environment

February 2024



Context

In June 2019 a climate emergency was declared for the region and a target set for achieving net-zero carbon – by 2038, 12 years ahead of the national net-zero target.

As demonstrated by the increasing prevalence and severity of extreme weather events, climate change poses a very real threat to the economy and livelihoods of many in the region.

Rationale for intervention:

1. Climate change cannot be the cause of further inequality for our most excluded and deprived groups and Communities.
2. Achieving net-zero carbon provides opportunities for significant economic growth through job creation, training and upskilling, inward investment and boosting exports.
3. Without public sector intervention private finance cannot be leveraged / mobilised to achieve the regions climate ambitions (a minimum of £4.4 billion will be needed to deliver the Climate and Environment Plan).
4. Activity undertaken now with a view to the long-term will allow significant emissions reductions to be made later this decade and into the 2030s.



Progress to date

The Climate and Environment Plan was published in 2021 and covers the period 2021-2024. It is a partnership plan and covers work with our District partners.

Our new plan will also be shaped with District partners and through engagement with other organisations who have expertise and knowledge and through wider consultation.

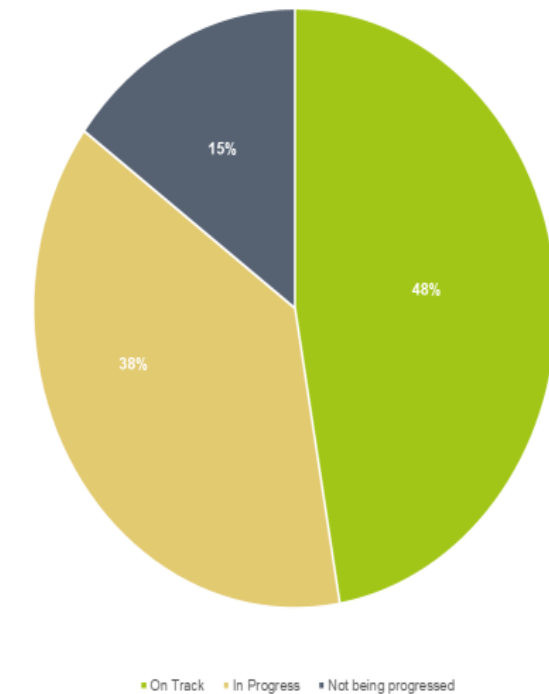
The current Plan is framed around 8 themes and 39 actions, the themes are:

- Leadership
- Cross-Cutting
- Transport
- Sustainable Homes
- Business and Industry
- Energy Generation
- Natural Environment
- Climate Ready

As we move into the final year of the delivery of the plan:

- 48% of the actions are complete or are on track to be achieved by end of 2024.
- A further 38% are in progress with significant progress expected this year now that programme development activity has concluded, and funding has been secured.
- There are some actions in the plan which we are proposing are progressed through other approaches (See Slide 11)

West Yorkshire Climate & Environment Plan - Progress



Business Support

What are we doing:

The Mayor's business sustainability support will help small and medium-sized businesses measure, plan and act on reducing their energy use, combating the effects of climate change, and improving flood resilience.

Why are we doing it:

SMEs represent around half of UK business emissions. As we transition to a net zero carbon economy by 2038, we're aiming to act as a catalyst to encourage wider business action on climate and environment issues.

What has been achieved since May 2021:

Supported 147 businesses with emergency energy grants, saving at least 495 tCO₂e a year and helping to safeguard an estimated 210 jobs.

Launched the support in July at Yorkshire Sustainability Week.

Engaged with 285 businesses, with over 150 action plans prepared.

Approved 21 projects so far, generating over 1m kWh pa renewable energy and over 220 tCO₂e pa carbon savings.

Flood resilience fund launch imminent.



Is your business getting ready for **net zero**?

Get help to **measure** and **reduce** your carbon emissions.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire



“The support helped us to **save** money, **reduce** our environmental footprint and **improve** our processes.”

Trevor Durant
Operations Director,
textile manufacturer Abraham Moon & Sons

West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

Better Homes Hub (action on residential retrofit)

What are we doing:

Delivering projects to insulate properties and install renewable technologies (e.g. solar panels and battery storage). Building the evidence base, testing scalable multi-tenure approaches and developing innovative finance offers.

