

Place-Based Climate Governance: Pathways to Decarbonisation

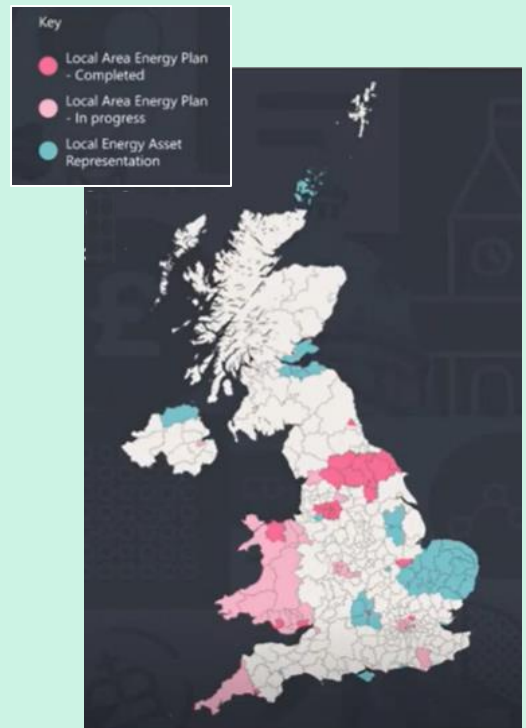
The breakout session was delivered by staff from Energy Systems Catapult, an independent, not-for-profit organisation, which aims to accelerate the decarbonisation of the UK's energy system. It explored the importance of a whole energy system place-based approach and demonstrated how effective stakeholder engagement can support the low carbon transition.

This session was facilitated by:

- **Tim German**, Senior Strategic Relationship Manager, Energy Systems Catapult
- **Chris Brierley**, Senior Engagement and Research Advisor, Energy Systems Catapult
- **Hugh Muschamp**, Lead Officer: Climate and Energy, Fife Council
- **Dr. Katherine Maxwell**, Visiting Fellow, Global Centre on Healthcare and Urbanisation, University of Oxford, Technical Director – Net Zero Cities, Sweco
- **Craig Mellis**, Senior Advisor, Decarbonisation of Sites, Energy Systems Catapult
- **Gordon Graham**, Net Zero Go, Strategic Engagement and Research Manager, Energy Systems Catapult

Key Messages from the breakout session:

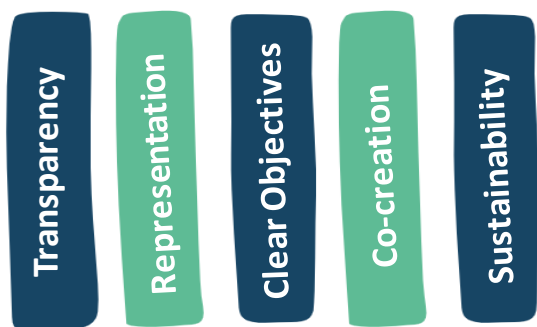
- **Whole-systems thinking** joins up the system from sources of energy to the consumer (generation, transmission, distribution, buildings and consumers).
- 80% of local authorities in the UK have declared a climate emergency yet many do not have energy plans. This calls for **integrated and evidence-based approaches to energy**.
- As of April 2023, 64 **Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs)** were developed/in development.
- Energy Systems Catapult outlined a 7-step process to LAEPs. This includes;
 1. **Prepare:** Outline area hopes and ambitions
 2. **Engage:** Identify/ engage key stakeholders
 3. **Map:** Understand your current local area
 4. **Model:** Get your options for the future
 5. **Choose:** Pick your future pathway
 6. **Identify:** Actions, priorities, projects
 7. **Create** the plan
- Scottish local authorities conduct energy plans as part of their **Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES)**.



This figure shows UK local authorities' development and completion of Local Area Energy Plans. Note 'Local Area Energy Plan – Completed' excludes Perth and Kinross Council.

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Meaningful stakeholder engagement is critical for net zero delivery. The 5 pillars of effective local engagement are:



Resources Mentioned:

- [Public Sector Decarbonisation Guidance](#) or email PSDecarbGuidance@es.captult.org.uk
- [Whole Energy Systems Accelerator](#)
- [Net Zero Go](#)
- [Aberdeen – Warm Homes Prescription Work](#)
- [Manchester LAEP Case Study](#)
- [York and North Yorkshire LAEP Case Study](#)
- [Local Scottish LAEP Case Study](#)

Stakeholder engagement sessions on LHEES and LAEP should consider having:

- A reasonable numbers of stakeholders
- A sectoral mix of stakeholders
- A diverse mix of skills and expertise
- Terms of reference to clarify roles and responsibilities
- No remuneration for stakeholders
- Long-term perspective

Challenges of stakeholder engagement include a lack of sustained resources, differing priorities and a lack of long-term vision and stakeholder roles.

Breakout session polls and results

1. All but 1 respondent saw the value of a localised whole system approach to decarbonisation.
2. The majority of participants considered funding to be the greatest barrier to whole system approaches to decarbonisation. This was followed by staff capacity and the need for further advice on whole system approaches.
3. Respondents stated that action was the most important output when undertaking either LHEES or LAEPs.

 To view the breakout session, click [here](#)

