

**NORTH
OF TYNE**



**COMBINED
AUTHORITY**

North of Tyne Combined Authority Carbon Footprint Report - November 2021

We now see that climate change is a credible, urgent and real threat. It threatens all we value: our families, our communities and our planet. Individuals, communities, businesses and government must all be involved in tackling the climate emergency, putting Climate Change at the forefront and heart of every single decision.

The Assembly urge the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the three Local Authorities of North of Tyne to direct all their departments and committees to consider the effects on Climate Change in every decision they make, whenever possible choosing the low carbon solution. This work must be a major priority for our Mayor who must lead the way and lead by example.

In deciding our action we must place fairness at the centre ensuring that those of us who are vulnerable and marginalised are not further disadvantaged. We must empower and support communities to take urgent, methodical and united action to get to net zero and create an environment in which all life can thrive.

We have a responsibility to act urgently and leave a fair legacy to conserve what we have and value now. If we don't act it will be too late. It is imperative that we speak on behalf of future generations as they have no voice.

Our region is one of outstanding beauty, character and a rich history. It is through our community spirit and resilience we will tackle this crisis together.

North of Tyne Citizens' Assembly Statement

Introduction

Company information

North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), The Lumen, St James Boulevard, Newcastle Helix, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5BZ.

NTCA office address for reporting period for this report:

North of Tyne Combined Authority, Quadrant West, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0QQ

Reporting Period

1st April 2019 to 31st March 2021

Background

The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) was legally established in November 2018 with permanent staff recruited from this date. The North of Tyne region has a population of 833,200 and covers an area of 5209.3km², spanning the administrative boundaries of the three constituent Local Authority areas of Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Council, Northumberland County Council.

All three constituent Local Authorities declared a climate emergency in 2019 and North of Tyne Mayor, Jamie Driscoll, declared a climate emergency on his first day in office on the 7th May 2019.

NTCA assists local authority efforts to address climate change by functioning as an investor, partner and convening authority, ensuring effective collaboration to add value and secure the additional investment and powers that the region needs.

The Combined Authority's Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change programme links directly to strategic priorities set out in NTCA's Economic Vision and the Devolution Deal. In March 2020, NTCA approved an Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change Blueprint and agreed a £24.2m investment fund allocation until 2023. This includes:

- a £12m allocation for the Offshore Wind Infrastructure and Innovation Programme.
- £10m allocation to establish a Green New Deal Fund.
- £2m for the Green Growth Skills programme.
- £100k for further development work for a revolving NTCA Carbon Reduction Fund.
- £100k to develop a pipeline of future interventions to support citizen, community and public sector engagement.

A further allocation of £80k to establish and deliver NTCA's Climate Change Citizens' Assembly was approved by Cabinet in February 2020. Our Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change was held between February and March 2021 and the full report can be found [here](#).

In June 2020, Cabinet approved NTCA's corporate policies, including our Environment Policy which sets out how NTCA will work towards becoming a net zero carbon organisation.

In June 2021, NTCA's [Corporate Plan](#) was published, highlighting our commitment to investing in energy, green growth and climate change mitigation. Additionally, our Corporate Plan outlines our ambition that the Transition to Net Zero is a cross cutting theme, ensuring our whole programme supports carbon reduction, clean growth and a new generation of good green jobs.