Why are we doing it:

To ensure everyone in West Yorkshire can live in a warm, comfortable and low carbon home. Maximising the benefits to our region of national funding (SHDF) to insulate our social homes. Using local flexible funding to plug gaps where properties were ineligible. Investing in solar panels and battery storage to accelerate the transition to renewable electricity generation at scale for social homes. To develop a blueprint of retrofit delivery models that is replicable and scalable across the region.

What has been achieved since May 2021:

SHDF Wave 1 & 2 - £39 million investment to upgrade over 3000 properties to EPC C by Sept 2025. Over 890 properties completed to date.

SHDF Booster: over £7m investment (grant and match) – 888 properties insulated to date.

Secured approval for a low-interest retrofit loan, Calderdale area-based scheme and West Yorkshire Housing Partnership solar project.

Client-side support in place through £1m contract with Energy Saving Trust.

Secured £837k from Net Zero Hub to test ways of delivering energy advice to digitally excluded groups.



Decarbonisation of Transport

What are we doing:

Working to tackle the climate emergency through the fair and inclusive decarbonisation of our transport network, delivering the right choice of transport, in the right place, at the right time.

Why are we doing it:

Transport is the highest emitting sector in the region - 44% of all CO2 emitted, dominated by road transport which accounts for 89% of transport related emissions. We need to develop an integrated, affordable and sustainable transport system that connects all parts of our region so everyone can access the places they need.

What has been achieved since May 2021:

Programme approval of Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund

Delivery underway of Zero Emission Bus programme

Launch of Leeds City Bike scheme

Over £36m awarded to West Yorkshire for active travel schemes



Leadership and Communication

What are we doing:

Promoting West Yorkshire as leaders in finding regional solutions to the climate emergency.

Why are we doing it:

People and businesses must understand what net zero carbon means and the positive impacts it can have on their finances, health and wellbeing. They need to feel empowered and have their chance to shape our net zero future.

What has been achieved since May 2021:

Launched the Mayor's Big Climate Chat

Launched the community climate grants

Prominent roles for the WY Leaders and the Mayor at COP26, Yorkshire Sustainability Week, Yorkshire Climate Conference and UKREiiF



Energy Generation, Supply and Flexibility

What are we doing:

Installing solar panels on our own estate, influencing national reform of the energy system and spatially mapping the future energy system of West Yorkshire (out Local Area Energy Plans).

Why are we doing it:

To demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate emergency both in terms of reducing emissions from our own estate and ensuring there is a coherent and realistic plan for the energy infrastructure that will be required to meet net zero by 2038.

What has been achieved since May 2021:

Installation of solar panels on seven bus stations generating over 175,000 kWh / annum saving 250 tCO₂.

Influencing government and Ofgem on their proposals for energy system reform.



Resilience including flood mitigation

What are we doing:

Enhancing the flood resilience of homes, businesses and infrastructure.

Why are we doing it:

