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Heseltine Institute
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Liverpool City Region
All Party Parliamentary Group

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION: A MANIFESTO FOR NET ZERO

SCALING UP GREEN PROSPERITY



May 2024



The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group

The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) provides a forum for key issues affecting Liverpool City Region to be addressed collaboratively by Parliamentarians from all parties as well as stakeholders from business, the public and third sectors.

Our aim is to provide a strong voice for the city-region in Westminster, working alongside the Metro Mayor and local leaders to help maximise future investment and growth for the benefit of the communities throughout the city-region.

Chair & Registered Contact:

Peter Dowd MP

Officers:

Margaret Greenwood MP

Mick Whitley MP

Lord Hunt of Wirral

Members:

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Ashley Dalton MP

Damien Moore MP

Justin Madders MP

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The Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice and Place acts as the academic partner for the Liverpool City Region APPG. The Heseltine Institute is an interdisciplinary public policy research institute which brings together academic expertise from across the University of Liverpool with policymakers and practitioners to support the development of sustainable and inclusive cities and city regions.

The Liverpool City Region APPG is supported by:



Foreword

Why we need to scale up the Liverpool City Region's net zero ambitions



Tackling the climate crisis is a priority for all of us.

The impact of climate change on the Liverpool City Region is a stark reality. Recent flooding in areas like West Kirkby mean that many constituents living close to the Mersey, like mine in Bootle, or along the coast are increasingly vulnerable to the consequences of rising water levels.

In the Liverpool City Region, we have great ambitions to lead the way to net zero and build a greener and more prosperous region. We know the economic and social benefits of delivering a net zero future are huge.

At the heart of our Manifesto for Net Zero and our Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram's ambitions for a carbon-neutral city-region by 2035 and a net zero city-region by 2040 or sooner, is the need to unlock our innovation, potential, and motivation.

We are rightly proud of our commitment to accelerate net zero transition. We have a lot to be proud of. Just off the coast of my constituency is Burbo Bank, one of the UK's major offshore wind farms. We will shortly have the capacity to triple our energy generation capacity. We have HyNet, a project for hydrogen production, storage and infrastructure, which could reduce CO2 emissions by 10 million tonnes by 2030. Mersey Tidal, which is the UK's best plan for reliable tidal energy, is on its way. Each of these projects provide jobs, boosts our economy and makes the Liverpool City Region a better place to live, work, rest, and play.

It is clear that we have an abundance of ambition to make the Liverpool City Region the epicentre of the UK's net zero innovation. We know we can go further and faster to reach net zero and the Liverpool City Region APPG's '**A Manifesto for Net Zero: Scaling Up Green Prosperity**' sets out our key asks for more capacity to deliver the energy generation, housing, skills and innovation we need to scale up green prosperity.

Thank you to all of our many stakeholders and supporters for your contributions, and making this possible.

Yours sincerely

Peter Dowd MP
Chair of the Liverpool City Region APPG

Introduction

Climate change is rapid, widespread, and intensifying.

Urban areas, and in particular coastal cities such as Liverpool City Region (LCR), are at the frontline of this crisis; with more frequent and more intense extreme weather, increased flooding, and rising sea-levels posing a live threat to public health, local economies and key infrastructures.¹

The scale and severity of the challenge is clear.

- **Globally:** we are committed to addressing the causes and consequences of climate change — embedded throughout the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.²
- **Nationally:** the UK Government has legislated to cut carbon emissions by 78% by 2035, and to reach net zero by 2050.³
- **Locally:** in 2019, LCR was the first city-region in the country to declare a climate emergency and is committed to achieving net zero ahead of national targets.⁴

Whilst there has been some significant progress and innovation, current policies and commitments are not keeping pace with ambitions. Globally, carbon emissions continue to rise;⁵ and nationally, the UK's Climate Change Committee (CCC) has challenged the lack of urgency taken by policymakers towards delivering net zero.⁶ Ambitious missions are no longer sufficient. The accelerating climate emergency requires urgent, targeted actions to reduce carbon emissions across our communities, making them more sustainable, and more resilient for the future.

