

# Mapping a route to clean local growth

Clearing the path to net zero

## Research briefing

This briefing provides a top-line summary of the key themes and action points for *Mapping the route to clean local growth* report. Scan the QR code below to download the full report:



## Key themes

The three key challenges for local government in driving decarbonisation and delivering clean local growth are:

- **Strategic planning across boundaries.** The challenges of clean growth are felt acutely at the local level, but action must be coordinated at a variety of different spatial scales if they are to be effectively addressed, from the regional to the hyper-local.
- **Addressing the skills deficit.** From home insulation to modern sustainable land management, upskilling is needed both within local authorities and across local economies if we are to achieve sustainable growth.
- **Stimulating local markets and driving inward investment.** Whilst the public sector must be at the forefront of mapping the route to clean local growth, this must be in the context of providing opportunities for the private sector to innovate and drive productivity, in the stable economic context that long-term vision can provide.

In addressing these challenges, across all sectors examined in this report, local government must lean on its **soft power as place leader** as the driving force of

action, taking a **holistic approach to economic strategy** throughout – where decarbonisation is understood as a cross-sectoral, cross-departmental mission.

### Five action points

Across the key sectors for decarbonisation:

1. Housing and the built environment
2. Energy
3. Manufacturing
4. Transport and infrastructure
5. Land management

There are **five key points of action** for local leaders:

1. Rethink your area's local plan so that it becomes the local driving force behind decarbonisation and clean growth- ensuring housing and economic needs are met sustainably. The local plan should be used to demand the highest energy efficiency standards, set out a timetable for retrofit, and become the ultimate guide to the fulfilment of your area's net-zero goals.
2. Councils should conduct green energy reviews. These should set out what community energy projects and renewable energy assets exist in the local area and provide an understanding of the potential scope for increasing local, sustainable energy generation.
3. Engage local businesses, especially manufacturers, as they embark on or accelerate their passage on their decarbonisation journey. Engagement and expert advice, and a culture of cross-sector collaboration can bring about a just transition to net-zero industry.
4. Review active travel policies to evaluate the scope to change the travel behaviour among parts of your local demographic which have been reluctant to adapt.
5. Develop a holistic land use strategy for your area so that carbon-intensive land use is offset and meet multiple objectives to increase biodiversity, flood and climate resilience and improve food security.