

# YORKSHIRE & HUMBER CLIMATE COMMISSION

*Advancing the region's climate leadership  
Accelerating climate resilient, net-zero development through an inclusive and just transition.*

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## Minutes

Yorkshire & Humber Commission Meeting, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 3-5.30pm, via Zoom.

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

A full list of attendees is appended. Apologies were received from Mike Maudsley (late arrival); Kate Josephs and Patrick Erwin.

Apologies were also made to attendees for late email of meeting papers. Papers will be sent a week in advance in the future, noting which papers are for information only.

### ***Standing items***

### **2. Revised terms of reference (paper 1)**

Revised terms of reference are being revised and will be circulated asap.

***ACTION: Andy Gouldson***

### **3. Proposed Commission structures (paper 2)**

Paper 2, *Proposed Commission structures* was presented by Liz Barber and Andy Gouldson.

#### Key points noted were:

- Lots of work has been going on behind the scenes to develop the fora, working groups and panels.
- The different elements will need to work in a joined up way with careful coordination.
- The leadership team has recently been set up including the chair, vice chairs, director, Wallace Sampson as the point of contact with Yorkshire Leaders Board and local authorities and the chairs of the working groups and standing panels.

- Main purpose of the leadership group is to make sure that the commission is not caught up in matters of governance, funding issues etc but can focus on core business.
- All forums, working groups and panels are working on their terms of reference and will report back to the leadership group.
- National policy forum – set up to connect with MPs, peers & key constituencies in Westminster. This forum will meet every 6 months – first event planned for the week of 20<sup>th</sup> July (tbc).
- Regional policy forum set up to meet with senior officers from different local authorities across the region – Cllr Jack Hemingway to chair..
- Climate Resilience Working Group has been doing lots of amazing work thanks to Rosa Foster (Environment Agency), Gordon Rogers (United Utilities) and Rachel Harcourt (University of Leeds).
- Net Zero Working Group is being set up by Andy Gouldson and Simon Pringle.
- Aim of these groups is to feed information into the climate action plan – after 6 months their functions will be reviewed.
- The research and evidence panel up and running – thanks to Peter O’Brien and Monika Antal (Yorkshire Universities) and Dan Parsons (University of Hull).
- Land and Nature Panel, Future Economy Panel and Communities and Engagement Panel are still being established.

Comments:

- Lots of support for the proposed structure and also leadership group.
- Commissioners may want to contribute to groups/panels without being members.
- Wallace Sampson has already connected the Land and Nature team to the national parks & AONB. Also opportunity to connect with North Yorkshire local enterprise partnership. AG to follow up.
- Various commissioners highlighted the need to address cross-cutting issues and the need for coordination across the different panels and groups.

***ACTION: Secretariat to add details on Leadership team to Commission structures document and circulate to Commission members.***

***ACTION: Communities and Engagement Panel - Commission members to contact Andy Gouldson or Connor Rutherford if interested in joining.***

***ACTION: Land and Nature Panel - Rachel Bice and Oliver Harmar are preparing terms of reference - Commission members to contact them or Andy Gouldson or Connor Rutherford if interested in joining.***

**4. Land and Nature Panel**

Oliver Harmar and Rachel Bice presented on the Land and Nature Panel and the scope for nature-based approaches.

Key points noted were:

- Scope for the panel – focus on key risks and opportunities for land, water, nature and food.
- Helping achieve net zero and important to think about how nature-based solutions can help get the landscape more ready for climate change.
- Look at how to engage with communities more clearly as they will be the best stewards.
- Need to consider marine and the sea in future work too.
- Oliver and Rachel keen to get people to join the panel.

***ACTION: Commission members to email Oliver Harmar, Rachel Bice or Andy Gouldson if they are keen on joining the Land and Nature Panel.***

**5. Regional Climate Action Plan and COP26**

Andy Gouldson presented on the regional climate action plan and activities planned for COP26.