Although constrained by limited powers, as well as increasingly stretched budgets,⁷ cities and city-regions have an opportunity to play a leading role in the UK's transition to net zero; providing the potential to deliver on transformational policies at both pace and scale.

'A Manifesto for Net Zero: Scaling Up Green Prosperity' is about how Liverpool City Region can play a leading role in the national net zero transition due to its critical mass of natural, industrial, and innovation assets. The Liverpool City Region is extremely well-placed to unlock substantial environmental and economic benefits for its residents, businesses and communities.

Developed by The Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice and Place at the University of Liverpool on behalf of the Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group (LCR APPG), the Manifesto demonstrates the opportunities available in LCR, and how we can embed and accelerate net zero policy to achieve our ambitions.

Our Liverpool City Region can be the national leader for net zero policy and deliver solutions which will work to help the UK achieve its net zero target by 2050.

Our Net Zero Manifesto

What we need to scale up green prosperity

1 Future energy generation

We need a sustainable, consistent and long-term plan to achieve clean, green energy in the Liverpool City Region

LCR has significant renewable and clean energy potential. We need to upgrade energy grid infrastructure to maximise the opportunity.

2 Better, greener, healthier housing

Devolve the funding and powers to retrofit and build green homes

Outlining the need for large-scale retrofit of LCR's poor quality, ageing housing stock, as well as sufficient funding and policy powers to achieve this locally.

3 Invest in transport

Unlock connectivity, accessibility, affordability and greener journeys across the LCR by investing in low carbon technologies and integrated transport

Demonstrating the need to scale-up and integrate LCR's public transport and active travel infrastructure to enable residents to be less dependent on cars.

4 Unlock net zero innovation

We need long-term investment to realise the potential of local innovation and build on our assets to accelerate green growth

Emphasising the increasing wealth of innovation assets in LCR and how these can be leveraged to support the transition to net zero.

5 Future-proof green skills and jobs

Dedicated funding, programmes and responsibilities to scale up green skills in existing and new sectors and future-proof the jobs we need

Exploring how the skills system can ensure local residents are able to realise their potential and meet the needs of employers in a net zero economy.

Our Commitment to Net Zero

This Manifesto recognises that, while there can be no single magic bullet to address the climate emergency, a greater sense of urgency is now required to meet the scale of the challenge. This means focusing on clear priority areas where existing success can be scaled-up, and where nationally significant opportunities can be grasped.

While the Manifesto outlines ambitions for the next electoral cycle, it also encourages a longer-term view – recognising that the full benefits associated with these policy opportunities may not be felt for many decades.

Although the chief focus of this Manifesto is on identifying the key steps to achieving net zero, it is also underpinned by wider concern for:

Preserving the natural environment

An estimated 80% of LCR is comprised of blue/green space,⁸ and the city-region's woodlands, grasslands, and coastal areas play a critical role in storing carbon, regulating the climate, improving air quality, and supporting public health and wellbeing.⁹ With the UK among the most nature-depleted countries globally,¹⁰ it is critical that LCR's efforts to reach net zero simultaneously protect and promote natural capital and biodiversity across the city-region.

Adaptation as well as mitigation

Climate change is already here, presenting a systemic challenge to the resilience of LCR's infrastructure and utilities systems. As we seek to reduce carbon emissions, we must also seek to improve resource efficiency and climate adaptation across our built environment and invest more heavily in the nature-based solutions that are necessary to strengthen local resilience to extreme weather events. Building resilience will be increasingly critical for the city-region to stay competitive as an attractive destination for investors.

A just transition

Whilst there is enormous potential around the green transition, and the shift to a less carbon intensive economy, if mismanaged there is a risk that this could leave some people and places behind. To avoid this, we emphasise the opportunities for net zero policies to act as a catalyst for delivering shared prosperity and improved outcomes for communities across Liverpool City Region.

