



# **ACT NOW**

## **NORTH LANARKSHIRE**

**ACTION ON CLIMATE TOGETHER**

**Action on Climate Together Plan 2021-2025**

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# Section A: ACT Now Plan

## 1. Introduction and Background

### 1.1 North Lanarkshire

North Lanarkshire is the fourth largest local authority area in Scotland with a population of nearly 340,000. North Lanarkshire has many social, economic and environmental strengths including the following.

A strong commitment by the public and community and voluntary sectors and local communities in North Lanarkshire to work together to improve quality of life, wellbeing and equality for residents and to help tackle the climate emergency through an inclusive and green recovery from COVID-19 - supported by the North Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership.

- Many excellent public services, despite financial pressures.
- A rich and diverse community and voluntary sector and a strong volunteering culture providing valued support and services to local people.
- Diverse green and leisure resources, including Strathclyde Country Park, Drumpelier Country Park, Palacerigg Country Par, Kilsyth Hills and the Forth and Clyde Canal.
- A strategic location in central Scotland with affordable land and housing, providing a prime location for local businesses and people, including those wishing to relocate here
- Excellent business and employability support.

North Lanarkshire of course also has significant challenges, mostly related to poverty and unemployment, which have increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example:

- Historically North Lanarkshire has experienced higher than average levels of deprivation with the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) published in January 2020 identified that across North Lanarkshire, 50,897 people are income deprived. This is 15% of our population as opposed to the Scottish average of 12%.
- As of May 2020 approximately 1/3 of the total working age population in North Lanarkshire were either on furlough, in receipt of employment related benefit or accessing the Self-Employed Income Support scheme.



## 1.2 Community Planning

Community planning refers to the process where statutory bodies empower and work with local communities to design and deliver better services and improve peoples' lives. All local authority areas in Scotland are required by the Scottish Government to support community empowerment and community planning.

### 1.2.1 The North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP) is our community planning partnership.

NLP's organisations are:

- North Lanarkshire Council
- NHS Lanarkshire
- Scottish Fire and Rescue North Lanarkshire area
- Police Scotland Lanarkshire Division
- Scottish Enterprise
- Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire

### 1.2.1 NLP's aspirations are set out in the Plan for North Lanarkshire with delivery through the following complementary routes:

- community engagement supported by nine Community Boards to develop and agree a Community Concordat and nine Local Outcome Improvement Plans to deliver an inclusive and green recovery
- this ACT Now Plan
- a wide range of supporting strategies from partner organisations as set out in Annexe One below
- a number of key plans and strategies through other complementary North Lanarkshire Partnerships such as:
  - Children's Services Partnership Plan
  - Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire's Commissioning Strategy
  - the Lanarkshire Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing – "Getting it Right for Every Person"
  - The North Lanarkshire Community and Voluntary Sector Strategy

**1.2.3** Collective leadership for NLP is through its Strategic Leadership Board (SLB) and nine locality Community Boards. The SLB identified climate emergency as one of its three priorities in spring 2020 and appointed Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire as the lead partner organisation for this thematic priority. This ACT Now Plan sets out how action on this priority will be delivered.

**1.2.4** SLB's other two priorities are community engagement and mental health and wellbeing; the three priorities are linked and complementary in terms of improving an inclusive and green recovery from COVID-19.

## 2. Aim

The aim of NLP ACT Now initiative is to support achievement of net-zero carbon emissions in North Lanarkshire at least by 2045 - but earlier if possible - through an “inclusive and green recovery” from COVID-19 which is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and which improves people’s quality of life, wellbeing and equality.

## 3. Objectives

ACT Now’s objectives are to:

- improve understanding of the climate emergency and what must be done to achieve net-zero amongst North Lanarkshire’s citizens and workforce in all sectors
- support North Lanarkshire’s citizens and communities to transition to low-carbon living, recognising the challenges this can pose
- support North Lanarkshire’s community and voluntary sector and business sector to become “green champions” committed to transitioning to net-zero whilst supporting inclusive and green recovery from COVID 19
- review and share progress regarding NLP’s statutory partners’ delivery of their inclusive, green recovery and net-zero commitments
- provide collective leadership and accountability on climate and net-zero action in North Lanarkshire through NLP.

## 4. Principles and Approach

ACT Now embraces the principles and approach set out by the Scottish Government's Just Transition Commission. These principles and approaches are essential as measures to reduce carbon emissions must support an "inclusive and green" recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which protects our natural environment whilst also improving human rights, public health and social and economic inclusion.

- A holistic and integrated approach spanning environmental, social and economic issues.
- Local leadership to change our social and economic activities so low-carbon is either the only option or easiest option.
- Enabling a just transition which supports economic and social inclusion whilst supporting environmental sustainability
- Involves all sectors of society with a strong focus on people and places.