Key points noted were:

- The key priority for the Commission is to prepare the regional climate action plan in time for COP26.
- Activities of working panels (led by Climate Resilience & Net Zero Working Groups) will be key elements in the preparation of the climate action plan.
- Planning on having a series of stakeholder events to enable stakeholder engagement spread over two weeks in September.
- The events will enable the action plan to then be refined in time for COP26.
- The action plan will be a 'living' document which encourages active engagement with accessible infographics and lots of digital content.
- It is hoped that the climate action plan will then continue to guide the work of the Commission moving forward.
- Fundraising will be a key part in making the infographics etc possible (this will be mentioned later).
- YHCC has been approached by the Yorkshire Post to host a joint event (summit day) to coincide with COP26 in November – this could amplify the ambitions of the commission.
- Various other conversations have been taking place too e.g. Kate Josephs with COP26 in the Cabinet Office and also with Dan Jarvis.
- Hoping for the launch of the action plan at the COP itself – we are awaiting information on applications to run side-events at the COP.

Comments:

- Various commissioners were curious how the regional action plan will align with other action plans e.g. West Yorkshire combined authority

- Andy Gouldson stressed that it will build on and complement but not duplicate existing plans, e.g. by identifying best practice transferring it up to the regional scale.
- Commissioners supported the need for ambition in the action plan but also the need to balance it with the reality of delivering on ambitious targets.
- The meeting noted the regional target to become Net Zero by 2038 whilst showing significant progress by 2030.
- Important to take communities with us post COP26 – this will ensure work done by YHCC is truly sustainable (key aim of Communities and Engagement Panel).

***ACTION: Robert Hall to make enquiries to have access to space in Glasgow for YHCC at the time of the COP.***

***ACTION: Emma Bridge to send documents to Andy Gouldson relating to COP26.***

#### **6. Key discussion point: climate resilience (paper 3)**

Gordon Rogers (United Utilities), Rosa Foster (Environment Agency) and Rachel Harcourt (UOL) presented on *climate resilience* and its clear importance for the region.

#### **Key points noted were:**

- The climate resilience working group has held 4 workshops so far, with input from diverse groups on many different perspectives.
- Discussion focused on building the adaption and resilience section of the climate action plan and presenting priorities for action thereafter.
- The discussion then divided the meeting into 3 different breakout groups focusing on themes including 'Planning for uncertainty' and 'Place' where Commissioners were asked to propose actions that we need to do now, soon and further in the future.

#### **Comments:**

##### ***Planning for uncertainty***

- There needs to be a clear focus on communication with communities and on how to reach all communities.
- It is key to recognise that we do not want to be scaremongering the public as not everyone has the same view thus it is vital to show what the benefits of resilience could be.
- It is also important to think about how we can show individuals, communities and organizations what they can do & build support for change.
- Concluded that we should promote early action – especially when there are win-win outcomes available.

##### ***Place***

- We need to align with other stakeholders and priorities (such as health) so that climate resilience is integrated into other activities.

- It is vital that we understand 'place' at all different scales from regional, sub-regional, local and hyper-local.
- The right conversations need to be had at the right place scales.

***ACTION: Commissioners to email Gordon Rogers, Rosa Foster or Rachel Harcourt if they want to get involved with the Climate Resilience Working Group.***

***ACTION: Simon Pringle to connect with health and wellbeing individuals who could feed into the Climate Resilience Working Group.***

## **7. Net Zero - Employment and Skills**

Net Zero - Employment and Skills was presented initially by Andy Gouldson; followed by updates from Becky Hart (CBI) and Rebecca Diski (NEF).

Key points noted were:

### ***Net zero update***

- Yorkshire has adopted a regional target of Net Zero by 2038. Analysis from last meetings showed that broadly we are on track to stay on target for our carbon budget
- Discussion held on whether a pledged based approach will be appropriate to promote shared responsibility across multiple actors.
- Recognised that it's not only about local authorities – and it would be positive to have 50 of the largest organisations in the area commit to reducing their carbon emissions rapidly.
- Climate action plan needs to focus on delivery therefore there are key areas we need to focus on e.g. financing, employment and skills.

