



UK:
100

**Powering local
climate action**

ANNUAL REVIEW 2024

About Us:

UK100 is a cross-party membership organisation that supports 117 of the most ambitious local and regional leaders to go further and faster on their climate and clean air targets.

Local authorities have a unique leadership role in tackling the climate crisis. And UK100 members have pledged to realise a climate-friendly future that delivers for people and planet ahead of the government's 2050 target.

Our Mission:

Our purpose is to support a local-led rapid climate and clean air transition.

We do this through collaboration. To accelerate action, we believe in bringing together the most influential leaders across the country to learn together and agree on priorities for legislative and regulatory change while empowering them to engage with national decision-makers.

We provide our network with the knowledge, tools and connections to make this happen.



Foreword:

“ In 2024, the political landscape shifted dramatically. July’s general election ushered in the first Labour government in almost 15 years, marking a fresh impetus for climate action. But the new administration faced immediate headwinds - no honeymoon period, persistent economic challenges, and by year’s end, the seismic impact of Donald Trump’s clean sweep in the US elections.

Against this, local climate leadership has never been stronger. Our network continues to demonstrate that local authorities are the bedrock of climate action. Our membership has grown to 117 authorities, now representing over 41 million people – more than 60% of the UK population. We’ve increased political and geographical diversity too.

The year saw the launch of our **Net Zero 2.0: The Moment to Deliver** report, examining how local authorities can accelerate climate

action despite challenging circumstances. Working with over 50 local authorities, we mapped solutions for retrofitting homes, expediting grid connections, and implementing clean energy initiatives. The report and **Net Zero Energy Transition Toolkit**, developed with UK Power Networks DSO, are proving vital as the new government fleshes out its Clean Energy Superpower mission - though the gap between national ambition and support for local delivery remains critical.

Our **Local Leaders: Clean Energy Superpower Summit** brought together local leaders, government representatives, and industry to explore these challenges. Our **Climate Leadership Academy** trained another 20 cross-party senior councillors. The success of our membership support programme was exemplified by Calderdale Council, whose climate leadership – supported through our Climate Leadership Academy and Local Power in Action programmes – was recognised at the MJ Awards.

Misinformation remains a persistent threat to climate progress, but our **Mitigating Climate Misinformation Toolkit**, developed with ACT Climate Labs, is helping local leaders neutralise misconceptions about climate action.

Looking ahead to 2025, we face both opportunity and uncertainty. While we have a government committed to climate action, the practical challenges of delivering within constrained local authority budgets remain. Yet our members continue to demonstrate that local leadership provides climate solutions that benefit communities through warmer homes, cleaner air, and local economic growth.

With massive reform on the cards for 2025 – a milestone year that marks both five years to many councils’ 2030 targets and 25 years to the UK’s 2050 target – championing local leaders delivering for people and planet has never been more important.

Christopher Hammond
Chief Executive, UK100



2024 at a glance:

Our network has grown to **117** members

A more than 5% increase in membership across 2024 and a tripling of membership since UK100 launched our local climate action pledge in 2020. Among our newest members are Crawley Borough Council.

550m

UK100 advocacy was seen up to 550m times by people across the UK in local, national and regional media with our messages on the importance of local authority climate action.

12

 mentions in UK Parliament

Alongside UK100 members giving evidence to the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee, UK100 research has been referenced at least twelve times in Parliament, including during critical discussions on the GB Energy Bill.

More

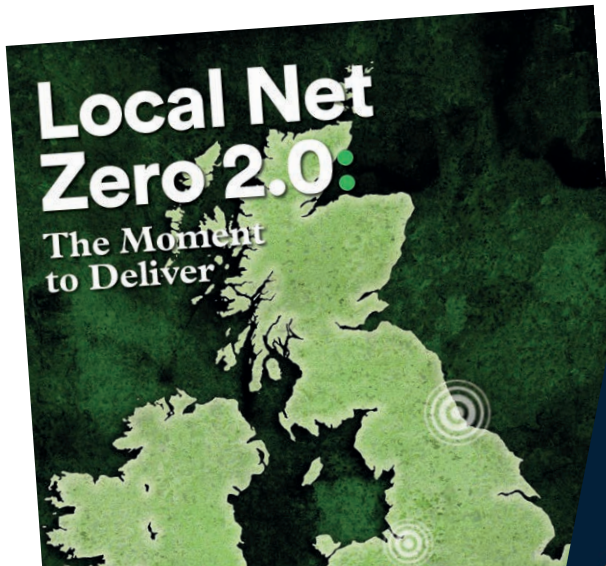
 support for our network than ever before