This LCR Manifesto therefore aims to provide a greater sense of clarity, highlighting the key opportunities and barriers that must be addressed in order to realise them. It aims to provide a greater sense of coordination and consistency, with a shared proposition that civic leaders across the city-region can present to the next government.

Future Energy Generation

We need a sustainable, consistent and long-term plan to achieve clean, green energy in the Liverpool City Region



What are the facts?

- Liverpool City Region has one of the highest concentrations of offshore wind assets in the world.
- Mersey Tidal could produce enough clean, green electricity to power every home in Liverpool City Region for more than 100 years.
- Grid capacity will need to increase to handle more electricity produced from green energy sources – particularly in Liverpool City Region, where energy-intensive manufacturing contributes 36% of the city-region's GVA.

Key asks

- Build the Mersey Tidal Project, developing a full business case so it is shovel-ready by 2028.
- Streamline the planning system to ensure a more stable pipeline of Net Zero projects.
- Accelerate the electrification of the grid.

To achieve net zero carbon by 2050, the UK will need to increase its production of low and zero carbon energy. Investing in the UK's supply of sustainable, affordable energy is also crucial to improving energy security. This includes mitigating the impact of global events such as Russia's war against Ukraine, which saw gas prices rise and UK households hit by bigger bills.

LCR offers a unique combination of natural assets, connectivity and existing energy infrastructure which enable the city-region to play a key role in producing more green and zero carbon energy. Key assets include:

- One of the largest concentrations of offshore wind assets in the world in Liverpool Bay, with over 270 turbines in operation.¹¹
- Further expansion into two new offshore fields for installation over the coming years, tripling the capacity for wind generated energy in LCR.¹²
- Proposals for Mersey Tidal – the UK's most advanced tidal energy scheme with potential to deliver clean and predictable energy supply for more than 100 years.¹³
- HyNet North West – a project for hydrogen production, storage and infrastructure which will enable industry to switch from fossil fuels to hydrogen, a low carbon and sustainable alternative, with potential to reduce annual CO2 emissions by 10 million tonnes by 2030.¹⁴
- LCR's freeport – a multimodal project focused on investing in green technology businesses, with a variety of tax, infrastructure and customs benefits across 16 sites.

To harness these assets effectively, national policy will need to provide long-term, consistent and targeted policy support. Increasing grid capacity is a particularly pressing challenge that can only be tackled at a national policy level, in partnership with National Grid and other infrastructure providers. The risk of electricity grid failure has been highlighted in recent years as demand increases due to rising take-up of low and zero carbon technologies, which are heavily reliant on electricity transmission.¹⁵ This challenge is particularly acute in LCR due to the higher than national average level of manufacturing activity in the city-region (36% of LCR GVA), which uses more energy than other sectors.

In addition to grid capacity, national policy will need to respond to the challenges of planning for new energy generating infrastructure. Planning processes for major energy infrastructure are currently complex, with applications for offshore wind often taking several years to progress through the system. Investors in net zero energy infrastructure require more certainty that planning applications for wind, solar, electricity networks and hydrogen energy generation will be progressed quickly and effectively.

Better, Greener, Healthier Housing

Devolve the funding and powers to retrofit and build green homes



What are the facts?

- Residential buildings contribute around 15% of all UK greenhouse gas emissions.
- A quarter of privately-owned homes in Liverpool City Region were built before World War One.
- More than two thirds of all homes in Liverpool City Region have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D or below.

Key asks

- Make funding more flexible so that LCR can combine existing funding streams and initiatives into a single coordinated approach for the whole city-region.
- Enable Liverpool City Region to utilise innovative modern methods of construction that can be rolled out to help improve the sustainability of housing nationwide.

