

FOI Ref
12299

Response sent
13 Feb 23

(CCC) Climate Emergency

Request 1)

Subject: Council electricity tariffs and renewable electricity generation

I would like information about your council's electricity sources in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information may be held by an estates department or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

a. Does the council have a 100% renewable green electricity tariff for all of the electricity that the council is directly responsible for, and is this tariff with Green Energy UK plc, Good Energy Limited or Ecotricity?

This includes all electricity that the council is directly responsible for, in council offices and any other buildings leased and managed by the council where the council pays the electricity tariff. This does not include homes owned or managed by the council. If unsure, please state your provider and tariff.

b. Does the council generate and use energy from waste? And if so, what percentage of the council's total electricity use is powered by these energy from waste electricity sources?

c. Does the council buy directly from a local renewable electricity source or have its own renewable electricity sources? And if so, what percentage of the council's total electricity use is powered by this/these renewable electricity sources?

This includes council owned renewable electricity sources that are located outside of the council area, such as solar farms located further south to maximise electricity generation.

Request 2)

Subject: Carbon literacy training for senior councillors and staff

I would like information about your council's carbon literacy training in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information may be held by the HR department or other departments that organise staff training.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

a. Have all senior management received carbon literacy training or equivalent since 1st January 2019? Please state the type of training.

b. Have all current councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received carbon literacy training or equivalent since being elected? Please state the type of training.

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This training could be from the Carbon Literacy Organisation or another organisation, university or in-house. We want to know the number of people who have attended the training. We don't need to know the number of staff that have received a certificate of completion or attendance.

Request 3)

Subject: High carbon infrastructure planning

I would like information about your council's planning in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information is most likely to be held by a planning officer or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

a. Has the Council approved any new*1 or expanded*2 roads or road junctions in its area from 1st January 2019 until 1st January 2023? Please list which ones were accepted.

*1 The intention of this question is to understand overall increases in road capacity, rather than recent housing developments. Please exclude minor roads built exclusively to connect new housing to the pre-existing road network.

*2 An expanded road or road junction is one that has increased capacity for motor vehicle traffic, not counting bus lanes, cycle infrastructure, or pedestrian infrastructure. Please include roads and junctions where new lanes have been added.

b. Has the council approved any new or expanded airport runways, terminals, measures to increase passenger numbers or other planning proposals that expand airport capacity in its area since 1st January 2019 until 1st January 2023? Please list which ones were accepted.

Request 4)

Subject: Council house EPC ratings & MEES

I would like information about your council's homes and MEES enforcements in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information may be held by a housing department or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

1. What is the energy efficiency of the council's homes (managed or owned by the council)? Please provide either a distribution table with the number of buildings for each EPC rating or the percentage of the council's homes that have received an EPC rating of C or above.

2. What is the number of investigations, enforcement notices and enforcement actions that the council did, related to MEES (Minimum Energy Efficiency

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Standards) in the 2021/22 financial year.

Where data is available separately for each statistic please provide separately. If only some information is available, please give me that information.

I would prefer to receive information in a machine readable format, such as CSV files for data, where possible.

Request 5)

Subject: Council staff working on climate action

I would like information about your council's staff positions in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information is most likely to be held by a HR department or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

1a. How many staff does the Council directly employ (excluding contractors or subcontractors, and excluding teachers), that work directly for the Council as opposed to a school, leisure centres or other venture?

1b. How many directly employed staff spend 3 or more days per week (0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects? Please provide a list of all the roles. Please exclude waste management staff unless they are specifically working 3 or more days per week on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects.

If you have answered yes to have a biodiversity planning officer and/or a retrofit staff member below, both these staff members can be included in this question even if they are contracted. This is likely to include all staff in your climate/sustainability team, such as Climate Change Officers or similar. This may include full time staff who spend 60% of their time on climate change projects and 40% of their time on other work.

You might include other staff in other departments, such as a procurement officer if they are spending 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE) on writing and implementing a sustainable procurement policy or a planner that is working primarily on low carbon policies for new buildings.

2. Does the council have one or more staff member who works on home energy efficiency retrofitting, such as retrofit officers or project managers across the council area, for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE)? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). The work of this officer may include working on any retrofit projects, including council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households.

Please list any roles that work in this area, including the full time equivalent (FTE)

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if they work part time.

Please include staff members that are shared with other councils, such as between county and district councils, and note if they are shared across other areas.