As part of an expanded programme of membership support, we launched our key Local Net Zero 2.0 and Zero In reports, the latter in collaboration with Mission Zero Coalition, alongside nine new member case studies, five expert toolkits, five lunchtime learning sessions, two roundtables, our biggest ever Local Government Association Conference networking event.

1

 flagship summit

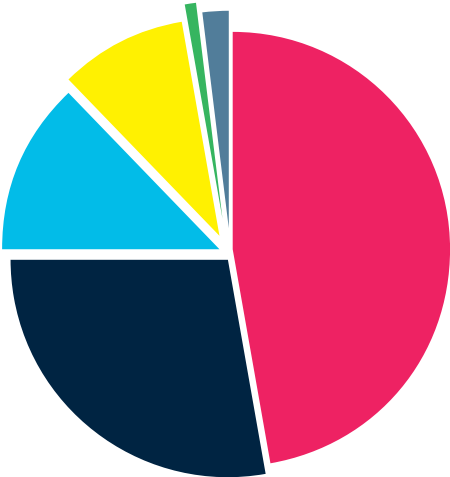
Our Local Leaders: Clean Energy Superpower Summit in London gathered over 100 local government, industry, and policy leaders to launch our “Local Net Zero 2.0” report and a new local climate engagement toolkit. The event featured 16 prominent speakers, reaching 300 million people through media coverage.



Our Members:

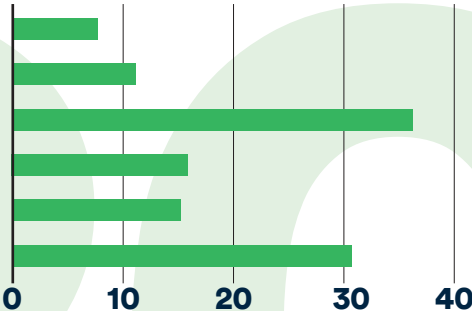
Political administrations

- 55 Labour
- 15 Conservative
- 11 Liberal Democrats
- 1 Green Party
- 2 Independent
- 32 No Overall Control



