

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership Minutes

Date: 07.04.2021

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Present:

Lorraine Gore (Chair) – Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Dave Robson – Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Henry Saunders – Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Michel Bolaboto – Breckland District Council

Harry Mach – Broads Authority

Ellen Goodwin – New Anglia LEP

Nigel Stannett – North Norfolk District Council

Annie Sommazzi – North Norfolk District Council

Richard Willson – Norwich City Council

John Jones – Norfolk County Council

Apologies:

Ged Greaves - Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Greg Pearson – Breckland District Council

Trevor Wiggett – Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework Member Forum

James Wilson – Great Yarmouth Borough Council

James Allen – New Anglia LEP

Martin Horlock – Norfolk County Council

Tony Cooke – South Norfolk/Broadland District Council

1. Welcome & notes from last meeting

Previous meeting notes were approved.

An update on NCCs EV paper was provided. This paper will now go to NCC members in July 2021.

2. Clean growth

a) LEP update

A brief update was provided to members on the LEPs clean growth task force and their key areas of work:

- Short term focus on transport. Transport board also looking to do some work on public transport covid recovery.

- Skills: main focus being through the decarbonisation academy, which will look at how the skills agenda will move forward through the green and clean growth agenda.
- Business support; providing business with advice and support.

b) Discussion on focus areas

Skills agenda was mentioned in relation to the community renewal fund and their open call for bids. It was suggested as a group that we could put in a skills agenda bid. This could be to help improve skills in relation to EV servicing or renewable energy domestic installations, citing green homes grant installer issues.

It was mentioned that the LEP could help us explore this skills element, perhaps with their decarbonisation academy, which would also have links to a partner e.g., colleges.

Bid information was provided:

- Deadline: Friday the 14th of May.
- Minimum bid: £250,000.
- Looking for significant/high impact ideas.
- Money doesn't come onstream until August 2021.
- Project needs to be completed by March 2022.
- Priority areas: Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Norwich and North Norfolk.

It was agreed that we set up a workshop / task and finish group to help take this work forward at pace.

Industry and commercial emissions were raised in relation to where this fits in with the LEPs work. It was highlighted that this is on the agenda, and a key aspect of this is getting the messaging right and being mindful that the right person is having those conversations. It was highlighted that it'd be useful to get a full understanding/steer from the LEP with regards to where they stand with this work.

It was highlighted if it was worth trying to get a Norfolk strategic approach with the EV work, given the slight delay to taking the NCC report to members. This suggestion was received positively and will be taken up at our next meeting. It was highlighted that it'd be useful to share the draft report for this work.

For a Norfolk strategic approach to EV charging each authority would need to agree to the NCC work ongoing and take this to their relevant portfolio holder for buy in, and then to Norfolk chief execs.

It was suggested that we go back to Norfolk Chief Execs to get a stronger steer going forwards. Feed into them the EV work that NCC and LEP is doing.

A new fund to tackle EV infrastructure solutions, which closes on the 21st of April was highlighted. NCC report will investigate if it'd be possible to go through the fund and let NCCP know.

3. Follow up on challenges to emissions reductions

At our previous full meeting it was highlighted that there are some challenges to corporate emissions reductions, in relation to business travel, staff commuting and increase domestic emissions from home working.

North Norfolk mentioned their work on individual packages for members of staff, through 'Mobilityways', zero carbon commuting.

Reducing emissions as part of homeworking was discussed and offering options to staff for renewable energy tariffs was highlighted as an option through Norwich City Council's Roar Power and Octopus Energy.

A competitive tariff (not bespoke) could be offered / promoted to all of Norfolk Authorities' employees. This could be done almost immediately, with the process to switch being very simple (3 screen shots).

Solar together was also mentioned as another each scheme to participate in. Norwich City Council rep will provide more info for further discussion at our next meeting.

Broads Authority are conducting a trial on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil, which is a close replacement to diesel. This is being looked at as an option to replace Red Diesel. Environment Agency have had good results with this. Further information is to be distributed to the group.

4. Learning from the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership

Key take away from BCKLWN conversation with the SCCP:

- Started with quick and easy joint action to create a presence. Any joint work could be partnership work. There therefore may be scope for GHG LAD joint work with the second round of funding later in 2021.
- They have key aims, that have come out of scope piece of work which will feed into a united action plan for Suffolk.
- They have more frequent meetings (every 3 weeks at times) which allow for continued momentum.

The united action plan for Suffolk was discussed, in relation to whether that sort of united net-zero action plan for Norfolk, was where this group should develop towards.

It was suggested that we explore this steer for Norfolk and that we need to be mindful that all of Norfolk is not politically on the same page, especially with regards to climate emergency declarations. However, it was noted that the climate change/green agenda is becoming more aligned across Norfolk.

It was discussed and agreed that we need to revise our workplan to establish agreed actions for the short and medium term and that it was worth looking into more frequent meetings.

Capacity issues were raised as something to keep in mind, but since we appear to be coming out of the pandemic, the frequency of NCCP meetings can be increased.

Finally, it was raised that the SCCP have the Suffolk Constabulary and the Environment Agency involved. It was agreed that when looking to update the NCCP terms of reference and workplan, we should also review membership.

5. Future work programme

a) Canopy cover

BCKLWN is looking into a canopy cover piece of work and wondered if there was appetite across Norfolk to be involved in this kind of work.

NCC highlighted their GIS and LIDAR initial work to identify trees and assessment on size, which is 85% accurate.

It was re-iterated that it would be useful to identify a baseline and a common approach in Norfolk for tree planting work would be a good way forward. This would be another opportunity for joint working, in relation to getting accredited carbon credits for tree planting and canopy cover. A joint Norfolk approach to carbon crediting was highlighted a useful future endeavour.

The 1 million trees commitment was raised and NCC will provide an update at the next meeting.

It was also highlighted that it may be worth holding off on this work until the environment bill comes out, which could contain some useful information.

b) Update on BCKLWN website capacity

- BCKLWN has capacity to develop a website.

- Need to discuss a domain name, as the feelings were that NCCP may be taken and/or not clear.
- Need to identify a colour scheme.

BCKLWN rep will work on a draft and circulate at the next meeting.

6. Items for next meeting

Work programme and terms of reference.

Follow up on NCC EV and trees work.

Website draft.

Roar Power and Octopus energy.

Update on community renewal fund bid.

7. AOB

NCC rep to gain feedback on if a skill bid for the community renewal fund is appropriate for the fund – then BCKLWN rep will organise a meeting for the week of the 19th of April 2021.

8. Date of next meeting

Next full NCCP meeting in early May.