

Local Climate Engagement

Expression of Interest form

This form is for local authorities or partnerships to express interest in joining the Local Climate Engagement programme. Before you fill it in, please make sure you have read the [programme prospectus](#) and [FAQs](#).

Please return completed forms to membership@UK100.org with the subject line 'LCE application'. The **deadline** for expressions of interest is **Monday 24th January 2022**.

Who to contact with questions

If you have any questions about filling in this form, please contact us at membership@UK100.org or by using any of the contact details on the final page of the prospectus linked to above.

How to fill out the form

Simply add your responses under each question by editing the Word document.

We have tried to keep our requests for information proportionate to the scale of the project.

- Everyone filling out this form needs to complete Sections 1, 2, 3 and 6;
- In addition:
 - If you are expressing interest in joining the Coaching Group you need to complete Section 4;
 - If you are expressing interest in joining the Project Group you need to complete Section 5;
 - If you are expressing interest in joining both groups, you need to complete both sections 4 & 5.

How will successful applicants be chosen

Three questions on this form are scored questions: 4.1, 5.1 and 5.2. These questions will be scored as described in the table on the next page.

Score	Description
5	Covers all the requested areas in full. Makes a strong case for why and how the local authority would benefit from taking part in LCE.
4	Covers most of the requested areas in full. Makes a good case for why and how the local authority would benefit from taking part in LCE.
3	Covers some of the requested areas in full. Makes a good case for why and/or how the local authority would benefit from taking part in LCE.
2	Covers a few of the requested areas in full. Makes a partial case for why and/or how the local authority would benefit from taking part in LCE.
1	Covers none or minimal requested areas in full. Does not make a clear for why and how the local authority would benefit from taking part in LCE.

We will make our decision about who to work with based on these scorings and our desire to work with a range of local authorities in terms of:

- Geographic spread across England;
- Type of location (town, city, rural etc);
- Type of council;
- Party political control;
- How developed local authorities' plans on climate change are;

And also, for the Project Group only:

- The issue the public engagement will focus on;
- The type of engagement method suitable to meet each local authority's brief;
- The public engagement local authorities have already undertaken on climate.

Section One: About the local authority

1.1 Name of local authority:

Hebden Royd Town Council
Todmorden Town Council

1.2 Type of local authority:

(e.g. Combined Authority, County Council, District Council, Unitary Authority, Parish Council etc)

Parish Councils

1.3 The political administration:

(e.g. Conservative - majority, No Overall Control, Coalition of Labour and Green etc)

Labour – majority (both administrations)

1.4 UK region:

(e.g. North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, East Midlands etc)

Yorkshire and the Humber

1.5 Brief description of geography of area:

(e.g. "Largely rural with a number of small market towns")

Small towns of Hebden Bridge, Todmorden and Mytholmroyd and associated village communities within the steep rural Pennine Calder Valley.

1.6 If you are filling out this form on behalf of a partnership, please briefly tell us the name of the partnership, its purpose, members (a link to a membership list) and the role the local authority plays in it.

Section Two: Contact information

2.1 Name of key contact:

(This is who we will contact if we have questions, and to tell you if the local authority has been accepted into the project)



2.2 Job title of key contact:

Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Co-ordinator, Hebden Royd Town Council

2.3 Email address of key contact:

[REDACTED]

2.4 Phone number of key contact:

[REDACTED]

Section Three: Background information

3.1 Which of the LCE groups is the local authority or partnership expressing interest in joining? (please delete as appropriate)

- Coaching Group

3.2 If the local authority or partnership is expressing interest in both groups, which group is its first preference? (please delete as appropriate)

- Coaching Group

3.3 If the local authority or partnership has undertaken any public engagement in its climate decision-making in the last three years (traditional or more innovative), please briefly describe it. We are looking for an overview that gives us a feel for what the local authority or partnership already does, not an exhaustive list of initiatives. *(Approx. 350 words)*

Hebden Royd Town Council has not carried out public engagement in climate decision making in the last three years. Climate-related work has been guided by a Climate Emergency Committee made up of elected members and individuals co-opted for their skills and experience. Public involvement has taken place in some projects, such as volunteering to plant trees and working with the people with disabilities to help locate new bike storage, but there has not been engagement in planning, prioritisation and decision-making. The council is about to carry out some online public engagement on the subject of energy and retrofit of domestic properties which will help shape future activity.

