



Annual Review 2022

Anchoring local Net Zero in an
ocean of uncertainty

UK:
100

Our mission

UK100's primary purpose is to support a local-led rapid transition to Net Zero and Clean Air. We do this through collaboration. To accelerate action, we believe in bringing together the most influential leaders across the country to learn together and agree on priorities for legislative and regulatory change while empowering them to engage with national decision-makers. We provide our network with the knowledge, tools and connections to make this happen.



Foreword



December 2022

2022 has been anything but uneventful.

Last December, I was celebrating the efforts of our members to get local Net Zero explicitly recognised in the Glasgow Climate Pact at COP26. A year on, the international climate conference in Egypt leaves 1.5°C on life-support. But our hope must not be dimmed.

When international delegates leave our planet at death's door, climate-ambitious local leaders are just what the doctor ordered.

The number of local authorities signed up for our urgent Net Zero pledge topped 100 in 2022. Our newest members continue to demonstrate the groundswell of cross-party support for immediate climate action.

I am proud to introduce UK100's first-ever Co-presidents, Tracy Brabin, the Mayor of West Yorkshire, and Cllr Richard Clewer, the Leader of Wiltshire Council. Tracy and Richard embody the political consensus on the need to act on climate that is what UK100 is all about.

Richard serves as the Chair of our Countryside Climate Network, the UK's only network focused on rural Net Zero. It has 44 members, giving rural climate voices a national and global platform.

Our members represent 57% of the population. They lead communities contending with the fallout of myriad crises, from domestic political instability and a cost-of-living emergency to Russia's war on Ukraine and a gas price crisis.

In November, we released our [End the wait. Insulate.](#) report. It sets out why a locally-led social housing energy efficiency drive can help protect some of the most vulnerable households from the gas price crisis by permanently slashing energy bills — while growing local economies, supporting jobs, and accelerating Net Zero progress.

Our [Local Net Zero Delivery Progress](#) reports reflect the experience of our members; Ministers are not matching nor adequately enabling local authority ambition. Shortly after being asked to lead the government's Net

Zero Review, Chris Skidmore MP spoke of how his report “could recommend devolving more power to local authorities and city mayors.” We worked with Chris to arrange the first Net Zero Review evidence session with cross-party local leaders. We will continue working closely with Chris to ensure local leaders are at the heart of the UK's Net Zero plan.

From COP27 to the cost-of-living crisis, 2022 demonstrates — yet again — the key role innovative and ambitious local leaders play in tackling the urgent issues facing the country. Issues from which the climate crisis cannot be separated.

In 2023, we will continue to support our members to show the government we stand ready to design and deliver.

I'd also like to say a big thank you to all our core foundation grants that made our 2022 success possible.

Polly Billington
Chief Executive Officer, UK100

2022 at a glance



105 local authorities sign up to our Net Zero Pledge

A 13% increase in membership across 2022, and an almost tripling of membership since the pledge launched in 2020.



38 Reports, insight briefings, consultation and call for evidence responses published

Our research continues to contribute to and influence the national evidence base on the role of local authorities in delivering Net Zero.



21 UK100 members commit to meeting tough WHO air pollution standards for PM2.5 by 2030

The local leaders also write to the Government calling on Ministers to match their Clean Air ambition.



2 new Co-presidents

UK100 was delighted to appoint the Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, and the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Cllr Richard Clewer, as our new Co-presidents.



3 major UK100 local Net Zero wins

Ofgem acknowledge the importance of local in decarbonising the energy system

UK Government acknowledges UK100 and importance of local action in its report to UNFCCC

UK Infrastructure Bank launches a series of pilot projects to inform its local advisory function

