

Delivery Plan for Climate Leadership in National Parks

This document is one of a suite of 4 inter-connected plans devised by the ten English National Park Authorities (NPAs) to drive action in climate leadership in response to the 25 year Environment Plan and climate imperative.



Climate Leadership vision - We will work together, and at scale, to achieve rapid action towards net zero in National Parks.

We commit to developing a climate action programme for National Parks that:

- Leads to a rapid escalation in tackling the climate emergency and establishes NPAs as leaders in meeting the challenges it presents.
- Increases our understanding, and those of others, around the impacts of Climate Change.
- Uses our Partnership Management Plans to deliver action on reducing emissions and adapting to Climate Change at a landscape scale, making them exemplars for action.
- Demonstrates how a rapid response and transition to low-carbon living can be achieved.
- Promotes the principle of achieving 'Net Zero with Nature'.
- Works collectively, and with constituent authorities, towards becoming 'Net zero' by 2040.
- Promotes nature-based solutions and supports behaviour change beyond our boundaries.
- Leads by example, through achieving 'net zero' NPAs by 2030 wherever practicable.

This will deliver:

- **Enhanced** understanding of emissions and net zero with nature embedded
- **Leading to** rapid, innovative and well-targeted actions
- **Resulting in** significantly lower emissions and more resilient National Parks

We will do this by:

- Securing additional funding to establish a consistent Carbon Budget baseline for all ten National Parks to understand how and where to prioritise actions to reach net zero by the fastest possible time, a monitoring framework to report by, and progress towards net zero.
- The Management Plans for each National Park will codify this and set out a clear strategy and delivery plan.
- Employing a climate change officer in each NPA to coordinate data and lead delivery of the park's net zero plan.
- Developing a communications plan for the overall programme (National Parks England), with tailored plans for each park resourced from within existing allocations.

We will also embed our net zero vision into existing and future programmes by:

- Helping support the rapid transition to a low-carbon economy for land-based sectors, ensuring that land use change delivers sustainable land management, and improvements to soils/increased carbon sequestration.
- Demonstrating how nature-based solutions can help develop resilience to climate change at a landscape scale.
- Using our planning powers to deliver highly sustainable homes, raise the bar in terms of design and build standards via the use of incentives.
- Promoting sustainable tourism and demonstrating the benefit of “low carbon” holiday destinations, thereby spreading positive lifestyle messages.
- Better communicating how changes in land-use as a result of climate action might affect the landscape character/ visual appearance of National Parks.
- Using the full range of NPA skills and resources to encourage climate action at strategic, landscape and local community levels.
- Advocating through NPE policy change in Government that will provide NPAs with the tools locally to deliver net zero.
- Promoting collaboration at strategic level between NPAs and AONBs.
- Developing pilot projects that demonstrate how to finance Nature Recovery through carbon off-setting schemes, and support National Park Partnership’s Net Zero with Nature proposal.
- Using our convening power to energise a coalition of the willing to take forward our vision.

We will monitor progress against this Plan and undertake a light-touch review each year.

How you can help:

- **Better data and information** – Government departments and agencies to provide NPAs with improved data, cut to National Park boundaries on carbon storage by land use or habitat type, in order to make more informed choices on land use change.
- **Communicating the need for change and solutions** – Document and share evidence of the impacts from the increase and magnitude of extreme weather events on National Parks to tell a wider story; work with us to promote case studies of nature based and adaptation solutions; education providers to work with NPAs to support learning on what the natural environment can do for mitigating and adapting to climate change; improve the understanding of the existential nature of the climate and ecological crises.
- **Galvanize action nationally and internationally** – Ministers to consider the opportunities that partnering with National Parks at a UK level can provide to highlight nature-based solutions as part of the Government’s CoP26 communications; the Committee on Climate Change to use practical examples from National Parks and work with NPE on removing barriers to progress; work closely with partners who have also declared net zero ambitions, particularly the NFU (2040), National Trust (2030) and Environment Agency (2030).
- **Galvanize action locally** – Collaborate with communities to achieve Climate Change targets; Parishes to work with NPAs to support the development of “net zero” Neighbourhood Plans; work with NPAs to develop a network of Climate Change ‘Champions’ to promote best practice and deliver local training; support communities that are ready and willing to make a fast transition to ‘net zero’, using these communities as exemplars for others to learn from and follow; set up or engage with citizens assemblies.
- **Promote low carbon travel** – Transport Authorities and providers to work with NPAs on changing attitudes to support the shift to low-carbon travel; support and encourage people to go ‘car free’ during their visit to National Parks; build and promote off road cycle infrastructure and electric public transport networks; Visit England to support NPE’s move to emphasise net zero experiences as part of our marketing both here and abroad; work with an alliance of tourism businesses who are first movers on reducing carbon from this sector.