

The Cumbria Climate Change Commitment – Local Strategic Partnerships, Voluntary and Community Sector:

Overwhelming scientific evidence makes it clear that average global temperatures are rising largely due to the ever increasing volume of greenhouse gases emitted by human activity. As a result, extreme weather events are causing widespread environmental damage, taking lives and disrupting social and economic activity around the world.

Without effective and immediate action to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions climate change will be more difficult and more expensive to deal and will result in unacceptable human, environmental and economic costs, with particular impact on the most vulnerable in society. Meanwhile, action to curb climate change can help address wider challenges such as social exclusion, health, transport, housing and access to employment.

This Commitment to act on climate change has been developed by the Cumbria Strategic Partnership. It recognises that Cumbria must contribute a proportionate and fair share of the national target to reduce greenhouse gases by a minimum of 80% by 2050. It acknowledges that injustice and poverty, exclusion and disadvantage contribute significantly to the inability of our communities, families and individuals to respond to that challenge. The CSP recognizes the crucial role of the Local Strategic Partnerships and Third sector organisations (not-for-profit organisations, community groups, social enterprises, non governmental, charitable and voluntary organisations) in confronting this challenge of climate change.

LSPs and Third sector organizations are uniquely placed to reach across the whole community and are best placed to provide a local context for action on climate change, making a response relevant to the particular needs and resources of each community. Through inspiring leadership and effective partnership, LSPs and Third sector organizations have the capacity to empower and create more sustainable communities. Partnerships, organizations, groups and projects must commit themselves to a comprehensive and accountable response to climate change. Such a commitment to reducing greenhouse gases and planning to adapt to the effects of climate change will help to ensure the long term resilience of our communities and outstanding natural environment by moving towards a low carbon society that is sustained by a low carbon economy.

We, the undersigned, commit our Local Strategic Partnership or organisation to communicate, enable and encourage action within our community that supports the implementation of the Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan. Specifically **we commit to:**

1. **Publicly affirm the importance of urgent action** to deliver behaviour change at all levels to combat climate change.
2. **Adopt appropriate strategies to reduce our own carbon dioxide emissions** (especially in energy use, transport, organising meetings, waste reduction and purchasing), beginning by establishing baselines and targets.
3. **Support climate change initiatives in our community** (through leadership, signposting, training and facilitation) that improve social and environmental justice.
4. **Publicly report annual progress** on the actions that our own organisation has taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the role that we have played in helping our community to take appropriate action.
5. **Act as leaders** in encouraging and enabling our members, service users and clients **to recognise and adapt to the impact of climate change**, identifying as early as possible which parts of our community will be most at risk and using the skills, knowledge, resources and experience of our partners to support their adaptation.
6. **Publicise and communicate best practice** on climate change that is relevant and practical to the needs of the community, so that we can accelerate the process of change.

Signed by _____ on behalf of _____

Dated _____