Our members



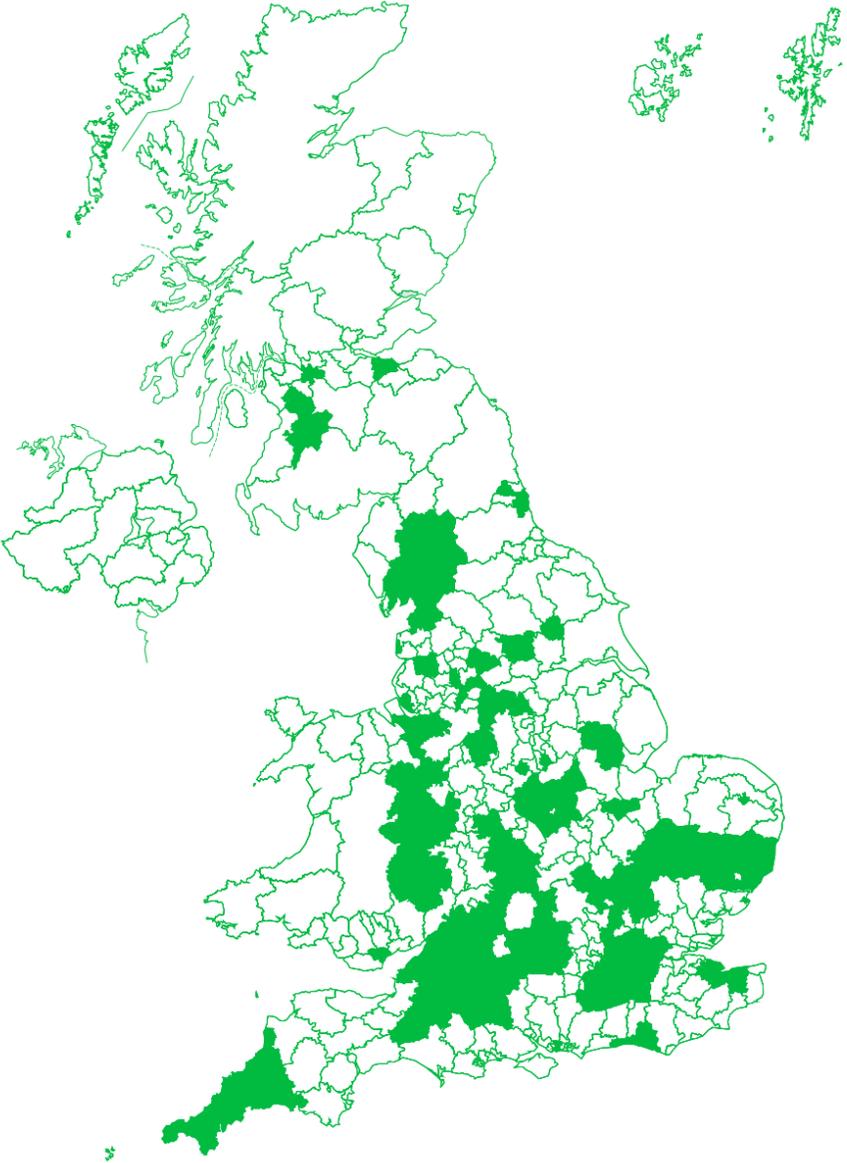
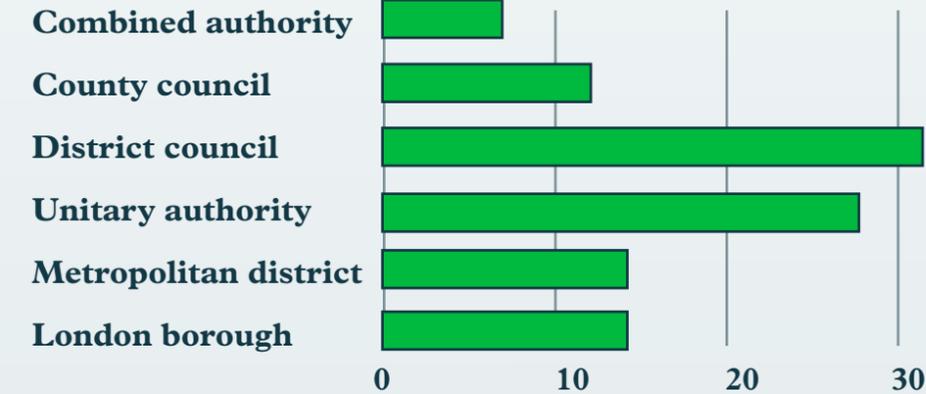
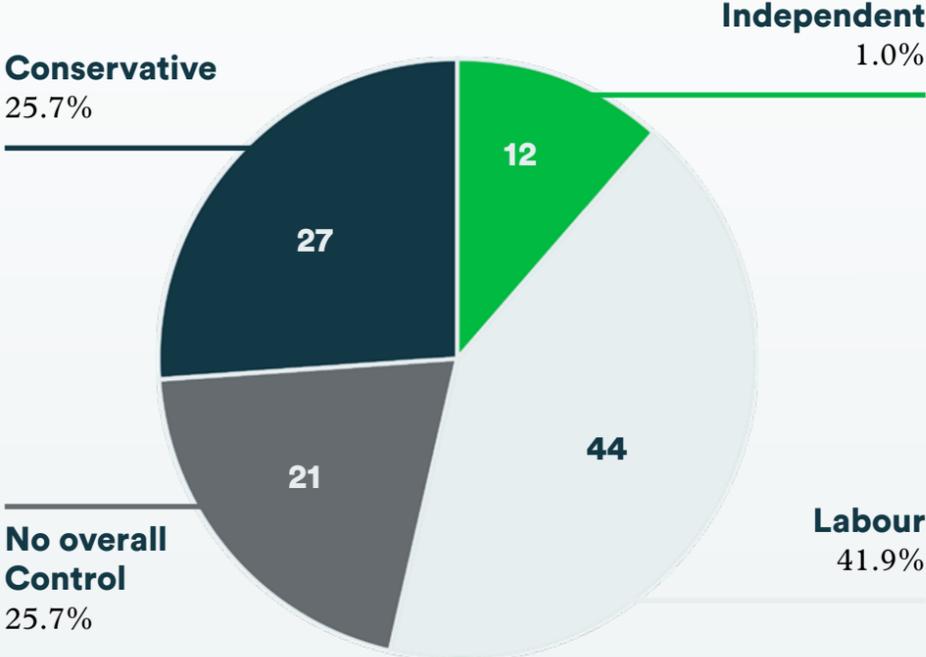
Political administration