England has some of the oldest housing stock in Europe, with over 20% of homes now more than 100 years old.¹⁶ This presents a unique challenge for policymakers attempting to address issues such as poor energy inefficiency, ill health and the impacts of climate change. Across the UK, residential buildings contribute around 15% of overall greenhouse gas emissions,¹⁷ while the energy crisis in Europe over the last 18 months has served to further highlight the deep costs of energy inefficiency for many households.¹⁸

Liverpool City Region exemplifies these housing challenges. More than half of the city-region's private sector homes were built before the Second World War, and a quarter before 1919.¹⁹ Many of these ageing homes were built to what would now be considered poor standards, and as a result exhibit extremely poor energy efficiency. More than two thirds of LCR's housing stock holds an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of Band D or below and 7% of the city-region's housing stock performs worse than Band E. As a result, domestic energy usage is responsible for over a third of LCR's carbon emissions.²⁰ This not only has implications for environmental sustainability, but also for the health, wealth and wellbeing of residents. Poor energy efficiency contributes to high rates of fuel poverty in LCR. In Liverpool alone, 18.7% of households were classed as fuel poor in 2020, compared to 13.2% in England as a whole.²¹ Exacerbated by the current cost of living crisis, it is likely that this situation has only worsened over recent years.

Increasing the supply of new, more sustainable housing will play a critical role in addressing these challenges. However, as the vast majority of the homes that people will inhabit in 2050 already exist today,²² addressing the energy inefficiency of the city-region's current housing stock will be even more important if we are to ensure all homes are sustainable for the future.

Nationally, there has been some positive progress over recent years. In England, whilst just 12% of homes had an EPC rating of Band C in 2010, this had increased to almost 48% by 2021.²³ However, the CCC continues to warn that the Government's existing retrofit schemes are delivering at insufficient pace and scale.²⁴ Meanwhile, in LCR, the Combined Authority (LCRCA) is helping to improve the city-region's housing stock through the delivery of initiatives such as the Sustainable Warmth Fund Programme, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, and the Home Upgrade Grant.²⁵ Such initiatives are contributing to LCRCA's commitment to bring 10,000 homes up to EPC Band C within the next decade.²⁶ However, 10,000 is unfortunately just the tip of the iceberg if all 720,000 of the city-region's homes are to be decarbonised in order to achieve current net zero targets.

For LCR to keep up with the scale of the challenge, greater funding flexibility and policy autonomy will be required to develop a more strategic, long-term approach to housing retrofit, with opportunities to combine existing funding streams and initiatives into a single coordinated approach for the whole city-region. Devolution of net zero funding, including for retrofit programmes (as is currently being explored in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands, with potential to be developed in LCR through the recently agreed Level 4 devolution deal²⁷), could enable this. Moreover, with the policy support necessary to deliver housing retrofit at scale and pace, Liverpool City Region also has the potential to utilise innovative modern methods of construction that can be rolled out to help improve the sustainability of housing nationwide.

Invest in Transport

Unlock connectivity, accessibility, affordability and greener journeys across the LCR by investing in low carbon technologies and integrated transport



Roger Sinek

What are the facts?

- Transport is responsible for 26% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Around half of all short journeys (under 5km) currently taken in Merseyside are done by car.
- 70% of Liverpool City Region's bus fleet are powered by zero or low emission energy – with plans to fully decarbonise the bus network.

Key asks

- Improve the accessibility of Liverpool's active transport and public transport networks to allow all residents to engage with our already existing net zero transport infrastructure.
- Provide additional capital funding to expand Merseyrail and bus infrastructure so that fewer people in Liverpool need to be car dependent.
- Reduce the legislative and regulatory burden for new net zero transport.
- Increase the pace of electrification on the mainline rail network.

Transport is responsible for 26% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions,²⁸ including 32% of Nitrogen Oxide emissions. Decarbonising our transport network will be central to achieving net zero by 2040 or sooner in LCR and 2050 across the UK.

