

LGA Independent Group Climate Emergency Conference 2020

Pre-Conference Survey, summary of results

retrofitted woodland work Green energy areas
public transport local plan housing local new
needed transport improve councils buildings car

A short survey was sent to attendees prior to the conference on the 14 February 2020. In total 34 delegates to the conference responded. 28 of those respondents confirmed that their councils had declared a climate emergency.

When asked what actions councils can take in the long and short term to address the climate emergency, some of the common themes included:

- Focus on improving public transport whilst deterring residents from using high polluting vehicles by introducing charges and traffic controls. This includes encouraging electric vehicles with charging points, car-free city centres, reducing public transport fares, improving cycling and walking routes, working with other councils, and upgrading council fleets and buses to electric vehicles.
- Using Local Plans to protect Green Belt land and update on relevant legislation, new homes must be zero carbon in their build and operation,
- Carbon neutrality: carbon budgeting, council property energy providers review, 100% renewable energy/solar power, loans for retrofitting homes to the highest energy efficiency standards
- Plant more trees, stop using pesticides and herbicides, encourage roadside nature reserves, organic farms
- Lobbying central government for better national/international policy over big business etc
- Reduce the amount of waste to be disposed of, in turn reducing emissions

Respondents felt that the level of priority this was given at their councils varied, and pointed to budget restrictions and emphasis on growth as key reasons for it dropping in priority. It was clear from the responses that climate change is a hot topic among residents everywhere, though it isn't of such high importance to everyone.