

York & North Yorkshire Strategic Energy Partnership opportunity

Preliminary Market Engagement: FAQ summary

*York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority,
City of York Council &
North Yorkshire Council*

Introduction

York and North Yorkshire (comprising of York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, North Yorkshire Council, and City of York Council) have been granted £2 million of funding from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) through the Local Net Zero Accelerator Programme (LNZA) to investigate the opportunities for a Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) in the region.

Strategic Energy Partnerships between the public sector and a commercial partner are an emerging marketplace, with a growing number of successful partnerships originating across the UK. However, the unique characteristics, needs and requirements of each area produce a range of different partnership models for exploration. Therefore, when contemplating an SEP each region must consider an approach that best fits the region's needs. York and North Yorkshire has its own distinctive context and characteristics that will require an innovative approach to an SEP. With valuable insights and ideas from the market, we hope to shape our offering and develop a model tailored to the needs of our region, to build an exciting opportunity for all.

The purpose of this preliminary market engagement exercise is to take this prospect to the market, seeking valuable insights into the opportunities, innovations, and risks that can inform the further exploration and development of an SEP for York and North Yorkshire. We are also seeking market insights into appetites around return, governance, and technology, as well as perceptions on different SEP models to help us to shape a profitable and enticing offering.

This document is a summary of frequently asked questions from our recent preliminary market engagement webinar. For more information on the project, and to view the recording of the webinar, please visit our webpage at: [Building a Regional Strategic Energy Partnership - YNYCA](#)

If you have any further questions that you would like answered in this FAQ document, please contact: Rebecca.Haslam@yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk or Jake.Mitchell@northyorks.gov.uk

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

What is the current carbon equivalent emissions baseline? How are you measuring emissions reduction?

As a part of the refresh process for York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative we have just re-baselined our GHG emissions, as shown in Figure 1 below.

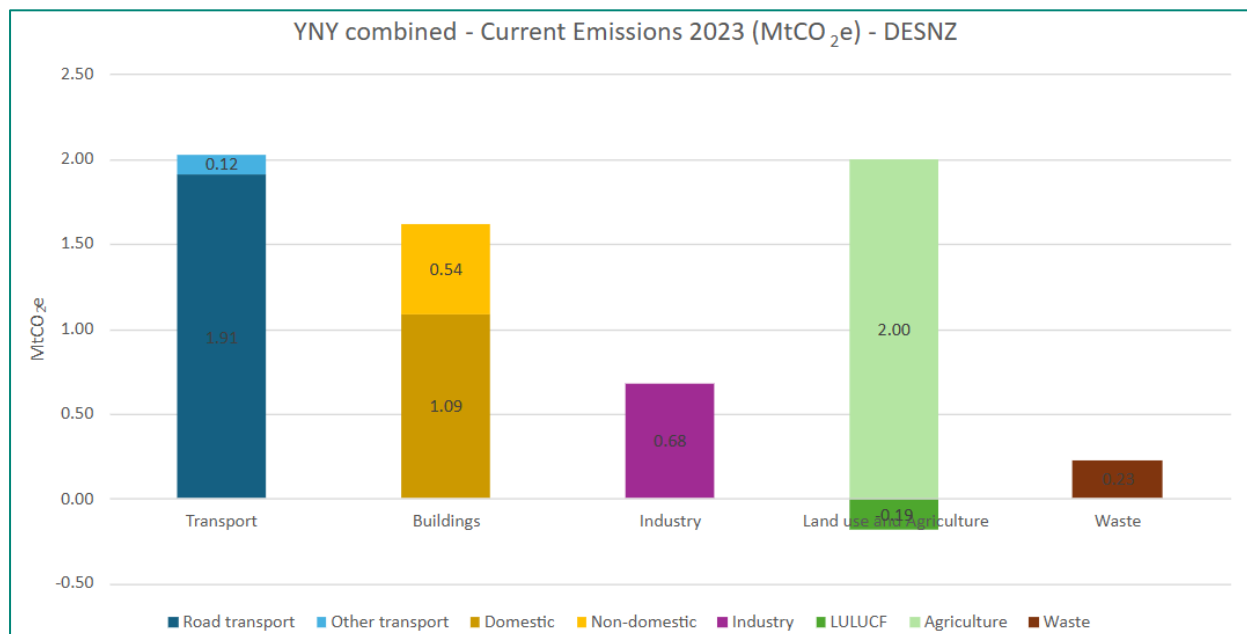


Figure 1 - Current emissions York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (2023)