3. How many planning ecologists (ecologists within the planning department) or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE) does the council employ to scrutinise planning reports for Biodiversity Net Gain? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE).

Request 6)

Subject: Lobbying for climate action & funding

I would like information about your council's lobbying work in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following question:

Has the council written to or met with UK national or devolved governments to ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2019? Please provide some evidence of the most recent letter or meeting such as a copy of the letter or email sent, or the date, topic of meeting and position of the person that the meeting was held with.

This includes either asking for more powers and funding for local authorities to take climate action, or asking for the government to take further action themselves. This includes working with other local authorities to send joint letters or meetings to lobby UK or devolved governments, and includes both general climate action and calls for action on specific issues such as transport where climate change is mentioned as a motivating factor for taking action.

This includes if a cabinet member or other councillor has written to or met with the UK or devolved governments on behalf of the council.

Response

Request 1:

a) The Council has had a 100% renewable green electricity tariff since October 2016. The Pure Energy tariff is from the Council's energy supplier Total Energies, from the ESPO framework and the electricity comes from 100% renewable sources (solar, wind and hydro/wave) but doesn't include biomass. The tariff applies to all electricity included in the Council's Greenhouse Gas Report (GHG), including the Council's Parkside Pool (which also supplies one of the Council's multi-storey car parks), but excluding the other 4 leisure sites and pools (which are all included as Scope 3 emissions) which are not on the Council's energy contract as these are managed by a third party that has their

own energy supplier for the gas and electricity for those sites.

b) The Council does not generate and use energy from waste.

c) The Council does not buy directly from a local renewable energy source. The Council currently has 13 solar photovoltaic systems which are connected to buildings included in the Council's GHG report. In 2021/22 they generated 293,819 kWh, the majority of which is likely to have been used by the buildings, given their high energy consumption (no export meters are required to be fitted on the systems due to the size of the systems). This generation was 1.48% of the Council's total energy use in 2021/22.

Request 2:

a) A 1.5 hour 'Climate Change – Net Zero training' session was developed and delivered by the Council's Climate Change Officers and is bespoke to Cambridge. The training includes key information about climate change, Cambridge's emissions and the impacts of climate change, the Council's commitments, the action we are taking and how attendees can contribute to the vision for the city to be net zero carbon by 2030 and the target to reduce its direct carbon emissions to net zero carbon by 2030. Similar to the Carbon Literacy training, which was researched during the development of the training, attendees were asked to pledge to undertake an action at work and at home that would reduce emissions. From January to September 2022, seven training sessions were delivered and 94 of the Council's most senior managers were trained. The Council employed a total of 819 people on 31 March 2022. A shorter session was delivered to 117 staff members in an all-staff 'Town Hall' session in November 2022. A 30-minute online CPD Certified Environmental Awareness course was added to the staff induction programme and all existing staff were asked to complete it.

b) The 1.5 hour 'Climate Change – Net Zero training' session was offered to all councillors. Six training sessions were offered to councillors and 25 were able to attend the training. There are currently 41 councillors, some of whom are new since the May 2022 elections. Two more sessions are planned for after the May 2023 elections. Councillors are also encouraged to complete the 30-minute online CPD Certified Environmental Awareness course.

Request 3:

a) No

b) No

Request 4:

1) 76.8% of the Council's housing stock are EPC C or above.

2) The council recruited a full time Technical Officer in Environmental Health who was in position from April 2022 to provide the additional resource needed to progress proactive work relating to enforcement of MEES Regulations, and so the number of enforcements during 2021/22 was 0. We have issued 1 compliance notice to date during 2022/23.

Request 5:

1a) The Council's [website](#) states the Council employed a total of 819 people on 31

March 2022.

1b)

Corporate Strategy:

Two (1.8 FTE) Climate Change Officers co-ordinate the overall delivery of the Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management Plan, with support from the Environment Policy and Project Group, which is a corporate group that includes many of the lead officers and Heads of Services.

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service:

Principal Sustainability Officer in Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (1 FTE) on addressing the impacts of climate change in new development in Cambridge, whether that be policy development or ensuring that policies are being implemented correctly by providing technical advice on planning applications (with linked actions in our climate change strategy).

