



Carbon
Neutral
Cambridge

Annual Report 2018/19





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This report covers our activities and finances up until 31 May 2019.

INTRODUCTION

Carbon Neutral Cambridge was founded in 2017 by Tony Eva, with the inspiring vision that Cambridge has a once in a lifetime opportunity to become the UK's first carbon neutral city.

We spent some time considering what we could most usefully do to help achieve this vision.

We decided that our aim was simple: to accelerate the local transition to carbon neutrality, in such a way as to maximise social equity and health.

We decided that we could most usefully build on the work of other local organisations by focusing on working through the political process. Firstly, we're aiming to help develop the set of supportive and well informed councillors, council officers, policies and partnerships that we'll need to accelerate the transition within the Greater Cambridge area. Secondly, we're participating in national campaigns for the policies that will enable local action. Our approach is to be well informed and supportive of those trying to do the right thing, while challenging greenwash and inaction.

We think Greater Cambridge is the ideal place to do this, because within the city we have a wealth of capability and influence. We also have an imposed "Growth Agenda" with 33,500 new homes planned for Greater Cambridge by 2031 and major investments in transport in the wider region. This could be catastrophic, but it also gives us the opportunity and the moral obligation to play a leading role in accelerating the transition.

Anne Miller
Chair, Carbon Neutral Cambridge



Combined Authority Climate Commission

(Ongoing)

Since its inception, Carbon Neutral Cambridge has been calling for the establishment of a Climate Commission for the Combined Authority of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. Progress to date has been disappointingly slow.

The Climate Coalition Net Zero Campaign

(Ongoing)

We supported The Climate Coalition's campaign for the UK to set a target date to reach net zero. This included joining national demonstrations and organising supportive statements from our local MPs, Daniel Zeichner and Heidi Allen.

UCL Global Citizenship Programme

(7th June 2018)

Carbon Neutral Cambridge was invited by UCL to organise a half day event as part of their Global Citizenship Programme. Our event was on the theme of "Cities & Climate Change" and students developed ideas for how climate campaigns might be organised on a local level.

Rise For Climate

(8th September 2018)

Along with other local environmental groups, Carbon Neutral Cambridge participated in this global event. Designed to highlight the need for greater action to combat climate change, CNC used the opportunity to ask local citizens what actions they thought should be undertaken in Cambridge. Examples of some of the responses can be seen on the back cover.

Climate Questionnaires for Local Council Election Candidates

(13 Sept 2018; 4 Oct 2018; 2nd May 2019)

In order to assist voters make informed choices, we sent election candidates a simple climate change questionnaire. Results indicated widespread cross-party support for tackling climate change, but sometimes disappointingly limited knowledge.

Cambridge Independent

5th December 2018 - ongoing)

Since late 2018, Carbon Neutral Cambridge has had a monthly column in the Cambridge Independent newspaper. This is an excellent way both to raise our profile and to help promote our ideas to a wider audience. Topics covered have included "Raising local climate ambition"; "North Cambridge low carbon district"; "Health and climate change"; "Cambridge air pollution" and "Emergency response to climate change".

Zero Carbon Futures Symposium

(21st May 2019)

This was the largest event that we organised this year and more details are provided on the following page.

Miscellaneous Events

During the year members of Carbon Neutral Cambridge represented the organisation at a variety of events. These included a presentation to the Climate and Environment committee of South Cambs District Council, on the UN's IPCC 1.5°C report (October 2018) and the CFCI annual debate "This house believes Cambridge can go car free" (24th January 2019).



In December 2018, Councillor Pippa Heylings of South Cambs District Council invited Carbon Neutral Cambridge to run a Zero Carbon Futures Symposium, to look at how local government can achieve a zero carbon future in association with partners.

We then designed, organised and ran the event, in partnership with the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council. We are grateful for funding and support from the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Study of Existential Risk and local businesses.

We decided to focus the event on “informing policy development for the new joint Local Plan”, and helping our councils “use their leadership, local planning powers and partnerships to the full to accelerate the local transition to net zero carbon” We particularly wanted it to inspire and enable more rapid action by our councils, so the event was held under Chatham House rules, to allow the difficult issues to be discussed freely by a group of invited expert participants and speakers.

