

June 2022

**Dear Colleague**

**Re: Call to engage with the implementation of the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission's Regional Climate Action Plan**

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (YHCC) is an independent advisory body set up to bring actors from the public, private and third sectors together to support and guide ambitious climate actions across the region. It is the largest regional commission of its kind in the UK. The Commission aims to foster climate resilience and adaptation to climate risks and impacts, support rapid progress towards net zero carbon emissions, encourage a just and inclusive transition, and to promote sustainability and climate actions that protect nature and biodiversity across our region and beyond.

Coinciding with COP26 in Glasgow, the YHCC published a [Regional Climate Action Plan](#) on 10 November 2021. The implementation of the Plan will rely on the diverse, internationally recognised research, innovation and knowledge base and exchange capacity within the universities across our region. To do this, the Commission is establishing a programme of 'Delivering Impact' sessions that will run through to early 2024 with a focus on net zero, climate resilience, nature recovery and fair and inclusive (or just) transitions in the region. The draft outputs from the sessions will form the basis for extensive stakeholder engagements and will be fed into government and business and to the activities of the Commission moving forward. They will also feed into the **'State of the Region' climate action progress review** that the Commission is preparing for launch in early 2024.

Since the beginning of the YHCC, the [Research and Evidence Panel](#) (REP) coordinated by Yorkshire Universities (YU), has been working closely with the secretariat of the YHCC to ensure that the Commission connects to the region's research base to strengthen the evidence base underpinning its work and to allow it to foster and benefit from future research. To this end, members of the REP have developed a questionnaire to create a dynamic database of expertise across the region and to capture both the broad breadth and depth of expertise across the various institutes, centres, groups, along with individual researchers, based in the region's universities. Through this questionnaire, we've been able to capture the interest of hundreds of researchers across our universities who could play a role and contribute to these 'Delivering Impact' sessions.

Below in the Annex you will find the timeline, themes and detailed schedule of the Delivering Impact sessions and instructions on how to get involved.

We are also keen to reach out to universities currently not represented on the REP to become Panel members and engage with the next steps of the Commission in implementing the Climate Action Plan. We look forward to working with you on these shared priorities.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Daniel Parsons**  
**Chair of the Research & Evidence Panel**  
Director, Energy and Environment Institute, University of Hull



**Dr Peter O'Brien**  
**Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commissioner**  
Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities

If you are interested in participating in a Delivering Impact Session or engaging with the Research & Evidence Panel, please contact Monika Antal, Executive Manager, Yorkshire Universities: [m.antal@yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk](mailto:m.antal@yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk)

## **Annex - Delivering Impact Sessions briefing note**

### **Aims and objectives**

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission is establishing a programme of 'Delivering Impact' Sessions that will run through to early 2024 with a focus on net zero, climate resilience, nature recovery and fair and inclusive (or just) transitions in the region.

Each of the open sessions (see below) will:

- a) examine evidence on key themes
- b) review global, national and regional best practice
- c) develop links between different areas of action to encourage a joined-up approach;
- d) consider what is being done, what needs to be done, and what more could be done to deliver ambitious climate action in the region;
- e) review stakeholder perspectives on each theme, considering the views of government, business and communities/third sector groups;
- f) consider enablers/blockers and capacities for change;
- g) propose practical actions that can/should be taken and the role that the Commission and other actors can play in promoting these.

The draft outputs from the sessions will form the basis for extensive stakeholder engagements and will be fed into government and business and to the activities of the Commission moving forward.

They will also feed into the 'State of the Region' climate action progress review that the Commission is preparing for launch in early 2024.

