



**North Tyneside Council**

# Environment Sub Committee

Monday 7 November 2022

**Tuesday, 8 November 2022** 0.02 Chamber - Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY **commencing at 6.00 pm.**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
4. <b>The role of Nature Based Solutions, Carbon Offsetting and Insetting in a Net Zero Plan</b>	<b>3 - 14</b>

To receive a presentation which will explain nature based solutions and how they have been embedded in the Authority's Net Zero Plan.

**Circulation overleaf ...**

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and receive information about it. North Tyneside Council wants to make it easier for you to get hold of the information you need. We are able to provide our documents in alternative formats including Braille, audiotape, large print and alternative languages.

## **Members of the Environment Sub Committee**

Councillor Davey Drummond (Chair)

Councillor Gary Bell

Councillor Brian Burdis

Councillor Margaret Hall

Councillor Gary Madden

Councillor Pam McIntyre

Councillor Martin Murphy (Deputy Chair)

Councillor Linda Bell

Councillor Michelle Fox

Councillor Chris Johnston

Councillor Louise Marshall

Councillor Jane Shaw

# The Role of Nature Based Solutions, Carbon Offsetting and Insetting in a Net Zero Plan

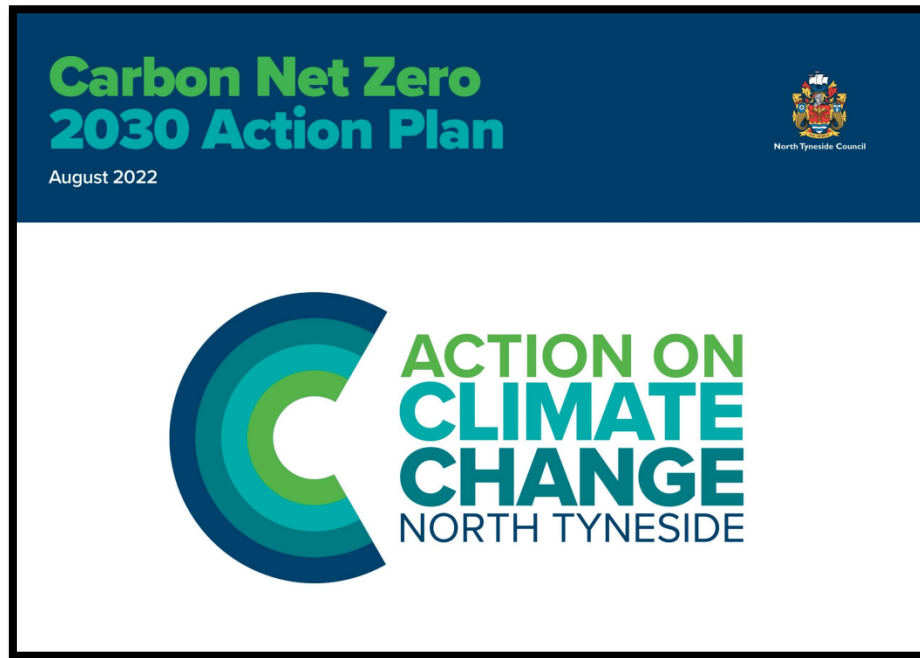
**Michael Keenlyside**  
**Environmental Sustainability Officer**