### ***CBI report on skills and training to reach net zero***

- CBI just had their net-zero conference which included many different stakeholders.
- A green jobs task force launched on the 12<sup>th</sup> April - results should be released soon.
- Home efficiency important as many homes will need to be retrofitted; many challenges involved with this; obsolete business centre has been bought as a training center (good example of leadership in this area).
- Automotive sector is being very ambitious; over 150,000 job roles can be impacted by the transition to more electric cars.
- Clean energy: there are a lot of skills which will remain valid – important to understand where they can fit and how they can be adapted.
- Barriers to skills development include lack of awareness of jobs prospects in a green economy; we need to link in schools and colleges into this process.
- Other barriers relate to the new training required to transition into new sectors; some people will also choose to leave certain industries rather than retraining.
- A main barrier also relates to the need for policy stability and for a clear, reliable direction of policy change. Cancelling green homes grant i.e. damages this and creates a legacy effect.

- Support needs to be improved to allow for more education through career hubs and digital bootcamps; digital is going to be a big part of training from basic skills to big management skills.

***NEF report on just transitions in the Yorkshire and Humber***

- The Commission welcomes Rebecca Diski from NEF who is presenting their report on powering the just transition with findings including:
  - 360K workers – 15% of jobs in Y&H are in high emission industries but this varies across the region: e.g. it is 30% of jobs in Selby - demonstrating uneven transition challenge
  - Just transition as a concept is not well understood or trusted among workers – need a process that builds trust
- Top 25 emitting sites e.g. Scunthorpe Integrated Iron & Steel; VPI Immingham; Saltend Cogeneration Co; Drax power station etc.
- Key sector case studies:
  - Steel – needs urgent support to decarbonise e.g. by bringing forward Green Steel Fund, expanding market for recycled steel
  - Aviation – employment facing triple threat of Covid, climate change and automation. Expansion of LBA unlikely to make a material difference to jobs while adding significant amounts of GHG emissions by 2030

**Recommendations for the Commission:**

- Establish a mechanism to engage workers across sectors and localities in co-designing a just transition roadmap
- Conduct or commission further research into the green skills gap
- Lobby for policy change to support a just transition
- Ensure it is a bottom up rather than topdown process

**Comments:**

- Some Commissioners wanted to know whether or not analysis was being done by YHCC looking at industry and significance of energy and industrial production.
- Amelia Duncan (YHCC secretariat) has been carrying out work looking at the consumption-based carbon footprint of the Yorkshire area that will allow the Commission to take account of imports and exports.
- The Commission has started to plan employment and skills workshops/roundtables in September that will include a focus on the just transition element.

***Action: Commissioners to contact Andy Gouldson or Simon Pringle if interested in joining the Net Zero Working Group.***

***Action: Becki Hart to send out CBI document with 10 point plan to Commissioners.***

**8. Research and Evidence Panel**

Peter O'Brien presented on the *Research and Evidence Panel* and gave a review of work being undertaken.

Key points noted were:

- The panel will conduct an audit of all the research being conducted on climate change at Universities across Yorkshire – hope to complete by the next Commission meeting in September.
- The panel wants to support collaboration, knowledge transfer and emerging research bids in the area..
- Panel is also engaging with early career researchers and with students with interests that relate to YHCC.
- The Panel will be holding a session with White Rose Doctral Training Center in July to engage with research students and will speak to them to see how they can be supported etc.

Comments

- Oliver Harmar at Enivronemnt Agency says they have funding to do long-term flood risk planning for Yorkshire. Yorkshire is one of 4 key areas which has been selected to consider for the development of new approaches.

***ACTION: Commissioners to reach out to Peter O'Brien to get involved with Research and Evidence Panel***

***ACTION: Peter O'Brien to speak to Oliver Harmar about long-term flood risk planning project happening with Environment Agency***

**9. Fundraising**

Andy Gouldson presented on fundraising and how it is crucial for the future progression of YHCC.

Key points noted were:

- YHCC has aspirations to raise core funding from foundations and philanthropic organisations.
- To fund the communication of the action plan, a draft letter has been prepared in hopes can be shared around to key consultancies and professional service organisations etc.
- People who had key contacts in such organisations are invited to approach them with the letter to seek funding.
- Money will be going towards making the action plan a living document with longevity along with good infographics and so forth – this will massively improve interaction with communities and the public.
- We need a coordinated approach to ensure we don't make multiple approaches to the same contacts/organisations.

***ACTION: Commissioners to ask contacts to help support YHCC via forwarding the draft fundraising letter – message Andy Gouldson first before sending them out.***

## **10. Communication updates**

Simon Moore presented on various comms updates from YHCC. Special thanks to Kate Lock too who works with Simon.