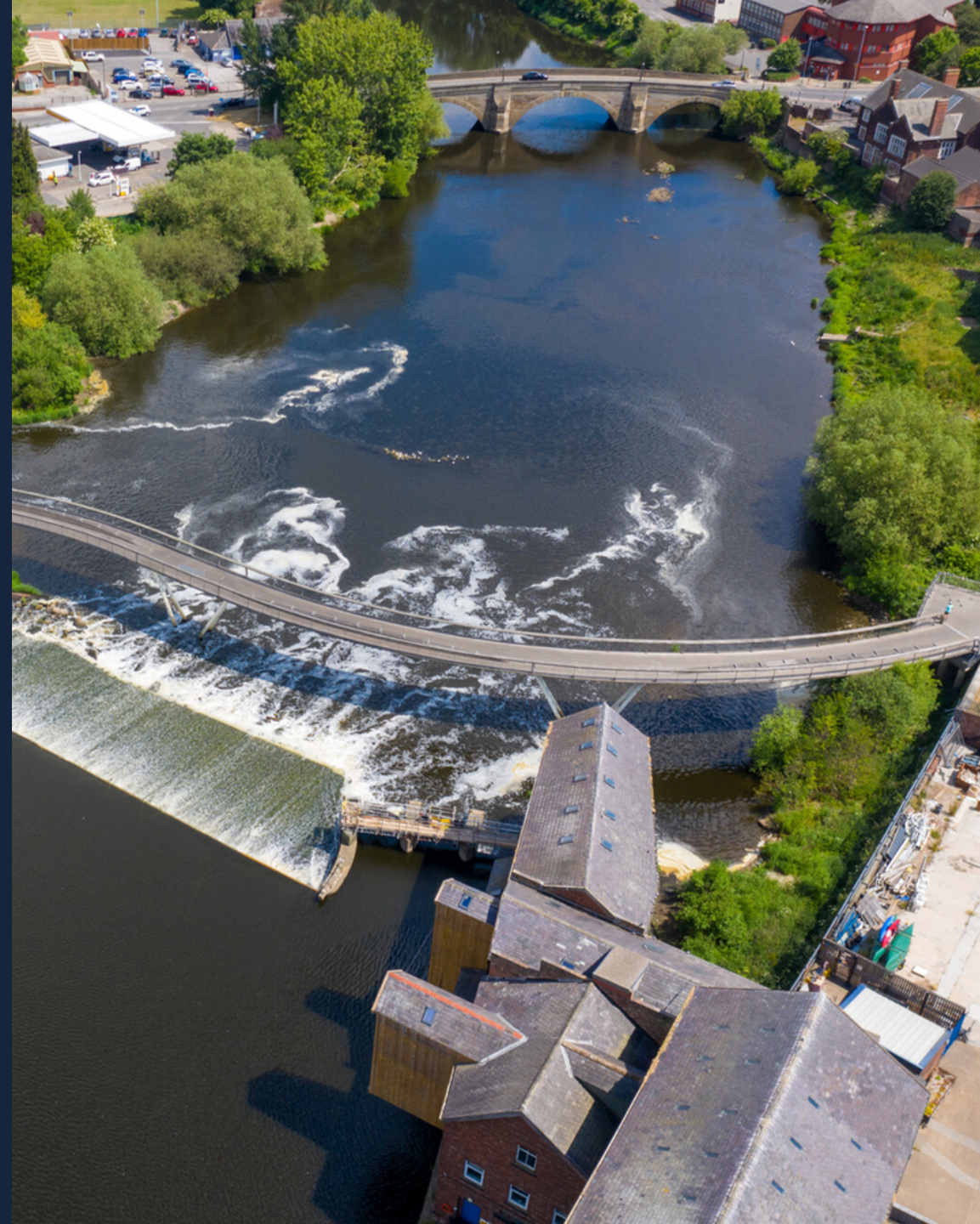
Enhancing flood resilience supports the region's ability to remain vibrant and productive in a changing climate.

What has been achieved since May 2021:

Launch of research projects and partner engagement under the WY Flood Innovation Programme – Accelerator (WY FLIP)

Programme approval for the Capital Flood Risk Management Instructure and Natural Flood Management Programmes (2022/23)

Projects approved to date: Landscapes for water, Chellow Dene and Wortley Beck Natural Flood Management schemes. Brighouse, Sheepscar (Leeds) and Albert Street (Huddersfield) Flood Alleviation approvals scheduled for February 24.



Natural Environment

What are we doing:

We are working with partners to enhance the region's natural environment and produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

Why are we doing it:

The LNRS will drive a more coordinated, practical and actions-focussed approach to nature recovery. Ensuring that habitats and species that are important to our region are given opportunities to grow.

What has been achieved since May 2021:

Built a strong local partnership involving LAs, government agencies and ecological experts to deliver the LNRS

Claimed and drawn down DEFRA funding (£400k) to support local resourcing and delivery of the LNRS



Areas to be taken forward through other plans

- Industrial decarbonisation
- Community Energy
- Farmer and Landowner Information and Support
- Land-Use data and evidence
- Green Infrastructure and Access to Health
- Regenerative Nature Recovery Schemes

All the above are part of the baselining exercise being undertaken for the Local Area Energy Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and how to take these forward will be assessed once this exercise is complete.

West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan

2021 – 2024





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Thank you

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