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Agenda Item 4



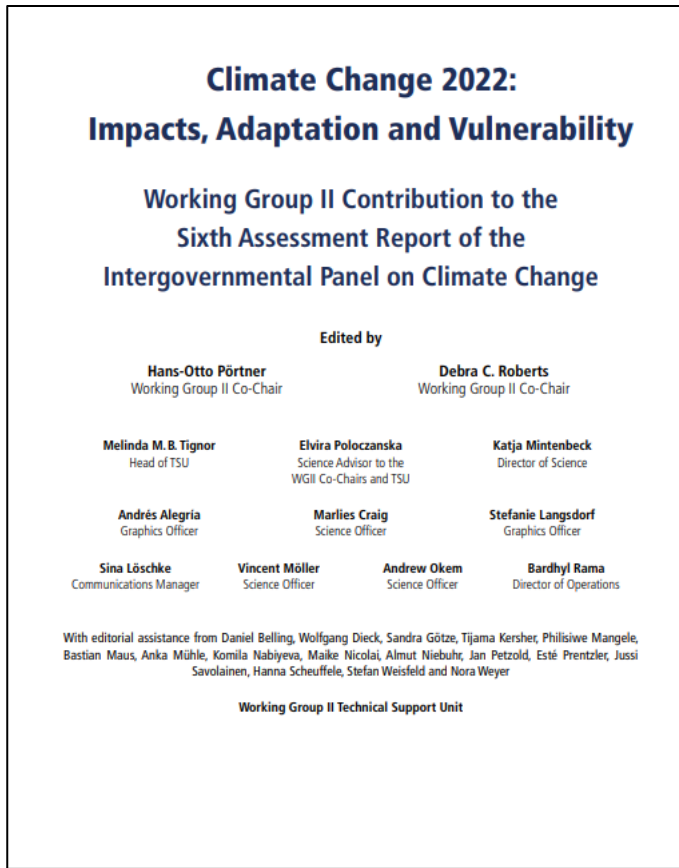
# The Climate Emergency & the Net Zero Action Plan 2022



## Carbon Net Zero 2030 Action Plan

• Ensure that there is an accurate understanding of labour market supply and demand including future forecasts to inform the funding and development of provision	Low	S	Borough	Yes
• Ensure that there is an understanding of career paths and progression opportunities for young people and adults	Low	S	Borough	Yes
• Ensure that there is support in place to support local residents to access these emerging career opportunities.	Low	S	Borough	Yes
<b>NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS</b>				
• Develop an Offsetting/ Insetting Strategy for the Authority	Low	S	Borough	Yes
• Build on the success of year 1 of the North East Community Forest through further tree planting and woodland creation.	Low	S	Borough	Yes
• Develop existing i.e., North East Community Forest, and new projects to support insetting within authority workstreams and borough-wide emissions	Low	S	Borough	Yes
• Support the delivery of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Low	S	Borough	Yes
• Deliver the Biodiversity Action Plan and a range of biodiversity projects	Low	S	Borough	Yes
• Implement the introduction of biodiversity net gain planning requirements	Low	S	Borough	Yes
<b>ADAPTATION</b>				
• Develop a risk-based approach to Climate Change Adaptation for all relevant authority Services	Low	S	Council	Yes
<b>TRAVEL</b>				
• Investigate the potential for a borough-wide EV Car Club to provide more cost-effective access to EVs for all residents	Low	M	Borough	No

# What does the IPCC say about nature based solutions..?



The IPCC have found that “all scenarios that limit climate change to 1.5°C rely heavily on **land-use change mitigation methods**, as well as decarbonizing the economy” and that “**decreasing sources and increasing sinks of GHGs through terrestrial ecosystem stewardship and improvements in agriculture** are widely cited as having the potential to provide around 30% of the CO2 mitigation needed through to 2030 to keep warming to less than 2°C”



# What is the UK Government doing to support Nature based Solutions..?

- Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change at the Landscape Scale (minimum 500 ha),
  - supports research and monitoring,
  - measuring carbon storage and sequestration
  - Established partnerships are eligible to receive funding to create or restore species rich habitats
- The habitats prioritised include:
  - grassland, scrub, hedgerows and woodland.



# Nature Based Solutions -what are they?

- Forestry practices
  - Planting new forests
  - Allowing forests regeneration following felling
  - Improved forest management
- Restorative agriculture
  - practices that build soil carbon, such as no-till agriculture and cover crop rotation, to agroforestry and improved livestock management.
- Wetland-related practices
  - conserving and restoring peatlands and coastal wetlands
- Ocean-based practices
  - restoring seagrass meadows or growing kelp or shellfish to restore or expand marine ecosystems.