Similarly, Todmorden Town Council has developed plans through the mechanism of a Climate Emergency Committee, with some input from members of the public at these meetings.

3.4 Please briefly describe the work undertaken by your local authority or partnership to reach Net Zero, adapt to climate change, deliver clean air or address the decline in the natural environment? We are looking for a brief background of your aspirations and work undertaken to date. *(Approx. 350 words)*

Both councils have responded to local public pressure to declare a climate emergency, from youth strikers, grassroots environmental groups and individual members of the public. Hebden Royd Town Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 (the first town council in Yorkshire to do so) and Todmorden Town Council in April 2019. Both councils have drawn up initial broad action plans and independently decided to appoint a dedicated climate emergency staff resource in Autumn 2021 to drive forward local community action.

The two councils are on the frontline of climate change impacts in the UK with the upper Calder Valley being hit hard by flood events in recent years. Jointly, the two authorities want to demonstrate the key role that can be played by town and parish councils in engaging and supporting local communities to navigate the period of change ahead to radically reduce local emissions and adapt to further extreme weather events and other climate impacts. Both councils have supported local initiative 'Slow the Flow' to implement natural flood management techniques.

Since declaring a climate emergency Hebden Royd Town Council has focused on developing a woodmeadow biodiversity site on land formerly used solely for grazing; changed the product offering at the council-managed Picture House cinema to be more sustainable; worked with Calderdale Council to identify locations for new secure bike parking and put on a Pumpkin Festival with a climate emergency theme. Priorities moving forward include engaging residents on energy and retrofit of properties and developing the potential of e-bikes as a local transport solution.

Todmorden Town Council's Climate Emergency Committee has drawn up an action plan and hosted a successful Natural Flood Management Open Evening. Since appointing a Climate Officer, the primary focus has been on information and engagement through the development of a climate emergency feature on the town council's website, as well as the development and launch of a 'Climate Pledge' which aims to encourage local residents to actively participate in climate change action. This initiative will benefit from improved engagement techniques arising out of this submission.

Section Four: Coaching Group

Please only fill out this section if you are expressing interest in joining the Coaching Group.

4.1 How would taking part in the Coaching Group enable the local authority or partnership to take forward public engagement in its climate decision-making in a way that would not be possible if it was not part of LCE?

Please include in your answer:

- What the local authority or partnership hopes to get out of the training, self-guided resources, mentoring and peer learning; who will take part;
- Who has been involved to-date in discussions about taking part in LCE;
- Why the local authority or partnership sees public engagement in its climate decision-making as important, how taking part in LCE fits with its short- and medium- term plans or aspirations for public engagement in its climate decision-making.

*We are not worried about precise word limits, but to give you an idea of the sort of detail we have in mind, we suggest you write a **maximum of around 1 side**.*

Hebden Royd Town Council and Todmorden Town Council are neighbouring authorities in the upper Calder Valley, within the local authority area of Calderdale Council. While each community along the valley has a different character and demographic makeup, the area faces a number of collective climate challenges, which include:

- A high percentage of pre-1900 poorly insulated housing stock, with associated high usage of gas and other fossil fuels compared to the England average
- Geographic challenges to transport modal shift, with one busy linear route down the valley and steep hills discouraging active travel
- The need to reduce flooding, and maintain community resilience to regular flood events;
- The need to restore local peat and better manage uplands for biodiversity and flood risk, while respecting local farming traditions and cultural heritage.

The partnership of the two local authorities want to use the training to help plan and implement a joint programme of public participation along the upper Calder Valley around one of our key challenges. This is an area well-known for its innovation and creativity, especially around green issues and the arts, and we want to reflect that in how we seek to involve local people in shaping climate action. We believe we are uniquely positioned as two neighbouring proactive parish councils with a staffing resource dedicated to climate emergency.

There is already significant cooperation between the two Councils and the decision to apply jointly for this opportunity has emerged from discussions between the two climate officers as we feel it would help us to develop and drive joint working to make more impact and reduce duplication. Discussions have also included lead councillors for the climate emergency and the two Town Clerks. We have indicated that we will be making an Expression of Interest to Calderdale Council and they

have expressed support (via Laura Bramley, Environmental Management Team) and are keen that we use this opportunity to add value and depth to their borough-wide public engagement work on climate change.

