

# Capitalization of Successes: Towards a Carbon Neutral North West

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Passed at Spring 2020 Conference in Southport, 15 February 2020.

**Conference notes** that there are many areas that Liberal Democrats are yet to pursue on a regional basis which have proved successful when implemented in different areas of the United Kingdom.

We are not capitalising on the many successes of Liberal Democrats across the country, and so are missing out on a vital opportunity to put into practise policy that has worked for others.

At this vital time in the Earth's history, we cannot afford to let these opportunities slip by.

There are currently 30 Councils across the North West that have declared a climate emergency. These Councils must be put under pressure to implement policy which has worked in other Councils.

Where Liberal Democrats are in control there must be efforts made to implement policy that has worked in other areas, and where in opposition Liberal Democrats must lobby hard the governing party to do so.

Climate change should not be a political football, and we should work across party lines to make every effort to implement good, progressive policy, regardless of its origin.

We should encourage climate change all-party groups to work together, and not allow parties or individuals to stand in the way of progress.

## **Grasping the Opportunity:**

Liberal Democrats in the North West region should lobby for the following policy that has been proven to reduce carbon footprint in other parts of the country:

- Zero-carbon homes policy re-introduction
- Biosolar photovoltaic panels on ALL Council owned roofs.
- Implementation of Clean Air Zones in all major towns and cities.
- 'Go Ultra Low' city status for towns and cities.
- Real time monitoring of nitrogen dioxide levels.
- Weekly food waste collections.
- Investigations into selling land at below market value to make sustainable development more economically viable.
- Energy storage facilities.
- The creation of Council-run energy sustainable energy supplier companies.

This is by no means an exhaustive list and should be longer after internal dialogue.

The policy areas above have all been proven to have worked, helping regions towards carbon neutrality. Most, if not all of the policy areas above will become increasingly necessary in the following decade and so by acting 'ahead of the curve' we prove that we are the party of the environment.

Further, there should be a Climate Forum in the North West for ideas to be shared amongst elected Liberal Democrats. We should be talking to each other more, asking for advice and sharing our successes. This is how we grow and integrate our climate policy and get the best out of each other's unique viewpoints and talents.