



Carbon Literacy for town and parish councillors and community groups.

The Place-Based Initiative – Great Collaboration

Presentation to the Dorset COP Saturday 9 September 2023



Background - Belinda Bawden

- Geographer, proud single parent and grandmother
- Politically activated by the EU referendum – street stalls
- Joined Lyme Regis TC as part of a ‘vote for change’ in May 2019
- Declared a Climate and Environmental Emergency in July 2019
- IEMA Foundation Certificate in Environmental Management
- NALC Climate Emergency Network & #MakeAChange
- Co-founded Dorset Climate Action Network with three others
- Helped develop the Impact Community Carbon Calculator and Carbon Literacy Toolkit for parish, town & community councils
- Elected to Dorset Council in April 2022 for the Green Party

Background – NALC survey 2019



The National Association of Local Council (NALC) Climate Change Task & Finish group undertook a survey in late 2019 to assess the levels of climate and environmental awareness in town and parish councils.

**35% had passed climate emergency declarations;
35% had not.**

**Less than 6% had calculated their own Carbon Footprint; only 1% had
for their local area (two councils)**

Carbon Literacy in Lyme Regis Town Council

Carbon Literacy
Project



- Six new councillors elected in 2019
- Declared a Climate & Environmental Emergency in July 2019, pledging to:
 - ❖ A target of Net Zero by 2030 for council operations
 - ❖ set up the One Planet Working Group
 - ❖ commit to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



- Ran Carbon Literacy workshop on 28th October in Lyme Regis with councillors from Lyme Regis and Seaton town councils, Charmouth parish council with two officers from Dorchester & Lyme Regis town councils





Carbon Literacy for Parish & Town Councils

Workshop Pathway Distance Delivery

Public Sector Toolkit

Course Code: CC000244



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Carbon Literacy
Project



GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
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AUTHORITY



Acknowledgements

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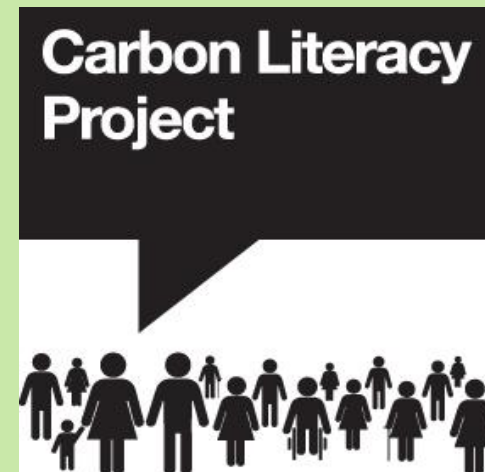
The development of these materials has been kindly supported by
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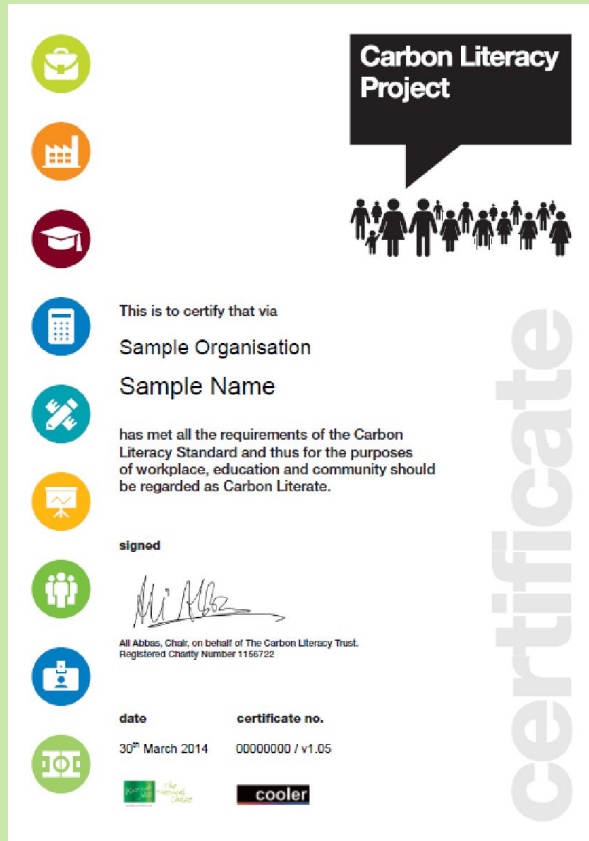
What is Carbon Literacy?

“An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.”