Since March 2020, NTCA has worked collaboratively with the constituent local authorities and wider regional stakeholders to deliver the bold programme of activity detailed in the £24.2m Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change Blueprint. This programme delivers low carbon energy, drives the green economy, and creates green jobs and skills, whilst addressing the climate emergency by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Green New Deal Fund (£9m):** NTCA has partnered with Amber infrastructure and their sister company Amber Fund Management Limited to deliver NTCA's flagship £18m North of Tyne Green New Deal Fund. The Fund comprises a £9m investment from NTCA, with Amber sourcing an additional £9m investment, bringing the total to £18m. The final stages of preparation are currently underway, ahead of its launch in November. This ground-breaking Fund will invest in projects which will deliver significant carbon savings as well as support new industry and jobs in areas where emissions reductions are most needed.
- **Energy for Growth Accelerator (£0.5m):** In partnership with the North East LEP, this will overcome market barriers and accelerate investment in low carbon projects across the North East. The Accelerator will provide enhanced capacity to develop a pipeline of shovel-ready low carbon projects. Two project managers have been appointed to work across the North East region and funding is available for consultancy, enabling projects to access the technical, commercial and legal support required to get to the point of investment. Following the programme launch in September, five projects across the North of Tyne are now receiving support from the Accelerator.
- **Green Growth Skills (£2m):** In September, NTCA launched a call for £2m of investment in Green Growth Skills. This is an opportunity to support employer-led investment in skills initiatives. NTCA is interested in innovative proposals that equip people with the skills they need to capitalise on the growing employment opportunities in the low carbon and renewable economy in the North of Tyne. Transitioning to a low carbon economy is not just about creating new jobs, but also changing the way we operate in existing ones. Proposals may also support the transition to a green economy, by supporting existing businesses or sectors to develop the skills needed to modernise and operate in a more resource-efficient way, minimising carbon emissions and preparing for climate change. The call will close in November.
- **Offshore Wind and Subsea Infrastructure Programme (£12.5m):** The Offshore and Subsea Infrastructure programme is supporting the development of a robust pipeline of investable propositions with a focus on developing

infrastructure in ports and quays; in technology demonstration and research opportunities; or to meet the needs of the offshore wind and supply chain. NTCA has taken an iterative approach, with the overall intention to build a robust pipeline and strengthen proposals to put North of Tyne partners in a much better position to seize future funding opportunities and attract private investment. NTCA has committed £5.8m for three investments to enhance the sites and infrastructure available and leverage an additional £6.75m. As discussed by Cabinet in September, an additional project - Battleship Wharf to Northumberland Energy Park by Blyth Harbour Commission – has been agreed, subject to final due diligence; with the project set to improve infrastructure and open up access to deep water berths.

Following a second call, NTCA received four Expressions of Interest for projects with a cumulative value of over £19m projected to create 477 jobs with many more expected indirectly through the supply chain. Given the success of the current programme and strength of the emerging pipeline, in September Cabinet approved an additional allocation of £4m to the Offshore Wind Programme budget for the programming period up to 2023. This will enable NTCA to capitalise on the momentum generated so far and continue successful delivery of the programme.

- **Technology, Innovation and Green Growth for Offshore Renewables (TIGGOR) Programme (£3.5m):** NTCA has invested £3.5m in an offshore technology innovation programme delivered in partnership with the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult, the UK's Leading Technology Innovation and Research Centre for Offshore Renewable Energy. The programme has two elements – de-risking technology innovation and business growth support. It is industry led, with partners such as industry giants Equinor, the developer of the world's largest offshore wind farm and EDF, the developer of the UK's first offshore wind farm. The industry partners shape the programme to boost supply chain growth and productivity. Following the first call, five companies have been selected to showcase their innovative technologies and will receive a share of £1.7m in match funding. The successful companies applied for support to accelerate innovative technology concepts in key areas of operations and maintenance for offshore wind. These technologies included remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), digital twins, cable arrays and sensors. A second funding call was launched in September for up to £1.3m and targets supply chain companies located in the North of Tyne region, providing opportunities for funding and support for technology innovation in offshore wind and subsea sectors.
- **Community Energy:** NTCA, with partners, has commissioned a report by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) titled '*Enabling Community Energy in the North East of England: Tackling the Climate Emergency*'. This work concludes that community energy has a very important role to play in the transition to net zero – with the potential to help achieve a very rapid uptake of energy efficiency measures, technologies, and behaviours. The report provides a series of recommendations for overcoming barriers to community energy, along with a potential plan for supporting community energy in the region. These recommendations are being taken forward by the North East Community Energy Steering Group established by the North East LEP.

