

# State of the Network Report

A glance at **UK100's defining moments** since 2015.

December 2020

In our State of the Network Report, we look back at the defining moments in UK100's history, covered in this publication and short film. On our website we delve into some of the actions and ambitions of our members on climate and clean air; action that has seen low carbon heat networks, ambitious Clean Air Zones, solar and storage projects and hydrogen plants.

Imagine a world powered on 100% clean energy. Less air pollution, less lung disease, and less carbon dioxide heating up our planet, threatening our economy and our communities. This is the ambition that has driven us on our journey towards clean energy from our very first moment in 2015, when days before the UN Climate Conference in Paris, COP21, dozens of UK local leaders came together and pledged to shift to 100% clean energy by 2050.

A year later, more cross-party leaders joined forces and formed UK100 in the understanding that local leadership is crucial to effective climate action. By 2018 we had expanded to more than 80 members. At our national clean air summit in February 2019, with the Mayor of London, we brought together cross-party local leaders to agree to an ambitious clean air plan.

The coronavirus pandemic did not deter our action. In fact as research came in that public fears about climate change equal those on Covid-19, we pushed even harder for a green economic recovery. We called for the establishment of a Net Zero Development Bank to unlock £100bn as we launched our green finance report, and Chancellor Rishi Sunak urged UK100 to continue engaging with government ministers on a green recovery.

Still local authorities continue fighting with Bath and Birmingham both announcing they will launch Clean Air Zones in 2021. Working together in local communities, we have come so far in such a short time. From Cornwall to Edinburgh change is already happening.

## 2015 - 2020



UK100 key dates  
UK100 milestones  
Government milestones on climate action

### 23 November 2015

Leaders from more than 50 councils **commit to 100% clean energy** by 2050 ahead of COP21 in Paris.

### September 2017

UK100 publishes research recommending Local Clean Energy Partnerships to support development of projects at scale.

### February 2018

UK100 hosts an event in parliament to mark a big increase in membership to more than 80 members.



### December 2018

UK100 supports the launch of the Polish Mayors Network for Climate Solidarity at COP24 in Katowice.



### 14 February 2019

At our national #LoveCleanAir summit, UK100 and the Mayor of London bring together a cross-party group of mayors and council leaders to agree to an ambitious clean air plan.



### 15 October 2019

Government introduces the Environment Bill to parliament.

### November 2019

At a UK100 clean air summit, Bristol City Council launches clean air plans that include a proposed **diesel ban for the city centre**.



### November 2019

The chancellor launches a review that will determine how the UK ends its contribution to global warming.

### February 2020

The APPG on Sustainable Finance, with UK100 as secretariat, holds its inaugural meeting with Sir Ed Davey, Ed Miliband and the Green Finance Institute.

### June 2020

We launch our **Countryside Climate Network** with Cornwall Council joining as our 100th member, as Canterbury City Council gives planning permission for the UK's first green hydrogen plant.

### September 2020

Our Resilient Recovery Taskforce, a group of 24 mayors and local leaders, submits its plan of action to the UK government Spending Review consultation. Rishi Sunak urges UK100 to keep engaging the government on a green recovery.

### November 2020

Boris Johnson announces his Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. While it outlines climate ambition and action, there is still a need for national government to demonstrate their commitment to supporting and enabling local leadership on climate action through long-term funding, policies and powers.

### 12 December 2015

At COP21, the world agrees to keep warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

### November 2016

UK100 launches in the presence of Nick Hurd, Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry. More cross-party leaders join forces with the councils who committed to 100% clean energy in 2015, in the belief that local leadership is crucial to effective climate action.



### June 2018

At our national clean air summit, mayors and city leaders from 14 of the largest cities in England and Wales unite in a call for government to tackle the nation's growing air quality health crisis.



### January 2019

Nottingham City Council commits to the city becoming Net Zero by 2028, after hitting its 2020 emission reductions goals two years early.

### June 2019

The UK becomes the first major economy to pass Net Zero into law, setting out for the country to reach it by 2050.

### September 2019

Siemens and UK100 **announce joint partnership** to research what is needed to enable local leaders to develop clean energy at scale in their communities.

### September 2019

We call on the government to spend **£1bn on the enhanced Clean Air Fund** after our report finds the national network of Clean Air Zones could have huge economic benefits worth £6.5bn.

### 23 October 2019

At our international clean air summit, co-hosted with the Mayor of London and attended by WHO and C40, businesses and local leaders call for the government to adopt WHO air pollution standards in the Environment Bill.



### 8-9 February 2020

UK100's Director **Polly Billington** and Policy Director **Jason Torrance** give evidence to Climate Assembly UK.



### July 2020

UK100 calls for a Net Zero Development Bank as we release a **report with Siemens** showing how a £5bn investment could unlock £100bn in sustainable energy projects. Energy minister Kwasi Kwarteng, speaking at our webinar, **gives a glimpse of plans to relaunch a Green Investment Bank 2.0**.

### October 2020

Bath and Birmingham announce the UK's first charging Clean Air Zones outside London will launch in 2021.

### November 2020

Rishi Sunak announces a National Infrastructure Bank and commits to it having a Net Zero mandate.

By November 2020, more than 110 local authorities had signed up to our '100% clean energy by 2050' pledge. Ahead of COP26 in November 2021, we're asking our members to commit to a new, **more ambitious pledge**. It's a way to reflect the huge progress that has been made by our members, many of whom have committed to reach Net Zero well before the UK's legislated target of 2050.

It will demonstrate to the government, as well as those across the world, the commitment of local leaders in the UK to limit the worst impacts of climate change by acting now. And it will create an impetus for UK government to enable them to go further, faster. Add your voice to our call and **join us today**. Together we can lead the UK's response to Net Zero and build cleaner, more powerful communities.

“Leeds City Council is committed to tackling climate change and creating a fairer and healthier city for all. We've already committed to become a carbon neutral city by 2030. However, this journey will not be without its challenges.

UK100 gives us the opportunity to work together to better solve the challenges local authorities are currently facing. I look forward to continuing to work with local leaders across the country on the road to net zero.

Cllr Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council.

“To achieve our ambition for B&NES to become carbon neutral by 2030, we are providing the leadership to affect change locally on the ground as well as pressing for system change and the resources needed from central government.

Being part of UK100 is important in strengthening our arm in this and supports us to deliver real change for our residents and businesses.

Cllr Dine Romero, Leader of Bath & North East Somerset Council.

“We have set the ambitious goal of a carbon neutral Greater Manchester by 2038, 12 years ahead of the rest of the UK. It's a tough target but we're confident we can get there because we've been laying very strong collaborative foundations.

We've been helped along the way in developing them by UK100. They've given us, and other local areas, a really strong voice to government about the help we need to give us the green growth, green jobs, and skills development to build a zero carbon economy.

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester.

“As Chair of the Countryside Climate Network that gives me, and Cambridgeshire, a real opportunity to raise the voice of the rural areas so that we can be heard, alongside our urban counterparts, in delivering the strategies necessary to bring about climate change reduction.

Cllr Steve Count, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council and Chairman of the UK100 Countryside Climate Network.

