



UK:
100

Beyond Targets: A Year of Impact

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

About Us:

UK100 is the only network of ambitious councils led by all political parties working together to tackle climate change. We help local leaders overcome challenges and turn innovation into solutions that work everywhere.

We build the case for the powers needed to make change happen. From cities to villages, we help communities across the UK create thriving places powered by clean energy — with fresh air to breathe, warm homes to live in, and a healthy natural environment.

Our Vision:

A nation where communities tackle climate change together, creating thriving places powered by clean energy — with fresh air to breathe, warm homes to live in, and a healthy natural environment.

Our Mission:

We unite ambitious, cross-party local leaders to tackle climate change in their communities, showing them what works, and making the case for greater local powers.



Our pioneering members include:



Blackpool Council



BCP Council



South Hams
District Council



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL



CAMBRIDGE
CITY COUNCIL



CARDIFF
CAERDYDD



London Borough
of Hounslow



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



City of
Westminster



COTSWOLD
District Council



Crawley
Borough Council



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Wiltshire Council

Foreword:

December 2025

“2025 brought historic opportunities for local climate action. The Great British Energy Bill promised to reshape how Britain generates power. The Warm Homes Plan committed £13.2 billion to retrofit. The English Devolution Bill offered the chance to embed climate at the heart of how England is governed. These national moments could transform local delivery, but only if local government has a seat at the table.

UK100's role has always been to ensure that seat exists. We unite ambitious local leaders across party lines. We show them what works. We make the case to Westminster and Whitehall for the powers they need. In 2025, that theory of change delivered tangible results.

When Parliament debated community energy, it was our members' evidence that helped secure its place in the Great British Energy



**Christopher Hammond
addresses UK100's
5 and 25 Conference**

Bill. When the Devolution Bill reached committee stage, more than 500 councillors from our network signed an open letter demanding climate and nature duties – and UK100 was quoted in the chamber. When the government published its first-ever Public Participation Strategy for net zero, our Local

Climate Engagement programme was cited as the model for how councils should involve residents. And when the Climate Change Committee published its landmark Seventh Carbon Budget, our research was part of the evidence base.

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These wins didn't happen by accident. They happened because UK100's three pillars — advocacy, membership, and research — aligned for maximum impact. Our evidence gave members credibility. Our members gave evidence real-world weight. Our advocacy translated it into policy change.

2025 hasn't all been positive. The political environment remains challenging. Climate misinformation has moved from social media margins to mainstream debate. Some councils in our network have faced protests, threats, and obstruction.

The cross-party consensus that held for over a decade has fractured in places. Some councils have withdrawn climate targets or reallocated climate budgets, even as others have held firm against pressure to do the same.

Our members continue to demonstrate what's possible. In North Somerset, a Climate

Leadership Academy graduate identified a transport gap and secured a new bus route connecting rural villages to Bristol. In Lewes, another graduate gave oral evidence to Parliament on community energy. In York, a resident named Valerie became an advocate for retrofit after her council transformed her home. We captured more human stories and impactful insights like this in our signature **Beyond Targets** report published at our national conference in June.

Our network has grown to 122 local and combined authorities, with 33 now in our paid membership tier. We welcomed seven new councils, including Dorset, Hounslow, and Westmorland and Furness. As we approach our tenth anniversary in 2026, the case for local climate leadership has never been stronger, and the need for UK100 to champion it has never been greater.

Christopher Hammond
Chief Executive, UK100



Christopher Hammond
at the Beyond Targets
launch in June 2025

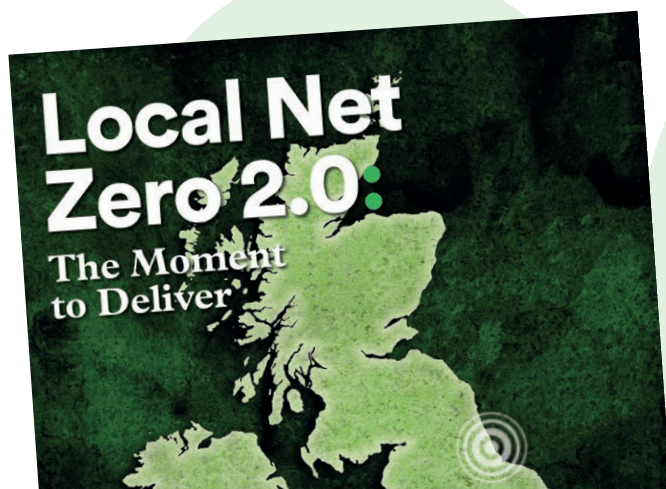
2025 at a glance:

We shaped the first-ever Public Participation Strategy

Our Local Climate Engagement programme was highlighted as the exemplar for how councils should involve residents in the government's first-ever net zero public participation strategy.

...and national climate advice!

Our **Local Net Zero 2.0** report was cited in the Climate Change Committee's Seventh Carbon Budget — the third time UK100 research has featured in CCC advice to government.



Community energy written into law

UK100 members' evidence helped secure an amendment to the Great British Energy Bill, formally embedding community energy in Britain's new publicly-owned energy company for the first time.

More than 500 councillors mobilised

Our cross-party open letter calling for climate and nature duties in the English Devolution Bill was signed by more than 500 councillors — making it one of the most supported amendments to the Bill.

300m+

Nearly 100 media hits, 300 million+ reached

UK100's media coverage in 2025 spanned broadcast, print and online outlets, deepening our thought leadership positioning on local climate action. Coverage ranged from national outlets including the **BBC** to regional titles like the **Birmingham Mail** and **The Northern Echo**, alongside trade media including **Utility Week**, **The MJ** and **BusinessGreen**.

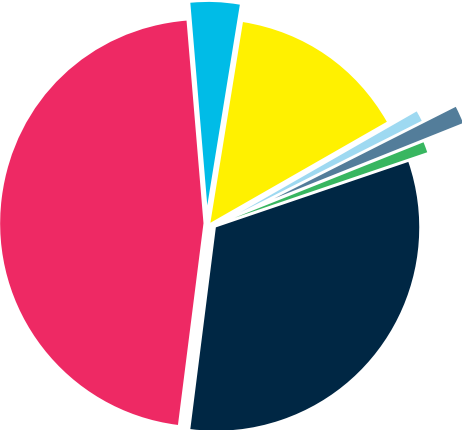
Our network has grown to 122 members

A 5% increase in membership across 2025 and more than tripling since UK100 launched our local climate action pledge in 2020. We welcomed seven new councils including Dorset, Hounslow, and Westmorland and Furness. Our new membership model includes 33 paid members alongside 91 ally local and combined authorities.

...and they're helping write the book!

UK100 was invited to co-chair DESNZ's Net Zero Roles and Responsibilities working group and join GB Energy's Stakeholder Advisory Group — putting local government at the heart of national climate delivery.

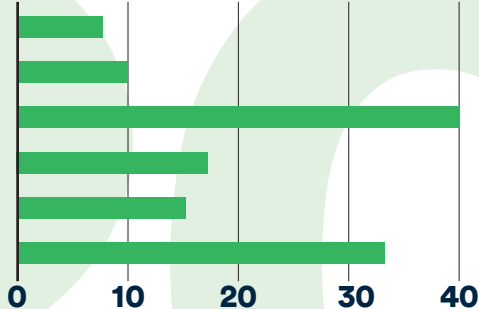
Our Members:



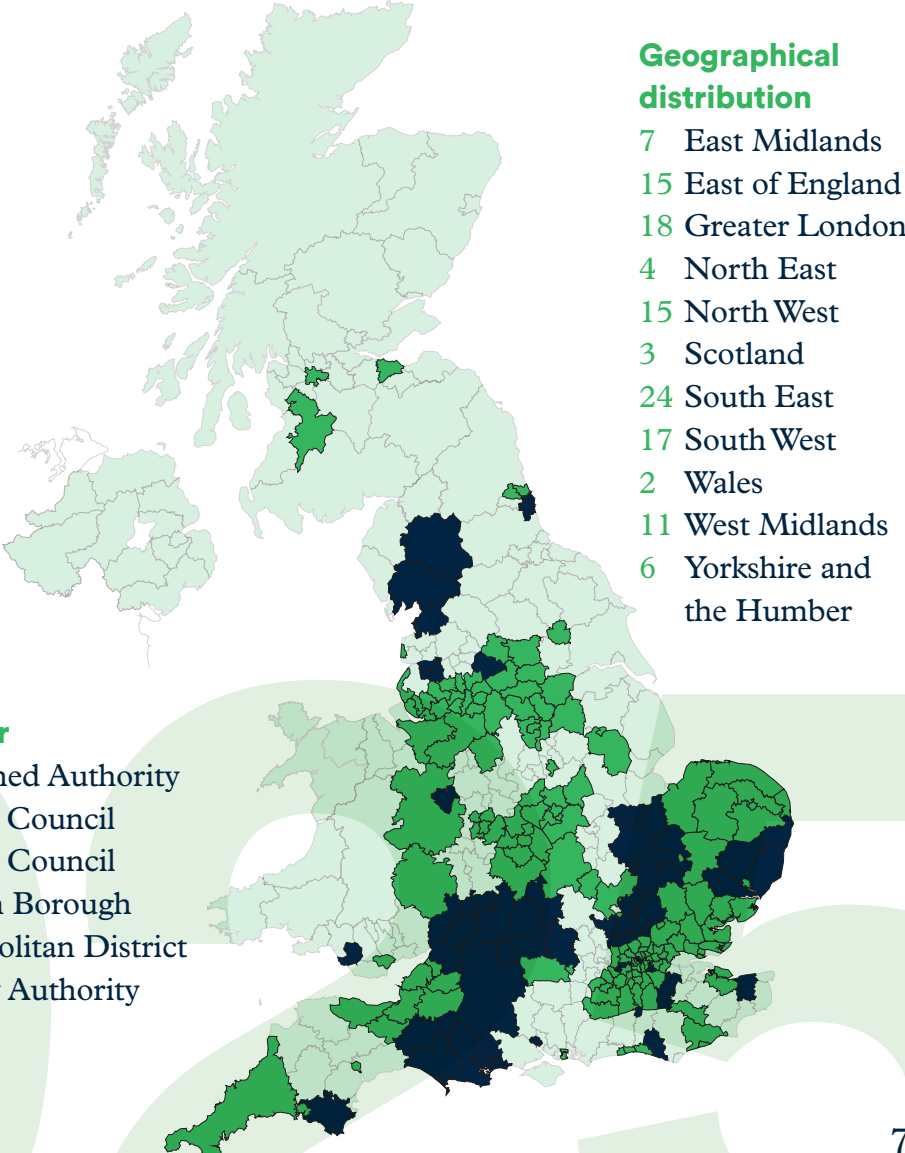
- Political administrations**
- 57 Labour
 - 5 Conservative
 - 17 Liberal Democrats
 - 2 Independent
 - 1 Green Party
 - 1 Reform UK
 - 39 No Overall Control



- Tiered membership**
- 33 Members
 - 91 Allies



- Type & tier**
- 7 Combined Authority
 - 10 County Council
 - 40 District Council
 - 17 London Borough
 - 15 Metropolitan District
 - 33 Unitary Authority



Impact in 2025:

Community energy secures its place in law

Local voices help embed community energy in the Great British Energy Bill

In February 2025, community energy moved from policy aspiration to legislative reality. The government amendment to the Great British Energy Bill, moved by Lord Hunt and backed by more than 80 MPs, formally embedded community energy in the remit of Britain's new publicly-owned energy company. For the first time, community-led renewable projects will have statutory backing in how the country generates and distributes clean power.

UK100 played a direct role in making this happen. Through written evidence to the Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ) Committee inquiry and submissions to HM Treasury, we made the case for why



local authorities and community energy organisations must be central to delivering Britain's Clean Energy Superpower mission. Our evidence drew on the frontline experience of our member councils, many of whom have been championing community energy for years.

