

Putting local
government at the
heart of Net Zero



UK:
100

We're delighted to share with you what we have planned for 2021 - a crucial year for local government as the UK recovers from Covid-19 and hosts what could be an historic UN climate conference at COP26.

Join us in 2021 as we build the case for local authorities' essential role in the UK meeting Net Zero, support them in reaching their climate and clean air ambition, and ensure they have the support and resources to get there. See what we're up to this year in [our calendar](#) below.



The Covid pandemic in 2020 did not deter our most ambitious members, with Clean Air Zones in Bath and Birmingham getting the green light and a pioneering village in Cambridgeshire [edging closer to zero-carbon heating](#).



We [gave evidence](#) to Climate Assembly UK, became the secretariat to two APPGs ([Sustainable Finance](#) and [Air Pollution](#)) launched our [Countryside Climate Network](#), and called for a Net Zero Development Bank in [our report](#) with Siemens.



We also launched a [new, more ambitious Net Zero pledge](#) to reflect the huge progress that has been made by our members as well as their determination to deliver, with 51 determined local leaders [already signed up](#).



In 2021 we want to go further, even though the pandemic continues and with it, significant uncertainty. We'll continue to work closely with our members, though we may remain physically distanced, helping them meet their climate and clean air ambitions.

Local authorities have an essential role to play in the UK meeting its Net Zero target and unlocking the good jobs across our communities in the process. We'll continue to advocate for this and for the support they need to get there.

While we're adopting a flexible approach to our work in 2021, to ensure we can still rapidly respond to Whitehall and Westminster developments and advocate effectively on local authorities' behalf, we have three headline activities that support this work: A **campaign ahead of the local elections** in May; a **local Net Zero summit** and conference in July to bring together ministers, local leaders and our business supporters; and **activities to showcase local leaders' vital Net Zero role, at COP26**.

The APPGs on [Sustainable Finance](#) and [Air Pollution](#) are also holding a series of parliamentary briefings and panel events throughout 2021. There are already some exciting events planned - do keep checking their websites for updates.

Local government is central to achieving Net Zero:

The UK government has demonstrably stepped up its commitments and rhetoric about the importance of meeting its climate targets, outlining its intention for the National Infrastructure Bank to have a Net Zero Mandate and launching the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

But there remains much to do to meet its 2050 goal. The government won't be able to achieve Net Zero without the active involvement by and engagement with local authorities.

To enable local government to play its full part and unlock the benefits of climate action in communities across the country, it must be given more powers and resources. Our members, and the communities they serve, rely on creative approaches that by definition remain exceptional unless and until there is a transformation of the national environment in which they have to operate.

With this in mind, we are determined to help our members continue turning their ambition into action, celebrate when they do and advocate for the exceptional to become mainstream. We will continue to encourage them to see the potential to build back better and create cleaner, more powerful communities.

Birmingham is on a
journey to cleaner air

Find out more at brumbreathes.co.uk

#brumbreathes





The UK100 2021 calendar:

Headline activities

May local elections: UK100 will campaign to get local candidates to commit to bold climate action as part of their election campaign.

13 July: UK100 International Net Zero Local Leadership summit and conference with government ministers and our business partners to support ambitious local action towards Net Zero. Supported by Siemens.

1 - 12 November: At COP26 in Glasgow, we'll showcase UK local leadership on the world stage and facilitate global knowledge sharing.

Research, events and activities

Throughout 2021: Shaping a local Net Zero mandate for the National Infrastructure Bank (NIB). We aim to influence the design of the UK government's NIB mandate to enable investment in local Net Zero projects and programmes.

January - February: Local path to Net Zero policy briefings to set out opportunities and challenges from our November 2020 workshops and building on Resilient Recovery Taskforce recommendations.

January - June: Powers+ research that aims to set out what policy and regulation needs to change to enable ambitious local action towards Net Zero - to be launched at our July summit.

March: Visioning Net Zero for rural areas. This research will investigate the role rural authorities play in delivering Net Zero, explore the challenges and opportunities they have in reaching Net Zero, and identify the key priorities for action at the local and national levels to drive delivery. Supported by BEIS.

April: Launch of Powershift Report that identifies powers that local authorities have and need to take ambitious action on Net Zero.

April - June: Policy insight and knowledge sharing webinar series to respond to UK government policy announcements.

April - August: Research to present the economic case for local climate action, based on key learnings from the Place-based Climate Action Network's work with local authorities.

May: Polling research to provide evidence of a public mandate for ambitious local action on Net Zero.

Second half of 2021: Training for newly elected and/or re-elected councillors to support advocacy and delivery of local Net Zero action.

November: Network of Networks research to review in-country local leadership networks (like UK100) from across the globe and their impact on tackling the climate emergency to be launched at COP26. Supported by Siemens.

December: UK100 Annual Review launch at parliamentary event. We'll bring together UK100 members, supporters and partners to celebrate success in 2021 and look towards 2022.

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