



Towards Zero Carbon 2030: Local Manifesto for Merseyside

Ed Gommon, Zero Carbon Liverpool City Region

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Local Manifesto 2021

Local Manifesto as developed by Merseyside Labour for a Green New Deal group, working in collaboration with grassroots climate activists, councillors, MPs and trade unions and building on the event 'Developing a Zero Carbon Manifesto for Merseyside' which took place in June 2019. The Manifesto offers concrete proposals on what can be done locally within ten areas which affect the green transition: jobs, housing, energy, green space, transport, health, race, learning, waste and democracy.

Download Local Manifesto: <https://tinyurl.com/MLGND2021>

View online: https://issuu.com/timmyfatlips/docs/mlgnd_manifesto_2021

Introduction

- Green New Deal
- Just Transition
- Merseyside Labour for a Green New Deal
- ‘Developing a Zero-Carbon Manifesto for Merseyside’ event 2019
- COVID Recovery Plan

Democracy

... to be adopted widely, it has to ring true with the wider public, whose intelligence must never be underestimated.³

Ann Pettifor

Engaging stakeholders



- Meet stakeholders where they are – engagement is about reaching out, not sitting back
- Adopt a variety of engagement strategies, including digital – remember that no single method reaches everyone
- Citizen information / education programmes for all ages
- The autonomy to both instigate and veto action is vital
- Remember that, at first, most probably won't be interested

To introduce sustained behavioural change at the necessary rate and scale, inviting communities to develop strategies is likely to be more effective than simply imposing rules from above. Genuine democratic engagement also grants a political mandate for what might otherwise be unpopular decisions.



Green spaces



Proposals for Merseyside

- A mapping of land ownership is desperately needed³ and, where appropriate, unused land should be acquired for common ownership by local communities for low impact food production, increasing biodiversity, green energy and recreation.
 - Identify land for allotments, recreation and the reintroduction of plants and wildlife.
 - Introduce an extensive tree planting programme across the region and embed carbon capture, ecological restoration and flood prevention in our communities.
 - All citizens should have access to green spaces within walking distance. By introducing further protections councils can ensure green space in less wealthy constituencies is prioritised.
- In Liverpool, work being done with partners such as *Fields in Trust* (to protect parks in perpetuity) and *Scouse Flowerhouse* (on wildflower planting across the city) is to be applauded and built on.
 - Green space developments must have an emphasis on increased and resilient biodiversity, as well as offering amenities for people's wellbeing.
 - Many "Friends of..." groups already facilitate community engagement with the regions' parks, but their work should be expanded on to create forums in which people can discuss and decide on planning and public land use more broadly. This process must be supported with a wide range of expertise that includes professional facilitation as well as guidance on how to rehabilitate ecosystems.

Learning



Carbon Literacy is the measure of how we understand the climate crisis and the move towards a zero carbon economy.

Proposals for Merseyside

- Parents and school governors can push for the Eco School programme to be adopted³
- Provide incentives for post-16 providers to offer Green New Deal related opportunities
- Trades Unions to push for both initial and in-service training in green skills
- Appoint a CLP Environment Officer to each CLP
- Reframe the Green New Deal as something young people can aspire to
- Link up with Socialist Societies such as SERA⁴ and the SEA⁵

Next Steps and Questions



- Carbon Literacy training – educate each student at Edge Hill University
- Write to your local councillors and MP about key policies from this document
- Join a local community group that has eco and sustainability issues at the centre
- Create a role for a Climate Emergency Officer in your political party or workplace
- Get in touch - find us on Twitter and Facebook @MerseyLGND or e-mail merseylgnd@outlook.com