- **Citizen, Community, and Public Sector Engagement:** NTCA has worked to help teachers in all three Local Authorities engage with United Nations Climate Change training programmes, as part of a drive to support school engagement. Additionally, in March 2020 NTCA allocated £100,000 to develop a pipeline of future interventions to support citizen, community, and public sector engagement. In June 2020, NTCA's Investment panel approved a budget for using online engagement platforms. This includes Spacehive, Nextdoor and Commonplace. The Spacehive platform enables crowdfunding for local community projects with the latest round focussed on green initiatives and food waste. As a result of a market engagement exercise the initial budget for Commonplace is £30,000 that can be utilised to support engagement work that falls out from the Citizens' Assembly, the wider Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change programme and other NTCA initiatives as appropriate.
- **Housing Retrofit:** NTCA has commissioned the Energy Savings Trust (EST), supported by Frontier Economics and Accelar Ltd, to develop a robust evidence base to support the design of a large-scale housing retrofit programme for the North of Tyne region. This will include the provision of a database of the energy efficiency of housing stock across all tenures, and a dashboard to support the analysis of the data. The housing stock baseline will be used to create a funding options report that will include estimates on green job creation associated with retrofitting homes across the North of Tyne. With the support of Narec Distributed Energy, NTCA is also designing the development of a new delivery framework to access and procure professional services and contracting services to deliver large scale low carbon retrofit programmes.
- **Working together and collaboration:** At the inaugural Green Economy Summit, jointly hosted by NTCA and Newcastle University, the crucial importance of collaboration to achieve success in our net zero goals was highlighted. NTCA is currently working in partnership with Ashden on a two-year co-benefits project, looking at how low carbon benefits can be secured by the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and other organisations, alongside their other objectives.

NTCA Carbon Footprint

This is the North of Tyne Combined Authority's first organisational greenhouse gas report. Our baseline year is 2019-20 and this report covers our first two years of operation between the period 2019-2021.

Approach

We have followed the guidance issued by [DEFRA](#) on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions. We have used the [2019 Greenhouse Gas Reporting conversion factors](#) published annually by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to calculate organisational emissions.

Organisational boundary

NTCA reports on operational emissions that it can directly influence and reduce. Currently, it has 56 members of staff and occupies a small office space as a tenant,

with one electric vehicle for staff use leased from Newcastle City Council. Although NTCA is not obliged to report on operational emissions, NTCA accepts a responsibility to demonstrate leadership as well as the ability to influence and reduce staff energy and business-related transport emissions. We will seek to continually improve our performance, working in partnership with our staff, neighbours, constituent Local Authorities, and wider stakeholders.

Geographical breakdown

All emissions within the direct influence of NTCA are within the UK.

Base year

The baseline year for emissions reporting is 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

Operational scope

NTCA's Environment Policy sets out how NTCA intends to work towards becoming a net zero carbon organisation. It commits NTCA to publicly report the 'auditable' carbon footprint of our organisation on an annual basis – this will include emissions that we can directly account for via our energy bills and business travel.

Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions are **direct emissions** from activities owned or controlled by your organisation that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. Examples include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, and vehicles.

Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions are **indirect emissions** released into the atmosphere associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling.

The NTCA Environment Policy commits NTCA to offset organisational Scope 1 and 2 emissions where we are unable to further reduce our organisational energy use and business mileage. NTCA will do this using an accredited provider that only invests in verifiable offset projects in the UK. As far as possible, these will be geographically located in the North of Tyne.

Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions are **other indirect emissions** that are a consequence of your actions, which occur at sources which you do not own or control and which are not classed as scope 2 emissions. Examples include business travel by means not owned or controlled by your organisation, waste disposal, or purchased materials or fuels.

NTCA Environment Policy commits us to regularly review options to monitor, report and reduce the embedded and indirect carbon emissions that arise from organisational activities. However, it does not commit us to offset any Scope 3 emissions (other than business travel, which we can accurately monitor, so have been included in our organisational carbon footprint).

