



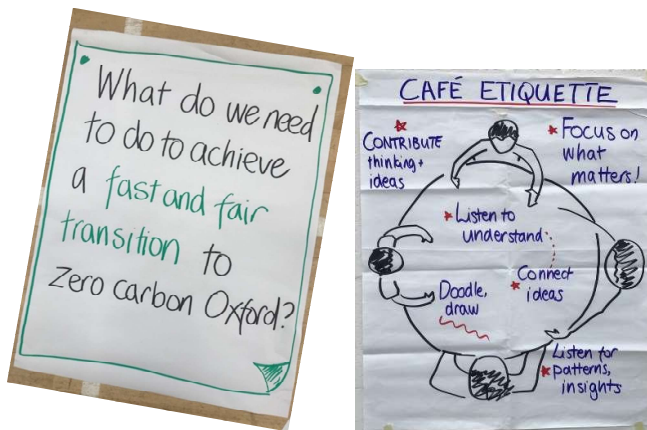
Suggestions for City Council climate emergency plan from LCWO Climate Café 18th May, 2019

The purpose of the climate café was to provide an opportunity for:

- LCWO and other Oxford residents to feed ideas into Oxford City Council's emergency climate action plan
- For Cllr Tom Hayes – Oxford City Council's Cabinet Member for a Zero Carbon Oxford – to hear from residents about their suggestions about how to achieve a fast and just/fair transition

Cllr Tom Hayes gave an overview of City Council action on climate change to date (see separate note).

The 50 attendees then self-organised into working groups to discuss and suggest ideas about '*How to achieve a fast and fair transition to a zero-carbon future*'. Each group focused on a suggested theme with guiding questions and this also included extra topics put forward from the floor that people had energy and interest for. Each group was facilitated by a 'host' who encouraged open dialogue supported by the guidelines below (and coffee and cake!).



At the end of the Café Tom Hayes committed to sharing and seeking responses from the ideas/propositions with relevant Council officers.

1. Inclusion in shaping and deciding priorities (including Citizens Assembly)

- ✓ *What would democratic and inclusive decision-making look like to help create a zero-carbon and fair/just future in Oxford?*
- ✓ *How do we engage people differently (particularly under-represented groups)?*



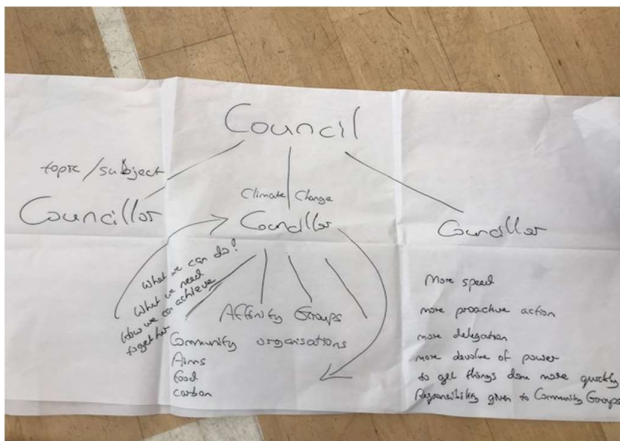
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Vision for the future?

- ✓ Aggregation of voices where all groups working on climate change are connected up with less duplication and coordinating between them. Sharing of equipment and resources
- ✓ Local expertise of community groups is tapped into
- ✓ No political in-fighting - get beyond party politics and power plays
- ✓ Spaces that are welcoming and appropriate for diverse groups (language...)
- ✓ Working with community leaders with leadership that represents our community
- ✓ Mapping of and working with what is already there
- ✓ Bottom up with strong links between council (County, City, Town) – community → National Government
- ✓ A successful Citizens' Assembly that speaks to lived experience of under-represented groups and tackles climate emergency and which others can learn from

How do we engage people differently (including under-represented groups)?