- 44 Labour
- 27 Conservative
- 12 Liberal Democrats
- 21 NOC
- 1 Independent



Type and tier

- 6 Combined authority
- 11 County council
- 31 District council
- 28 Unitary authority
- 14 Metropolitan district



Geographical distribution

- 15 Greater London
- 3 Scotland
- 2 Wales
- 12 East of England
- 17 South West England
- 15 South East England
- 18 Midlands
- 6 Yorkshire and the Humber
- 17 North of England

Getting the word out

- Across broadcast, print and online media, UK100 reached a potential audience of over 100 million people in 2022.
- [LBC News](#) to the popular [The News Agents Podcast](#), [BBC local radio](#) to [BusinessGreen](#), [Times Radio](#) to [The Guardian](#), [The Herald](#) to [Yorkshire Post](#).

UK100 promotes its members in the media:

Brighton & Hove City Council Leader, Cllr Phélim Mac Cafferty, writing for [Air Quality News](#) on UK100's cross-party call for ambitious air quality targets, Derbyshire County Council Leader, Cllr Barry Lewis, writing about nature Net Zero for the [Environment Journal](#).



Socials

Website

In 2022, we revamped the Knowledge Hub on our website to showcase the work of our members and provide a one-stop-shop for local Net Zero inspiration and practical case studies. We are looking to redevelop the whole website in 2023.

Up to 6,000 monthly unique website visitors



**More than
700,000
impressions**



**More than
1,000 new
followers**



**More than
140,000
profile visits**



Highlights from 2022

January

UK100 launches [Energy Networks: Insight Briefing](#) highlighting how energy systems reform needs to put local authorities at the centre of the transition to Net Zero.



Energy Networks: Insight Briefing

[View report](#)

UK100 engages with [the six distribution network operators](#) (DNOs) responsible for the pipes and wires that bring the gas, electricity and, in some places heat, to our homes or offices, to shape their business plans.

UK100 hosts a member roundtable with the UK Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) to discuss the newly established bank's local authority lending and advisory functions.

February

As part of UK100's work to ensure the CCC recognises the importance of local climate action, the independent statutory body launches a '[climate conversation initiative](#)' to learn more about delivering a fair Net Zero for the UK across the regions, local authorities and communities. UK100 attends the inaugural "conversation" session co-hosted by our members Birmingham City Council.

