

Mapping a route to clean local growth

Clearing the path to net zero

Sector summaries

This briefing summarises the opportunities, barriers and steps to creating market conditions for each sector covered in the *Mapping the route to clean local growth* report. Scan the QR code below to download the full report:



Housing and the built environment	
Opportunities	Barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plans can be used to make commitments to reducing carbon emissions in building a matter of law – this is most effective when quantified in terms of carbon budgeting. • Retrofit can be achieved through collaboration between councils on developing pipelines for supply at an aggregated scale, as well as pooling funds – this can be coordinated through county councils or LEPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building standards are a powerful tool for local authorities, particularly once the Future Homes Standard comes into effect, however the lack of capacity within local authorities to absorb and enforce the new standards must be addressed. • While local plans can help local authorities drive decarbonisation, the National Planning Policy Framework must be updated to raise the baseline and ensure action across the country.

Creating the right market conditions for clean local growth in housing and the built environment will entail:

- Kickstarting the demand for retrofit and energy efficiency improvements by working on council owned public estate.
- Setting stringent standards for carbon emissions on new buildings and embedding these in the Local Plan.
- Using the Local Plan and associated strategies to drive low carbon innovation and stimulate demand for practices such as Modern Methods of Construction

Energy

Opportunities

- Through investment in their own **renewable energy generation capacity**, councils can directly contribute to the decarbonisation of the national grid.
- Local authorities can work with **community energy projects** to help local groups deliver energy on a smaller scale.
- **District heat networks** can reduce carbon emissions and, in the longer term, the energy bills of residents.
- **Green skills** can be built up locally in a strategic way through the convening of skills providers and businesses around a long-term project pipeline.

Barriers

- The **long-term nature of investments** in heat networks can present a barrier to council involvement, particularly in smaller authorities where capacity is lower.
- The **architecture of the Further Education college system**, incentivised largely around competition, creates a barrier to holistic local collaboration on skills.

Creating the right market conditions for clean local growth in the energy sector will entail:

- Working with FE colleges, skills providers, and businesses to help facilitate the provision of green skills in the local labour market. Particularly using the Local Skills Improvement Plans as an opportunity for tailored and targeted provision.
- Using council financial and landowning capacity, as well as position of leader and convener of the local state, to direct investment in local renewable energy generation.
- Using local planning powers to set quotas for the use of renewable energy in new developments.

Manufacturing	
Opportunities	Barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities of all kinds can collaborate with each other and local businesses to incentivise Foreign Direct Investment through local skills initiatives, favourable planning policy and strategic coordination. Local authorities of all kinds can use council-owned assets and funds as well as strategies to help enact a just transition to decarbonised manufacturing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many powers that can aid councils in driving FDI in green manufacturing methods and technologies are part of the now-abandoned Industrial Strategy’s enterprise zones, leaving questions as to the further roll-out of such policy. Increasingly reducing council budgets can restrict ability to promote a just transition to decarbonised manufacturing.
<p>Creating the right market conditions for clean local growth in the manufacturing sector will entail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using planning powers and the local plan to incentivise the decarbonisation of manufacturing practices. For example, fast track developments that are aimed at innovation in low carbon manufacturing. Working collaboratively with neighbouring authorities to set up joint procurement entities prioritising the reduction of carbon emissions in manufacturing through a just transition. Lead on strategic planning and bringing together local state stakeholders to agree a common strategy for decarbonisation in local manufacturing that all work towards. 	
Transport and infrastructure	
Opportunities	Barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities can achieve meaningful community engagement on transport and decarbonisation, two issues which impact everyone, through things like Citizen’s Assemblies. Strategic use of a range of powers alongside public information campaigns can help incentivise active travel to the benefit of local health and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst capital funding can be obtained for many decarbonisation solutions, the revenue funding gap of local authorities remains a significant barrier to running services once the initial capital injection has been obtained. The piecemeal devolution landscape across England makes comprehensive integrated

<p>wellbeing as well as decarbonisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined-up procurement, planning, energy and highway strategies can be used to greatly simplify the roll-out of electric vehicles, easing the transition for the public. 	<p>transport strategy difficult in many parts of the country.</p>
<p>Creating the right market conditions for clean local growth in the transport and infrastructure sector will entail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing the provision of EV charging points on council owned land including in public car parks. - Using local planning system, including through the local plan, to develop and deliver active travel schemes in local centres as well as setting stringent targets for developers and related stakeholders to follow. - Working with neighbouring local authorities and other local state stakeholders at an appropriate level on joint strategies to facilitate the decarbonisation of transport and roll out of Electric Vehicles - Local authorities using their role as a trusted broker to launch resident and business engagement campaigns aimed at encouraging a shift to low carbon and active travel transport options. 	
<p>Land Management</p>	
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Barriers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils can improve resilience and community engagement through empowering communities at-risk of flooding by working with flood action groups. • Long-term planning can create a pipeline of projects to boost resilience, bringing in multiple parts of the local and regional economy and public sector. • The Local Nature Recovery Strategies pilot programme demonstrated the potential for bringing together stakeholders from across society to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of piecemeal and overlapping policy directives from central government can lead to inefficient carbon offsetting and conflicts between goals of sustainable food production, nature recovery and biodiversity. • Sustained flood-resilience is difficult due to the lack of a dedicated revenue stream for resilience and adaptation. • Considering the severity of the issue, councils are under-powered to act on privately-held flood defences in poor condition.

together on biodiversity at the local level.	
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Creating the right market conditions for clean local growth in land management will entail:

- Embed nature recovery and biodiversity in future local development and the local plan.
- Convene with agriculture, nature and affected local state partners to better understand how to incentivise innovation in the decarbonisation of land use.
- Work with farmers to understand the potential for land use management and alternate uses of land including possibilities around renewable energy generation through solar panels.
- Commit dedicated support to agriculture workers and farmers in helping them scale up low carbon practices.