### Key points noted were:

- We've created a PowerPoint template describing the Commission and pop-up banners for Commissioners to use when needed.
- We organised a Question Time style for this evening – more than 85 people signed up.
- We've had 2,100 visitors to the website and have 1,100 twitter followers.
- We're planning a newsletter once a quarter to update on Commission activity.
- Continue to get good media coverage and requests for interviews.
- Looking ahead, we're working with the Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire APPG on a parliamentary event that will grow into the National Policy Forum.
- Starting to plan our September climate summit and our Regional Climate Action Plan report/document.
- Considering a partnership with the Yorkshire Post for a Yorkshire Climate Summit that they're planning for November, to time with COP26. No commitments yet.

***ACTION: Commissioners to contact the secretariat for a copy of the power point presentation.***

## **11. AOB**

- Liz Barber invited feedback for how the meeting went to allow improvements to be made for next time.
- Breakout groups were positive and allowed for good discussions and will probably be repeated.

### Comments

- Emma Bridge mentioned that Community Energy Fortnight (follow 'CEF2021' to get involved).

***ACTION: Commissioners to give feedback about 2<sup>ND</sup> commission meeting to Andy Gouldson and secretariat.***

## **12. Dates of next meetings**

- September 15<sup>th</sup>, 3 - 5.30pm (virtual/venue tbc)
- December 8<sup>th</sup>, 3 - 5.30pm (virtual/venue tbc)

## **Annexe 1 – Attendees**

## **1      Commissioners**

**Chair** Liz Barber, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Water

### **Vice Chairs**

South Yorkshire – Dan Jarvis MP for Barnsley Central and Mayor of the Sheffield City Region

West Yorkshire – Councillor Jack Hemingway, Deputy Leader of Wakefield Council

North Yorkshire - Councillor Richard Cooper, Leader of Harrogate Borough Council

**Director** Prof Andy Gouldson, University of Leeds

### **Senior Officer Nominees**

West Yorkshire – Polly Cook, Senior Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality, Leeds City Council

North Yorkshire - Wallace Sampson, Chief Executive, Harrogate Borough Council

James Copeland, Senior Environment and Land Use Adviser, National Farmers Union

Bill Adams, Regional Secretary for Yorkshire and the Humber, Trades Union Congress (TUC)

Rachael Bice, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Simon Bowens, Regional Campaign Organiser for Yorkshire and the North East, Friends of the Earth

Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England

Martyn Broadest, Executive Director, Connect Housing Association

Chris Brown, Senior Director Sustainable Supply Chains, ASDA.

Rob Cawkwell, Managing Director, Sewell Construction

Sarah Clark, Operations Manager, Aura Innovation Centre, University of Hull

Nigel Foster, Director, Fore Consulting

Robert Hall, Associate Director, Federated Hermes

Oliver Harmar, Area Director for Yorkshire, Environment Agency

Beckie Hart, Director for Yorkshire and Humber, Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

Philip Holdgate, Head of Production Sustainability, ITV Studios

Dr Siobhan Laird, Director, South Yorkshire Climate Alliance

Amandeep Kaur Maan, Eco-Sikh (sharing Commissioner role with Jatinder Singh Mehmi)

Ian Floyd, Director of Customer and Corporate Services, City of York Council

Mike Maudsley, UK Generation Portfolio Executive Director, Drax

Dr Jatinder Singh Mehmi, Sikh Alliance Yorkshire

Amandeep Kaur Maan, EcoSikh

Dr Peter O'Brien, Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities

Sarah Pemberton, Assistant Director in the North, National Trust

Alexis Percival, Environmental and Sustainability Manager, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Rob Purdy, Director of Balance Sheet Management, YBS

Simon Pringle, Director, Project Rome

Emma Richards, Project Leader, The Carbon Literacy Project  
Gordon Rogers, former Head of Sustainability at Yorkshire Water  
Stuart Strathdee, chemistry teacher, Greenhead College  
Melanie Taylor, Head of Stakeholder Relations, Northern Gas Networks

**2**      **Secretariat**

Simon Moore, Communications Officer, Place Based Climate Action Network, University of Leeds