Type & tier

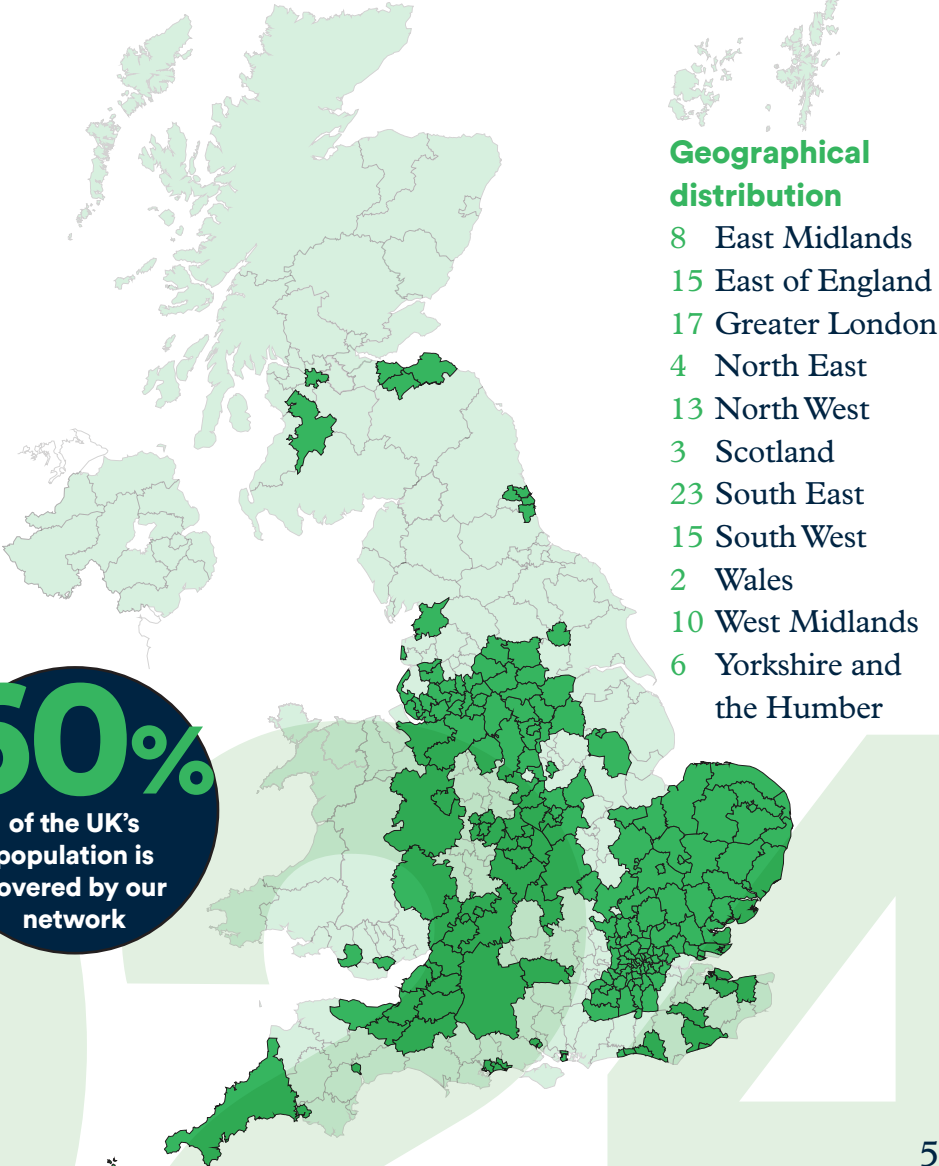
- 7 Combined Authority
- 11 County Council
- 36 District Council
- 16 London Borough
- 15 Metropolitan District
- 31 Unitary Authority



60%
of the UK's population is covered by our network

Geographical distribution

- 8 East Midlands
- 15 East of England
- 17 Greater London
- 4 North East
- 13 North West
- 3 Scotland
- 23 South East
- 15 South West
- 2 Wales
- 10 West Midlands
- 6 Yorkshire and the Humber



In the News:

- Across over 750 broadcast, print and online media hits, UK100 reached a potential audience of over 600 million people in 2024, increasing our potential reach by almost 20% and volume of coverage by almost 30%.
- Highlights include a four million-strong readership for **The i Paper's** pre-election feature on UK100 founder and the “green nexus” **trying to save the Labour Party's climate policy** and coverage in more than 250 regional newspapers, from the **Andover Advertiser** to the **Wynondham and Attleborough Mercury**.

WE CONTINUE TO PROMOTE OUR MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

Across 2024, UK100 has continued to platform the views of members and share their success stories. We supported **Cllr Lorna Fielker** from Southampton with a piece for **BusinessGreen** on the need for a national

local area energy planning framework and **Cllr Dan De'Ath** from Cardiff with comments for **The MJ** on local leaders “powering up for a revolution”.

We also published reflections from **Cllr Emily O'Brien**, Lewes District Council, on the **importance of climate action training for local councillors**.

Meanwhile, coverage of our key **Zero In** and **Local Net Zero 2.0: The Moment to Deliver** reports and flagship **Local Leaders: Clean Energy Superpower Summit** featured case studies, comments and speakers from several local authorities, from **Cardiff** to **Wiltshire**.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

X: **5,872**
LinkedIn: **2,673**
NEW! Bluesky: **225**

WEBSITE

We are continuing to update and improve our website, including a soon-to-be-launched Business Supporter Directory. Our website aims to provide a one-stop-shop for local climate action inspiration, delivery toolkits and practical case studies. In 2025 we are looking to rebuild the site, guided by our members, partners and stakeholders.