Some progress has already been made in LCR to reduce emissions from transport. Active travel infrastructure such as cycle lanes and improvements for pedestrians have been delivered, for example at the remodelled Lime Street in Liverpool and a new 'Cyclops' junction in St Helens. MerseyTravel is rolling out a fleet of hydrogen-powered buses, a move towards decarbonising local buses which will be further assisted by implementation of the franchising model from 2026, enabled by the Bus Services Act 2017.²⁹

However, LCR residents remain highly reliant on private vehicles to get around the city-region. While the rollout of electric vehicles will help reduce emissions, improvements to public transport and active travel will be crucial to promote more sustainable methods of transport, reduce congestion and improve air quality.

There are opportunities to reduce the number of short journeys taken by car. 66% of all trips in Merseyside are less than 5km in length, but of those trips around 50% are taken by car.³⁰ To encourage some of those journeys to be made by walking, cycling or public transport, national policy should focus on:

Cleaner public transport. Liverpool City Region's new fleet of hydrogen-powered buses, launched in 2023, are helping to reduce emissions from public transport and contribute to the city-region's 2040 or sooner net zero goal. Increasing the frequency and reliability of buses will be crucial to increase ridership and reduce reliance on cars, and to integrate more effectively with rail services. More investment will be required to fully decarbonise local public transport, particularly on the rail network. All of Merseyrail's fleet is electrified, but across the rest of the network progress on electrification has been slower, with 63% of Northern and 41% of TransPennine trains still powered by diesel.³¹ Planning for major transport projects should be streamlined to enable combined authorities to make quicker decisions about where investment should be targeted.

Enabling a more integrated transport network. The success of London's public transport network over the last 20 years has been built on Transport for London's ability to coordinate various modes and use income from the Underground, Overground and bus network to invest in new infrastructure. Under the recently announced Level 4 devolution powers, Liverpool City Region will receive a single transport funding settlement enabling longer term planning over the local transport network. To achieve progress on integrated ticketing – a commitment in the Levelling Up the UK white paper published in 2022 – more investment will be needed in Pay As You Go infrastructure to improve passenger experiences and make multi-modal travel around LCR and the wider North West easier for passengers.

Making transport more accessible for all users. Significant progress has been made in recent years to make more Merseyrail stations accessible to passengers with disabilities and other users with accessibility needs, but more work is needed to ensure public transport is accessible for all. Reducing pavement parking is also a priority for increasing walking across Liverpool City Region, and national policy changes are required to achieve progress in this area.

Unlock Net Zero Innovation

We need long-term investment to realise the potential of local innovation and build on our assets to accelerate green growth



What are the facts?

- The Liverpool City Region Investment Zone was launched earlier in 2024, with a particular focus on promoting research and innovation in life sciences and materials.
- The Liverpool City Region Freeport has been operational since early 2023, with businesses benefitting from tax and customs initiatives across 16 sites.
- Glass Futures, based in St Helens, is the world's leading centre of excellence for innovation in decarbonising glass production — a historic industry of the Liverpool City Region.
- Projects such as HyNet and Mersey Tidal are leading the way when it comes to capitalising on innovative net zero technologies that harness LCR's natural and industrial assets.

Key asks

- The UK should promote a stable, long-term, and proactive industrial strategy which supports place-based clusters of expertise.
- This should also provide support to the sectors identified in the Liverpool City Region Innovation Prospectus — including support for net zero opportunities in local industries such as glass manufacturing, automotive engineering and hydrogen.

Building on its heritage as a birthplace of the industrial revolution, Liverpool City Region has a wealth of assets at the forefront of innovation, with emerging strengths nurtured through collaborative partnerships incorporating the city-region's universities, businesses, and anchor institutions.

Knowledge Quarter Liverpool (KQ), for example, is home to leading research on infection and disease, public health, materials chemistry, sports science, artificial intelligence, as well as the Manufacturing Technology Centre. Sci-Tech Daresbury hosts the Cockcroft Institute, an international centre for Accelerator Science and Technology (AST), as well as the STFC Hartree Centre, home to the world's most powerful supercomputer dedicated to using AI to address real world challenges. Research led by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and the University of Liverpool is central to delivering research on infectious diseases. The University of Liverpool is also ranked 3rd in the UK for impact in materials chemistry, with much of this research undertaken in collaboration with major employers based in LCR, such as Unilever.

