

Devon

In response to the latest report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, various local authorities and organisations in Devon have declared climate emergencies that aim to decarbonise Devon by 2050 at the latest. All of the following information has been obtained from Devon County Council's website www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange.

Emergency Response

Borrowing procedures from civil emergency preparedness and response protocols, a strategic-level teleconference of the Local Resilience Forum ((LRF) - multi-agency partnership made up of representatives from local public services, including the blue light emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and other partners) was convened on 9 May 2019. This group of 25 chief executives, directors agreed to form the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) and a supporting Tactical Group.

Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG)

The Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) is made up of senior officers of about 25 organisations including councils, emergency services, businesses and voluntary organisations and has been established to provide the strategic coordination of a collaborative response to the [Devon Climate Emergency](#) response.

Vision

A net-zero carbon Devon, with its environment and communities resilient to the effects of inevitable climate change. Net-zero means that the balance of carbon sinks and emissions in any one year will be zero.

Scope

The scope extends across all carbon-emitting activity in Devon (including production and consumption emissions), and climate-related risks to its communities. This includes all those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate in Devon.

Objectives

To coordinate a collaborative Devon-wide response to the climate emergency to:

- facilitate the reduction of carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050 at the latest.
- prepare Devon for the necessary adaptations to infrastructure and services to respond to a 1.5-degree warmer world.

Deliverables

1. A Devon Carbon Plan
2. A review of Devon's climate-related community risks and opportunities
3. A plan from each signatory to the Devon Climate Declaration, within 6 months of signing, to reduce their organisational carbon emissions

Role

To provide strategic coordination to ensure appropriate processes are collectively planned, resourced and delivered to achieve the project objectives and deliverables.

Meetings

Initially the Response Group is meeting on an ad-hoc basis whilst the project start-up phase is underway. Thereafter, the frequency will be every 2 months. Meetings will be dial-in with a physical option where low-carbon transport can be used.

Membership

Membership will be by invitation to strategic and membership organisations to provide officer representation across the identified sectors (to retain political impartiality). Organisations currently involved are:

Local Authorities	Research Institutions
Dartmoor National Park Authority	Met Office
Devon Association of Local Councils	University of Exeter
Devon County Council	
East Devon District Council	Emergency Services and Preparedness
Exeter City Council	Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LRF
Exmoor National Park Authority	Devon and Cornwall Police
Mid Devon District Council	South West Ambulance Service Trust
Plymouth City Council	
South Hams District Council	Health
Teignbridge District Council	Public Health England
Torridge District Council	Public Health Devon
West Devon Borough Council	Devon CCG
Environment	Business
Devon Wildlife Trust	Heart of the South West LEP
Environment Agency	
Natural Devon	Utility Operators
	South West Water
	Western Power Distribution

Sub-Groups and Workstreams

The Response Group can establish sub-groups, both indefinitely and on a task-and-finish basis, to progress specific items and deliverable, or assign these to an existing multi-agency group that is well placed to act.

Resources

Financial and in-kind resources to achieve the deliverables are to be sought from each of the Response Group members to reflect the collaboration. Where relevant, additional resources for specific tasks may be found from other sources. A dedicated Project Manager will be appointed by Devon County Council to support this process, acting in the interest of all members.

Devon Climate Declaration

The DCERG initially set out a shared ambition in the [Devon Climate Declaration](#), which was endorsed by its members on the 22nd May 2019. The main actions the signatories to the Declaration will be committing to are:

1. to review organisational carbon reduction plans within 6 months to meet or exceed the IPCC targets.
2. collaborating on the production and implementation of a Devon Carbon Plan to meet the IPCC recommendations at the latest.
3. a willingness to lobby for required national policy changes and resources to implement the Devon Carbon Plan
4. agreeing to collectively review community-related risks from a 1.5-degree warmer world.

Devon County Council has made £250,000 available for the preparation of the emergency response and has agreed to appoint a multi-agency project manager on behalf of all of the DCERG partners.

The authority also funded a carbon footprinting workshop for DCERG partners and parish/town councils on the 23rd July. The [Centre for Energy and Environment](#) at the University of Exeter shared a standardised approach to preparing an organisational carbon footprint to enable signatories to meet the first commitment of the Declaration described above.

Devon Carbon Plan

At its meeting on the 26th June 2019, the DCERG agreed to appoint a specialist [Net-Zero Task Force](#) to develop the Devon Carbon Plan. This Task Force will consist of 12 people with expertise in areas relevant to carbon reduction and will be drawn from economic, environmental, health and academic organisations, and chaired by a leading climate expert.

A series of thematic hearings will be delivered by the Task Force where experts will be invited to answer questions to determine the barriers and opportunities of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in specific areas such as transport, new development, waste, and agriculture.

The hearings will identify if any additional research is necessary before putting forward potential policy options for inclusion in the Devon Carbon Plan.

Options drawn up by the Task Force will be tested and refined at a series of [citizens' assembly](#) meetings, which will be scheduled to take place next spring in order to help inform the content of the draft plan. A full public consultation will then be held on

the draft plan, with the aim of the DCERG organisations adopting the final plan by the end of 2020.

The Tactical Group will work with the Chair of the Net-Zero Task Force, once appointed, to identify 11 further nominations to recommend to the Response Group at its next meeting on the 30th July.

The Devon Carbon Plan will complement activity that is being planned by individual organisations and geographies. Collating the various layers of activity across the county, and being represented by one unified group, will provide a stronger voice when asking government for the support and resources necessary to achieve a net-zero Devon.

Review of Climate-Related Community Risks

The DCERG has also agreed the formation of the [Climate Impacts Group](#) that is undertaking an initial review of the risks currently identified by the Local Resilience Forum to assess the impact from climate over the coming decades. The Group is chaired by Devon and Cornwall Police. The initial review is expected to be complete by early 2020. Following this initial review, it is likely that community preparedness and risk-mitigation activity will need to be assessed. Further task and finish groups may be established for this purpose.

Stakeholder Map

The stakeholder map (Appendix 1) provides a picture of how the groups fit together and where some of the opportunities are for different types of organisations to be involved in the emergency response.