- ✓ **Strengthen spaces/synergies** for cross-community groups/third sector/party/local government ensuring co-ordination and information sharing in relation to climate emergency. Local-town-city-county-national. Currently too many groups – disconnected. Local authority does not know who to relate to. For example:
 - Convene more spaces to come together and aggregate different voices- create conditions/methods for dialogue (like today) with different stakeholders/perspectives
 - Draw from XR model- have an affinity group that relates with local council for different climate change groups (and for other issues?) - see below





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- ✓ **Raising awareness about Citizens' Assembly** – get going with “co-production” – engage communities in defining how to frame the CA and create awareness about what it is about - right from the outset– go to different parts of Oxford e.g. Rose Hill, Barton, Blackbird Leys. Seek advice of those already working/living in these areas. Will affect who steps forward from the outset. Will allow for broadening of the net and greater possibility of more under-represented groups coming forward for random selection.

- ✓ **Inclusion re CA**
 - Leadership of CA process will need to represent diversity of the community from the beginning. Will set a tone. Has implications for make-up of advisory group?
 - Knowledge generated from CA needs to be co-created - 80-20 rule please
 - To engage people around climate emergency – also need to speak to people’s lived experience. For example, how will this impact on people’s priorities (jobs, health, family....). Need to ensure questions of CA are framed around these.
 - Ensure Spaces that are welcoming/appropriate to diverse groups- skilled facilitation to ensure all voices heard (able to handle emotional dimension of climate emergency too?)
 - Need to ensure assembly is not populated by extremes

Key Success Factors for Citizens' Assembly

- Raise awareness of issue in populace
- Need to ensure there are systems that feed in and report back
- People with lived experience of climate change and those impacted by any transition to zero-carbon need to be included (e.g. ‘experts’/witnesses/participants
- Ensure recommendations have weight with Council (otherwise lose credibility)- and can also be used to influence other key players
- Not only mechanism of consultation-Not the end of process, part of process
- Participants can become advocates and raise awareness about the issue itself and what CAs are about
- Engage people on **their** priorities: jobs, community, skills
- Although initial reservations from some, overall support for CA from group as an exciting opportunity to try out a different way of doing democracy- important to take on concerns, spread the word and learn from it

See conditions for success from Oxford Democracy Café/Oxford Citizens' Assembly Network page <http://www.oxforddemocracycafe.org/citizens-assemblies.html>



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Additional examples to learn from and ideas to take forward

- ✓ **Bicester Healthy Town e.g. of “Healthy Place Shaping”**
 - NHS monies
 - Rosie Rowe – is key contact
 - What can we learn from what they are doing
- ✓ **Need an Oxford web page** with climate groups. Top 10 Tips of what people can do, what NHS/Private business/City and County are doing – things are happening! Need to know what and then map where the gaps are etc
- ✓ **Relaxing rules** asking departments why can't you do this, e.g. lend gardening tools to a local community group at weekends?
- ✓ **Engaging groups** → Youth and older people! Also lots of people with limited mobility in/at:
 - care homes
 - home
 - day services
- ✓ **Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) – Growth Deal** vision for 2050 need them on board
- ✓ Look at how **Plymouth Commissioners** have succeeded in putting all commissioning budgets together (NHS/County/city/etc). To break rules and look at outcomes. The guy at the Old Fire Station knows all about this as he ran a Marmalade event
- ✓ **Hubs** → OCC have day services
- ✓ **Changing Parish's attitudes and roles** – lots and lots of challenges and events/training for them so they change → Leeds is a good e.g. of community engagement
- ✓ Also, OCC have a **Co-Production Team and Engagement Team** (Danny Woodbridge? works for OCC).

2. Economy

- ✓ *What would a zero-carbon & fair/just local economy look like in the future in Oxford?*
- ✓ *Who/what would make it happen?*
- ✓ *How would it benefit low income/marginalised people?*

We applaud the important work of the City Council so far and recognise the challenges of sustaining a fast and fair transition to a zero-carbon economy. We also recognise the opportunity this transition offers to transform our City and County to one with shared prosperity and human security.

