

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Barbara Hickman	Green	Helmsley + Sinnington

Thanks for taking part in this survey. We hope you will see this as an opportunity to share your thoughts with voters on important climate and environmental issues. While we would ideally like candidates to answer the survey in full, we appreciate that some of the points are quite technical. Candidates come from many different backgrounds and may be drawn to local government because of a passion for other aspects of service delivery and community interest. Please feel free to focus on the questions you feel are most relevant to you. You can always add more information later if you wish.

1. The newly elected members of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) will be responsible for overseeing the county's net zero strategy. Would you support the provision of carbon literacy training (e.g. through the [Carbon Literacy Project](#)) as part of the induction programme for new councillors?

Yes

2. Transport, agriculture and domestic energy are the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in North Yorkshire. In your view, how should the new NY Council tackle these most effectively?

Encourage transition to renewable sources of energy; encourage farmers to adopt methods which reduce CO2 emissions; effectively insulate all buildings while making changes to sources of fuel.

3. Many politicians support net zero commitments, but some argue that "green" measures to protect the environment and climate are too expensive, will cost jobs and need to be delayed. Where do you stand on this?

Most green measures will create jobs e.g. insulating homes; we are in a climate emergency – if we don't act the costs will continue to mount e.g. dealing with floods, storms etc.

4. As we seek more energy independence nationally, what role do you see in our region for onshore wind, solar farms and fracking?

Fracking never - it is an uncertain process, potential severe environmental damage and irreversible contamination of the aquifer. Huge numbers of HGVs needed to service the process all using fossil fuels which contradicts the attempts to become carbon zero.

All new build domestic commercial and industrial should have solar panels as far as possible.

I have no objection to onshore wind; we have become inured to cooling towers smoking chimneys and pylons and power lines across our landscapes, so are wind turbines any different (more birds are killed on our roads)?

5. How could the future NYC use its powers under the planning system to promote sustainable development? Should there be a presumption against high-carbon development proposals in NYC's planning policies?

All policies in future should be designed to minimise climate change and especially NYC should ask for high-carbon development to be rethought and alternative elements introduced.

6. There are plans (in the [NY Local Enterprise Partnership strategy](#)) to double the current area of woodland in the region. Would you actively support this target? I support tree planting but trees need maintenance and appropriate varieties planted. We are losing many ash trees so need to encourage more hedgerow planting

7. Will you sign the UK Divest Pledge: "If elected, I pledge to support the council divesting its pension fund out of fossil fuels and redirecting those amounts into sustainable investments and the local economy over an appropriate time-scale. I promise to do everything in my power to make sure this happens within the first year of my term in office."

Yes

8. Would you support net zero measures as a spending priority for the new council?

Yes

9. Most districts/boroughs in NY and around 75% across the UK have declared a climate emergency. In your view, should the new NYC adopt a similar motion to underpin its decarbonisation and planning policies?

Certainly

10. Is there anything else you'd like to add on your environmental or climate views?

Encourage everyone to take small measures to reduce their carbon footprint in all their everyday activities. I have an A4 double sided sheet of ideas on this and can send it through. It is just a start and I encourage people who read it to be creative and find other ways.

It will take time to exchange gas boilers; but getting effective insulation in all buildings would reduce usage quickly, be done easily and be very cost effective.

**We need to go back to having much of our food locally sourced, again this will take time but a big drive to get people to grow their own and have fun doing it has to be a start.
Do you need strawberries in winter? Enjoy local ones in season etc.**