TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN UK AND IRISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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Provided to NFLA All Ireland meeting 5th June & NFLA English and Welsh Forum joint meeting
12th June 2020
Almost 300 local authorities across the UK and Ireland have declared a climate emergency since Bristol City Council made the first declaration in November 2018.
NFLA’S TEN ESSENTIAL ACTIONS

1. Buy renewable energy;
2. Build renewable energy;
3. Do and enforce energy efficiency improvements on council properties, social housing and new buildings;
4. Stop buying fossil fuelled vehicles immediately;
5. Start replacing current vehicles with EVs and hydrogen powered vehicles;
6. Install EV charging points;
7. Plan for tree planting;
8. Switch to locally grown food sources in council run institutions. More allotments;
9. Prioritise pedestrian and cycling strategies;
10. Draw up a detailed climate emergency plan with citizens’ assemblies and large institutions.
Central government needs to work with local government if it's going to meet zero carbon targets.

- Zero carbon targets need actions which need funding;
- Despite National Targets there is a reluctance to grant LAs powers and funding;
- Councils need to work together to persuade government;
- Some Councils are moving forward quickly; others falling behind;
- Central and devolved governments should seek to create low carbon energy partnerships with LAs, rather than supporting projects in a haphazard way.
In Warrington, Nottingham, West Suffolk solar projects generating income for the Councils;

Bristol’s City Leap aims to attract investment of up to £1bn;

EU Regional Development Funding (e.g. to install solar & batteries in council housing);

Salix Funding in UK (interest-free)

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland funding for low carbon energy zones;
Work with community co-ops who raise money through share offers e.g. Newport and Egni to develop renewables;

- City of London plans to meet its renewable energy targets with a Power Purchase Agreement;

- South Somerset selling grid balancing services after having invested in an energy storage battery;

- Introduce a workplace parking levy (Nottingham, Scotland considering it).
1. Own: Find a senior officer or councillor to co-ordinate
2. Understand: Assess the key contributing causes;
3. Plan: Agree targets, set milestones, identify what needs to be done, by when, to meet the target;
4. Collaborate: with a wide variety of organisations, individuals, businesses and government;
5. Prioritise: What action can you take that will have the biggest impact? What has to be done to adapt to unavoidable risks?
6. Budget: Cost your actions and prepare your business case;
7. Invest: Secure investment and procure partners;
8. Implement: Set out a detailed implementation programme and stick to it;
9. Monitor - Obtain good quality data on results

NINE KEY STEPS TO EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION, PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION
The Local Government Association identifies the top 5 projects for carbon savings out of 31 actions put forward by Ashden/FoE:

- Projects which identify and invest in renewable energy sources are the ones which generate the greatest carbon savings;
- Projects focussing on transport issues such as encouraging a rapid shift to electric vehicles by offering EV charging points are next best;
Nottingham CityHomes is the first housing association in the UK to pilot net zero retrofits using the Energiesprong approach.

Energiesprong is a Dutch concept delivering energy efficient homes.

Typically an Energiesprong retrofit solution includes new highly insulated outside walls and windows, a solar roof, state of the art heating system, plus monitoring equipment to verify actual energy performance.
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.
Stirling Council has installed solar on over 2,600 council homes Over 7MW of capacity.

Has now installed batteries in 94 properties.
Hinkley mud detailed submission.
Bradwell B and Sizewell C responses.
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