- Up to **91,000** stakeholders reached.
- Almost **20%** increase in stakeholder reach and engagement.
- More than **1,000** new followers.
- More than **4,000** subscribers.



Impact in 2024: Knowledge Sharing

LOCAL ENERGY

Recognising the critical role of local energy planning in achieving local leaders' climate goals, UK100 launched a comprehensive programme of support in 2024 to help local authorities navigate the rapidly evolving energy landscape and seize the opportunities presented by the new government's clean energy mission.

Working in partnership with UK Power Networks DSO, we developed the **Navigating the Net Zero Energy Transition** toolkit - providing practical steps for councils to shape their local energy systems, unlock growth and investment, and realise their energy ambitions.

Through our **Local Net Zero 2.0** report, we highlighted how the current system was hindering councils' ability to deliver on clean energy ambitions. Working with over 50 local

authorities, we assessed their capacity to tackle critical challenges, including addressing grid connection delays of up to 15 years.

At our flagship **Local Leaders: Clean Energy Superpower Summit**, we convened local authorities, government representatives, energy infrastructure investors and civil society to map out councils' role in achieving the clean energy by 2030 mission.

We also helped local authorities engage with the new Regional Energy Strategic Plans framework — a critical opportunity for local democratic participation in regional energy infrastructure planning.

The impact is already evident - authorities like Sheffield City Council are already using our energy toolkit as they explore Local Area Energy Planning, our research is being used in government policy discussions, and



we've facilitated new partnerships between local authorities and industry. Through this coordinated programme of knowledge sharing, we're helping ensure local authorities can lead the UK's transition to a decarbonised energy system that works for all communities.

Read more: [UK100 and UK Power Networks: Energy Transition Toolkit](#)

Watch more: [Watts next for local energy? | UK100](#)

Knowledge Sharing

MISINFORMATION

Climate misinformation continues to pose a significant challenge to councils delivering Net Zero. In response, UK100 launched a comprehensive programme of support in 2024, developed in partnership with ACT Climate Labs.



Our political toolkit, **Mitigating Climate Misinformation,**

equipped local leaders with strategies to detect and counter false narratives. We took these insights to the masses at Innovation Zero, hosting a workshop with speakers from Involve, ACT Climate Labs and Climate Leadership Academy graduate Councillor Mike Hakata from Haringey Council.

Most significantly, we coordinated the groundbreaking “Taking the heat out of local climate action” pledge ahead of the local elections. Signed by over 100 leaders and those seeking office from across the



A Climate Leadership Academy session led by ACT Climate Labs

political spectrum, the pledge demonstrated unprecedented cross-party unity in calling out dangerous rhetoric and committing to evidence-based, inclusive climate action.

Through this coordinated programme of support, we’re helping ensure misinformation’s

growth is curtailed and doesn’t slow the transition to Net Zero.

Read more: [Pledge to tackle misinformation ahead of local elections | UK100](#)

Read more: [UK100 Political Toolkit: Mitigating climate misinformation](#)

Knowledge Sharing

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Recognising that effective public engagement is crucial to delivering Net Zero locally, UK100 partnered with Involve to develop the **Inclusive Climate Action** toolkit — providing local authorities with practical guidance for meaningful community participation in climate decision-making.

The toolkit, which helps councils move from traditional “doing to” approaches towards more collaborative “doing with” strategies, was launched at our Clean Energy Superpower Summit. It was complemented by our separate guide for local authorities on developing influencing strategies for climate action plans, developed in collaboration with Calderdale Council through our Local Power in Action programme.

These resources proved timely, with engagement emerging as a key theme at our Innovation Zero



UK100's misinformation and local climate engagement workshop at Innovation Zero

workshop. The event brought together local leaders to share best practices on involving communities in climate solutions, from transport plans to renewable energy projects.

Through these coordinated initiatives, we're helping local authorities foster public confidence in climate action and ensure policies are shaped by diverse local

perspectives - creating the foundation for an inclusive Net Zero transition that works for everyone.