# Threading Nature Based Solutions into local policy

- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Planning function
  - Mandatory requirement (2023) for all planning applications (with exemptions) to deliver a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain on development schemes
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)
  - A new system of spatial strategies for nature that will be set up across England to drive forward nature recovery and identify areas for habitat delivery and enhancement. LNRS will also support wider objectives such as mitigating or adapting to climate change in an area.
- Strengthened Biodiversity Duty
  - Duty amended to ensure local authorities look strategically at their policies and operations at least every 5 years and assess what action they can take 'to further' the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. They must also have regard to the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Species Conservation Strategies and Protected Sites Strategies, as part of the consideration



# Example of Tree Planting : North East Community Forest

- The planting of trees and new hedgerows has the following benefits to a local area, including:
  - Localised cooling and reduced Urban Heat island
  - Habitat provision
  - Improved local air quality
  - Townscape improvements
  - Surface water management
- The Woodland Carbon Code - designed to provide reassurance about the carbon savings that planting trees in the borough can realistically achieve.
- The Woodland Carbon Code scheme is backed by the UK Government. There are no other nature based offsetting schemes currently available to the authority.



# The role of Offsetting

- A carbon offset enables organisations to compensate for any emissions they cannot avoid or reduce by paying for a carbon credit. This payment enables an equivalent volume of emissions to be reduced or removed elsewhere in the world.
- Offsets are currently used by many businesses and organisations to reduce their net carbon impact.

## The Best Carbon Offset Programs for 2022

- Best Overall: [Native Energy](#)
- Best for Businesses: [3Degrees](#)
- Best for Tourism Businesses: [Sustainable Travel International](#)
- Best for Monthly Subscriptions: [terrapass](#)
- Best for Multiple Environmental Impact Options: [myclimate](#)
- Best for E-Commerce and Micro-Contributions: [Carbon Checkout](#)



# Insetting & the Authority Based Insetting (ABI) project

- Absence of gov guidance and lack of national schemes
- Option of last resort
- [ABI Video](#)



# In Summary...

- Nature Based Solutions
  - North East Community Forest
  - Woodland Carbon Credits
  - Support via the planning system and BAP
- Offsetting carbon emissions using public money is not relevant to North Tyneside Council
- NTC is participating in a leading edge UK pilot project to develop an Authority Based Insetting approach (ABI)



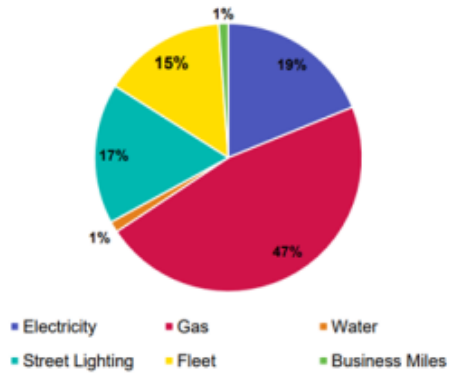
# Thank You and Questions?

WE LISTEN | WE CARE | WE ARE AMBITIOUS | WE ARE GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY



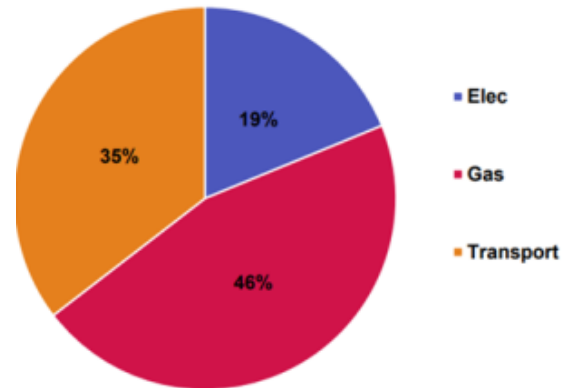
# Performance

Council carbon footprint 2020-21



20/21 = 14,395 tonnes	
Electricity	Down 70%
Gas	Down 9%
Water	Down 24%
Street Lighting	Down 75%
Fleet	Down 21%
Business Miles	Down 75%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>Down 52%</b>

Borough carbon footprint 2019



2019 = 827,200 tonnes	
Electricity	Down 71%
Gas	Down 30%
Transport	Down 13%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>Down 41%</b>

