

Turning climate change ambition into reality

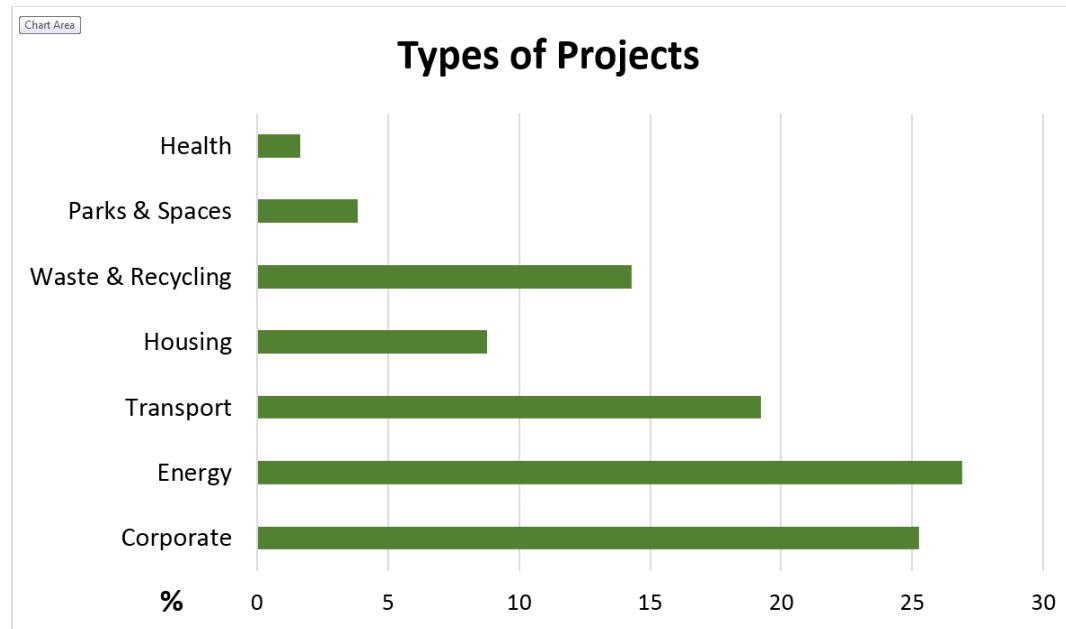
A work in progress – presentation to ADEPT regional workshops

Climate change at the LGA

- LGA climate change commission in 2010, joint partner in "climate local" programme. More recently environment work wrapped into subject areas such as housing, flooding, air quality
- 2019 declaration of climate emergency
 - Strong cross party political support for action
 - Review of LGA activity and support to councils
 - There is no single solution to climate change, but we have been looking at trends in council activity and potential impact on carbon emissions

Trends in tackling climate change

We analysed 182 projects from 100 different councils



Corporate: developing strategic plans, baselines, consultation approaches, establishing political champions

Potential for impact

- Proactive work by councils to reduce carbon emissions
- 53% of projects are complete or will be finished in the next 5 years
- Potential for significant carbon savings from energy projects (trade off of longer term carbon savings vs high cost of upfront investment)
- Examples of shorter term projects - quick wins?
 - greening of council fleet
 - ensuring council procurement strategy contains climate change action
 - tree planting
 - more efficient street lighting

LGA calls to government on climate change

- Set up a joint local and national government taskforce to co-ordinate and drive climate change action
- Switch from siloed national growth funding pots to joined-up local funding pots

Existing policy asks to enable councils to play their full part

- Properly fund the concessionary bus fares scheme – to boost public transport and tackle air quality
- Allow councils to set planning fees locally and scrap permitted development rights
- Establish a properly resourced national air quality support scheme for councils with appropriate legislative and policy changes

Current LGA improvement offer



Online hub with published guidance, support and information



Leadership programmes, including Leadership Essentials and a councillor workbook on climate change



Existing programmes, including Behavioural insights, Design in the Public Sector and Productivity experts

Current LGA improvement offer



Case studies and examples of best practice,
including opportunity to showcase at Innovation Zone



Re:fit programme to improve energy efficiency and
bespoke support through **Local Partnerships**



**a forward-looking climate focused ‘peer
challenge’-style support** to help councils with their
action planning on climate change

Next stage of activity

- Incorporate climate change issues into our **wider leadership programmes** for Councillors and officers.
- Explore the potential for the development of a **self-assessment tool or maturity index** to help councils with long term action-planning and setting strategic objectives.
- Publish further information i.e. '**Don't be left in the dark**' **guidance** and more detailed toolkits
- Publish a '**10 Questions to ask when scrutinising services to tackle climate change**' guide produced by CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny)

Next stage of activity

- Produce bespoke guidance on **communicating around climate change** including with residents, activist groups and central government
- Share our review of **100 council actions** and good practice
- Work on **renewable energy and decarbonising transport**
- Climate change **baseline survey** of councils
- **Policy workshops** on key areas: planning and housing, waste and recycling, transport
- Events

Questions we are asking ourselves

- Are our broader policy asks consistent with our position on climate change?
- How do we provide the best support to councils with our limited resources?
- How can the LGA use our unique position to co-ordinate activity across government?
- How do we develop a new leadership role that keeps us ahead of the game?
- How can we influence the national debate?

We need your input on:

- Designing support tools for councils
- Identifying the barriers and opportunities for councils:
 - Funding
 - Legislation and regulation
 - Skills and expertise
- Help us fill in the gaps on renewable energy – so we reflect current views and experiences