

You Said, We Did

Denbighshire County Council's Climate and Nature Strategy Public Consultation

May 2024

You Said, We Did – Public Consultation for the Revised Strategy, May 2024

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Background

Denbighshire County Council declared a [Climate and Ecological Emergency](#) in July 2019 which committed the Council to become net carbon zero by 2030 and improve biodiversity.

The [Council's Climate and Ecological Change Strategy \(2021/22 – 2029/30\)](#) was adopted in February 2021. This strategy is planned to be reviewed and refreshed every 3 years and this consultation is to gather feedback for the first of these reviews to enable us to produce an updated version of that strategy.

We ran an online public survey in May 2023 and a public event in November 2023 asking for your feedback on the Council's net carbon zero and ecologically positive goals and your ideas on how the Council can achieve them by 2030. It was also a chance to get initial feedback on the new proposed areas for inclusion, in this revised strategy, around supporting the reduction of carbon emissions, increased carbon absorption and nature recovery across Denbighshire, as well as increasing our resilience to the impacts of climate change in Denbighshire.

Building on your ideas we have worked with Members and Officers from across the Council to develop the Council's Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/22 – 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version).

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Public Consultation Survey

A survey to gather feedback on the year 3 revised Climate and Ecological change Strategy was conducted between March 22nd and May 20th 2024, using the Council’s County Conversation website. The survey was advertised in the ‘News’ pages of the website, on social media and via a press release sent to local newspapers.

Print on demand copies of the survey were also made available at local libraries.

The Council would like to thank everyone who took the time and effort to provide feedback. The results and actions resulting from that feedback are outlined below.

Summary of Results

Question 1: Do you want Denbighshire County Council to adopt the Revised Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/202 to 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version)?

Response to this question outlined in table below and percentage given of the total responses received. Majority of respondents agreed that they did wish the Council to adopt the document.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	295	88%
No	41	12%
Total	336	100%

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Question 2: What do you LIKE about the Revised Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/22 to 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version)?

Responses to this question was via an open comments box. A summary of key themes and contributions to this question analysed as follows:

- Increased scope of strategy to include county wide carbon emission reduction, carbon absorption, nature recovery and risk resilience
- The intention to explore the increased provision of plant based / vegan / low carbon food options provided by the schools' catering service
- Green space in new social housing: The proposal to incorporate allotments and space for nature in all new social housing developments
- Greener Denbighshire Board and the intention to take a 12-month review paper to Full Council each year. It was felt this shows transparent monitoring arrangements are place
- [Climate Score Cards](#) has been acted upon and utilised to inform actions
- Investment in the improved energy efficiency of the buildings, lighting and vehicles owned and managed by Denbighshire. This action could have a good financial return on the investment, with the reduced emissions as a useful benefit
- Reduction in summer cutting of green space is worthwhile if it reduces overall management costs and does not impact road safety, for example, on highways verges
- Realistic and easy to understand
- Effort to incorporate area wide goals and work with landowners
- Effort to include increased low carbon energy solutions e.g. hydrogen bin lorry trials
- Like that the actions separated by years (action layout)
- Like the informative tables and measurable goals
- Like the action to decarbonise the Clwyd Pension fund
- Like the action to incorporate allotments and space for nature across council owned land

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- Good transparency of the delivery of the strategy through regular reviews
- Council commitment and ambition

Question 3: What do you NOT LIKE about the Revised Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021/22 to 2029/30) (Year 3 Updated Draft Version)?

Responses to this question was via an open comments box. A summary of key themes and contributions to this question analysed as follows:

- The title – Suggestion that the existing title is benign and the word ‘ecological’ was not widely used or understood. New title suggestion of ‘Denbighshire County Council’s Climate and Nature Strategy’ or ‘Greener Denbighshire - Our Climate and Nature Strategy’
- The length – it’s felt the document is a daunting read for the public. Infographics not detailed enough. Request for an ‘easy read’ or youth version
- Pie chart colour schemes to be consistent
- This strategy review has taken over a year to complete and does not indicate that the Council is responding to an emergency
- Supply chain emissions: further explanation is needed around what is included in these emissions, action being taken and why progress is poor
- Carbon emissions reductions are low: further explanation is needed regarding overall low carbon reduction progress
- Visible list of all the ideas / suggestions made and a list of those adopted was requested
- Further explanation around previous and new suggestions and how these have been used to inform the revised document
- Request to see the report created following the public consultation event and other options to be considered for future consultation events
- Further explanation around Carbon sequestration and included graphs. It was felt this is not clear to the average person. This needs a plain language explanation to be of any use to the public.

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- Further explanation requested regarding targets and budgets
- More needed to aid with the protection of hedgerows and ‘wild’ habitats, e.g. gorse and shrub areas. When is this going to be achieved? Can it be expanded to private house owners?
- Climate Emergency UK – UK Scorecards: Request to ensure the council is making use of this organisation
- Concern about financial cost
- Needs more input from residents and relevant organisations
- More biodiversity in urban areas
- A challenge to do enough, global issue
- Lack of specific inclusion of nature spaces and allotment space in developments
- More renewable energy in urban areas needed
- More County Councillor involvement
- Low carbon reduction to date empathises the magnitude of the challenge

Question 4: Any other comments?