In November, Councillor Emily O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Climate, Nature and Food Systems at Lewes District Council and a graduate of UK100's Climate Leadership Academy, gave oral evidence to the ESNZ Committee on behalf of our network. Drawing

on Lewes's 18-year partnership with its local community energy sector, she told MPs: "We would love our planning system to support community energy. There is a huge amount of untapped energy."

UK100's advocacy was part of a broader coalition effort, but what set our contribution apart was the authentic voice of local government. Our members understand both the potential and the barriers, and their evidence helped translate local experience into national legislative change.

Impact in 2025:

*500 Councillors
demand climate in
the Devolution Bill*

**Cross-party campaign puts
statutory climate duty at the centre of
parliamentary debate**

When Parliament debated the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, the case for a statutory climate duty was impossible to ignore. More than 500 councillors, spanning Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green, and Independent parties, signed an open letter coordinated by UK100 and Climate Emergency UK calling for climate and nature duties to be embedded in the legislation.

The signatories included over 20 council leaders and deputy leaders and more than 70 cabinet members. Their message was clear: local authorities need a statutory mandate to

prioritise climate action alongside their other responsibilities. Without it, climate continues to be deprioritised when budgets tighten and competing demands intensify.

UK100's analysis featured directly in parliamentary debate. During committee hearings, Mike Reader MP cited our research,

noting that the Bill was “quite silent” on requirements for strategic authorities regarding climate and environment. UK100 founder Polly Billington MP also spoke in support of an amendment to introduce new climate and nature duties.

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**Burbo Bank wind farm,
off the coast of Crosby
in Liverpool City Region**

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The amendment became one of the most supported to the Bill, backed by 24 MPs at Report Stage. Minister Miatta Fahnbulleh acknowledged during the debate that mayors and strategic authorities have an “important role” in tackling the climate crisis.

Sadly, the amendment did not pass in the Commons, but the campaign succeeded in putting climate at the centre of the devolution debate. In December, the open letter was delivered to Ministers ahead of the Bill’s Second Reading in the House of Lords. The coalition behind this campaign has only grown: the Local Government Association now backs a statutory climate duty. Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham and East Midlands Mayor Claire Ward have signalled their support. The Bill’s passage through the Lords offers a final opportunity to get this right. Local leaders have made their position clear: if devolution is to mean anything for climate, it must come with the tools to deliver.

Entrance to the
House of
Lords



Minister Miatta Fahnbulleh
with UK100 Chief Executive
Christopher Hammond

Impact in 2025:

*Government
recognises UK100's
engagement expertise*

**Local Climate Engagement programme
shapes Britain's first public participation
strategy for net zero**

When the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero published Energising Britain in December 2025, it did more than acknowledge UK100's work — it adopted our approach as the template for how councils across England should engage communities on climate.

The government's first-ever public participation strategy for net zero explicitly highlighted UK100's Local Climate Engagement programme as an exemplar, noting that it



“supports local authorities in England to plan, commission and deliver high-quality public engagement, in a way that benefits both them and local people.”
For councils looking to implement the strategy,

our **Inclusive Climate Action** toolkit, developed with Involve UK and drawn from real-world experience across more than 20 local authorities, now serves as the practical blueprint. This is the outcome of years of sustained advocacy.



Delegates at this year's
Climate Leadership
Academy in Cambridge

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UK100 has consistently made the case that public engagement is not an optional extra but essential infrastructure for climate delivery. Our **Beyond Targets** conference and report in June showed how councils that bring residents along achieve better outcomes and build more durable support for climate action.

UK100 was at the strategy launch with Minister Katie White, and DESNZ has invited our network to help road-test implementation. This includes contributing to an annual **Energising Britain** stakeholder event with, in the words of one DESNZ official, “strong links to local and community-led engagement.” To build on this, UK100 is establishing **Connect**, a Climate Communications and Engagement Network that will bring together communications officers, climate leads, and elected members to build capacity, counter misinformation, and share what works. The strategy sets the expectation. UK100’s toolkit shows councils how to meet it.



