



WARRINGTON
CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMISSION

Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams meeting – Monday 11th November, 14:00 – 16:00

Organisations present:

- Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington
- Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board
- Chair
- University of Chester
- Warrington Chamber of Commerce
- Warrington Borough Council
- Natural England
- Independent Advisor

Agenda:

1. Notes of previous meeting and action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- Notes were approved from the previous meeting.
- The action log was updated.

2. Parity retrofit report presentation

Net zero programme manager, Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington

- The commission received a presentation on the Parity Retrofit Report
- The report was led by Parity Projects to help councils identify the scale and cost of the retrofit needed across Cheshire and Warrington.
- The report has been taken to the sub regional housing board.
- Domestic properties contribute 18% of emissions in Cheshire and Warrington.
- Only 32% of homes meet EPC C in Cheshire and Warrington which is below average.
- The report investigates three decarbonisation pathways
 - All properties to be rated EPC C;
 - All properties to be rated EPC B with least invasive retrofit;
 - All properties to be rated EPC B with all retrofit measures.
- The scenarios have varying outcomes in terms of cost and net zero performance.
- All the scenarios include the electrification of heat. However, a centralised energy approach through heat network zoning is likely to play a large role.
- Each scenario has a multifaceted business case including carbon saved, jobs created and economic growth.
- Grants and price rebalancing for electricity is likely to make the pay back periods for the scenarios shorter.
- It was highlighted that the language used when talking about retrofit is important. Home upgrades is a better term to use as it is more accessible.

3. Communications and engagement update

a. Climate Emergency Forum events programme

- This year's forum programme contains more events, supported by a wider range of organisations.
- A couple of events had taken place so far including our first online event. This had had a reasonable turnout and had required less logistical planning.
- A film crew will be present at Birchwood Repair Café as it will be featured in an upcoming TV show.
- So far, 12 people had signed up for the Climate Express event.
- There is still space for one more presentation on the Climate Express agenda.
- The slots for one-to-one energy advice consultations with Energy Projects Plus needs to be promoted further.
- The events programme would continue to be promoted with support from the council's comms team. All partners had a role to help promote

b. Newsletter

- The latest newsletter was issued in October. This issue contained information on the events programme. It has performed well with a 59% open rate and 8.5% click rate.
- The mailing list now has 407 subscribers.
- The next issue of the newsletter will go out in the new year which will also contain a roundup of this year's forum.
- Commissioners were requested to share any news stories or opportunities that they are aware of to feature in the next newsletter.

c. Commission's website

- The rough draft for the proposed website has been provided and sent to the web team to begin creating the site concept.
- Once a concept is produced a focused meeting will be held to progress the webpage's development.
- It was agreed that the website should be as visually driven as possible.
- The carbon impact of websites was discussed. The company who will be hosting the website uses renewable energy.

4. Youth engagement update

- There were 24 applicants to the youth community conversations project.
- 18 were invited to take part and 16 attended the first session.
- The group consists of people from a range of areas in Warrington.
- The age is skewed to the lower end, with all participants between the ages of 16-18. There are also more women than men taking part.
- The first session involved a talk from the University of Chester and from the chair of the commission on the story so far in Warrington.
- Feedback from this session was that participants knew about climate change but didn't know the scale or urgency that it must be acted on.
- Over the next few sessions, the participants will be trained for community conversations.

- The young people will work with an artist to produce a virtual reality representation of the vision for Warrington in a climate changing world.
- The legacy of the project was raised. There are some young people who are part of the project who would like to stay involved.
- It was agreed that it would be best to ask the young people with an interest for suggestions on how best to do this.

5. Annual report

- A draft of the annual report is currently being produced.
- The format will be around 1 page per theme of the strategy with action taken place during the year bullet pointed.
- Information shared by commissioners has been included.
- Mersey care and the central team have been asked if there is anything they would like to include.

6. Council / commission partners updates

Culture Warrington

- Everything has been prepared for the volunteer session at the Sky Garden this week.
- Culture Warrington are taking part in a climate focused course called 'Earthtalk' which finishes next year. Any useful resources will be shared with the group.
- Culture Warrington are hosting the first of a series of earth crisis exhibitions at the museum to coincide with next year's COP in November. The exhibition in the first year will be an overview of the climate crisis and the following years will focus on specific issues such as water and nature.

Public sector subgroup

- Terms of reference for the public sector subgroup are currently being modified. They will then be circulated with commissioners.
- At the last meeting the purpose of the group and how it will add value was discussed.
- It was agreed that partners will provide their updates at each meeting to establish how they can collaborate on areas such as heat networks, procurement and funding issues.
- It was agreed that an invite to join the group should be extended the Chester fire brigade.

Natural England

- The Local Nature Partnership held a session at Chester Zoo. Organisations came together to discuss priority measures for nature recovery.
- The Local Nature Recovery Strategy is in a pre-consultation period ahead of public consultation in early January.

Council

- The Solar Together deadline has been extended until the 15th November. So far there have been 700 registrations across Cheshire.

- The Carbon Culture project is underway. Officers involved have just finished the third stage out of five. The latest session involved looking at the challenges to decarbonisation in more focus, drawing on examples of best practice and considering appropriate interventions.
- It was suggested that a presentation of the project is given at a future meeting once concluded.
- A report on the latest position on the council's climate emergency response is going to cabinet in December.

7. Any other business

- No other business

Next meeting: Our next meeting is Monday 13th January 2-4pm