Climate Emergency: Where Next?

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LA’s unique position on carbon targets & fuel poverty

- democratic route
- offers opportunity to share benefits of energy revolution equitably.
- planning powers
- Large number buildings
- Large fleet of vehicles.
- responsibility for social housing, economic regeneration, transport and social care.
Local Energy Revolution

- Exciting local energy revolution;
- Nottingham and Bristol leading the way;
- Nottingham has over 40 renewable energy projects;
- Bristol has launched a £1bn “City Leap” prospectus to finance a range of projects;
Recent Developments

- Warrington to become 1st LA to produce all its own electricity, following a landmark funding deal with Investec Bank and Leapfrog Finance to build solar farms at two sites in York and Hull - will generate ‘millions of pounds’ in profits every year for 30 years
Warrington

- Bought 50% stake in Together Energy – Clydebank-based utility;
- installed 3,000+ PV on factory in Warrington which makes plastic car components;
- Bought bonds in Swindon solar farm;
- PV on at least 1,500 homes;
Finding the Finance

- Prospectus to attract £1bn for low carbon investment in Bristol;
- Other examples include:
- Setting up arms-length energy companies which can raise their own finance through borrowing against a Business Plan;
Finding the Finance 2

- Partnering with community energy to issue shares for renewable projects;
- Buying a ready-made solar farm or building a new one, using capital reserves, to generate income;
- Launching a solar bond to fund new solar farms;
Finding the Finance 3

- Using a management company to install solar PV on council-owned buildings & share income;
- Using Power Purchase Agreements;
- Using Salix Finance Ltd
- European Union.
Finding the Finance 4

- Nottingham’s Workplace Parking Levy;
- Newham Council requires every privately rented home to pay for a licence; funds used to check homes meet minimum efficiency standards.
Mobilise public procurement to support climate emergency

- Stop pension funds financing dirty energy – Swansea to reduce by 50% over next 4 yrs;
- Purchase only renewable electricity;
- Bristol Energy will take 3.55MW of power generated by wind farms in Suffolk and Aberdeenshire;
Transport

- Announce no longer buying fossil fuel vehicles;
- Ensure rapid transition to EVs for vehicles used by council staff but not owned by the council;
- Use the licensing system to ensure that all taxis are electric by a certain date;
- Introduce a differential charging for residents parking permits depending on the cars carbon emissions;
- Support car-sharing schemes;
Dundee – solar EV charging

- Dundee at vanguard;
- largest no. of electric minicabs in UK (134)
- UK’s largest local authority fleet, with 117 electric cars and vans;
- council-owns four solar-powered charging hubs;
- highest number of rapid chargers of any Scot city;
Vehicle to Grid (V2G)

- Central & Local Gov across UK has a fleet of 75,000 vehicles;
- EVs will come back to depots probably with a 90% charge which could be sold back to the grid during the peak (red zone) period of 4.30 to 7.00. Charge up again in the small hours.
Promote Walking & Cycling

- HoC report: widespread personal vehicle ownership not compatible with decarbonisation;
- address traffic jams, urban sprawl and wasted space for parking, pollution & obesity
Enhance Energy Efficiency

- Enhance En Ef in Council Buildings: Re:fit programme finance;
- LED bulb replacement – Solihull plans to cut street lighting costs in half by 2024;
- All new buildings should be zero carbon;
- Use powers to go beyond building standards
Stirling Council has installed solar on over 2,600 council homes. Over 7MW of capacity.

Has now installed batteries in 94 properties.
Planning for zero carbon heating

- By 2050 or 2045 in Scotland virtually all buildings will need to be heated without fossil fuels;
- Half UK’s principal councils have declared a climate emergency – usually means zero by 2030.
Zero Carbon Heating

- Heat networks are projected to meet 17% of demand in homes & up to 24% in industrial and public-sector by 2050;
- Green Hydrogen might be less disruptive for householders but likely to be more expensive than natural gas;
- Solar thermal & biomass
Stirling District Heat Network

- New £6m renewable energy scheme providing low-cost heat from wastewater from the city’s sewage works.
- Initially network will deliver low-carbon heat to key public buildings, but could expand to housing.
Clydebank District Heating

- £250m Queen’s Quay regeneration project in Clydebank will use water from the Clyde to help heat a mix of residential, commercial and public buildings via 5MW of heat pumps and a district heat network.
Electric Heating

- Favoured by CCC
- Electricity costs 4x gas;
- could be too expensive if done wrong way.
- The best way to make affordable - massive energy efficiency programme.
- Use new technologies e.g. heat storage plus off peak electricity
Edinburgh Community Energy
Smart Energy

- Community projects leading smart revolution – converting surplus renewables to hydrogen or stored heat.
- Surf n’ Turf; Garmony Hydro; Tower Power.
- In Cornwall Centrica is using blockchain so consumers can buy & sell from each other.
Meaningful Consent

- Things done without new funding
- Ways to find funding;
- Putting in place the detailed policies needed require sustained electoral support;
- Avoid populist backlash;
- Consult; ask people how they can contribute;
- convene citizen assembly