

Calderdale Climate Action Partnership – Green Economy theme

held at Halifax Town Hall on 1st October, 2025 – 6-7.45pm

Present and Apologies: Deborah Harkins, Cllr Scott Patient, Cllr Stephanie Clarke, Natalie Denby, Sam Saxby, Heidi Waters, Patrick Berry, Cllr Martin Hey, Cllr Dot Foster, Cordelia Paterson, Pete Keal, Miranda Cooper, Owen Brear, Kate McNicholas, Maryam – Youth Council Rep, Claire Whiteley, Roisin Cavanagh, Alex Christoforou

Speakers – Julian Plant, Andrew Hawley, Paul Collins

Apologies – Andy Bray, Cllr Regan Dickenson

ITEM	ACTION
1. Welcome and Introductions All were welcomed to the meeting.	
2. Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.	
3. Business to Business App Natalie Denby gave a brief overview of progress on the app	ND
4. WYCA Business Decarbonisation Plan Paul Collins, Inclusive Economy Manager at WYCA gave a presentation to the group on the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The case for change is good for business. Cost savings, access to finance, risk mitigation, more customers, attracting talent, maintaining a competitive advantage and innovation are all logical reasons for business to focus on decarbonisation. - The challenges are there can be long pay back periods on investment. There can be lack of finance in some sectors. There is also a lack of skills in the current economy. - Interventions are required – WYCA provides a business support offer with respect to different emission intensities of businesses - Kate McNicholas described the overlap between climate and economy. Green and inclusive economy terminology overlap. All businesses in Calderdale require consideration for support, not just high carbon intensity businesses. - Paul explained WYCA's tools for business support - Kate suggested it is not always best to lead with Net Zero in communities, co-benefits of action are more appropriate. The free to use carbon footprint calculator can be shared through the Climate Newsletter. WYCA has access to business experts, peer networks, seminars.	PC/KM
5. Energy and Water Procurement Club	AH

	<p>Andrew Hawley, Director Hawley Energy outlined the proposal for businesses to make savings in energy and water by wholesaling together in renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The infrastructure already exists with Hawley Energy and funds from the scheme can be used for a Community Foundation for Calderdale fund.</p> <p>There will be no co-branding on this scheme with the Climate Action Partnership. Trademarks already exist. The energy spend in Calderdale is considerable and a scheme such as this can save on bills and on carbon emissions.</p> <p>Cllr Patient expressed it is a compelling idea. Cllr Hey mentioned the Climate Action Partnership does not need to administer the scheme itself. Andrew is Chair of Finance for CFFC but is not involved in this scheme. Broad support for the scheme from the partnership was provided.</p> <p>Further discussions are to be held outside of this meeting.</p>	
6.	<p>Sustainability and barriers to business</p> <p>Julian Plant, Azo Ltd gave a talk on the strong case for solar PV for businesses, the case for the support from WYCA which has benefitted his business personally and the case for the rooves of Calderdale being the real Northern Powerhouse. The grid infrastructure is vital to this and the expansion of EV charging in Calderdale.</p> <p>On street car charging needs to be expanded – that infrastructure can be set up in central Halifax. Getting a cable across a pavement continues to be a challenge.</p> <p>Cllr Patient noted the LEVI networks are expanding. The infrastructure for EV is vital and the technologies continue to advance.</p> <p>Patrick Berry – District Network Operator's continuing to be an issue. They are cautious of management of the network. The Mayor has been lobbied on this.</p> <p>Cllr Patient reiterates there is LAEP modelling supporting the expansion of solar PV in Calderdale. Heritage buildings can be overcome.</p> <p>Cllr Dot Foster - EV infrastructure and how central reservations of carriageways could be used. Funding is required for conversion of 'dead space' in our transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Patrick Berry – on street EV chargers can be put in lamp posts.</p> <p>Roisin Cavanagh – can a case study be made of Julian Plant's experiences to be shared with communities (note: WYCA have done so). This message needs to be found at a community-level.</p> <p>Cllr Patient – the co-benefits of climate action are the clear message. Improving health, making money, warm homes are key drivers of change in communities.</p>	JP
7.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>3rd December – Community Climate Action theme (workshop-style tbc)</p> <p>Informal meeting of the Partnership in November is confirmed for 13th November regarding the Influencing Strategy and partnership/plan development.</p>	
<p>Actions from Today's Meeting</p>		Lead
1.	<p>Transport Strategy: The Partnership will be invited to the Transport and Getting Around theme group for an update on the Transport Strategy presented in July</p>	OB
2.	<p>Group Membership: It is necessary to review attendance and disseminate the Influencing Strategy in preparation for the November meeting.</p>	SS