The city-region has further opportunities to strengthen this innovation ecosystem by aligning research expertise and facilities with the delivery of major national policy initiatives:

- **LCR Freeport:** Established in 2022, the LCR Freeport is one of eight in England, with employers located at 16 sites benefiting from a range of customs and tax benefits. Investing in net zero technologies is a key objective of the LCR freeport, with particular potential to contribute towards decarbonisation of freight.
- **LCR Investment Zone:** LCR also hosts an Investment Zone. The zone comprises 21 projects across the city-region, including three tax sites at Maghull Health Park, St Helens Manufacturing and Innovation Campus and Sci-Tech Daresbury, as well as a key hub of innovation assets centred around KQ Liverpool. The investment zone aims to develop several clusters related to net zero industries, with a particular focus on materials science.

The city-region's Innovation Prospectus highlights that LCR's distinctive combination of physical, industrial and knowledge assets are well positioned to enable world-leading advances in net zero technologies. This includes the development of offshore wind, hydrogen, and tidal energy projects, as well as revolutionary innovations in industrial decarbonisation, and digital research capabilities.³²

Glass Futures in St Helens is an example of how LCR's innovation assets can contribute to net zero. The £53m facility includes an open access 35-tonne-per-day pilot plant with R&D, training and office space, dedicated to decarbonising glass production.³³

Innovation has a key role to play in addressing long-standing productivity and prosperity gaps between Liverpool City Region and the rest of the country;³⁴ supporting higher value jobs that grow the economy and raise living standards.

However, to realise the full economic and environmental potential of the LCR innovation ecosystem, it will be vital that focus remains on tailoring innovation policy in a way that is sensitive to local circumstances. Evidence suggests that attempting to build entirely new clusters of innovative firms, can be difficult to achieve. Instead, it is important to build on existing strengths, and ensure focus on the diffusion and adaptation of new technologies throughout the local economy as well as their discovery.³⁵ LCR's innovation strengths in glass manufacturing, automotive engineering and hydrogen industries make the city-region well-placed to help build a net zero economy.

Future-proof Green Skills and Jobs

Dedicated funding, programmes and responsibilities to scale up green skills in existing and new sectors and future proof the jobs we need



What are the facts?

- An estimated 65,000 jobs in the Liverpool City Region workforce require upskilling and 63,000 jobs will be in higher demand due to the net zero transition.
- Global demand for 'green' skills is outpacing supply.
- Liverpool City Region's control over the adult skills budget, through devolution, offers an opportunity to respond to local skill demands dynamically and align training with the green skills employers in net zero industries are looking for.

Key asks

- Liverpool City Region should be given full devolution of powers over technical and academic education for 16-19 year olds to support the pipeline for Green Skills within the city-region.
- Government should reform and devolve the apprenticeship levy so that it is more effective for employers and apprentices and to increase uptake.

Ensuring workforce skills align with existing and forecast employment opportunities will be important in the context of the UK's transition to net zero. Analysis by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) suggests this transition will require prioritising "a range of different skills that goes well beyond what many consider to be 'green skills'".³⁶ Specialist industry and technical skills – such as construction, energy supply and waste – will need to be buttressed by broader skills – such as digital, management, and people skills – to enable people and businesses to flourish in a fast-evolving economy. While new green jobs will exist, most of the new skills needed will utilise existing technical and craft skills to comply with new requirements or integrate the use of new technology into existing processes.³⁷

Insight from the Place-based Climate Action Network's jobs tracker³⁸ suggests that 65,000 existing jobs will require upskilling to support workers in high carbon sectors adapt to a net zero economy, and 63,000 existing positions will be in high demand due to their important role in the transition. In addition, low carbon job opportunities, including retrofitting, offshore wind and energy, electric charging points, plus flagship investment projects – such as Mersey Tidal and HyNet North West – will place significant demands on the supply of skills in LCR, especially where projects are being delivered concurrently.