UK100 organises a roundtable on Clean Air as part of the independent inquiry by National Audit Office (NAO) into the Government's approach to tackling local breaches of air quality. The subsequent NAO [Tackling local breaches of air quality](#) report cites its work with UK100, and concludes the Government is not doing enough to deliver on air quality standards.

March

UK100 attends all [six Ofgem open hearings with DNOs](#) to advocate for the importance of local authority collaboration as DNOs prepare their final business plans from 2023 to 2028. At a separate event chaired by UK100 Chief Executive Polly Billington, Ofgem Chief Executive Jonathan Brearley [confirms the importance of local authorities](#) in the energy system.

UK100 helps to shape [Net Zero Go](#), a unique, powerful, easy-to-use platform that brings together all the tools and support that local authorities need to develop successful, locally-focused zero carbon projects, taking initiatives from a standing start to operational and beyond.

UKIB Chief Executive John Flint [writes exclusively for UK100](#), reflecting on the green finance priorities raised by members at the roundtable chaired by UK100 and committing to work in partnership with local leaders to unlock the transition to Net Zero.

April

UK100 hosts a knowledge-sharing session with members to explore local air pollution action and agree a national campaign for ambitious Clean Air action in line with WHO PM_{2.5} limits.

Ofgem acknowledges the importance of local government when it launches a [review of the future of local energy institutions and governance](#), and cites UK100's [Accelerating climate action: the role of in-country local leadership networks in delivering Net Zero](#) report, supported by Siemens and National Grid.



Accelerating climate action: the role of in-country local leadership networks in delivering Net Zero

[View report](#)



It is great to see Ofgem recognise the vital role of local communities and authorities in creating the kind of future-proof Net Zero energy systems we need, which have flexibility at their core.

Polly Billington, UK100 CEO, Ofgem Press release.

May

West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin, and Wiltshire Council Leader, Richard Clewer, are [unveiled as UK100's first-ever Co-presidents.](#)



Our network [tops 100 members](#), Derbyshire County Council takes the 100th spot.

Alongside leading organisations including E3G, Energy Systems Catapult, 3CI, and the Pollination Group, UK100 launches [UKIB Local Authority Lending and Advisory Service: Insight Briefing](#) and writes to John Flint setting out our recommendations for how the bank can most effectively use its local authority lending and advisory services to accelerate local Net Zero investment.



UKIB Local Authority Lending and Advisory Service: Insight Briefing

[View report](#)



June

UK100 members meet in Harrogate as part of the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference.

UK100 launches its new air quality report [Yes we CANZ! Local leaders delivering Clean Air and Net Zero](#) introducing Clean Air Net Zero (CANZ) — ensuring Net Zero policies include a Clean Air audit and vice versa.



Yes we CANZ! Local leaders delivering Clean Air and Net Zero

[View report](#)

[Clean Air Day](#): UK100 chairs the TRANSITION Clean Air Network ‘Clean Air Zones: the political reality’ panel at the University of Birmingham.

On behalf of the APPG on Air Pollution, UK100 and Global Action Plan hosted a Clean Air Day event with then-Environment Minister Jo Churchill MP.

UK100 and Healthy Air Campaign partners hosted a Clean Air parliamentary drop-in event attended by nearly 40 MPs and peers, including ministers and shadow ministers.

UK100 convenes a coalition of over 20 members to [write to the DEFRA Secretary](#), pledging to go further and faster in their efforts to meet WHO air quality standards and calling on the Government to match their ambition.

As part of the Local Power in Action programme, UK100 supports [Gloucestershire County Council’s Decarbonising Transport Forum](#), chaired by UK100 Assistant Chief Executive Jason Torrance. Over 100 stakeholders from across Gloucestershire participate including: the six District Councils, public sector bodies, and businesses in order to build consensus on Gloucestershire County Council’s transport decarbonisation work.

Following earlier engagement, the CCC’s [Progress in Reducing Emissions: 2022 Report to Parliament](#) recognises the importance of local Net Zero action and cites UK100 research into a local-national delivery framework.



July

UK100 [Local Net Zero Delivery Progress](#) reports assess local government progress against the UK's Net Zero targets covering Transport, Energy, Heat and Buildings, Finance, Powers, Clean Air, Nature, and Waste. The [launch event](#) is attended by MPs and local and regional leaders.