We see public engagement and participation as crucial in shaping the future of our communities in the face of climate change. This is an area with a very active civil society and we recognise how important it is to engage with and harness that resource in developing climate emergency plans and projects. We also recognise that while parts of our communities have a high level of engagement with green issues that is not true of others and there are huge knowledge gaps related to climate change and the necessary local action to reach net zero. That can be demonstrated by the fact that despite our strong track record of environmental initiatives (Slow the Flow, Incredible Edible Todmorden, Treeresponsibility, Transition Towns and others) the majority of middle super output areas within the two areas are worse than the England average in terms of household carbon emissions according to CREDS' Place Based Carbon Calculator (www.carbon.place), with gas emissions particularly high and car-related emissions higher than average in approximately two thirds of the MSOAs. We have also seen small but vocal minorities objecting to covid measures within our communities, including those which have helped make town centres more walkable at the start of the pandemic. We want to ensure that greater participation helps our communities feel that future climate measures are being done by the community, rather than to the community to avoid any future backlash.

So far – not least because of the pandemic – developing public participation has been limited in scope. While both councils will seek to involve the public in our ongoing climate work and develop methods of public participation, without this training it is likely to be ad-hoc, responsive and limited rather than strategic, effective and utilising the kind of new techniques described in the programme documentation. This is due to differing levels of knowledge within the two staff teams and amongst elected members and limited resources to develop a substantial participation project without external support. Taking part in the coaching group will give us the chance to learn and reflect together, building a stronger partnership between the two authorities and enabling us to make informed decisions about how we can best deliver effective public participation with the communities along our valley. We want to understand how best not to raise expectations (given that many potential climate interventions are beyond our powers or resources) while enabling local people to focus on what we can do collectively within our neighbourhoods.

The following members of staff would take part in the training:

Hebden Royd Town Council: [REDACTED], Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Co-ordinator and [REDACTED], Deputy Town Clerk

Todmorden Town Council: [REDACTED], Climate Officer and Naomi Crewe (Town Clerk from 28th Feb 2022)

We would hope to be able to offer a fifth place to one of our partner organisations that works across both authorities.

Section Five: Project Group

Please only fill out this section if you are expressing interest in joining the Project Group.

5.1 How would taking part in the Project Group enable the local authority or partnership to take forward public engagement in its climate decision-making in a way that would not be possible if it was not part of LCE?

Please include in your answer:

- What the local authority or partnership hopes to get out of the training, self-guided resources, practical delivery and peer learning; who will be taking part;
- Who has been involved to-date in discussions about the practical engagement work and how it will feed into future decision-making;
- Why the local authority or partnership sees public engagement in its climate decision-making as important, and how taking part in LCE fits with its short-, medium- and long-term plans or aspirations for public engagement in its climate decision-making.

*We are not worried about precise word limits, but to give you an idea of the sort of detail we have in mind, we suggest you write a **maximum of around 1 side**.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have already answered this question in Section Four, you do not need to write a whole new answer. Instead, please feel free to use the same text, just making edits to account for the different content of the Project Group and slightly different requests for information in the bullet points above.

5.2 Please tell us the local authority's initial thoughts about the issue(s) it would like the practical public engagement we deliver with you to cover. The local authority may already be certain about where it would like the engagement to focus, or you may be considering a range of options. Whatever the situation, please cover the local authority's initial thoughts on:

- The issue(s) the public engagement would focus on and why your authority wants to engage on these issues;
- How important are these issues for your area in achieving Net Zero or adapting to climate change;
- What decisions will the public engagement inform and the timescales for these decisions.

*We are not worried about precise word limits, but to give you an idea of the sort of detail we have in mind, we suggest you write a **maximum of around half a side**.*

5.3 If you have any thoughts on the public engagement methods you would like to use for the practical engagement and/or who precisely you would like

to reach, please tell us here. If you do not have initial thoughts on these areas then please leave this blank.

Section Six: Signatures

We require signatures from the local authority's CEO and a senior Councillor who is part of the administration to confirm their support for this Expression of Interest to join LCE. Electronic signatures are fine.

6.1 Please include the name and signature of the local authority's CEO.

Name: [REDACTED] (Town Clerk, Hebden Royd Town Council)

Signature:

[REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED] (Town Clerk, Todmorden Town Council)

Signature

[REDACTED]

6.2 Please include the name, role and signature of a senior Councillor within the administration.

Name: [REDACTED] (Leader of the Labour Group, Hebden Royd Town Council)

Signature:

Name: [REDACTED] (Leader of the Labour Group, Todmorden Town Council)

Signature

[REDACTED]