

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Andy Brown	Greens	Aire Valley

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?

Increase support for insulation, implement planning requirements for net neutral developments, support school energy efficiency improvements.

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?

Not using energy because of better insulation is the best way to cut bills and reduce carbon consumption. Then we need to even out demand e.g. via better local battery storage. Changes in production should focus on the cheapest methods such as very local generation with every roof having solar and use of onshore wind in appropriate places. This will generate jobs not cost them.

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

I oppose fracking, I do not support solar farms on agricultural land but do on factory roofs and school roofs, I support onshore wind in the right places

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?

Every new development must be built to generate more power than it can reasonably be expected to use. It is criminal neglect that 1,000s of brand new houses have been built on greenfield land in North Yorkshire that have gas boilers.

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 only support woodland planting when it is done intelligently. I want our land to produce food and wildlife. I favour low density woodland for marginal land with cattle running between the trees. I want much more locally produced and sold food being eaten with the seasons and used as standard in local schools.

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?

Yes

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

I am opposed to new nuclear and don't support cutting down rainforests, putting the logs of ships, transporting them across Lancashire and Yorkshire and then burning them at Drax to pretend that carbon neutral power is being generated. I want it to be much easier to put up solar panels in conservation areas

For example, what would your future priorities be in your division and more widely in North Yorkshire? Do you have any comments on more technical matters such as hydrogen as a fuel, Drax, grid capacity, energy-efficiency, retrofitting, peatland conservation, plastic pollution, waste, circular economy, nature recovery or the government's new energy security strategy?