[New polling shows](#) local authorities are most trusted to deliver climate action, but people don't think they have enough money or power to deliver effectively.



**Local Net
Zero Delivery
Progress reports**

[View report](#)

**The launch
event is attended
by MPs**

[View report](#)

**New polling
results**

[View report](#)

Ofgem publishes its [draft determinations](#) acknowledging there is a “need for a more decentralised approach in line with local needs and circumstances.” In line with UK100 recommendations, Ofgem considers “engaging with local authorities on future investment and planning options is part of the core business of DNOs.” UK100's work with Ofgem is referenced in the accompanying [methodology document](#).

UK100's evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee's inquiry the fossil fuel transition and energy security was used to inform a Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology briefing on energy security.

As part of the Local Power in Action Programme, UK100 convenes a members-only roundtable event with local authorities looking to [implement a Workplace Parking Levy](#).

August

The Government's [Eight National Communication to UNFCCC](#) referenced the importance of the newly established Local Net Zero Forum. The report also reflects on how UK100's advocacy helped build the Forum and highlights our work in the Sustainable Finance sector, supporting Green Finance Institute and Abundance Investment to develop innovative climate finance options for local authorities.



September

Following the announcement of a staggering 80% energy price cap rise, UK100 launches our new [End the wait. Insulate.](#) campaign calling for urgent, locally-led action on energy efficiency to reduce household energy bills and support local economies and jobs while accelerating Net Zero action.

In line with the recommendations laid out in UK100's [UKIB Local Authority Lending and Advisory Service: Insight Briefing](#), UKIB announces the first pilot projects that will enable the bank to develop its local technical advisory function.



**End the wait.
Insulate. report**

[View report](#)

**UKIB Local Authority Lending and
Advisory Service: Insight Briefing**

[View report](#)

[UK100 welcomes the projects](#) with members Manchester, Bristol and West Yorkshire.



Everyone at UK100 joins with the rest of the country in [expressing our deep sadness at the passing of Her Majesty The Queen](#). A number of events are postponed and cancelled out of respect.

Across party conference season UK100 representatives speak at events held by the APPG Net Zero, Fabian Society, Future Cities Catapult, Institute of Government, New Statesman, Siemens, Social Market Foundation.

October

The [Climate Leadership Academy](#) hosts its [first weekend workshop in Birmingham](#). The programme is designed to equip councillors from across the UK100 membership with the skills and expertise to overcome the political and financial challenges to delivering ambitious local climate projects.

The new-look, more accessible [Knowledge Hub](#) launches on UK100's website with new expert case studies from [Sheffield City Council](#) and [Warwick District Council](#).



November

Chris Skidmore MP, appointed to lead the UK's government's Net Zero Review (NZR), joins the first cross-party local authority NZR evidence session hosted by UK100.

Chris and UK100 worked together closely before his appointment, with the MP for Kingswood attending our Local Net Zero Delivery Progress reports launch and writing in BusinessGreen about [the importance of our Heat and Buildings report and energy efficiency](#). Ahead of the evidence session, Chris, in [an interview with The Times](#), hints that his review will recommend devolving more power over Net Zero to local and regional authorities. UK100 submits an [official response to the review](#).

The [Climate Leadership Academy](#) hosts its second weekend workshop in London.

UK100 launches its [Skills for Net Zero Delivery: Insight Briefing](#) identifying the practical and policy barriers to developing local Net Zero skills and calling for an end to the disjointed mess of overlapping projects.



[Polling of UK100 members](#) finds 97% of local authorities agree skills are a priority for Net Zero but 83% strongly agree they need more support from the government to deliver them in their area.

UK100 launches its [End the wait. Insulate. Social housing energy efficiency and the energy crisis](#) calling on the Government to facilitate a nationwide local-led social housing energy efficiency drive as a means to protect some of the most vulnerable households from the cost-of-living and energy crises.

- The report outlines an ‘oven-ready, cost neutral’ plan for urgent social housing energy efficiency upgrades that will save households up to £1,500 a year on their bills, while driving skills development, local growth, levelling up and Net Zero action.
- [Polling released alongside the report](#) shows people are worried about the cost of their energy bills and don't have a clue what the Government's energy efficiency plans are, but they would be supportive of a scheme focused on social housing.



