

ADEPT President's Awards 2025

Entry form

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Award category Delivering Sustainable Growth

Project Title Westmorland and Furness Council – 2024: the First Year in Our Journey to Net Zero

Local authority entrant Westmorland and Furness Council

Partner/s if applicable we have worked with a wide range of partners, suppliers, local businesses and communities

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Our aim is to be carbon net zero by 2037. In 24 we launched our five yr Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan. We have made significant progress.

Please note we need at least one supporting image per award submission. Upload your image/s below.



Net Zero appendix.pdf

Delivering sustainable growth: How is this project delivering sustainable growth, not just now but into the future – demonstrating ambition and vision, anticipating future challenges and futureproofing growth including developing the workforce for the future? (150 words max)

Our Carbon Management Strategy for 2024-2029 details the aspirations for our journey to net zero. It shows ambition and details measures to mitigate emissions include building improvements, energy reduction, engagement with suppliers and investment in renewable energy. Supported by a five-year Climate Action Plan it identifies actions we will take across the organisation to reduce emissions, reduce environmental inequalities and create a climate positive council culture, taking our workforce with us and building on the council's 'ecologically aware' value for now and for the future. Achievements 2024

2MW solar farm at Sandscale Park in Barrow saving around 507 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.

Voreda House the UK's first council office building to achieve Passivhaus EnerPHit accreditation Decarbonisation Plans for our 69 schools.

LED lighting replacement schemes with annual financial savings of £30,376/annum

One Tree per Resident - planting quarter of a million trees over 5 yrs

Climate conversations/climate training initiatives

Delivering sustainable growth: How is this project working across boundaries and with different partners to achieve long lasting clean growth? (150 words max)

we work across boundaries with a range of different partners to achieve long term green growth. For

example our solar farm project was delivered by our capital project team, in collaboration with several strategic partners and specialist advisors to bring the project to fruition through combined knowledge and expertise including;

- Green Cat renewables - our strategic advisor and planning consultant
- Vital Energi - detailed designs and built the scheme. Vital will maintain the farm for the first two years.
- Electricity Northwest - provided initial feasibility guidance for the connection of the solar farm to the local grid
- PBA ecology undertook all ecological and environmental surveys for the site including reptile management, protected species mitigation and habitat planning.
- PPAYA brokered the deal so we could sell the electricity at the best price possible.

We value the involvement from this extensive team of partners, for their support and expertise in making this vision a reality.

Delivering sustainable growth: How is this project proactively engaging with business to tackle problems and find solutions, stimulating the clean growth sector at the same time? (150 words max.)

As a result of our engagement with a wide range of partners we have been able to find solutions together. From partnership working on our solar farm – to partnership working on our Passivhaus staff building - we have worked with a range of businesses to ensure we are on track to meet and exceed our targets and support the council's ambitions to become net zero in a sustainable way. On Nutrient Neutrality we are working in partnership with the Lake District National Park Authority, Cumberland Council and Yorkshire Dales National Park to address the issue. Our Rural Net Zero project is a partnership with Cumbria Action for Sustainability, Cumbria Tourism and three partner businesses. It has secured £150,000 to support research and this is one of 14 pathfinder projects which aims to help places and businesses across the UK to accelerate the delivery of the transition to net zero.

Delivering sustainable growth: How is this project going beyond the 3-5 year budget cycle to prepare for future challenges including the use or consideration of innovative funding solutions? (150 words max.)

It is vital to bring relevant and experienced partners into the project team who can add their expertise to the successful planning and delivery of the councils aspirations now and in the future. They are also key to forward planning beyond 5 years bringing with them innovation and alternative commercial funding solutions. Working with specialists and specialist brokers can help unlock the best available deals.

Climate is a key priority in our council plan and also one of the organisation values. We are educating and preparing our workforce and our communities with the knowledge and skills they need to deliver a step change long term.