

UK100

Membership Pack

The only network for highly ambitious UK locally elected leaders committed to cleaner, more powerful communities.

An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely Manchester, featuring a mix of historic stone buildings with domes and modern glass-fronted structures. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The UK:100 logo is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

UK:
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About:

Background

In 2019, the UK parliament passed legislation to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050. This was to keep in line with international commitment in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. **But science tells us we need to start now and make rapid reductions much sooner.**

As a nation, we have demonstrated throughout our history that we are able and willing to lead on finding solutions to the challenges the world faces. The success and prosperity of our nation has largely rested on our ability to harness the power of dirty fossil fuels.

It is now our shared responsibility to turn this ingenuity to solving the climate emergency in a way that has a positive impact on our communities. We need to ensure our future is better than our past.

Our mission

UK100 is a network of highly ambitious local government leaders, which seeks to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them.

It supports decision-makers in UK towns, cities and counties in their transition to Net Zero. It is the only

network for UK local leaders focused solely on climate, clean energy and clean air policy.

The most ambitious - our Net Zero Pledge members - are doing everything within their power to get their communities to Net Zero as soon as possible, and by 2045 at the latest.

This is not just good for the planet but for the people they serve, who deserve warm homes, affordable energy, clean air, local and seasonal food, access to thriving nature and healthy landscapes, and to live in a place of which they can be proud.

To accelerate the transition to this Net Zero society, UK100 brings together local authorities across the country to share knowledge, collaborate, and petition the UK government with their collective power.

They are working together to create flourishing communities - seizing the opportunities of technology to create jobs and establishing a nationwide project of renewal, focussed on local needs and ambitions.

UK100 is a private company, limited by guarantee, without share capital.



Joining our network:

How to become a member

To become a member of UK100, the council must sign and adopt the [Net Zero Pledge](#). This includes the following commitments:

1. Have set ambitious Net Zero targets for greenhouse emissions of 2030* for council operations and 2045* for areawide emissions at the latest:

Combined authorities

- Net Zero council operations: 2045
- Net Zero areawide emissions: 2045

County councils

- Net Zero council operations: 2030
- Net Zero areawide emissions: 2050

Unitary councils, metropolitan, London boroughs and districts

- Net Zero council operations: 2030
- Net Zero areawide emissions: 2045

2. Report their carbon emissions annually, for scope 1 and scope 2, for council emissions and areawide emissions.

* There is an exception on Net Zero target dates for counties and combined authorities due to their size, strategic scale, wide-ranging responsibilities and sometimes rural geography that means they have different powers and responsibilities.

3. Commit to limiting the use of offsets, and if used, to be as local as possible.

Net Zero Pledge

As local leaders across the UK, we recognise our responsibility to tackle the climate emergency and take bold action towards Net Zero.

We will continue to lead the UK's response to climate change, acting sooner than the government's goal by making substantial progress within the next decade to deliver Net Zero. We will use our experience and achievements to advocate to the UK government in order to accelerate the delivery of ambitious local climate action. With greater powers and funding, we would go further.

We commit to do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities' emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible.

We pledge to understand our impact on climate change, prioritise where action needs to be taken and monitor progress towards our goals. We will reduce our emissions at source and limit the use of carbon offsets as part of the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

We are closer to the people who live and work in our communities, so we have a better understanding of their needs. This means we can collaborate with them to build consensus for the solutions we need to transition to a Net Zero society that delivers multiple benefits and is fair, just and works for everyone.

Benefits of membership:

Why join?

Membership of UK100 supports you in fulfilling your commitments to tackling the climate emergency and delivering local Net Zero by:

- [facilitating dialogue](#) with national politicians and senior officials across Whitehall, amplifying the voices of local leaders via [collective advocacy](#) to national government
- enabling [knowledge sharing](#) between members including meetings, webinars, roundtables and workshops, and promoting best practice via social media ([Twitter](#) and [Linkedin](#)) and [newsletters](#)
- providing tailored [insights, evidence and recommendations](#) on the challenges and solutions to local Net Zero, inviting members to inform and participate in research
- connecting you with [world-leading business and industry](#) to help you plan and implement out the solutions needed to reduce emissions in your local area
- demonstrating the collective ambition, commitment and ability of democratically elected local leaders to deliver Net Zero.

You will also have access to our members-only programmes and services, including briefings on our research and publications.

Joining the Countryside Climate Network

Members representing rural communities are also invited to join the UK100 Countryside Climate Network (CCN).

The CCN is a sub-group of UK100 network members whose authority covers predominantly rural areas.

If you sign the Net Zero Pledge and fit into this description, then you are automatically eligible to become a member of the CCN, giving you access to CCN meetings and specific events as well as those of the broader UK100 network.

Leaders can actively participate in, or elect an appropriate cabinet member representative to participate in, quarterly CCN meetings.



FAQ:

Net Zero Pledge

What is the Net Zero Pledge?

From November 2020, councils must sign the Net Zero Pledge in order to become a member of UK100. This pledge requires the council to commit to a number of actions. The pledge is designed to demonstrate the ambition and ability of democratically elected local leaders to deliver Net Zero. It is also intended to create the conditions for stronger climate action at national level to help local authorities reach Net Zero faster.

Who has already signed?

Mayors and local leaders representing more than one third of the UK population have signed the Net Zero Pledge - you can find the full list [here](#). This includes local authorities from all regions in England, alongside Scottish and Welsh local authorities, across all tiers from district councils to combined authorities.

