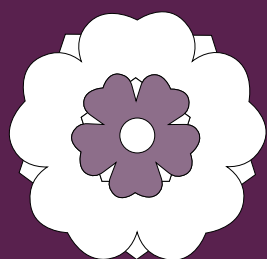


# YORKSHIRE & HUMBER CLIMATE ACTION PLEDGE

Make a commitment to protecting the climate and nature

Sign the pledge and take action alongside other Yorkshire & Humber businesses and organisations

Reduce your business risk and unlock the opportunities of a green economy



Sign the pledge at:

[www.climateactionpledge.org.uk](http://www.climateactionpledge.org.uk)



# Introducing the Climate Action Pledge

The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Action Pledge is a simple commitment to acting on climate and nature that we're asking businesses and organisations across the region to sign. It's suitable for all shapes and sizes of organisation, and for those who are already taking steps to be greener or right at the start of a learning journey.

## The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Action Pledge

As a business / organisation proud to operate in Yorkshire and the Humber, we are committed to playing our part in tackling the climate emergency and enhancing nature in order to make the region a happier, healthier and more sustainable place for both current and future generations. In support of this, and in line with the broad objectives of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan, we commit to taking action to:

- Become 'climate ready' – adapting to our changing climate, becoming resilient to future impacts.
- Reduce our carbon emissions, with the goal of reaching 'net zero'.
- Enhance nature and biodiversity.
- Help promote a just transition that leaves no-one and nowhere behind.

We agree that action will be most effective if it is carried out according to four principles:

### **Strong leadership**

Action on climate and nature will be a top priority within our business / organisation, with leadership on climate and nature. We will seek to understand how climate impacts on our corporate risks and develop a strategy that responds to that knowledge. We will also develop tangible targets that we will regularly monitor and report on publicly.

### **Engaged workforce**

We will engage our employees in how we develop action on climate and nature. This means we will build environmental awareness and climate literacy, benefiting the whole region, and enabling our employees to have a voice in shaping fair climate actions both in the workplace and wider society. This forms part of our broader commitment to providing good quality, secure jobs with decent pay; inclusive and fair policies and practices; and effective employee engagement.

### **Engaged stakeholders**

Climate and nature will inform how we work with others – especially our suppliers, customers or service users and communities. We will do what we can to raise awareness and build broader capacities for climate action across the region through our day-to-day activities and interactions.

### **Fairness and inclusion**

It is important that individuals and communities aren't left behind by the changes that will happen in our region to respond to climate change. We will play our part in helping to ensure fairness is at the heart of climate action.

By signing this pledge, we commit to taking action and putting these four principles into practice across our business / organisation, to work with other signatories to share learning and best practice and to regularly share updates on our progress with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission.

# The details

The Climate Action Pledge is starting a 'sprint' of focused action on climate across our region. We want to see a year of progress in 2023 that puts us on the road to net zero, that helps protect our economy from climate impacts and that boosts nature, enhancing our region's fantastic natural assets. It's an opportunity for organisations and businesses to join in a movement for a greener, more secure and prosperous Yorkshire & Humber.

## Who is it for?

The Climate Action Pledge has been designed to be applicable to as many businesses and organisations across our region as possible, from SMEs to our largest businesses, from local third sector bodies to NHS Trusts.

## How does the Climate Action Pledge work?

After signing the pledge, businesses and organisations will be asked about their progress so far in tackling climate and nature issues on a simple tick box scale. This will enable us to categorise organisations into one of three tiers:

**Signatories:** Those who have signed and pledged to take action.

**Achievers:** Those who already have a plan in place for one or more of our four areas of focus.

**Leaders:** During 2023, we will work with those businesses and organisations that appear to be most advanced to develop criteria for Climate Leaders.

The questions will be asked again at the beginning of 2024 to help track progress.

## What support will be available to signatories?

The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission is seeking to develop a Climate Leadership Programme – a series of online training modules that will help support those who take the pledge. In the meantime, we will signpost signatories to existing support services and tools that we identify.

We will also be developing opportunities for business engagement and networking, sharing the best practice from around the region and encouraging peer support.

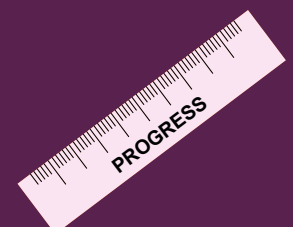
## What makes this Pledge different?

There are other climate pledge schemes – but they tend to focus on cutting carbon emissions alone – and that's not the only action we need to take. Our pledge also asks businesses and organisations to get ready for a changing climate through addressing risks and becoming more resilient, and to start taking actions to help tackle our nature and biodiversity crisis.

It's also about working together for Yorkshire & Humber – helping make sure our region is climate ready and able to take advantage of the opportunities of a greener economy. The Climate Action Pledge encourages businesses and organisations to consider how their action can influence people and partners they work with, and places they work in – cascading impacts from business to business as well as business to community from Huddersfield to Hull.

## How will businesses and organisations be assessed?

The Climate Action Pledge is a public commitment to taking action that aims to create a movement for change. We will be relying on businesses and organisations to provide honest, self-assessed feedback on their progress. During the year we will define criteria for climate leadership and a simple process that will allow a limited number of pioneering organisations to be identified as Yorkshire & Humber's Climate Leaders. Our scheme is focused on growing the number of organisations taking action on climate, and deepening and broadening that action over time, rather than grading or certifying individual businesses.



# Why sign the pledge?

**You will be joining a growing movement of organisations** across Yorkshire & Humber who recognise that we need to take action to protect our region from climate impacts and unlock the benefits of a green economy.

**You will be working towards getting climate-ready.** The impacts of the climate and ecological emergencies are already being felt in our region. Extreme weather like flooding and heatwaves has damaged premises and hit productivity – and will do so with increasing frequency and intensity in the years to come.

**You will send a clear message.** By signing the Climate Action Pledge, you will demonstrate to your customers, clients and staff that you are a responsible organisation determined to make a difference.

Signatories will be listed on the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission website.

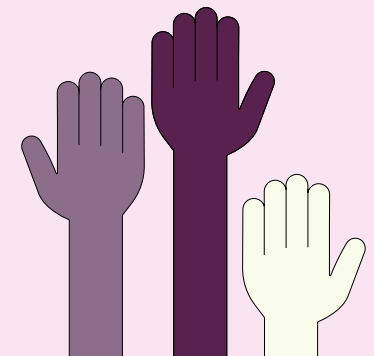
**You will benefit from working together.** We are aiming to bring pledge signatories together to network, learn from each other and support collective action.

# Who's backing the Climate Action Pledge?

The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Action Pledge has been developed by The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission: an independent advisory body set up to bring actors from the public, private and third sectors together to support and guide ambitious climate actions across the region.

The Commission developed the region's Climate Action Plan with the help of more than 500 people from across the region. The development of a pledge for businesses and organisations was identified as a key action in the Plan.

The Commission's work has been supported by the Yorkshire and Humber Leaders Board and by the leaders of councils across the region. It has also been developed with the support of the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, Northern Powergrid, Northern Gas Networks, the TUC, Yorkshire Universities, Yorkshire Building Society, and the University of Leeds.



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**YORKSHIRE  
& HUMBER  
CLIMATE  
COMMISSION**