The launch of the
Beyond Targets
report in June

Impact in 2025:

UK100 research shapes national climate advice

Local Net Zero 2.0 cited in the Climate Change Committee's Seventh Carbon Budget

When the Climate Change Committee (CCC) published its Seventh Carbon Budget in February 2025 — the formal advice that will shape the UK's legally binding emissions targets for 2038-2042 — UK100's research was part of the evidence base. Our flagship **Local Net Zero 2.0** report was cited in this landmark document, which sets out how the UK can cut greenhouse gas emissions by 87% by 2040.

The CCC's analysis reinforces what UK100 has long argued: with 60% of emissions cuts requiring electrification of transport and heating, local authorities are ideally positioned to implement community-focused solutions. They know their communities best and can



**60% of emissions cuts
require electrification of
transport and heating**

deliver practical, co-produced approaches on the ground. Yet as our research has consistently shown, councils remain hamstrung by inconsistent funding and insufficient powers.

This is the third time UK100 research has been referenced in major CCC publications, reflecting the credibility and influence our evidence base has built. Local Net Zero 2.0 made the case for net zero delivery through

empowered local government, calling for stable funding, clearer powers, and genuine partnership between national and local tiers.

As Christopher Hammond noted following the launch: “The CCC’s findings reinforce our view that proper long-term funding and a statutory climate duty are crucial to meet climate targets while delivering economic benefits across the UK.”

Impact in 2025:

You wait for one bus route . . .

Two Climate Leadership Academy graduates secure new bus services for their communities

UK100's impact doesn't stop at Westminster — and nor will it ever. We're driven by our members. Speaking of being driven, they say you wait ages for a bus, then two come along at once. In 2025, two graduates of our Climate Leadership Academy proved this adage applies to securing new bus routes too.

North Somerset: Reconnecting rural villages

Councillor Annemieke Waite (*above left*), Cabinet Member for Climate, Waste and Sustainability at North Somerset Council and a 2024 CLA graduate, identified a transport gap isolating rural communities. Residents in Felton, Winford, and Dundry had no public transport connection to Bristol, cutting

people off from work, school, and essential services.

Working with the West of England Rural Network and community transport operator The Big Lemon, Annemieke secured WESTlocal funding through the West of England Combined Authority's Bus Service Improvement Plan. The result was the Winford Pioneer (P1) service, offering three return journeys Monday to Friday connecting rural villages to Bristol Temple Meads, Imperial Park, and Broadmead. Resident feedback tells the story: "This bus means I can go back to work." "My children can get home from school."



Central Bedfordshire: A six-year campaign succeeds

Councillor Tracey Wye (*above right*), Executive Member for Sustainability and Climate Resilience at Central Bedfordshire Council and a fellow CLA graduate, had been working on a similar challenge. North-east Bedfordshire

residents in Potton, Sandy, and Biggleswade had no direct bus link to Cambridge. In October 2025, her persistence paid off. The new X75 bus route, launching January 2026, provides the first direct link between Central Bedfordshire towns and Cambridge in years. Funded through the Bus Service Improvement Plan and operated by A2B Travel, the service offers four journeys each direction, Monday to Saturday. "I have finally managed to get a new bus route linking NE Beds to Cambridge!" Tracey shared with fellow CLA members. "This is actually pretty enormous for people to access all the things in Cambs."



These stories illustrate what the Climate Leadership Academy achieves: equipping local leaders with the skills, networks, and confidence to deliver tangible outcomes. Both councillors turned local frustrations into solutions, creating lasting infrastructure for sustainable transport.

Honourable mentions:

More impact from across the UK100 network in 2025

Utility Week Strategic Partner of the Year

UK100 and UK Power Networks DSO won Strategic Partner of the Year at the Utility Week Awards 2025. The award recognised two years of collaboration delivering practical tools for local climate action, including our Local Area Energy Planning Toolkit, joint webinars reaching over 100 councils, and events bringing together more than 200 local leaders with energy sector partners.

Cllr Mike McKeown shapes Liberal Democrat climate policy

Councillor Mike McKeown, climate lead at South Oxfordshire, a founding member of our

Countryside Climate Network, and a Climate Leadership Academy graduate, helped shape the Liberal Democrats' "For People, For Planet" climate policy. His frontline experience ensured the manifesto reflected the realities of rural climate delivery.