Responses to this question was via an open comments box. Key themes and contributions to this question analysed as follows:

- Request to have a pie chart for territorial emissions in 2021 / 22
- Question regarding will the council be joining Larder Cymru, as other north Wales councils have, to support local food in schools and other catering provided by the Council?
- Question asking ‘Why can’t green space for nature and allotment space be requested for all developments - private housing and buildings of any sort?’
- Praise for taking the climate and ecological emergency seriously
- Important for the council to act quickly
- Hope for Wales to be first Race to Zero nation
- Request to support local farmers with this ambition
- Ensure the progress is clearly outlined with challenges and shortfalls made clear – target and known pathways explained

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- To prioritise actions in the strategy to make these actions SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound)
- Ensure the Climate Scorecards are utilised and used to inform and direct action
- There were also comments from respondents who did not feel the climate emergency should be a council priority

Amendments to the Final Strategy

As a result of the survey responses and feedback, the following changes have been incorporated into, or are being explored for, the final strategy version due to be taken to Full Council for adoption in July 2024.

Feedback / Theme	Suggested response/ change to be made
Request to include a pie chart for territorial emissions in 2021 / 22	Will be in final version
Will you be joining Larder Cymru, as other north Wales councils have, to support local food in schools and other catering provided by the Council?	Taken as an action to investigate and include necessary wording in the strategy document
The request to incorporate allotments and space for nature in all new developments	To be discussed with planning and biodiversity colleagues - planning policy will dictate what is required but we will explore how this can be encouraged- and work to include necessary wording in the strategy document

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Feedback / Theme	Suggested response/ change to be made
<p>Title change request - Suggestion that the existing title is benign and the word 'ecological' was not widely used or understood. New title suggestion of 'Denbighshire County Council's Climate and Nature Strategy' or 'Greener Denbighshire - Our Climate and Nature Strategy'</p>	<p>Awaiting decision - Title change to 'Denbighshire County Council's Climate and Nature Strategy' to be approved internally</p>
<p>The length: - a daunting read for the public. Infographics not detailed enough.</p>	<p>Work in progress to create a young persons or easy read version ensuring the document is still compliant with Accessibility Standards.</p> <p>Will explore options to create an executive summary to provide a high-level overview, with links to further detail.</p>
<p>The pie charts should be a consistent colour scheme.</p>	<p>Will be in final version</p>
<p>Ensure text and charts are clear e.g. error in Chart 7</p>	<p>Will be in final version</p>

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Feedback / Theme	Suggested response/ change to be made
This strategy review has taken over a year to complete and does not indicate that the Council is responding to an emergency	Noted. Team changes have meant this has been delayed
Supply chain emissions: further explanation around what is included in these emissions, action being taken and why progress is poor	Will expand on this in final version and include supply chain summary and/or breakdown of emission by category
Carbon emissions reductions are low: further explanation on progress required	Update around latest reporting figures and challenges has been included in the Appendices and will be expanded for the final strategy version. Progress updates are also included in the bi-annual newsletter (most recent created in May 2024)
Visible list of all the ideas / suggestions made and a list of those adopted	All suggestions, approved by services, have been included in the strategy. Completed actions have been included as an Appendix

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Feedback / Theme	Suggested response/ change to be made
Request to see the report created following the public consultation event and other options to be considered for future consultation events	Consultation report will be circulated to those who have requested to stay in touch with the council’s climate and nature programme and uploaded to the consultation webpage, along with this document.
Further explanation around previous and new suggestions and how these have been used to inform the revised document	Noted. This wording will be reviewed.
Further explanation around Carbon sequestration and included graphs. It was felt this is not clear to the average person. This needs a plain language explanation to be of any use to the public.	Noted. This wording will be reviewed.
Further explanation requested regarding targets and budgets	The challenges in achieving this target have been outlined in the strategy. However, we have not amended these targets and maintain our ambition.

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Feedback / Theme	Suggested response/ change to be made
<p>More needed to aid with the protection of hedgerows and ‘wild’ habitats, e.g. gorse and shrub areas. When is this going to be achieved? Can it be expanded to private house owners?</p>	<p>This will be discussed with Countryside and other relevant colleagues, but we will explore how this can be encouraged- and include necessary wording in the strategy document</p>
<p>Contribution towards Wales being first Race to Zero nation</p>	<p>Noted and investigating.</p>
<p>Request to support local farmers with this ambition</p>	<p>Noted and included as part of the increased scope of the strategy to influence carbon reduction, absorption, nature recovery and risk resilience across the county.</p>
<p>Ensure the progress is clearly outlined with challenges and shortfalls made clear</p>	<p>Will be included in the final version - additional graphs included in the appendix. Target and known pathways explained further</p>
<p>To prioritise actions in the strategy to make these actions SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound)</p>	<p>Noted and team will work to implement following successful adoption of the revised strategy</p>

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Feedback / Theme	Suggested response/ change to be made
Ensure the Climate Scorecards are utilised and used to inform and direct action	Noted and areas identified as requiring action will be included in the final version