



Carbon
Neutral
Cambridge

Annual Report 2019/20





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Back Cover: In conjunction with Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry, we organised a conference entitled “Climate Emergency: Net Zero Construction”. This was due to have been held on 23 March 2020, but had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope to hold an online version of this event later in 2020.

This report covers our activities and finances for our Financial Year: 1 June 2019 to 31 May 2020.

CHAIR’S STATEMENT

Our second year of operation has been a very strange one: very busy from June 2019 to March 2020, followed by a period of reflection and restructuring as we slammed into COVID-19 lockdown.

Our aim remains to accelerate the transition to a fair and healthy carbon neutrality within Greater Cambridge.

It is becoming clear that we can play an important role in the Greater Cambridge low carbon “eco-system”; as a source of well informed, ambitious ideas for local councils and NGOs; as independent voices cutting through the greenwash; and as a supportive community for our Members.

In creating our resources, events and articles we aim to tap into the wealth of local expertise and concern about climate change. We use our contacts and advisors to help us identify and publicise key opportunities and threats. We help our volunteer Members undertake research projects of interest to them, and then disseminate the results.

Our approach is to be well informed and supportive of those trying to do the right thing, while challenging greenwash and inaction. We are clear that there is a huge need for this, which has only been amplified by the imperative of achieving a Green Recovery from COVID-19

We have restructured our website to make our resources and activities clearer.

Some of the founding committee members are standing down for FY 20/21, and we thank them for their energetic work to date. We hope to build on their achievements

Cambridge Independent (Ongoing)

Carbon Neutral Cambridge has continued to write 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 in the past year ranged from CPCA's transport policy to the ways in which we could stimulate a Green Recovery from covid. The articles are also published on our blog.

UCL Global Citizenship Programme (June 2019)

Carbon Neutral Cambridge was again invited by UCL to organise an event as part of their Global Citizenship Programme. Students developed ideas about how different institutions and campaign groups might respond to calls for increased climate actions. This culminated in presentations before a panel from Camden Council and DEFRA. Feedback from this event is shown on page 5.



The Climate Coalition Net Zero Campaign (Ongoing)

June 2019, as part of the national campaign, together with Cambridge Carbon Footprint, we organised about 50 participants from a variety of Cambridge organisations to join us in Westminster, lobbying the Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner. Within days the UK Government set a legally binding Net Zero Target

Zero Carbon Futures Report (August 2019)

We published our report on the findings and recommendations from our May 2019 Zero Carbon Futures Symposium, exploring how Local Plans could accelerate the transition to Net Zero. It was then presented and discussed at the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee of South Cambs District Council and shared with key officers, community groups and others. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service told us that this has been *“really useful for us in helping us to start framing our thoughts on the role of planning in responding to the climate emergencies and net zero carbon The report also formed one of the background documents for our Net Zero Carbon Study.”*

With help from the charity Client Earth, we sent copies to the key people at all 105 UK councils with Local Plans in preparation, to help them fulfil their legal duty to ensure that these were in line with the requirements of the Climate Act. Client Earth told us they are *“pleased with the apparent increase in the priority placed on this issue [ie getting to net zero] by planners and councillors”*

Climate Emergency Conference: Net Zero Construction

(March 2020 - subsequently postponed)

We organised a major conference in conjunction with the Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry (CFCI). This aimed to engage the local Construction Industry in supporting ambitious decarbonisation measures in the new Local Plan. We had an inspiring line up of speakers and 200 paying participants booked, but sadly it had to be postponed at the last minute due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped to hold the event online later in the year. The original schedule is shown on the rear cover.

Combined Authority Climate Commission (Ongoing)

Since its inception, Carbon Neutral Cambridge has been calling for the establishment of a Climate Commission for the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA).

On 29 November 2019 the CPCA board announced that it was establishing this, 6 months later announcing Baroness Brown of Cambridge as Chair. We welcome this appointment but call for substantive and urgent action.

Consultations (Ongoing)

We responded to 5 consultations during the year (all are available on our website)

- Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document
- Cambridgeshire County Council's Climate Strategy
- The CPCA consultation on the Local Transport Plan
- The Future Homes Standard
- Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Issues and options.

Other projects

Carbon emissions

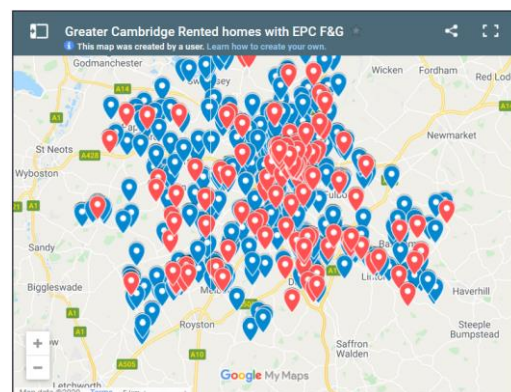
We analysed BEIS data and prepared a report on Carbon Emissions in Greater Cambridge region 2005-2017, which was used by South Cambridgeshire District Council in preparing their climate strategy.