Shropshire's biochar breakthrough

Shropshire Council deployed biochar carbon capture at scale, transforming residual biomass into renewable heat and permanent carbon storage.

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UK100 and UK Power Networks DSO representatives with Claudia Winkleman at the Utility Week Awards 2025

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The EBACC programme locks away over 2,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually, roughly equivalent to the council's entire Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Feasibility studies are now underway with Walsall, Calderdale, and Durham.

Four members shortlisted for Community Energy Awards

Hackney, Three Rivers, Bath and North East Somerset, and Leicestershire were all shortlisted for Supportive Local Authority at the Community Energy England Awards 2025, recognition of councils actively enabling and championing community energy.

Graduate levels up to coach

Councillor Linda Foley from Manchester City Council returned to the Climate Leadership Academy in 2025 as a coach. Her journey from participant to mentor shows how the CLA builds lasting leadership capacity, creating a growing network of

experienced climate leaders supporting the next generation.

Valerie becomes a voice for retrofit in York

Climate Leadership Academy graduate Councillor Jenny Kent applied her climate communications training to York's social housing retrofit programme. When resident Valerie's home was upgraded, she became an advocate — her story of a warmer home, lower bills, and better health is now building public support for retrofit across the city.

Politician of the Year

Councillor Rezina Chowdhury of Lambeth Council, a 2023 Climate Leadership Academy graduate, won Politician of the Year at the Women in Green Business Awards 2025. The award recognised her climate leadership in Lambeth, where she has translated CLA insights into practical local delivery.

Cllr Rezina
Chowdhury





UK: 100 in 2026

A DECADE OF LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION

Glasgow,
location of
COP26 in 2021

A Decade of Local Climate Action:

“Next year UK100 celebrates 10 years of delivery. It’s a remarkable story of a few leaders convened by Polly Billington coming together to commit to using 100% clean energy in their councils.

What began as an ambitious vision has continued to grow into a network of 122 cross-party local authorities representing over 60% of the UK population - united in our belief that local government must be at the heart of delivering the UK’s climate goals. As two of UK100’s Co-presidents, we are proud to represent a growing movement of cross-party local leaders. We come from different political backgrounds and very different councils, one urban in the North East, one rural in the South West. But we share an unwavering commitment to climate action that transcends party politics and delivers real benefits for the communities we serve.

2026 presents both challenges and opportunities. The political landscape for climate action is shifting. Some voices question whether our goals are achievable or even desirable.

The May local elections and national elections in Scotland and Wales will test the durability of local climate commitments, though we should always be reminded that political forecasts are never certain. What remains constant is the cross-party consensus at the local level: councillors of all parties continue to see climate action as essential to their communities’ futures.

This is why the work of UK100 matters more than ever. Our network demonstrates daily that climate action is not a burden but an opportunity — to cut energy bills, create local jobs, improve public health, and build resilient communities. The case we make is not

ideological but practical: these are the solutions that work. This is how we move “beyond targets”.

Our tenth anniversary will be a moment to celebrate what local leaders have achieved, from pioneering air quality improvements to transformative retrofit programmes, from community energy projects to ambitious transport plans. We will mark the occasion with our flagship anniversary conference and have some very special plans in the works.

But celebration alone is not enough. The next decade demands accelerated action. Local government reorganisation is reshaping the sector, creating both risks and opportunities for climate delivery. New strategic authorities need support to embed climate from day one.

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But that shouldn't come at the cost of support for the other tiers of local government that have been at the forefront of action for a decade. The Warm Homes Plan requires local leadership to succeed. GB Energy must work with, not around, local government.

UK100 will continue to champion the local perspective in these national debates. We will continue to equip councillors with the knowledge and confidence to lead. And we will continue to demonstrate that thriving places powered by clean energy are not just possible, they are already being built by our members. By working together across political and geographical boundaries, sharing our wins and our failures, and speaking with one voice to national government, local leaders can deliver a cleaner, fairer, more prosperous future for all. The next decade of local climate action begins now.