Carbon Literacy Training



Certification

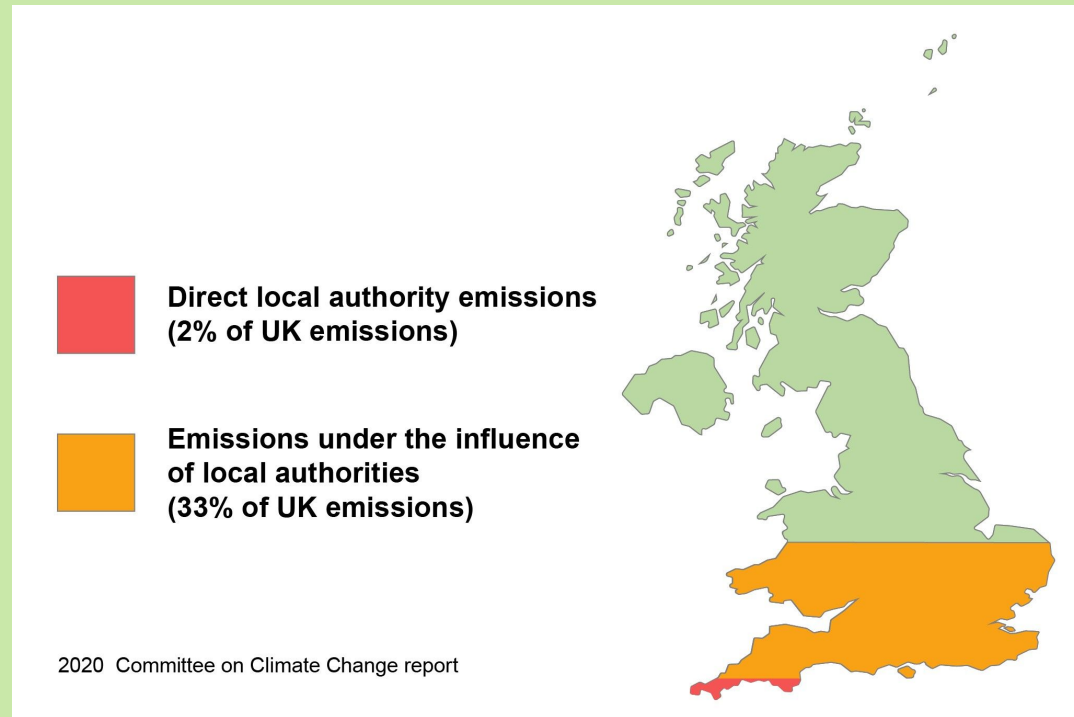
Participants must undertake a day of learning accredited by The Carbon Literacy Project.

To receive certification you will be filling out a short assessment form designing and committing to your specific actions.



Carbon Literacy Toolkits

<https://carbonliteracy.com/toolkits/local-authorities/>



With 17 courses spanning 9 unique sectors, our Toolkits ensure that organisations have the latest and best sectoral materials for delivering Carbon Literacy training.

Public

- Social Housing
- Civil Service
- Healthcare
- Museums
- Universities and Colleges
- Local Authorities

Private

- Automotive
- Sport



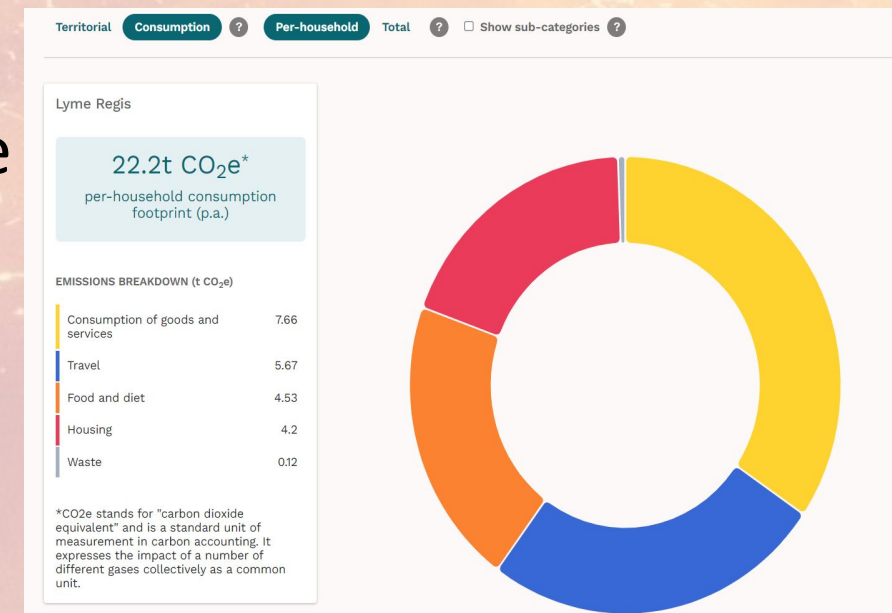
‘By the end of your training you will have...’

- Gained an understanding of the **basic science of climate change** and how climate change will affect us both **globally** and **locally**.
- Gained an understanding of how climate change will affect your local community.
- Created an **action plan** to help reduce the **carbon footprint** of your local area.
- Gained an understanding of how you, as a councillor, can mobilise change.
- Explored strategies for **influencing others** to take action on climate change.



Reactions during the Carbon Literacy workshop

- Videos and graphics explaining climate change and global warming sparked lively discussions
- Activities stimulated ideas e.g. sources of greenhouse gases
- Local images & case studies of impacts hit home
- Emotions ran high at times





Feedback on Toolkit for Town & Parish Councillors

“I went to the meeting slightly naïve regarding the urgency of the need to change our attitude to climate change, I came out at the end of the meeting convinced of the need to react now and not tomorrow.”

“I feel more informed and therefore more empowered”

“Better informed is better equipped and the day was a good opportunity to meet others with the same interest in tackling this huge climate challenge.”



Ideas emerging from the group discussions

- Campaigning to introduce a better local community bus which will serve all roads within our local villages and take people to the village facilities (shops, doctors, local halls) and the beach.
- Re-open the Jurassic Centre building and use it as a GREEN HUB to educate, inform the people young and old on a regional and possibly a nationwide basis about Green Energy solutions etc.
- Working collectively with neighbouring councils to engage the community, listen to their issues and solutions, working together to bring about change.



The Place-Based Initiative

- A climate action network for local councils and their community groups
- The Great Collaboration website shows over 60 collective climate actions and enables two-way exchanges
- The framework covers:
 - ❖ Mitigation – reducing emissions
 - ❖ Adaptation – developing resilience and sustainability
 - ❖ Nature Recovery – improving biodiversity and environmental quality

Contact us to find out more on admin@placebasedinitiative.co.uk