

## North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

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

Candidate name	Party	Division
John Hall	Yorkshire Party	Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale & Tockwith

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 and encourage others to attend training and be certified as "carbon literate". The Yorkshire Party stands for a better, more sustainable environment to make Yorkshire a happier and healthier place in which to live. The future of Yorkshire is for our children. The Yorkshire Party will place a high value on the environmental credentials of every policy, action and product.

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?

The Yorkshire Party proposes that an integrated public transport system is needed throughout Yorkshire not only to boost the economy but reduce the use of cars. Travelling by rail within cities or across long distances releases the least amount of greenhouse gases into the air. We would like to see a much improved local bus service using green technology.

The installation of Solar energy panels should be on the roof of every industrial building, schools, supermarkets, office complexes, agricultural buildings and perhaps consider tax incentives to accomplish this task.

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?

The green energy revolution should increase employment opportunities. The government needs to push the energy transition forward, while at the same time protecting the most vulnerable members of society from energy poverty.

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

**We see Yorkshire leading the way in green technology. We propose Green Colleges. A green revolution can start only with education. Specialist green technology colleges are required to provide courses to both children and adults, to build a green workforce. We are completely against Fracking.**

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?

**The NYC would need a clear plan to oppose high carbon development and promote sustainable development policies.**

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?

**We would be very supportive of this policy to increase the land for forestry to include nature reserves.**

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, "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.**

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

**Yes, I would 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, and this is a policy we pursue and lead the way in other councils.**

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?

**The Yorkshire Party councillors are committed to finding the best possible environmental solutions to any situation that arises.**