Read more: [Inclusive Climate Action: A Toolkit for Effective Public Engagement in Decision-Making](#)

Read more: [NEW REPORT: Zero In: Accelerating Climate Action](#)

Impact in 2024: Advocacy

CLEAN ENERGY SUPERPOWER SUMMIT

UK100's flagship Local Leaders: Clean Energy Superpower Summit brought together over 100 delegates from across local government, Westminster, Whitehall, industry and policy at London's County Hall in October 2024.

The summit marked the launch of UK100's groundbreaking **Local Net Zero 2.0: The Moment to Deliver** report and the unveiling of a new Charter of Collaboration between local and national government. Keynote speakers included Tom Hayes MP, National Mission Champion for Energy; Emma Pinchbeck, incoming Chief Executive of the Climate Change Committee; and Mete Coban, Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy.



The summit achieved significant media impact with coverage in over 275 news outlets, reaching an estimated 300 million people. It featured 16 expert speakers across three focused sessions and brought together almost 100 participants, including 28 local leaders and officers from 25 local authorities and 28 industry leaders from 15 businesses. Crucially, the event drove practical collaboration by launching three

major initiatives: a new toolkit for effective public engagement in climate decision-making developed with Involve UK, an energy toolkit created in partnership with UK Power Networks DSO, and the Charter of Collaboration signed by local leaders committing to accelerate clean energy delivery.

Watch more: [Local Leaders: Clean Energy Superpower Summit 2024](#)



Christopher Hammond
at the Clean Energy
Superpower Summit

Advocacy

IN FRONT OF THE DECISION MAKERS

UK100 representatives continued to make their voices heard in Parliament throughout 2024, with key appearances before parliamentary committees.

In January, UK100 Co-president and Wiltshire Council leader Richard Clewer provided evidence to the Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ) Committee’s “Heating our homes” inquiry. During his testimony, Clewer highlighted the challenges local authorities face with short-term competitive funding for energy efficiency measures, particularly in rural communities. He emphasised the need for sustained, strategic support rather than piecemeal funding to effectively deliver housing retrofits and energy bill savings for residents.

Later in the year, North Kesteven District Council leader and UK100 member Richard



Richard Clewer



Wright appeared before the Environmental Audit Committee in November 2024, contributing to their examination of whether building 1.5 million new homes can support UK nature and climate goals. The session brought together expertise from local government, academia, and environmental organisations.

These parliamentary appearances demonstrate UK100’s growing influence in shaping national

climate policy discussions and amplifying local leaders’ perspectives on delivering climate action. Through such evidence sessions, UK100 members continue to advocate for the tools, powers and long-term funding needed to accelerate local climate progress.

Read more about Richard Clewer’s evidence here: [Energy Security Committee hears from UK100 Co-president on competitive funding and warm homes](#)

Advocacy

DUTY TO DEVOLUTION

UK100's campaign for a statutory Net Zero duty for local authorities gained significant momentum in 2024, with our member survey revealing 88% of local leaders support the introduction of such a duty when backed by proper powers and funding. In partnership with London Councils, UK100 is exploring how enshrining local climate action in law can deliver national climate targets.

Our **Zero In** report, launched with the Mission Zero Coalition, highlighted how the current fragmented approach is hindering progress, with just 12% of councils feeling they have benefited from existing devolution arrangements and none reporting that climate change is adequately considered in devolution deals.

The report's launch was accompanied by a



Chris Skidmore (left) and Christopher Hammond at the Zero In report launch



cross-party “Taking the heat out of local climate action” pledge, securing commitments from local leaders to rise above party politics and tackle climate misinformation head-on.

This work culminated in UK100 writing to Parliamentary candidates of all parties ahead of the general election, calling for a devolution bill

with climate action at its core to be included in the first King's Speech. The proposed duty would make local authorities jointly accountable for meeting climate targets while providing the necessary powers and funding to enable effective delivery.

