

## North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

### NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Andrew Solloway	Independent	Skipton West & West Craven

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?

I think most of us elected members are fully aware of the commitment we made to net zero, but we also recognise the challenges it faces, given that national government are less than supportive or even committed.

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?

A challenge in a rural county, but through planning and encouraging infrastructure and policies that reduce the need for over use of transport to access medical, educational services and jobs. Small towns and villages used to be very self-contained, there is a real opportunity with technology to address this.

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?

Again, a difficult one in a rural county, metropolitan councils have more opportunities here. However, there are opportunities for us too, making sure that our towns and villages are more self-contained and resourced with proper infrastructure.

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

**Definitely with renewables, if only national government hadn't reduced the incentives to do so.**

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?

**What would help is having Local Plans where we could enforce against developers that didn't build housing that is future proof in terms of sustainability and energy efficiency. National policies seem to count against us doing this. New housing is still being built without ground source capability and energy efficiency.**

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?

**Yes, but sustainably.**

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."

**NYCC has heavily divested itself very much anyway as it is a poor investment anyway.**

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

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, but could national government back us, please?**

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

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?