Vision: a circular economy for human flourishing



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We need our City, District and County Councils, and their Local Enterprise Partnership and Growth Board, to move rapidly from a focus on rapid economic throughput growth – which leads to the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor Expressway and similar propositions. Instead we need a focus on creating a circular economy and human flourishing within it. This vision requires:

Greater Economic and Political Equality

- Equality has to be at the centre of the vision. The transition to zero-carbon economies will only succeed if the benefits are shared disproportionately with the majority, especially the poorest and disenfranchised, and not captured by economic elites
- The Council should stimulate and back initiatives in all areas of the circular economy that benefit poorer households and unskilled/semi-skilled workers
- This could include support for cooperatives and social enterprises in local food, transport, local services (from care to digital), and similar

New Signals to the Market

- The Councils should perform a full audit of its taxes and subsidies in their power to ensure they are subsidising the 21st Century sustainable and equitable 'goods' and taxing the 'bads'. Examples of 'goods' would include zero-carbon public transport and recycling/re-use cooperatives, local food production and energy efficiency cooperatives, social enterprises for care of the elderly, etc. Examples of 'bads' would be high emissions economic sectors, or those without rapid emission-reduction strategies
- The Councils should make their public procurement an incentive for rapid carbon reduction and living wage by limiting their purchase of goods and services to businesses that meet agreed reduction targets and/or emission ceilings
- The Councils should join together to establish Green Infrastructure Banks to provide investment finance in economic projects with high ambition for carbon reduction, and action on inequality

New indicators of value

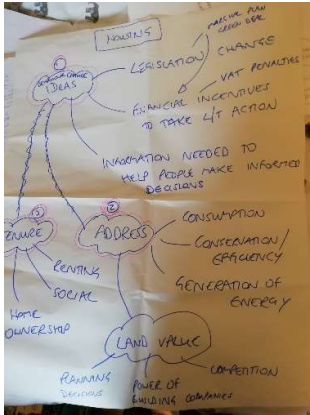
- The councils should establish a new Sustainable and Fair Economy Benchmark, with key indicators for private, and social enterprise and the public economy
- They should establish a small Monitoring and Accountability Unit that collects and publishes quarterly data, and rankings, of enterprises' carbon emissions, living wage, gender pay gap, diversity, and similar



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3. Sustainable Housing and Home Energy Use

- ✓ *What would a zero-carbon & fair housing/home energy consumption look like in the future in Oxford?*
- ✓ *Who/what would make the changes happen (government, city, community level)?*
- ✓ *How do we engage people to take action/benefit (particularly unrepresented groups)?*



Home Energy Use

People's views

- Participants wanted to be able to be more energy efficient at home (most of our energy is used in heating the home) and install solar panels
- Government incentives are necessary to encourage this – but the opposite is happening i.e. government financial incentives for energy efficiency have been reduced, the Feed-In Tariff is coming to an end and VAT on solar PV is increasing
- The government has said that use of gas to heat new homes is to be banned by 2025 – but do ground source heat pumps work?
- Behaviour change is also vital – both to reduce energy consumption and to ensure people use energy efficiency & solar efficiently
- Tenure is important; local councils should not allow private landlords to rent out energy efficient homes (the minimum EPC requirement for private landlords was felt to be very low); private renting tenants are very limited in what they can do and fear landlords will raise rents or kick them out risk if they ask for improvements (need for rent caps?).
- We need to take action ourselves and not wait for government
- Other countries governments do far more than the UK to encourage home energy efficiency

What people need in order to reduce home energy use



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Government policy:

- Mass public government investment: A Green Deal Marshall Plan to support local action for retrofit. Referred to UK Housing Fit for the Future papers. This requires both (a) capital funding for energy efficiency & clean energy measures plus (b) revenue funding to enable local authorities to coordinate area wide delivery/installation of home energy efficiency improvements & solar. (Addendum: The Kirklees Warm Zone initiative was an efficient and effective example of a coordinated area wide retrofit programme. The co-benefits from financial savings, improved health, jobs etc greatly outweighed the investment costs)
- Easy-to-access financial incentives and practical support for both energy efficiency measures (e.g. to replace old gas boilers) & clean energy (e.g. ground source heat pumps and solar)
- Although government legislation and regulation can be unpopular and politicians don't like to introduce it, people felt that they are necessary to change energy behaviours/reduce energy consumption (we have done it for seat belts and drink driving)

Locally:

Currently people need support with:

- Financial support/incentives to improve energy efficiency & install solar- the challenge is to do this fairly i.e. free for low income groups
- Easy access to trustworthy information about energy efficiency & renewable energy - their effectiveness; how they work
- Recommendations of and access trustworthy suppliers and tradesmen
- Help in measuring and monitoring their home energy use and financial savings from improved energy efficiency or solar (may be affected by rising energy costs).