Cllr Tracey Dixon and Cllr Richard Clewer,
UK100 Co-presidents



Councillors Andrew Mellen,
Tracey Dixon, Lucy Nethsingha,
and Richard Clewer

Our Prospectus for the Year Ahead:

5 THINGS WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT

1

A DECADE OF LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION: 10TH

ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

2026 marks UK100's tenth anniversary — and we'll be celebrating with our most ambitious event yet. With some exciting plans in the works, this flagship conference will bring together local leaders, ministers, mayors and partners to celebrate a decade of cross-party climate leadership. We will reflect on UK100's journey from a few pioneering councils to a network of 122, while charting the course for the next ten years of local climate action.



2

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME

Our 2026 membership offer is designed to meet councils where they are — whether navigating local government reorganisation, scaling up delivery, or defending climate commitments against political headwinds. The programme of regular events centres on practical peer support: Lunchtime Learning webinars, quarterly workshops, convened regional roundtables and our Policy Advisory Group. Members benefit from Knowledge Hub resources, monthly newsletters, and one-to-one support. Flagship events include the LGA Conference Leaders Dinner and our Annual Parliamentary Reception.



3

CLIMATE COMPASS: NAVIGATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

REORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

As local government reorganisation reshapes councils across England, UK100 will be there to ensure climate remains a priority. Our **Climate Compass** programme will support councils through the transition with a refreshed **Powers in Place** climate health check handbook, a twinning programme connecting experienced unitary councils with emerging authorities, and **Climate Leadership Academy** sessions focused on embedding climate in new governance structures. We'll help new councils hit the ground running on climate from day one.



4

COMBINED AUTHORITY CLEAN AIR NETWORK

We're launching a dedicated Clean Air Network for strategic authorities and selected members of the wider UK100 family.

Quarterly meetings will bring together regional leaders to share challenges and best practice on tackling air pollution.

A signature clean air policy report will set out recommendations for the future of local air quality action, building on UK100's pioneering work since 2016.



5

UK100 CONNECT

Our Communications and Engagement Officers Network launches in 2026, creating a community for climate communications professionals across our membership. Five expert-led learning sessions with leading organisations, quarterly virtual roundtables for knowledge sharing, and our proven misinformation response toolkit will help councils communicate climate action effectively.



Thank You to our Members and Supporters:

This year our Business Supporters Network (BSN) stepped up a gear, with a doubling of active members. We ended 2025 by winning a national Utility Week Award for our strategic partnership with **UK Power Networks DSO**.

This work, spanning two years, covers our Local Area Energy Planning Toolkit and linked programme of webinars and engagement, as well as more recent guides on EV infrastructure and flexibility.

In the spring, we worked with **Sustainable Ventures** and **Co2Sense** to convene impactful roundtables on green growth and community energy in London and Sheffield, drawing on insights from our advocacy and research work.

When we met for our national Beyond Targets Conference in Birmingham in June, we

couldn't have done it without the support of our trusts and foundations partners. Businesses including **Vattenfall, Mott MacDonald, Climate View** and **UK Power Networks DSO** brought our marketplace to life, alongside energising panels and workshops with their experience and knowledge to support our members on areas as diverse as housing, data, energy, and heat networks.

In Liverpool for the LGA Conference in July, we convened our members for another sold-out leaders' dinner, supported by **Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks**, creating a unique cross-party space where conversations and ideas flowed.

Across the autumn, we delivered our Climate Leadership Academy, joined by the **Energy Saving Trust, Co2Sense** and **Mobility Ways**,

who shared their learning and equipped our leaders with the ideas needed to supercharge local climate action.

We finished the year working with **Warmworks** and **Octopus** to explore how local government can improve retrofit delivery and scale up the rollout of heat pumps in communities across the UK.

All these partners have benefited from our new BSN Directory, promotion across our website, newsletters and social media, and most importantly, feeding into our policy and insights work.

Join us in 2026 to achieve even more.



