

Appendix 2 - Summary of the Net Zero Torbay Report 2020

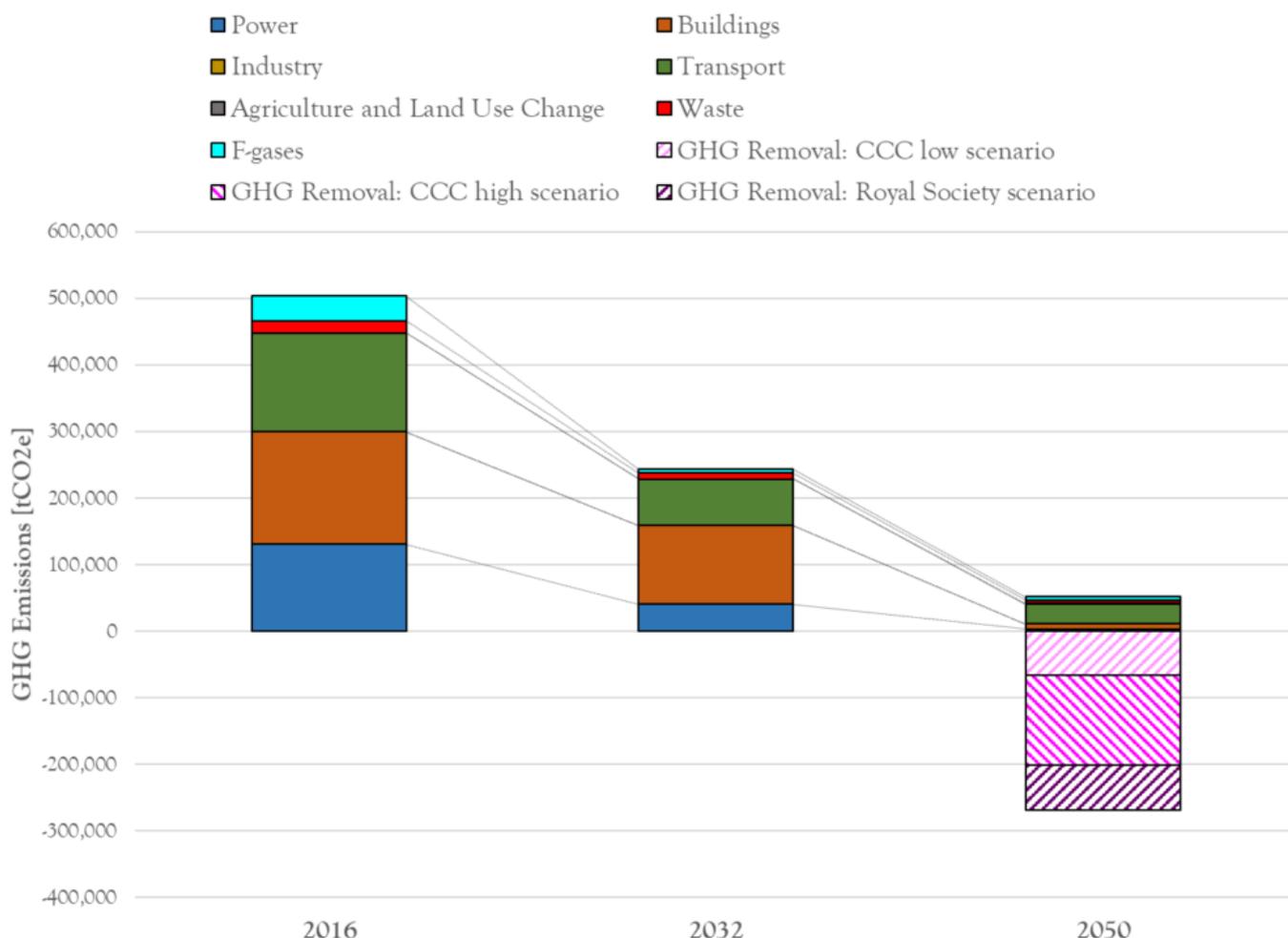
This appendix is a brief summary of the Net Zero Torbay report commissioned by Torbay Council and Devon County Council and carried out by University of Exeter's Centre for Energy and the Environment.

Executive summary

University of Exeter have used planned current¹ government policies (some of which require significant development) to project how Torbay may be able to meet a carbon neutral² target by 2050, and earlier by 2030.

Achieving the target by 2050

The research shows that even if all planned and future governmental actions take place locally, a 90% reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions could be possible by 2050. The inclusion of GHG removal technologies or offsetting³ would be required to achieve carbon neutrality.



¹ Please note this research was carried out in 2020 and government policy has developed since the report was carried out.

² This means taking as much carbon dioxide gases out of the atmosphere as we put in. We will reduce Torbay's carbon emissions to as near to zero as possible. Where residual emissions exist, these will be balanced by removals from the atmosphere

³ Technology or schemes that capture and store carbon, preventing it entering the atmosphere. Offsetting involves paying someone else to save or capture and store carbon emissions on your behalf.

Achieving the target by 2030

Achieving the same amount of carbon reduction by 2030 would in effect require compressing the same measures into a timeframe that is only about one-third as long. For some of the proposed measures this might be possible. In other cases, faster deployment may be possible but would increase cost and other barriers would have to be overcome.

These issues are significant when considered at a national level but would be exacerbated if Torbay were to pursue an accelerated timeline independently of the planned rate of change nationally. This would mean that many of these measures needed would need to be deployed without the support of national policy (e.g. regulation or financial rewards) and in many cases would rely on utilising technology that may not be sufficiently developed (or that is very expensive) to achieve the requisite amount of GHG emission reduction.

Immediate actions

The research suggests that to make immediate progress towards net zero locally a range of priority actions are needed. These are summarised below.

Sector	Immediate Priority
Power	Use the review of the potential for renewable energy in Torbay to identify potential renewable energy sites and make provision for these in the local plan.
Buildings	Investigate opportunities to require zero carbon from all new planned development.
Buildings	Undertake a bottom-up assessment of opportunities for insulation in existing dwellings by tenure, and seek to make use of existing Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding whilst lobbying for more ambitious national insulation programmes.
Buildings	Pro-actively enforce the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) which apply to all privately rented dwellings and non-domestic buildings.
Buildings	Seek to engage the non-domestic sector by working with landlords and institutions like the Chamber of Commerce to identify the potential for retrofitting existing non-domestic buildings.
Buildings	Create a renewable heat strategy for Torbay by appraising the potential for low carbon heat networks, heat pumps, and hybrid boilers, including identifying current potential funding models and barriers to uptake.
Buildings	Work in partnership with large energy users in the non-domestic sectors such as Torbay hospital and share best practice in energy reduction.
Transport	Explore ways to promote the uptake of electric vehicles in Torbay e.g. via reduced or free parking.
Transport	Work with partners to plan and develop charging infrastructure across Torbay in key public locations and workplaces with a particular focus on enabling visitors to charge electric vehicles.

Transport	Seek to shift trips from private car to lower carbon alternatives such as walking, cycling, car clubs and public transport with solutions that are suitable for the hilly topography of Torbay.
Transport	Work with Stagecoach and other bus providers to consider the business case for replacing the existing bus fleet with zero carbon variants, e.g. by following London's example.
Waste	Ensure food/biodegradable waste collected is directed to efficient local Anaerobic Digestion facilities.
Waste	Develop local promotion campaigns with the aim of reducing waste generation (especially food waste) with a 25% reduction by 2025 and to increase Torbay's household/municipal recycling rates from the current 42.6% (South West 49.7%) to 65% to reduce disposal emissions.

The full report and list of priority actions is available [here](#).