CPCA Draft Local Transport Plan

We analysed the CPCA's disappointing draft Local Transport Plan, published a commentary on it and ran a public event discussing it.

Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

In October 2019 we used our Cambridge Independent column, website and contacts in the Councils to raise awareness of the neglected Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES). This rules that from April 2020, homes with EPC F&G cannot be let without registering for an exemption and investing £3.5K in efficiency improvements. To demonstrate the scale of the problem we used the open access EPC dataset to plot the location of all rented EPC F&G homes



We are pleased to see that 6 months later the South Cambridgeshire Climate Strategy explicitly promised to “*support good private landlords and to take enforcement action against the bad ones.*”

We will encourage them to fulfil this promise, and will be looking for similar enforcement action by Cambridge City Council



FEEDBACK FROM GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EVENT

Insightful, educational &
makes me now want to act
and get more involved
with the cause
very interesting! I learned a lot.

Very well planned. I liked the combination of informative
segments with reflection/activities

very rewarding & insightful
↳ great organisation / schedule

Compared to other sessions of this programme,
it is more relevant and compelling to me
as we take CAMBRIDGE (CO2) as an example / case study.

The workshop was very relaxed and honest. In my
opinion this atmosphere was essential for an
enjoyable and informative event.

Very good. many useful information. good teamwork and brainstorm.
love today's event. ~~get~~ got me really involved in the climate change



Carbon Neutral Cambridge

Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 May 2020



Carbon
Neutral
Cambridge

Income & expenditure account

	2020	2019
	£	£
Income		
Grants	2,044	6,000
Donation	85	-
Total income	<u>2,129</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Expenditure		
Symposium report	374	3,000
Administration	245	273
Insurance	-	50
Travel and accommodation	44	160
Total expenditure	<u>663</u>	<u>3,483</u>
Surplus for the period	<u><u>£1,466</u></u>	<u><u>£2,517</u></u>

Balance sheet as at 31 May 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash at bank	4,058	5,839
less accrued expenses	75.00	3,322
	<u><u>£3,983</u></u>	<u><u>£2,517</u></u>
Funds		
Funds brought forward	2,517	0
surplus in the year	1,466	2,517
Funds at 31 May 2020	<u><u>£3,983</u></u>	<u><u>£2,517</u></u>



Do Join us

As a volunteer run organisation, our activities depend on our Members' enthusiasm and interests. To support their work, we offer help, contacts and advice, raise a modest level of financial support, and help disseminate the results to those that can make a difference.

If you support our aims and approach, do join us as a Member and get involved in ways that interest you. (Membership is free). To simply stay in touch, be informed of events, and help disseminate the results of our work, follow us on Twitter and join our mailing list.

We hope to build on our work in the coming year with the activities in the following areas

Local Planning Consultations (ongoing)

We plan to continue to engage in the process of developing Greater Cambridge's new Local Plan, and other top level local planning consultations, to ensure that the aspirational words about achieving "Net Zero" and "Low Carbon" developments are not just greenwash, but lead to real tangible near term actions to substantially reduce Greater Cambridge's carbon emissions.

We also plan to help Cambridge City Council's Climate Strategy, aiming to increase the level of ambition and specificity.

This offers a satisfying way for those with an interest in housing or planning make a real difference to Greater Cambridge's future carbon emissions.

Local Carbon Emissions & Trajectory (ongoing)

Our website contains an analysis of carbon dioxide emissions in the Greater Cambridge region for 2015-16. We are keen to continue updating this and to explore carbon reduction trajectories. Lots of fun for those that like playing with numbers!

Other opportunities

The Agricultural sector provides big opportunities for reducing emissions and carbon sequestration, and there are some important "farmer-led" initiatives around. We are exploring ideas for what to do and welcome input from those with an interest in sustainable agriculture and habitats.

We will be supporting a Green Recovery in various ways, so if you have creative campaign ideas, do join us.

Committee Members 2019/20

- Aled Jones
- Anne Miller (Chair)
- Hilary Seaward (Treasurer)
- James Murray-White
- James Smith
- Terry Macalister
- Tony Booth
- Tony Eva (Secretary)

Website: carbonneutralcambridge.org

Twitter: @CarbonNtrlCambs

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

CLIMATE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

NET ZERO CONSTRUCTION

Cllr Bridget Smith | Cllr Lewis Herbert | Meredith Bowles

Joel Gustafsson | Max Fordham
What we mean by “net zero” and “zero carbon”

Clara Bagenal George | Elementa Consulting
A climate emergency design guide

Sam Hunter Jones | Client Earth
Legal obligations of local plans on emissions

Paul Frainer | Cambridge Shared Planning
Greater Cambridge Local Plan; zero carbon economy

David Richards | Atelier Ten
Designing the WWF-UK’s Living Planet Centre

Linda Thiel | White Arkitekter
Designing the Leeds Climate Innovation District

Wendy Bishop | Architype
Deep green retrofit of 1 Regent Street, Cambridge

24 March 2020, Robinson College, Cambridge
Booking required: www.cfc.org.uk