## Current Session Topics and Timeline

	Regional Policy Forum	Climate Adaptation Resilience Panel	Net Zero Panel	Land, Water, Nature and Food Panel	Future Economy Panel
July 22	Fuel poverty, cost of living	Session shaping and confirming briefs, speakers etc	Session shaping and confirming briefs, speakers etc	Session shaping and confirming briefs, speakers etc	Session shaping and confirming briefs, speakers etc
Sept 22				Creating a secure & sustainable regional food system – urban & rural	
Oct 22	Planning (overview, including adaptation)	People and communities	Buildings, retrofit (inc. heritage)	Nature's recovery &– Achieving 30:30 and beyond	Green jobs and employment including training and skills
Dec 22		Health and well-being	Planning and new build standards	Mitigating climate change, net zero & nature-based solutions	SMEs and business support
Jan/Feb 23	Best Practice & Learning session on a) Climate Comms & Engagement; b) Scope 3 emissions and procurement	Infrastructure	Energy – supply side, distribution and CCUS	Cultural adaptation (attitudes, behaviour, communications)	Finance and investment
Mar/Apr 23		Business and industry	Energy – demand side, storage and distributed renewables	Nutrient cycles and soil health (water quality)	Innovation and entrepreneurship
May/Jun 23	Jobs and Skills	Emergency response & preparedness – part 1	Transport – demand, active, public	Water in the landscape (quality, supply)	Procurement and supply chains
Jul/Sept 23		Emergency response & preparedness – part 2	Transport – vehicles, freight, aviation and shipping	Marine considerations	Logistics and distribution
Oct/Nov 23	Ecological Emergency and Biodiversity improvements (inc. Planning update)	Land, water, nature, food – overview session	Consumption and behaviours	Principles for new development (B&GI)	Circular economy and resource efficiency

<b>What</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Why</b>
Agree final programme	Commission and Panels	June 2022	Provide transparency and enable effective planning and preparation
Call for evidence reviews	Research and Evidence Panel	June 2022	Ensure our debates are well informed using most current and relevant research
Speaker nominations and invitations	Fora/ Panels and Secretariat	3 months in advance of session	To secure most appropriate speakers
Invite Commission and Forum/WG/Panel members	Secretariat	2 months in advance of session	To enable members to plan and prepare
Evidence review received, edited, circulated	Secretariat	1 month in advance of session	To provide members time to review and seek comment from networks
Chair and speaker briefings	Co-Directors	1 month in advance of session	To provide plenty of planning time
Session planning and logistics	Secretariat	1 month in advance of session	To support Chairs with smoothly run sessions
<b>Delivering Impact Session</b>			
Draft position paper produced	Secretariat and Co-Directors	Within 2 weeks of session	To provide a record of the key considerations made, conclusions, and recommendations/actions identified
Draft position paper and proposed actions reviewed	Commission/Leadership Group and Fora/Panels	Within 6 weeks of session	To provide consistency in approach and mitigate potential reputational risks
Draft position paper and actions amended following comments and circulated to Commission/Leadership Group and to Fora/WG/Panel Chairs	Secretariat	Within 2 weeks of receipt of comments	For transparency and awareness
Draft position paper supported	Co-Directors, Commission Chair, Fora/Panel Chairs	Within 2 weeks of receipt of amended version	For transparency & visibility
Agreed position paper and actions fed into Regional Policy/National Policy Fora	Secretariat and Fora Chairs	At the next available Forum meeting	To increase awareness of key issues and support/enable climate action across local/national government
Agreed position paper and actions fed into Climate Pledge Signatories Group	Secretariat and Co-Directors	Within 3 months of session	To increase awareness of key issues and support/enable climate action across in the private sector
Evidence briefing, session videos, agreed commentary and actions posted on on-line consultation platform	Secretariat	Within 1 month of securing support (from Co-Directors, Commission Chair, Fora/WGs/Panel Chairs as appropriate)	To ensure timely and full public engagement

Supporting comms for on-line consultations	Secretariat	Ongoing through process	To ensure all are aware and able to promote engagement through their networks
<b>6-week consultation period</b>			
Feedback processed and revised position paper and actions produced	Secretariat and Co-Directors	Within 1 month of consultation period closing	To ensure timely progress and completion of process
Revised position paper and actions reviewed	Commission/Leadership Group and relevant Fora/Panel	Within 2 months of consultation period closing	To maintain ownership and provide transparency & visibility
Final revisions	Secretariat and Co-Directors	Within 2 weeks of receipt of final comments	To provide a 'single voice' through the reports
Final version sign-off	Chair and Co-Directors	Within 3 months of consultation process closing	To formally complete the process effectively with opportunity to reflect on learning and continuously improve the process.