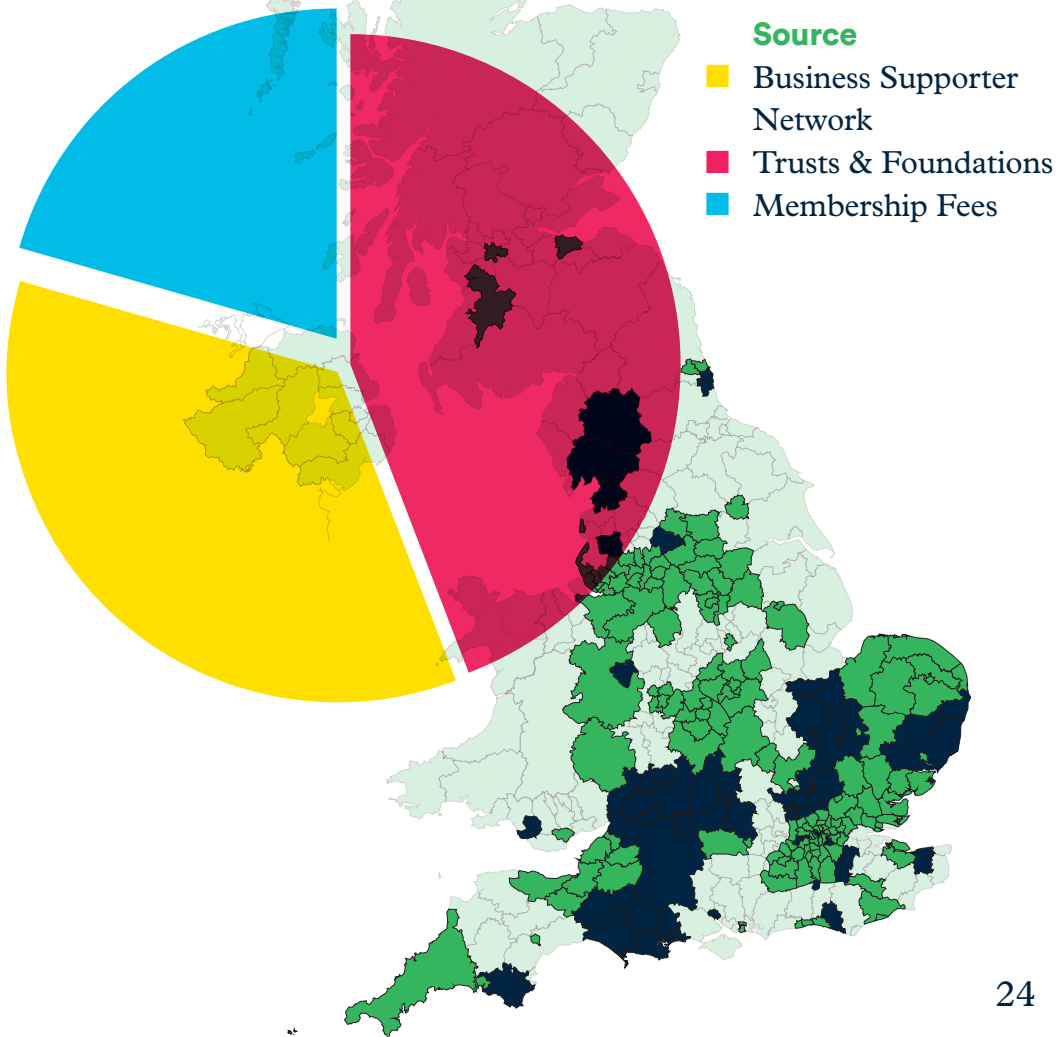
Members of our Business Supporters Network in 2025 include:



Our Trusts and Foundations funders in 2025 include:



UK100 funding in 2025:



* The European Climate Foundation has supported two projects featured in UK100's annual review. Responsibility for the information and views set out in this 2025 Annual Review lie with the authors. The European Climate Foundation cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained or expressed therein.



UK:
100

The logo features the text "UK:" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, with the "K" slightly overlapping the "U". The colon consists of two small, solid green circles stacked vertically. Below "UK:" is the number "100" in the same white, bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered on a dark blue background. In the background, there are large, faint, light blue letters "UK" and "100" that form a watermark. Additionally, there are two dark green circles in the upper right and two large, light blue circles in the lower right.