Environmental Health:

Environmental Projects Team Leader - 0.8 FTE

Retrofit Project Manager – 1 FTE

Energy Projects Officer - 0.8 FTE

Energy Projects Support Officer (starting 07/02/23) – 1 FTE

Environmental Quality & Growth Manager - 1 FTE

Technical Officer (MEES) – 1 FTE

Estates & Facilities:

Retrofit Project Officer – 1 FTE

Energy Surveyor – 1 FTE

Corporate Energy Manager – 1 FTE (currently vacant)

Environmental Services:

Biodiversity Officer - 1 FTE. The Council's directly employed Biodiversity Officer spends approximately 2.5 days per week (0.5 FTE) on ecology planning matters, which includes scrutiny of Biodiversity Net Gain assessments.

Sustainable Drainage Engineer - 0.8 FTE

Senior Arboricultural Officer - 1 FTE

Commercial Services:

0.45 FTE spent each week on managing the EV charge point project (installing up to 800 charge points on council land in Cambridge over the next few years):

Commercial Operations Manager, Commercial Projects Officer and Deputy Operations Manager.

2)

Environmental Health – Private Sector Homes (private rented and owned households)

Environmental Projects Team Leader - 0.8 FTE

Retrofit Project Manager - 1.0 FTE

Energy Projects Officer - 0.8 FTE

Energy Projects Support Officer (starting 07/02/23) – 1 FTE

Estates & Facilities – Council Homes:

Retrofit Project Officer – 1 FTE

3) The Council's directly employed Biodiversity Officer spends approximately 2.5 days per week (0.5 FTE) on ecology planning matters, which includes scrutiny of Biodiversity Net Gain assessments. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (a strategic partnership between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils) has a directly employed Ecologist, however their focus is on applications from South Cambridgeshire District Council area since SCDC do not employ a Biodiversity Officer because they do not have the same land management responsibilities or Local Nature Reserves that Cambridge City council does.

Request 6:

The Council has passed 3 motions since January 2019 to lobby the UK Government on climate action. Cambridge City Council's Chief Executive Robert Pollock wrote to Alok Sharma MP in April 2022 (COP26 President at the time of writing) requesting that he endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Robert Pollock also wrote to Rishi Sunak MP (Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time of writing) in April 2022 calling for the tax system to be used to support a just transition to a green economy and for hypothecation of green taxes towards a new joint Local and National Climate Emergency Fund which could support councils and other local actors to implement a National Retrofit Strategy.

The Leader of Cambridge City Council, Cllr Anna Smith, wrote to Michael Gove MP (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs at the time of writing) in April 2022 calling for the UK Government to adopt the National Retrofit Strategy as set out in the Construction Leadership Council and to provide additional funding for retrofitting, particularly to fund the retrofitting of council homes and housing association homes.

In October 2021, Cambridge City Council signed the UK100 Pledge to lobby the UK Government to provide local areas with increased powers and funding for further local climate action. The Council also passed a motion supporting the New Economics Foundation's Great Homes Upgrade campaign which calls upon the Government to deliver an ambitious programme to retrofit homes across the UK to tackle carbon emissions, upgrade cold and draughty homes and reduce energy bills.

All letters are provided.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk



The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
COP26 President
Cabinet Office

By email:

ministerial.correspondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
psaloksharma@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

5 April 2022

Dear COP26 President

Cambridge City Council Motion on Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

At its meeting on 21 October 2021, Cambridge City Council passed a motion calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Consistent with this motion, I am writing to you ask you to endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as soon as possible. This would signal the end of new fossil fuel exploration and expansion in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C as well as accelerating just energy transition plans.

The recent reports from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reaffirm the vital need for rapid and significant reduction of carbon emissions. The Secretary General of the United Nations described the report published in August 2021 as “a code red for humanity” and stated that “the report must sound a death knell to coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet”. The most recent IPCC report warns that it is “now or never” to limit global warming to 1.5°C and evidences the need for major, rapid scaling down of existing fossil fuel production and future projects. Based on current plans, governments globally and the fossil fuel industry will overshoot the remaining carbon budget, which would limit global heating to 1.5°C, by 120 per cent by 2030.

A Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty would accelerate just energy transition plans. The economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction. In addition, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety, and higher costs.

The UK should be committed, as part of our Climate Emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonize our economy.

Along with Cambridge, other leading cities including Barcelona, Toronto, Los Angeles and Sydney have endorsed the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. This growing global initiative is worthy of your support.