We had 58 participants and were pleased that 31% were council officers and 21% councillors. Most of our invited speakers were able to stay the whole day to help inform the discussion. Other participants included representatives from several architects, a developer, some charities, both our local Universities, and even the Office of the Prime Minister of Australia.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, as indicated by a selection of responses on the following page.

The day resulted in many useful contacts and identified some very specific opportunities for community groups and councils to accelerate the transition to net zero. We will share and

discuss these findings at our AGM on 2 July 2019, We are also producing a public report summarising the key findings and recommendations. This should be available from our website in early August.



Anne Miller, Tommy Harris and Stephen Kelly at the opening of the symposium

Speakers at Zero Carbon Futures

- Stephen Kelly, Shared Planning Service
- Tommy Harris (age 16)
- Owen Bellamy, The Committee on Climate Change
- Emma Davies, Shared Planning Service
- Richard Twinn, UK Green Building Council
- Gwyn Jones, Norwich City Council
- Andy Gouldson, Leeds Climate Commission
- Dave Lomax, Waugh Thistleton
- Miles Messenger, Bouygues UK
- Hugh Ellis, Town and Country Planning Association
- Cllr Rosy Moore, Cambridge City Council
- Cllr Pippa Heylings, South Cambs District Council

Speaker's slides are available at:
carbonneutralcambridge.org/events/zero-carbon-futures/



- Encouraging.
- really good speakers -

Well organised - inspiring.

Very positive to share ideas with like minded people from a range of backgrounds on how to meet the shared challenge of Climate Change.

Very impressive and very well-organised.

Amazing! Let's do it again soon

A very well curated meeting of key people both locally and nationally, focussed on our common future.

Very well organised with great speakers

Excellent - need to do this again in 6 mths.

Excellent quality + level of challenge + conversation. A safe place for us all to reflect, inspire + be inspired. There is SUCH energy + vision now for JOINT climate ambition



First Statement of Accounts for the period to 31 May 2019

Income & expenditure account

	2019 £
Income	
Grants	6,000
Total income	<u><u>6,000</u></u>
Expenditure	
Symposium report	3,000
Administration	273
Insurance	50
Travel and accommodation	160
Total expenditure	<u><u>3,483</u></u>
Surplus for the period	<u><u>£2,517</u></u>

Balance sheet as at 31 May 2019

	2019 £
Cash at bank	5,839
less accrued expenses	3,322
Funds at 31 May 2019	<u><u>£2,517</u></u>

Note to the accounts:

In addition to the above CNC received in kind support worth £1,775 towards the costs of the Symposium held in May 2019.



As a volunteer run organisation, our plans and activities depend on our volunteers' enthusiasm and energy together with a level of financial support. Subject to these constraints, we hope to build on our work in the coming year with the following activities. If you are interested in helping, please contact us.

Cambridge Independent

(ongoing)

We plan to continue providing the Cambridge Independent with monthly articles.

Local Planning Consultations

(ongoing)

One consequence of the "Growth Agenda" on the greater Cambridge region is the plethora of planning consultations that are taking place. We would like to engage in top level local planning processes, and would very much welcome help from those with relevant expertise.

Local Carbon Emissions & Trajectory

(ongoing)

Our website contains an analysis of carbon dioxide emissions in the greater Cambridge region for 20015-16. This will be updated as additional information becomes available. One of our volunteers will be modelling carbon reduction trajectories.

UCL Global Citizenship Programme

(June 2019)

Carbon Neutral Cambridge has been invited back by UCL to participate in their Global Citizenship Programme. We will have a whole day

this time on the topic of "The climate crisis, carbon pledges and enacting change".

Zero Carbon Futures Report

(ca. August 2019)

We will be publishing our report on the findings and recommendations from the Zero Carbon Futures Symposium, and will disseminate this to other community groups and councils round the UK. The aim will be to help other councils and community groups accelerate their local transitions to net zero carbon. Findings from the Symposium will also help inform our strategy and activities for 2019/20,

CNC Committee Members

- Tony Booth
- Martin Clark (resigned 12 July 2018)
- Tony Eva (Secretary)
- Aled Jones
- Terry Macalister
- Anne Miller (Chair)
- James Murray-White
- Hilary Seaward (Treasurer)
- James Smith
- Stuart Weir (resigned 28 April 2019)

Website: carbonneutralcambridge.org

Twitter: @CarbonNtrlCambs

Bank: Metro Bank, 1 Christ's Lane, Cambridge