Skills for Net Zero Delivery: Insight Briefing

[View report](#)

End the wait. Insulate. Social housing energy efficiency and the energy crisis

[View report](#)

Polling released alongside the report

[View report](#)

Ofgem publishes its [Final Determinations](#). Following extensive engagement and advocacy, the plan puts UK100's call for more collaboration between DNOs and local authorities on a regulatory footing. UK100 welcomes the vision as a “significant win” for local leaders and promises further work with Ofgem to turn plans into action.

December

LGA Labour and UK100 co-host a [Climate Change Conference](#) in London to help Labour councillors tackle climate change locally, providing them with the insight, knowledge and tools to implement successful strategies and policies. 150 delegates hear from more than 20 speakers at the one day event.

UK100 gives oral evidence to the [House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee inquiry](#) on the Government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme.

Following up on the CANZ report in June, UK100 publishes a collection of Clean Air Net Zero case studies, advancing the call for Net Zero policies to include a Clean Air audit and vice versa.



A large flock of birds is flying across the sky, silhouetted against a warm, orange-hued sunset. In the lower-left foreground, a coastal town is visible, featuring a prominent yellow crane and a building with a red and white striped tower. The overall scene is peaceful and inspiring.

Inspiring local Net Zero

Our plans for
the year ahead

We are delighted to share our plans for 2023 as our network continues to navigate through multiple crises that will continue to focus the national conversation on Net Zero delivery.

We head into the New Year, like many, facing uncertainty. The message from the Autumn Statement was that local leaders and their communities will continue to face financial pressures on their priorities throughout 2023. At the same time, while we hope our work with Chris Skidmore has demonstrated the need to strengthen the UK's climate ambitions and cement local government's role as a key delivery partner, the Net Zero Review is yet to report back.

But in a time of multiple crises, there are multiple opportunities. 2023 will be a year defined by ambition and innovation. Whether through our [End the wait. Insulate.](#) campaign or our plans to leverage our members' world-leading projects to inspire local Net Zero action, UK100 will continue to make the case to the Government that climate action is an answer to crises we face, not a contributory factor. Pitched right, designed intelligently, and supported adequately, local Net Zero can make lives better and more comfortable across the UK, grow local economies, support jobs, and avert the worst effects of the climate crisis.





UK100 in 2023

Headline activities

End the wait. Insulate.

With the energy and cost-of-living crises expected to loom large over much of 2023 and beyond, UK100 will continue to build on our campaign for social housing energy efficiency. Following on from the End the wait. Insulate. Social housing energy efficiency and the energy crisis report, we plan to ramp up our advocacy for a local-led drive to upgrade the energy efficiency of social housing properties. Urgent energy efficiency action is one of the most effective ways to permanently reduce bills for some of the most vulnerable households while supporting local economic growth, jobs and Net Zero action.

Programme of Local Net Zero Delivery Events

Events that convene UK100 members, partners and stakeholders to champion ambitious action on Net Zero and empower knowledge exchange that showcases local delivery.

Headline activities

Power Shift

Our flagship analysis of all the powers local government have to act on climate will be updated in Spring 2023, to reflect changes in rules and laws over the past 18 months, including the Government's Net Zero Review. It will feature new additional insight on Nature and Clean Air, and will form the basis of supporting materials for our members to deliver and advocacy to enable greater local climate action.

Climate Leadership Academy

A unique training programme for ambitious but inexperienced elected climate pioneers of local government. It will include a series of tailored residential workshops and coaching from cross-sector experts.

Financing Local Net Zero

UK100 works with a number of finance institutions and experts to support local authorities' access to private finance for clean energy projects. This includes engaging with the UK Infrastructure Bank and providing the secretariat of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sustainable Finance, chaired by Jerome Mayhew MP.

Local Power in Action

We will be deploying our 'Net Zero Pathfinders' to work directly with a number of our members to help inspire political action and defend progress towards local climate action and Clean Air.

Knowledge sharing

We will continue facilitating knowledge exchange events and activities across UK100 and Countryside Climate Network to inspire, guide and support local Net Zero delivery throughout our network. We will also continue to develop the UK100 website and Knowledge Hub to bring online brand new content while working to give our members a platform in the media to share their ambitious projects with the wider public.

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