I hope that you continue to use your leadership role as President of the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference, to support the end of new fossil fuel exploration and to equitably phase out production in line with the commitment to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Pollock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Pollock
Chief Executive

[REDACTED]

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
By email: CEU.Enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk

5 April 2022

Dear Chancellor

Cambridge City Council Motion on carbon taxes for a just transition and a Climate Emergency Fund

At its meeting on 21 October 2021, Cambridge City Council passed a motion calling for the tax system to be used to support a just transition to a green economy. The motion also called for hypothecation of green taxes towards a new joint Local and National Climate Emergency Fund which could support councils and other local actors to implement a National Retrofit Strategy.

The motion included a request to ensure that any new carbon taxation increases the flow of finance to developing countries to help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts. These commitments have been promised by parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to ensure a just transition for all.

The recent Spring Statement tax plan was relatively silent on the role of tax to nudge behaviour and fund investment in a green transition. I am therefore writing to ask that your officials review the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) report 'Carbon taxes and the road to net zero' and provide you with advice on how to implement a joint Local and National Climate Emergency Fund to support progress on ambitious net zero targets.

A Climate Emergency Fund could be utilised to support local authorities and other partners to address the retrofit challenge and implement a National Retrofit Strategy. Cambridge City Council's Climate Change Strategy, for example, includes a net zero vision by 2030. This will require significant investment of around £0.5bn to retrofit council owned homes and buildings in the city.

Such a fund should also ensure an equitable flow of finance to developing countries to address climate change. Cambridge City Council believes these actions would help to support a just transition for all in the pursuit of net zero global carbon emissions.

Yours sincerely



Robert Pollock
Chief Executive

Enquiries to:

Councillor Anna Smith, Leader of Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Council, PO Box 700, Cambridge CB1 0JH
E: anna.smith@cambridge.gov.uk



The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Minister for
Intergovernmental Affairs

By email:

michael.gove@communities.gov.uk
PSMichaelGove@communities.gov.uk

7 April 2022

Dear Secretary of State

Cambridge City Council Motion on the National Retrofit Strategy

At its meeting on 21 October 2021, Cambridge City Council passed a motion calling for the UK Government to adopt the National Retrofit Strategy and to provide additional funding for retrofitting over the next three years as part of the government's spending review. This was not forthcoming at the SR or the recent Spring Statement.

I am writing to you to call for the adoption of the National Retrofit Strategy as set out in the Construction Leadership Council consultative document as soon as possible. Further to this, and in light to the pressing need to transition to net zero as well as soaring energy costs, I am asking for the government to allocate £11.7bn towards retrofitting.

Cambridge City Council's Climate Change Strategy has an ambitious vision to achieve net zero carbon status by 2030 – as do a growing number of local authorities. The Construction Leadership Council's report "Greening our Existing Homes" states that homes use 35% of all UK energy and account for 20% of carbon dioxide emissions. There is no route to decarbonising the economy without retrofitting these homes and reducing these carbon emissions. Without adopting The Construction Leadership Council National Retrofit Strategy, the legally binding UK commitment of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 is unlikely to be achieved.

The most recent report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) details the urgent need to scale existing low-carbon solutions to deliver the "rapid, deep and immediate" emissions reductions needed to achieve net zero carbon emissions and stay within a 1.5°C temperature rise.

In Cambridge, there are approximately 51,240 homes which need to be retrofitted which would cost an estimated £2.6 billion. Over the period of the Council's previous climate change strategies (since 2012), we have invested £4.3 million in energy

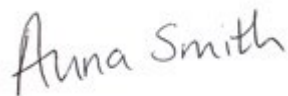
efficiency improvements to Council homes and have committed to investing a further £2.5 million from 2020/21 to 2022/23. In partnership with other Cambridgeshire local authorities, we have been successful in our bids to the Government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme and through the Sustainable Warmth Scheme.

However, these funds will not be sufficient to retrofit the 51,240 homes in Cambridge which is why I am asking you to develop a National Retrofit Strategy and in particular to fund the retrofitting of all council homes and housing association homes.

This request is not only being driven by the urgent need to address the climate change emergency in the UK, but to address the significant expected rise in fuel poverty following the large recent rise in energy prices. In Cambridge, around 15 per cent of residents are experiencing fuel poverty. Across the UK there are more than 24 million homes leaking heat, leaving many residents in cold, damp homes.

Adopting the National Retrofit Strategy and providing additional financial support for retrofitting would improve housing, create new business innovation, supply chains and good quality jobs. It would also help to alleviate fuel poverty, which could save the NHS around £2 billion a year on the treatment needed as a result of many people living in cold homes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna Smith".

Councillor Anna Smith
Leader, Cambridge City Council