Planning

People's views

- Noted that while VAT on New Build is zero, it is levied at the full rate (currently 20%) on rehab works to buildings
- Noted that some councils make home energy efficiency improvements a condition of planning consent for home extensions:
 - "Uttlesford District Council requires cost-effective energy efficiency improvements to be carried out on dwellings when they are extended. In this



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way, the extra energy that is used and carbon dioxide that is produced by the extension is compensated for by improvements elsewhere. As well as benefiting the environment, this requirement reduces energy bills and improves comfort. Undertaking these measures at the time an extension is carried out can also save money on their installation. UDC is the first local authority in the United Kingdom to introduce a requirement of this kind.” See: <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/5779/Sustainability-Planning-Requirements-for-New-Development-and-Extensions>

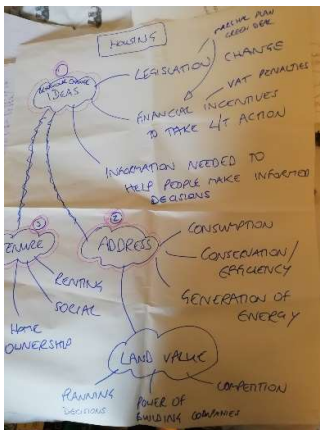
- Agreed that it is essential that house builders change their practice and build energy efficient homes

Ideas/suggestions for planning regs

- All new homes – and extensions - should be required to comply with highest energy efficiency/sustainability standards and renewable energy generation
- planning conditions should include requirements to plant trees and that the number should be calculated by reference to offsetting carbon emissions from the new homes

Other issues

- Noted that the government achieved a significant reduction in methane emissions by taxing LAs on landfill
- Noted that use of peat in gardening should be banned as this compromises the significant carbon sink function that peat performs in its natural state

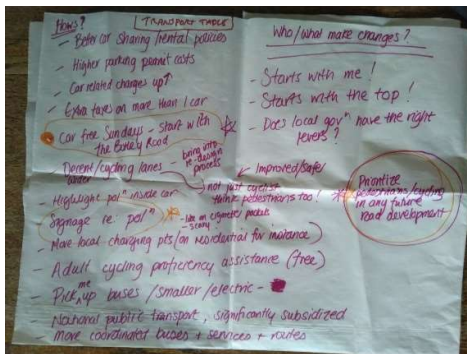




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4. Transport Group

- ✓ **What would a zero-carbon & fair transport system look like in the future in Oxford?**
- ✓ **Who/what would make the changes happen (government, city, community level)?**
- ✓ **How do we engage people to take action/benefit (particularly under-represented groups)?**



Vision

- ✓ Signage,
- ✓ Cleaner air
- ✓ Fear free and friendly pedestrian & cycle tracks
- ✓ Frequent electric buses
- ✓ No cars – quieter
- ✓ Recognition of personal responsibility

Ideas/suggestions

- ✓ Better car sharing/rental policies
- ✓ Higher charges for driving e.g. higher parking permit costs, extra taxes on more than one car
- ✓ Car free Sundays – start with Botley Road
- ✓ Improved decent/wider/safer lanes for cycling and pedestrians
- ✓ Alternative cycle & pedestrian route into town from Botley (across River)
- ✓ Prioritise cyclists/pedestrians in any future road development
- ✓ Adult proficiency cycling assistance
- ✓ Awareness raising about pollution experience inside the car – like warnings on cigarette packages
- ✓ More local charging points for electric car
- ✓ No more park and rides
- ✓ Pick me up smaller electric buses
- ✓ National public transport, significantly subsidised



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- ✓ More coordinated/ better buses, services and routes
- ✓ Better coordination between county & city council
- ✓ Junction at Hythe Bridge & George street – allow bikes to go first
- ✓ Frideswide Square – controlled crossing for vulnerable people

Who/what would make the changes happen (government, city, community level)?

