

Launch Statement

We are proud to announce the launch of the North East England Climate Coalition (NEECCo) on Tuesday 30th March 2021.

What is NEECCo?

- We are a cross-sector coalition bringing the North East region together to **tackle the climate emergency, to reverse ecological collapse and deliver a just transition**. We aim to accelerate the movement towards zero emissions which, if achieved, will mean that the birthplace of climate change – the North East of England – will no longer be contributing emissions. We will instead become a leader in the response to the climate emergency.
- Our partners come from the public sector, private sector, voluntary sector, and individuals. The box below shows some of our current partners, and we hope that this launch will encourage very many more organisations and individuals to pledge their support.

Strategic Partners

- CBI
- Environment Agency
- FSB
- Natural England
- North East Culture Partnership
- North East England Chamber of Commerce
- North East England Nature Partnership
- North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System
- Northern Gas Networks
- Northern Powergrid
- Public Health England
- Schools North East
- Tees Valley Nature Partnership
- TUC
- VONNE
- Youth Focus North East
- The 5 North East Universities

(Due to local government elections on May 6, local government or Local Enterprise Partnerships are not allowed to make any policy announcements until after the election. Therefore, we are not including any information on any of the local authorities, combined authorities or LEPs who may or may not be part of NEECCo.)



Partners

Ashden
BALTIC
Believe Housing
Bernicia
Capability North East
Climate Action North
Collective Impact Agency CIC
Community Action Northumberland
Confor: Confederation of Forest Industries
Constructing Excellence NE
Country Landowners Association
Do Gooders
Darlington Borough Council
Durham Community Action
Durham Council
Durham Diocese
Durham Wildlife Trust
Fareshare NE
Food Durham
Gateshead Council
Gentoo Group
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership
Greening Wingrove & Arthur's Hill
Greggs
Groundwork North East & Cumbria
Karbon Homes
Land Digital
Livin
Low Carbon Journey
Middlesbrough Environment City
National Energy Action
National Farmers Union
National Innovation Centre for Data

Net Zero Teesside
Newcastle City Council
NHS Business Services Authority
North East Community Forest
North East Ecumenical Church Leaders Group
North East Energy Action
North East Local Energy Hub
Northern Housing Consortium
North Pennines AONB
Northumberland County Council
Northumberland National Park Authority
Northumberland Wildlife Trust
Northumbria University
OASES
PNE Group
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Ringtons
RIBA North East
Rural Design Centre
Ryder Architecture
Sage Gateshead
South Tyneside Homes
Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership
Tees Valley Wildlife Trust
Thirteen Group
Timber Industry
True North Sustainability
Tyne Rivers Trust
UNISON
Water Hub @ Environment Agency
Yorkshire and North East Forestry Commission
Your Homes Newcastle
Woodland Trust
xsite Architecture



What do we hope to achieve?

Becoming England's Greenest Region

We will:

- Convey a positive vision of our Region that everyone – people, communities and organisations in all our diversity – can identify with.
- Adopt clear ambitious targets for our region that can be monitored and evaluated. “We commit to meet them and intend to beat them”.
- Deliver climate and environmental initiatives that can only be accomplished regionally and by working together across sectors and organisations.
- Give clear added value to our partners regionally and locally, to increase their individual impact, and to support them to achieve more together.
- Attract new resources into the region, and attract national and international profile for our region's work.

What are our initial objectives?

- A greener, fairer, more efficient region, driving:
 - Decarbonisation, and the achievement of a Net Zero target
 - Clean growth, underpinned by innovation and good green jobs
 - Environmental protection, restoration and enhancement
 - A Just Transition from the current carbon economy, that embeds a higher quality of life and equity, protects the most vulnerable, and improves workers' rights and livelihoods

Why are we working at a regional level?