## 5. Engagement and Action

### 5.1 Communities and Community and Voluntary Sector

- 5.1.1** Plan, deliver and evaluate community climate emergency/carbon literacy training using accredited training such as the “Carbon Literacy” training from Keep Scotland Beautiful to:
- members of:
    - the nine Community Boards
    - tenants and residents associations
    - youth groups and forums
    - school Parent Councils
    - support forums and groups for black and minority ethnic groups; carers; people with long term conditions and/or disability; older adults
  - other citizens in the nine North Lanarkshire localities
  - community and voluntary organisations’ paid and volunteer workforce
- 5.1.2** Sustain and strengthen North Lanarkshire’s commitment to Eco-schools accreditation and green-flag awards, with involvement of the whole school and wider community.
- 5.1.3** Encourage more faith communities in North Lanarkshire to become Ecocongregations
- 5.1.4** Support community and voluntary organisations to become net-zero organisations, supported by Resource Efficient Scotland’s Green Champion training
- 5.1.5** Build community capacity and support communities, households and individuals to transition to low-carbon living through initiatives that will also promote social and economic inclusion and improve health and wellbeing and equality. This will include measures which will support:
- active and green travel
  - access to affordable renewable energy, including local schemes
  - community growing initiatives and dietary changes to support more sustainable food behaviours
  - “green” leisure – e.g. walking; tree planting; habitat and wildlife conservation; community food growing
  - local shopping
  - waste reduction

This collective, community approach is essential given individual change to lowcarbon living – especially for those living in poverty and on low incomes – is very difficult without social support; affordable and accessible options and appropriate infrastructure.

The commitment to support community transition to low-carbon living will be included in the Local Outcome Improvement Plans and will require effective collaboration between residents, Community Boards, the community and voluntary sector, statutory sector and business sector.

## 5.2. Business Sector

Work with businesses located in North Lanarkshire to help them achieve net-zero carbon emissions as part of their contribution to an inclusive and green recovery supported by:

- workforce training on climate emergency and net-zero
- development and implementation of carbon management plans, supported by Resource Efficient Scotland's Green Champion training where needed
- low-carbon and zero-carbon innovation for market
- participation in the Scottish Bright Green Network's student placement programme
- participation in the Scottish Business Environmental Awards scheme - VIBES

## 5.3 Public Sector

Public Bodies such as North Lanarkshire Council; NHS Lanarkshire; Police Scotland Lanarkshire Division; Fire and Rescue North Lanarkshire - have legal duties to become net-zero carbon organisations by 2045 under Scottish Government climate legislation The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009; Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 Scottish Government's guidance to public bodies on their climate change duties includes requirements for them to:

- reduce emissions of carbon and other greenhouse gases
- adapt to climate change to mitigate harms
- act sustainably in all areas

To fulfil the above requirements, public bodies are expected to:

- assess their organisation's impact and influence on climate change and how climate change affects their organisation
- take mitigating and adaptive action
- report on progress and to demonstrate compliance.

North Lanarkshire's public bodies' fulfilment of their Climate Change public duties is therefore their contribution to this ACT Now Plan. However, they are also asked to:

- provide climate and carbon literacy training to their entire workforce
- support climate action in the community and within the community and voluntary and business sectors
- provide an annual update on their progress in fulfilling their climate change duties to NLP's Strategic Leadership Board, Community Boards and to the wider public.

## 5.4 Other Partnerships

NLP is complemented and supported by several other partnerships. The following partnerships will be asked to advise NLP's SLB how they contribute to or plan to contribute to achievement of net-zero carbon emissions by October 2021 and provide annual updates thereafter.

- North Lanarkshire Children's Services Partnership
- Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire

## 6. Delivery

- 6.1** Collective leadership for ACT Now is provided through NLP Strategic Leadership Board, with Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL) providing the lead partner role.
- 6.2** VANL's CEO will convene and chair an ACT Now Co-ordination Group which will support cross-sector delivery of the ACT Now plan, with representatives from following organisations:
- NLP statutory partners: North Lanarkshire Council; NHS Lanarkshire; Police Scotland Lanarkshire Division; Fire and Rescue North Lanarkshire; Scottish Enterprise
  - the North Lanarkshire community and voluntary sector through: Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire and the Biodiversity Climate Emergency Network
  - Further and Higher Education: through New College Lanarkshire and University of West of Scotland
  - business community: one small-medium enterprise (SME) and one large business with a base in North Lanarkshire
- 6.3** Delivery of the ACT Now plan will be supported by:
- all NLP partners - through (re)deployment of existing resources and additional resources where required and available
  - The nine Community Boards
  - North Lanarkshire Community and Voluntary Sector organisations and communities also play a role; however, additional resources will be needed to support the community engagement and action. Funding options will be identified and pursued from a variety of sources including the Scottish Government, National Lottery and charitable trusts.
- 6.4** The ACT Now Co-ordinating group will provide progress reports to the NLP Strategic Leadership Board every three months and to the nine Community Boards every six months.

## 7. ACT Now Communications

The ACT Now Co-ordinating Group will develop and support implementation of ACT Now communications assisted by North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire's Communications team. This will include:

- an ACT Now website linked to NLP partners' websites
- an ACT Now ebulletin
- social media
- local events
- regional and national liaison with key support organisations
- a presence at the United Nations Climate Conference - COP26 - in Glasgow in November 2021 and other relevant events

