

Appendix 2 – CAS External Commitments – UK100

Committing to UK100 involves pledging – via an online form – to:

As local leaders across the UK, we see the challenges our communities face. We recognise our responsibility to tackle the climate emergency and protect our environment to secure the future for them and for people around the world.

In 2019, the UK Parliament passed legislation to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050. This was to keep in line with international commitment in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. But science tells us we need to start now and make rapid reductions much sooner.

We will do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We will bring our council emissions to Net Zero by 2030* and we will work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities' emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible (and by 2045* at the latest).

We will continue to lead the UK's response to Net Zero, going ahead of the government goal and taking the first steps with urgency. We will make substantial progress within the next decade to deliver Net Zero. With greater powers, we would go further, faster.

We will be bold and brave, carrying out strong climate action now and building prosperous, secure and more resilient communities that are healthier, cleaner and safer, in ways that follow the science and are practical and achievable.

We pledge to assess our largest impacts on climate change, prioritise where action needs to be taken and measure and monitor progress towards targets. We will reduce our emissions at source and limit the use of carbon offsets as part of the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

As local leaders, we are uniquely placed to help tackle the climate emergency. We are closer to the people who live and work in our communities, so we have a better understanding of their needs. This means we can collaborate with them to build consensus for the solutions we need to transition to a Net Zero society that delivers multiple benefits and is fair, just and works for everyone.

We have come together from local authorities across the UK to share knowledge and collaborate with each other, with businesses and our residents to deliver action now. And we will also use our experience of our ability and achievements to advocate to the UK government in order to accelerate the transition to a Net Zero society.

As a nation, we have demonstrated throughout our history that we are able and willing to lead on finding solutions to the challenges the world faces. The success and prosperity of our nation has largely rested on our ability to harness the power of dirty fossil fuels. It is now our shared responsibility to turn this ingenuity to solving the climate emergency in a way that has a positive impact on our communities. We need to ensure our future is better than our past.

UK100 Net Zero Pledge – guidance and clarifications

- Net Zero target date: council operations/estate by 2030*, whole area by 2045* at the latest.

- * Countryside counties can have a Net Zero target date of 2050 for their area-wide emissions, with the aim of moving towards an earlier Net Zero target date as soon as possible. The different date for countryside counties is because of the specific challenges they face due to their rural geography, scale powers and responsibilities. We will engage with these countryside counties via our Countryside Climate Network to identify specific challenges they face in setting an earlier Net Zero date, to advocate to national government for policy change that will enable them to move to an earlier Net Zero target date as soon as possible.
- * Combined authorities and city regions should have set a Net Zero target date before 2045 for both their council emissions and their areawide emissions, to reflect their strategic scale and wide-ranging responsibilities.
- Offsets: The use of offsets should be limited and used only as a last resort when reducing emissions to Net Zero at source is not possible. Offsets should aim to be as local as possible.
- Reporting: Reporting should be annual, from 2022 onwards.
- Scopes: At least scopes 1 and 2 for council emissions and area wide emissions.
- Baseline of emissions: from 1990 levels, in line with IPCC. For councils that have been established after that, this needs to be clarified on an individual basis.
- Those pledging should set interim targets, focusing on early actions and prioritising sectors that will contribute to rapid reductions in GHG emissions.
- The focus of the pledge is mitigation, which is UK100's focus on work. The ecological emergency, biodiversity and adaptation are important related issues but not specific targets of this pledge.
- The pledge is designed to demonstrate the ambition and ability of democratically elected local leaders to deliver on Net Zero.
- It is also intended to create the conditions for stronger climate action at national level to help local authorities reach Net Zero faster.