- ✓ Start with me
- ✓ Start with the top – government?
- ✓ Does Local Government have the right levers

5. Urban settlements/planning

Vision

- ✓ Smart affordable Cities
- ✓ Liveable Streets
- ✓ People work close to where they can work

Ideas/Suggestions

- ✓ Engage with planning process
- ✓ Expand Oxford/more homes in Oxford
- ✓ Better Transport into Oxford from exurbs
- ✓ Citizens Assembly should address question of expanding exurbs

6. Business/Commercial

Ideas/Suggestions

Establish a local independent data taskforce

Establish an [energy data taskforce](#) - or similar . The principle would be that the collection of anonymised data sets on a variety of relevant trends (energy usage volumes/times, transport patterns, employee shift patterns and incentives, company car schemes, supply chain information, etc) could all be a great enabler in joining the dots within this systematic challenge that we are trying to tackle. These could be crucial to further development of



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smart control systems that will enable better efficient management of our energy efficiency and emissions reduction programs.

Such data sets could be anonymously and securely held, so that there is little competitive or other concern about providing access, and then provided to those who are innovating in this field, to look for validation of concepts, or to support the development of new business cases. Such data sets may even be able to start capturing some of the external factors that we would also like to see linked to a future economic and societal models put forward – for example information about wildlife, health, happiness, etc.

We believe that the potential benefits as the recipients of the innovation and improvements that can result from the data sharing exercise could be a starting point for a discussion with local businesses around the sharing of the data sets.

We know that the rapid development of AI and other data analytical tools is rapidly developing, but relies upon the development of robust data sets for the required trend analysis. We see that this could be of significant interest for innovation funding and research, helping to also reduce the cost barrier to embarking on such an initiative.

Procurement guidelines

Oxford City Council is in a strong position to review the role of its own procurement policies and processes, to ensure alignment with the net 0 objectives – and to then use this experience as a catalyst for wider change within the local Business/Commercial setting. This might include:

- robust minimum criteria that need to be met for council developments
- establishing access to carbon information across a range of relevant supply chain items
- establishing access to information about product substitution options and enabling access to such supply chains
- promoting or enforcing supply chain transparency
- promoting an element of competition around new targets

This area is intended to cover both leading by example, as well as a valuable and credible source of support to those who need support as well as a nudge in the right direction.



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Oxford Green Infrastructure Fund

There is not an issue with the amount of capital in the market. The key issue is that there are barriers for investors to understand and model the new types of businesses that need to develop to support our green transition. Developers of renewable energy projects are struggling to find credible long term offtake contracts for their projects, companies are struggling to find ways to access flexible green power, buyers of domestic renewable technologies struggle to understand possible impacts on mortgages, EV infrastructure developers are struggling to understand how much their business models will be affected by network charging changes, network operators are struggling to understand how to charge for future network systems, fleet vehicle owners struggle to understand how quickly the competing market for autonomous lift-shares will develop, etc.

To unblock the capital that is ready to invest in all of the above program, there needs to be an opportunity to naturally hedge these uncertainties and risks across the system. This calls for new forms of financing that can utilise the systematic nature of these areas. It calls for new forms of finance that can uncover new ways to integrate these investments into local investment plans, where the output of an investment can be measured by more than £££ alone, and the benefits of the investments can be most efficiently fed back into the right place in the system. We need to start bringing together investors and models from across this space and finding ways for them to work together. This is about moving beyond fossil fuel divestment into a net zero system acceleration.

Oxford is well placed to lead the development of such models. A strong ambitious approach could lead to monumental step changes in economic and societal models. There is a lot of talk about needing an economy that values more than cash and growth. This is an opportunity to design such a system from the bottom up, in a way that is unique to Oxford, but can be replicated and shared nationally, if not globally.