



Case Study: Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (England)



The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission is the largest of its kind in the country and brings together public, private and third-party sectors to support a just transformation and sustainable climate action across the region. Read on to find out how this independent entity informs and works with initiatives in the Yorkshire and Humber areas.

Background

Home to a range of landscapes, including the North York Moors and the Pennine hills, as well as medieval towns and modern urban hubs, the Yorkshire and Humber region covers almost 6,000 square miles in the Northeast of England and is home to 5 million people. The region is already being affected by extreme weather conditions, and is particularly vulnerable to the risk of flooding, which has devastated many local communities.

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission was set up in 2021 and is supported by councils across the region and developed with the support of the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, Northern Powergrid, Northern Gas Networks, the TUC, Yorkshire Universities, Yorkshire Building Society, and the University of Leeds. It aims to support local actions to increase resilience and reduce emissions as well as promoting and strengthening fair and inclusive action to ensure no one is left out or left behind.



An aerial view of the Yorkshire and Humber Coastline



Flooding in the Yorkshire and Humber Area



Spotlight on Influence

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission is an independent entity that supports a range of initiatives across the region to implement ambitious climate action. The commission brings together climate leaders from across public, private and third sectors, often with conflicting perspectives, to productively contribute to panels focused on climate adaptation and resilience, net zero, land use, nature, water and food security and envisioning our future economy.



Tree planting in White Rose forest



The Commission is committed to creating a just and inclusive transition to climate resilience and ecological recovery, as such our ability to provide leadership is embedded in creating opportunities to listen, learn and gather insight from a multitude of perspectives, then share this

in pragmatic forms that trigger action in the region. This includes the YHCC business pledge, connecting key influencers for collaborative work and developing policy briefs and position papers on key topics to inform and advise government at a regional and national level.



Spotlight on Communicating and understanding the evidence

The climate action plan, published in 2021, provided a framework for climate resilience and outlined a number of adaptation actions for both the region and the commission. The YHCC are now facilitating a series of Delivering Impact sessions that draw in current knowledge from academic, governmental and grassroots viewpoints to explore how best practice can be scaled up; connect thinking across disciplines; and generate advice on the most promising solutions for actors in the region. The Commission's Research and Evidence panel feeds into these, shaping the scope of the sessions through collation of the most current subject knowledge to frame the in-session discussion. These conversations will also be extended into the public sphere via an online forum, sharing learnings on each topic area and gathering wider perspectives to feed into regional strategies.



Presentation of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commissions Climate Action Pledge at the Climate Change Summit



Spotlight on Building strong governance and supporting structures

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission invites a wide range of perspectives and voices into discussions. Through creating a safe space to explore differing needs, the Commission focuses on enabling a just, equitable transition for the region.

The Commission sits within a supporting structure comprising a leadership group, a national and regional policy forum, six standing panels and a secretariat. Each panel focuses on different priorities within the YHCC's action plan, inviting experts

and representatives from outside of the commission to contribute their knowledge and share insight into best practice through a series of Delivering Impact sessions. The development of these different structures, the requirements

of various roles within the commission and what the commission can and cannot do are outlined in the Terms of Reference and published on the website to ensure the highest levels of transparency and openness.



The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan



Spotlight on Funding

Organisations across the Yorkshire and Humber area have recognised the benefits of pooling resources at a regional level to encourage climate solutions that are tailored to the region.

The Climate Commission is funded by a number of different stakeholders working in collaboration and start-up funds were secured from Leeds University (£110k), the Yorkshire and Humber Leaders Board (£40k), the Environment Agency (£15k), Yorkshire Water (£15k), Northern Powergrid (£15k), Northern Gas Networks (£10k) and Yorkshire Building Society (£15K a year for three years: 2022-2024). In-kind contributions have also been provided by the PCAN network

TUC, and by Yorkshire Universities.

All funders recognise the independence of the Commission and accept that their contributions in no way influence its work.

Find Out More

Visit the Website at:
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