Analysis of LinkedIn data between 2022-2023 suggests the global demand for green skills is outpacing the increase in supply, with the share of jobs requiring at least one green skill rising by 22.4% compared to a 12.3% increase in workforce skills over the same period.³⁹ In the UK, the recent independent net zero review reported concerns across all sectors of significant skills gaps.⁴⁰ In Liverpool City Region there are long-standing structural issues impacting on the workforce with some low carbon occupations (particularly skilled trades) being less attractive to young people, women and BAME workers.⁴¹ In addition, recruitment risks associated with an ageing workforce, challenges in inducting newly trained people into the workforce and the loss of EU-migrant skilled labour into construction is likely to widen the skills gap still further. Attracting more diverse new entrants into the low carbon sector, including those with cross-cutting scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) skills and qualifications at GCSE, A Level and Higher Education degree is a priority.

The CCC expert advisory group on skills examined the UK's skills and education system in the context of the transition to net zero. Their report identifies significant risks to achieving net zero because of fragmentation and limitations of the skills system to respond to new qualification requirements and shifting employer demands.⁴² The expert group suggests that greater integration across the whole of the skills system is needed – from school to further education and universities – to support the demands of rapidly expanding and evolving sectors and to equip school-leavers and graduates with transferable skills to change roles and sectors more easily. Building clear and understandable career pathways into green jobs is also important in this context. The authors single out the Further Education sector as requiring significant additional investment to scale up existing capacity and capability and develop new programmes in net zero skills. In LCR, capital investment is already being targeted to enable FE colleges to expand and realign provision, including making physical alterations to premises focusing on retrofit, hydrogen, electrification of vehicles, installation of EV charging stations and modular housing.

Deeper devolution provides an opportunity through local control of the skills system to inform and scale up the approach to net zero at the city-region level by taking targeted action, such as building pathways into green careers for all residents and ensuring skills investment is made sufficiently in advance of flagship low carbon investments to meet employer demands. Green skills will be a vital and competitive area over the coming years, and it is crucial that LCR collaborates with industry partners and the education and skills sector in a dynamic way as the net zero transition evolves.

Our Manifesto for the Power to Scale Up Green Prosperity

This Manifesto illustrates the scale of transformation required to achieve net zero in Liverpool City Region and across the UK. However, it also highlights the scale of the opportunity: for the UK, for LCR, and for local communities.

The Liverpool City Region has the potential to set the template for decarbonising major urban areas and ensuring that this transition improves the health, wealth, and wellbeing of local residents.

For this potential to be fully realised, the city-region's civic and business leaders will need to utilise their existing powers effectively, ensuring that focus is maintained on harnessing LCR's existing strengths and scaling up existing successes.

This includes building on the city-region's strong capacity for renewable energy generation, accelerating delivery of an integrated public transport and active travel system, as well as leveraging LCR's burgeoning innovation ecosystem to support the shift to net zero across the whole economy.

Supportive and proactive national government policy will also be critical to achieving local success. A more stable, consistent, and long-term national policy framework for net zero is required to facilitate effective local action. This includes active investment in the city-region's energy infrastructure and skills systems to ensure they are prepared for the demands of a net zero economy.

Finally, deeper devolution will also be vital, providing the increased policy and fiscal autonomy necessary for LCR to deliver a coordinated approach to achieving net zero across the entire city-region. This includes building on the existing Level 4 devolution deal with government and learning from the 'Trailblazer' agreements in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands, so that the city-region itself can drive forward the initiatives necessary to reach net zero.

Doing so will enable LCR to contribute more effectively to achieving national climate ambitions, whilst also ensuring this delivers meaningful shared prosperity and improved outcomes for local residents, communities and businesses.



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Contact

To find out more about the Liverpool City Region APPG, please contact lcrappg@inflect.co.uk.

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