## **Evidence Review Template - Developed with the Research and Evidence Panel**

The Panels will need to provide a scope for each evidence review, to help the lead co-ordinating deliver what is needed. This can include a requirement to draw on community science or learning and best practice from other sectors, as well as from within the academic community.

c.2000 words, written to be accessible whilst connecting to the research and evidence base, addressing the following points:

### **A. Context and description of the issue**

- Evidence on the importance of the issue
  - a) Globally
  - b) Nationally
  - c) Regionally
- Links between the issue and the broader objectives of the Commission (net zero, climate resilience, nature recovery, just transitions)

### **B. Forms of response**

- Discussion on the scale and pace of action required on this issue
- Discussion on the scale and pace of action currently underway on this issue
- Discussion on key enablers/blockers shaping current activity (e.g. policy, finance, business engagement, public support)
- Review of potential forms of response that could be adopted in the region
- Identification of any best practice examples that the region could learn from
- Discussion on costs and benefits and winners and losers from the potential response

### **C. Proposed actions for the region**

- Elaboration of potential ways forward for the region
- Discussion on the key actions needed to make those ways forward viable
- Discussion on the implications of inaction or continuation of current approaches

## **Delivering Impact Session Framework**

Whole session – 2.5 hrs

### **Part 1 (1hr 10mins) – to be recorded and used as part of the consultation process**

Inspiring and thought-provoking presentation (10 mins speaking + 10 mins direct questions)

- What do we need to do and by when?
- What does current best practice look like?

Regional best practice presentation (10 mins speaking + 10 mins direct questions)

- What is regional best practice and how widespread is it?
- What is normal practice and how can we change it?

Stakeholder presentations (x3, each 7 mins speaking + 3 mins direct questions)

- Perspective from local government
- Perspective from business
- Perspective from communities/third sector

**\* 10 mins break \***

### **Part 2 (1 hr 10 mins) – not recorded, under Chatham House Rule to enable open conversation**

Structured conversation on:

- Why is this issue important?
- How does this issue interact with other key priorities?  
(Net Zero, Climate Resilience, Nature Recovery, Just Transitions)
- What level of action is needed and why?
- What is currently happening and is it consistent with what is needed?
- What should we be seeking to do and what does best practice look like?
- What capacities do we have and what are the main enablers/blockers?
- Who are the key stakeholders and decision makers that need to be involved and are they engaged/aligned?
- What can we do under current conditions?
- What policy or other support is needed to go further/faster?
- What should the Commission do to develop and spread regional best practice?
- What is/are the next steps needed to support or enable action?
- What is the timeframe for action and who should lead?



## Accessible Briefing Note Template

c.2500 words, written as an accessible briefing note, focusing on delivering impact in Y&H.

- What the issue is and why it is important
  - o *Range of levels, from individual to a regional & strategic view*
  - Pop out box summarising underpinning evidence*
- How this issue relates to and interacts with other YHCC priorities
  - Pop out box explaining links between this issue and broader NZ, CR, NR and JT priorities*
- Who the key stakeholders and decision makers are that need to be involved and a reflection on the current position in the region
  - Pop out box setting out key stakeholders and decision makers*
- What should key stakeholders and decision makers be seeking to do?
  - Pop out box summarising the objective to be achieved and by when*
    - o What does this mean for an individual who wants to be climate ready?
- What is currently happening and is it consistent with what is needed?
  - Pop out box showcasing current regional best practice*
    - o What capacities do we have and what are the main enablers/blockers?
    - o What can we do under current conditions?
- What policy or other support is needed to go further/faster?
  - Pop out box on key policy or other support asks to enable action on this issue*
- What the Commission is doing to develop and spread regional best practice
  - Pop out box mapping this issue onto deliverables from the CAP*
- What are the next steps needed to support or enable action in the region?
- What is the timeframe for action and who should lead/be involved?
  - Pop out box summarising the key action points*

## Position Paper Template

c2500 words, written as an accessible briefing note, focusing on delivering impact in Y&H.

- What is the issue and why is it important
  - Pop out box summarising underpinning evidence*
- How does this issue relate to/interact with other YHCC priorities
  - Pop out box explaining links between this issue and broader NZ, CR, NR and JT priorities*
- Who are the key actors that need to be involved and are they engaged/aligned?
  - Pop out box setting out key actors and stakeholders*
- What is currently happening and is it consistent with what is needed
  - Pop out box showcasing current regional best practice*
- What should we be seeking to do

*Pop out box summarising the objective to be achieved and by when*

- What capacities do we have and what are the main enablers/blockers?
- What can we do under current conditions
- What policy or other support is needed to go further/faster?  
*Pop out box on key policy or other support asks to enable action on this issue*
  
- What should the Commission do to develop and spread regional best practice?  
*Pop out box mapping this issue onto deliverables from the CAP*
  
- What are the next steps needed to support or enable action in the region?
- What is the timeframe for action and who should lead/be involved?  
*Pop out box summarising the key action points*