How does the UK100 Net Zero Pledge relate to the previous UK100 membership pledge?

When UK100 launched in 2015, our original pledge was a commitment of 100% clean energy by 2050. Much progress has been made over the last few years since the Paris Agreement, with climate emergency declarations and the UK government's Net Zero by 2050 target showing increased awareness of the

climate crisis and a desire to avert the worst impacts of climate change. Many of our existing members are doing far more than they originally signed up to and therefore the new pledge reflects this, showing a significant increase in ambition from the previous pledge and is a wider commitment on climate action.

The Net Zero Pledge works in the same way as our previous pledge, a political pledge that amplifies the ambition of local leaders, and that is used in advocacy for greater powers, funding and collaboration from national government to enable local climate action.

How were the Net Zero target dates in the pledge chosen?

UK100 ran a consultative process over a period of a few months with our board, advisory council and many of our existing members. As many of our members were doing far more than they originally signed up to, we came to the conclusion that the pledge should be both reflective of the progress made and stretching ambition. Therefore, the new pledge shows a wider commitment on climate action and significant increase in ambition, with dates chosen by our members.

Why is there an exception on dates for county councils and combined authorities?

Following extensive conversations with our members during the process of creating the Net Zero Pledge, we decided to provide an exception on net zero target dates for counties and combined authorities due to their strategic scale, wide-ranging responsibilities and sometimes rural geography that means they have different powers and responsibilities. They also often cover a larger and more varied geographical area.

Are there targets for biodiversity and adaptation?

The focus of the Net Zero Pledge is mitigation, which is UK100's focus of work. Although the ecological emergency is an important related issue, biodiversity and adaptation are not specific targets of this pledge.

How can councils set an areawide target if they do not have power/control over those emissions?

In the pledge, we use the phrase 'we will do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.' This recognises that local authorities do not necessarily have all the powers yet to reach their ambitious net zero targets. The Net Zero Pledge feeds into our ongoing dialogue with national government, and will increase the pressure on government for policy changes that will enable you to do what you need to meet your Net Zero target in a way that brings everyone in your community along with you.

Should we set interim targets?

UK100 strongly encourages its members to set interim targets in order to accelerate the transition to Net Zero, focussing on early actions and prioritising sectors that will contribute to rapid reductions in GHG emissions.

Is the pledge legally binding?

The pledge is not legally binding, in the sense that UK100 will not take legal action if you do not reach the targets. However, if the Net Zero targets are adopted by the council, and set as an official policy, then there is some accountability in the same way

you would be accountable for other types of policies that you publicly commit to.

Joining UK100

How does a local authority join UK100?

The pathway for signing the pledge and becoming a member is as follows:

Officers and cabinet members of the interested authority contact the membership team via membership@uk100.org to schedule an introductory conversation to answer any questions you may have. Then, an official invitation to join the network is sent to the leader from UK100's Network Membership Director, to which the leader should respond confirming membership via email. We would also recommend the leader prints and physically signs the pledge, with a picture and quote taken for related comms when the council's membership is announced.

What if our council's internal decision making process is different from that suggested above?

We understand how decisions are made and announced will vary from local authority to local authority, so we are happy to work with members to fulfill their governance requirements.

Often, councils have the ability to proceed at an officer level using a delegated decision notice if the pledge is something already consistent with existing council policy. However, if the pledge and targets go beyond current policy, it is necessary to get formal cabinet approval.

How to book a meeting with or contact the UK100 membership team?

Email membership@uk100.org and someone will respond shortly.

Are there communications relating to signing the pledge?

We schedule multiple announcements throughout the year to celebrate new leaders and councils who have joined UK100 and signed the Net Zero Pledge, whether this be through our newsletter, blog, social media or a press release.

You will be given a comms toolkit/media pack to support you with this.

Does a district or borough council automatically become a member of UK100 if the upper tier authority in the area has already signed the Net Zero Pledge?

Due to different powers and responsibilities, we ask councils in two-tier areas to sign the Net Zero Pledge separately. This is so that both councils may take full advantage of the benefits of UK100 membership, and distinguishes between the different Net Zero targets that the different councils may have.

What is the cost for joining UK100?

There is no membership fee for local authorities to join UK100.

What membership entails

How regular are UK100 membership meetings?

The UK100 network meets twice a year to discuss its activities and advocacy. We also have issue-specific events, including meetings, webinars, roundtable discussions, summits and conferences, that we encourage members to attend, which are aimed at different levels (leaders, cabinet members, officers). These events are an opportunity for members to inform our research and advocacy work. The Countryside Climate Network meets quarterly. We also expect our members to provide regular updates - via email - on their climate action plans and projects.

Can you connect us to businesses?

Yes, the UK100 [Business Supporter Network](#) connects you with world-leading business and industry to help you figure out the solutions needed to reduce emissions in your local area, bringing the private and public sector together around their shared ambitions.

Can you connect us to other members?

Members are able to connect with each other at events, including webinars, roundtable discussions and summits. We can also make connections to other members outside of these events with their consent.

Does the membership need to be renewed?

Our Net Zero members in the network do not need to be renewed on an annual basis, only membership can be terminated if a council no longer meets the criteria.

What if my local authority's political administration changes?

We will engage with the new administration and officers to confirm the new political leadership is compatible with the council's continued membership of UK100.

How do I stay in contact with the UK100 membership team?

The membership team can be reached by emailing membership@uk100.org



Get in touch

To find out more about the work we do
please contact membership@uk100.org.

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