We map our emissions reduction over time using data from the DESNZ Local Authority emissions dataset. According to the 2023 data, York and North Yorkshire's total greenhouse gas emissions are currently at 6.36 MtCO₂e.

Have you considered using sewerage, waste and land fill sites to generate biogas for transport and electricity generation?

Thank you for this suggestion. York and North Yorkshire is already exploring a variety of energy generation technologies, such as projects exploring anaerobic digestion and biochar, and the energy from solid waste collected in York and North Yorkshire currently powers 40,000 homes. Through our Strategic Energy Partnership project, we look to explore and unlock new areas of energy innovation and build on pre-existing project development from across our region. The authority looks to support renewable energy generation across a wide range of technological solutions, and we will work in collaboration with regional partners to ensure we maximise local opportunities.

Community Energy is a fairly prominent part of the Bristol City Leap and is active in the city in general. Are you looking to replicate this community energy involvement in York and North Yorkshire?

Community Energy continues to be a key component of our net zero ambitions, with a variety of projects funded at a local level. Community energy involvement is therefore a key consideration throughout the development and delivery of our partnership, seeking to support community groups to deliver energy schemes tailored to address local needs. We understand the importance that supporting and working with community led energy schemes can provide for our residents and region, and its alignment with the YNYCA Mayor's vision for Healthy & Thriving communities. We aim to work in close collaboration with community organisations, local authorities, and central government to maximise funding, development, and delivery of community-based projects through a potential SEP, empowering our residents and creating cleaner local energy.

Have you had any discussion with the West Midlands Combined Authority about their own Local Net Zero Accelerator programme?

Through the LNZA programme we are supported and encouraged to work alongside our pilot programme colleagues. We often participate in workshop activities and meetings that allow us to share and learn from partner pilot programmes. Working alongside the authorities on the LNZA programme allows us to gain insights from colleagues with specialisms different to our own, offering new perspectives and both critical and constructive reviews of our ideas.

Where does the provision of skills development fit into your plans, to futureproof the activities and supply chains?

Skills development is a key consideration as part of our partnership, understanding how we strengthen local supply chains, create employment opportunities, and provide maximum benefit for our local economy is an integral part of our programme. We are in the process of developing a regional Retrofit Strategy, with the aim of supporting the supply chain for retrofit to cope with growing demand. This builds on the Retrofit Skills Assessment which was undertaken in early 2024 and examined the gap between the current state of the retrofit supply chain, and the supply chain requirements needed to meet net zero. Through UKSPF, YNYCA has already helped to successfully deliver two programmes in Green Skills and Retrofit training. Skills will also feature a key priority in the refresh of YNY's Routemap to Carbon Negative. We aim to design a strategic energy partnership that will accelerate the delivery of these programmes and expand regional skills.

The role of the decarbonisation of buildings is rightly referenced across this strategy? Do you see a role for a combined authority retrofit devolution programme like in Greater Manchester, the West Midlands or in London?

The developing Retrofit Strategy for York and North Yorkshire is a collaborative document that provides strategic direction for the region. Its aim is to provide a clear, co-owned plan to accelerate retrofit in the region, and ensure the region is ready to make the most of future devolution, local powers and opportunities. Through the development of the Retrofit Strategy, YNYCA have consulted other Combined Authorities to better understand the devolved retrofit settlement process. Work is ongoing to align the Retrofit Strategy work across other programmes, such as the Strategic Energy Partnership and YorEnergy (the York retrofit brand, developed in collaboration with a range of partners to support local householders to retrofit their homes through finance and supply chain development).