- Our partners already have their own strategies for tackling the three challenges of climate emergency, ecological collapse and a just transition. NEECCo will not interfere in any way with these responsibilities and ambitions. But by working together we will strengthen the ability of each partner to deliver their own ambitions
- We will share examples of good practice across the region, to enable each of us to learn from our colleagues
- We will attract new resources into the region – from Government, and from private and individual investment – by developing a “test-bed” offer, and by being seen as an effective region in which to bring about change
- We will support positive initiatives at scale that would benefit from regional mobilisation or endorsement - to create local value and good jobs in the green transformation
- We will stimulate new cross-sector initiatives between partners
- We will harness the support of all in the community behind a move towards net zero, engaging all sections of society, and helping them discover what vital roles they can play as individuals and collectively in improving our region



- We will listen to and engage all sections of society to ensure the green transformation is inclusive and equitable
- We will create a sense of pride in our region, through the leadership we intend to display.

Why should initiatives be piloted in the North East England? The North East :

- Is the smallest population English Region (affordability),
- is targeting becoming England’s Greenest (ambition),
- has a mix of dense urban/industrial, coastal and rural communities (spatial diversity)
- has a Civil Society, deeply rooted in work with marginalised groups (reach)
- has an acknowledged track record of regional co-operation (believable delivery)
- is a ‘left behind’ region, vulnerable to the impacts of Covid and Brexit (in line with priorities)
- is the only English region with a positive balance of trade (economic contribution)
- already contains nationally important innovatory projects across technology, engineering, environmental restitution and addressing the social and economic consequences of an unjust transition (policy integration)
- is over a year into developing a multi-sector regionwide programme (self-help)
- has a history that connects directly to current climate challenges (a compelling narrative)

What do we plan to do?

- In **June 2021** we will agree a new governance structure and resourcing structure for NEECCO. We are discussing with some of the key strategic partners what simple structure is most effective for agreeing decisions across the coalition – a group that is small enough to drive action, whilst inclusive enough to engage the very wide current and future membership of NEECCo. We are also discussing options for resourcing NEECCo with key partners.
- In **July 2021** we aim to publish a Draft Regional Plan, for wide consultation
 - For many months now we have had planning groups from across sectors working up proposals for how we might transform our work in the region. In July we will bring together this work into one document, with a range of delivery plans.
 - We have been working on a set of indicators for how we might measure our progress Becoming England’s Greenest Region. We will establish a high-level evidence group to agree the measures we should best use, and to scrutinise our developing programme.
 - We will convene a major consultation summit, and other ways of canvassing views on our draft plans
- We will work with Government and our partners to develop options for “test-bed” trials within the North East.
- We will work with investors to develop a portfolio of “shovel-ready” projects totalling at least £1.5 billion, with the intention of attracting significant new private investment into the region by October 2021
- We will work with each of our partners to help strengthen their existing strategies, and seek ways of increasing the effectiveness of those strategies through collective regional working.



- In **October 2021**, just before the International Conference in Glasgow (COP 26) we will launch NEECCo's Regional Plan, setting out our progress so far, setting out ambitious targets for the region, and describing how we intend to meet and beat these targets. We will work together as a region to monitor our shared progress every year between now and 2030
- We will share examples of good practice across the region. Our website www.neecco.org.uk shows some initial examples – we will build on this collection.
- We will engage in public debate on controversial issues – such as carbon capture and storage, and changes to farming practice
- In **October 2021** we will use the COP 26 Conference to galvanise activity across the region on what we can do together to tackle the climate emergency.

What are we asking of you today?

- If your organisation is not yet a partner of NEECCO, take steps to enable them to sign up in support and make your pledge towards our vision of Becoming England's Greenest region
[Join Us – www.neecco.org.uk](http://www.neecco.org.uk)

If you as an individual want to register your support for NEECCO's ambitions and make your pledge towards our vision of Becoming England's Greenest region, sign up here [Join Us – www.neecco.org.uk](http://www.neecco.org.uk)

- Please use social media to share information about NEECCO, and encourage your colleagues and friends to sign up. Follow us on twitter [@NEE_CCo](https://twitter.com/NEE_CCo)

What else can you do to support NEECCo?

If you or your organisation is in a position to provide financial or material support to NEECCo, please contact Carol Botten(carol.botten@neecco.org.uk).

Currently NEECCo is being run largely by volunteers, and by time offered by people within organisations who support NEECCo. We want to be able to create a small central staff team to drive the collective work of the coalition. In the interim period any offers of 'virtual secondments' of staff time to support our general project management or media/ marketing/ campaigning/ public engagement functions would be most welcome.