Issues relevant to note in relation to our baseline and annual reporting include:

- NTCA was established by an act of Parliament in November 2018 so the first full financial year of operation and the baseline year for reporting is April 2019 to March 2020.

- NTCA is a relatively small office and does not own building assets or fleet vehicles – in contrast to Local Authorities who are large employers that own assets and operate and commission a wide range of services across their local areas.
- There were no sub-meters for energy or water consumption in our offices at Quadrant West. Emissions have been calculated by sub-dividing the building scale energy consumption to a proportion based on NTCA occupancy of one floor of the building for the baseline year 2019-20.
- From 24th March 2020, NTCA staff worked from home as per government guidance so no business travel is included in the greenhouse gas emissions reporting for April 2020-March 2021. Our energy consumption while we were working from home has been estimated based on average domestic energy consumption in 2018 for North of Tyne. **This means the data reported below is not directly comparable to the baseline year of April 2020-March 2021 as it is not a 'like for like' comparison.**
- In the future, following our move to new offices at The Lumen, it will be possible to improve the accuracy of reporting on our emissions as The Lumen will have sub-metered data displays that will show the actual CO₂ emissions associated with organisational energy consumption.
- NTCA understands that offsetting carbon emissions is not a replacement for changing organisational behaviour to reduce the emissions associated with our day-to-day business. NTCA has invested in woodland creation verified under the Woodland Carbon Code as part of our strategy to reduce our corporate emissions. The Woodland Carbon Code is the voluntary standard for UK woodland creation projects where claims are made about the carbon dioxide they sequester. Independent validation and verification to this standard provides assurance and clarity about the carbon savings of these sustainably managed woodlands.
 - A **Woodland Carbon Unit (WCU)** is a tonne of CO₂e¹ which has been sequestered in a WCC-verified woodland. It has been independently verified, is guaranteed to be there, and can be used by companies to report against UK-based emissions or to use in claims of carbon neutrality or Net Zero emissions.
 - A **Pending Issuance Unit (PIU)** is effectively a 'promise to deliver' a Woodland Carbon Unit in future, based on predicted sequestration. It is not 'guaranteed' therefore cannot be used to report against UK-based emissions until verified. However, it allows organisations to plan to

¹ CO₂e or carbon dioxide equivalent is the number of metric tons of CO₂ emissions within the same global warming potential as one metric ton of another greenhouse gas.

compensate for future UK-based emissions and make credible statements in support of woodland creation and Corporate Social Responsibility. When a project is verified, PIUs which have been confirmed as sequestered will be converted to WCUs and can be considered as full carbon 'credits', and as such be used/retired/reported.

	Tonnes of CO ₂ e	
	2019-20	2020-21*
Scope 1		
Gas consumption	46.78	100.14
Scope 2		
Electricity consumption	49.65	32.04
Scope 3		
Business mileage	1.12	0
Offset emissions	NTCA has not offset emissions but has invested in 1196 Pending Issuance Units representing tonnes of CO ₂ expected to be sequestered over a ten-year period between 2019-2029**	
Total annual net emissions	97.55	132.18

*please note that emissions for 2020-21 have been calculated based on average domestic energy consumption due to staff homeworking as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, so they are **not** directly comparable to emissions calculated for the previous year.

** NTCA has invested in woodland creation as we work towards becoming a net zero organisation. We have purchased 1146 Pending Issuance Units from Forest Carbon for Doddington North. Doddington North is new mixed woodland located in Wooler, Northumberland. Planting only concluded at this site in 2020 and so these units represent carbon capture that will occur in the future, as the woodland grows. There are no Woodland Carbon Code certified woodlands in the region mature enough yet to have delivered measurable carbon savings, which would be represented by verified Woodland Carbon Units. Forest Carbon develops woodland creation and peatland restoration projects for carbon capture and ecosystem services in the UK. The woodland schemes are certified by the Woodland Carbon Code and planting the 'right tree in the right place' is required through adherence to the Forestry Commission standard