Read more: [Councils want new climate duty as part of relationship reset | UK100](#)

Impact in 2024: Empowering Members

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Climate Leadership Academy (CLA) delivered its third successful cohort in 2024, empowering 20 cross-party councillors with the knowledge and connections to drive local climate action. The programme focused on key priority areas including energy planning, retrofit, sustainable housing and low-carbon heat.

Expert speakers from organisations including Energy UK, Energy Saving Trust, Nesta, Energy Systems Catapult and E3G provided cutting-edge insights, while CLA graduates such as Councillor Abdul Jabar from Oldham Council returned to share their practical experience of delivering ambitious local climate initiatives. The growing network of CLA graduates continues to demonstrate how targeted support for local climate leaders can catalyse transformative action



across the UK.

Learn more: [Applications open soon for the 2025 Climate Leadership Academy | UK100](#)

SOMERSET

Through UK100's Local Power in Action programme, Somerset Council emerged as a pioneer in strategic energy planning in 2024. Working closely with elected members, UK100 helped Somerset develop comprehensive responses to energy myths ahead of rolling out their ambitious Somerset Energy Plan, ensuring robust community engagement and support. This work exemplified how targeted support can help councils overcome resource challenges to maintain momentum on climate action. Somerset also played a crucial leadership role in working with Ofgem on Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs), working with other South West councils



to advocate for boundary changes better reflecting local needs and energy systems. This collaborative approach led to the publication of practical guidance for other local authorities on engaging with the RESP process.

As one Somerset council officer noted, “UK100 has kept momentum going forward,” demonstrating how the Local Power in Action programme helps councils maintain progress on climate action despite challenging circumstances. The partnership showcases how local authorities can be empowered to lead strategic energy planning while sharing learning across the UK100 network.

Read more: [Grid connection constraints? Now is the time for local authorities to shape the future of regional energy planning | UK100](#)

Empowering Members

CALDERDALE

The Local Power in Action partnership between UK100 and Calderdale Council exemplified the transformative power of collaborative local climate action in 2024. Building on its participation in UK100's Local Power in Action programme and Climate Leadership Academy, Calderdale Council secured national recognition by winning the Municipal Journal Award for "Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency."

The council's pioneering approach, particularly its development of the UK's first local authority climate action influencing strategy (created with UK100's support), led to the publication of a practical political toolkit to help other councils replicate their success. This innovative work culminated in Calderdale's landmark climate conference 'From Insight to Action: Local Solutions for Net Zero' in November,



**Halifax
Town Hall in
Calderdale**

which attracted over 200 decision-makers to Halifax.



The conference showcased several breakthrough initiatives, including West Yorkshire's first Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) - described as "trailblazing" by Mayor Tracy Brabin. Climate Leadership Academy graduate Cllr Scott Patient played a pivotal

role, both in developing these initiatives and sharing insights with the current CLA cohort, demonstrating how UK100's investment in local climate leaders creates ripple effects of positive change across the network.

Read more: [Develop an Influencing Strategy for your Climate Action Plan: A Political Toolkit](#)



UK: 100 in 2025

DEFEND & DELIVER

Powering Local Climate Action in 2025:

“ As two of the new Co-presidents of UK100, we are proud to represent a growing movement of local leaders united in their commitment to ambitious climate action — despite a fractured national political consensus. While we come from different political backgrounds and lead very different councils, we share an unwavering belief that local government must be at the heart of delivering the UK’s climate goals.

We are part of an expanded UK100 Co-president network that demonstrates climate action transcends party politics, geography and governance structures. We will champion the local perspective in national policy discussions with our fellow Co-presidents.

The English Devolution White Paper and subsequent Bill expected later in 2025 could fundamentally reshape local government. While devolution presents exciting opportunities

to empower local climate leadership, we must ensure these reforms strengthen local authorities’ ability to deliver practical climate solutions for our communities.

If you’re a local leader, share your views on the reported proposals now. Part of our job is to ensure the network’s work in 2025 is driven by the network itself. As we approach the halfway point to many councils’ 2030 Net Zero targets, we need to assess our progress and redouble our efforts. The next five years will be critical.

To support members in this crucial period, UK100 is evolving. Local leaders will be given the tools to accelerate climate action, from a flagship ‘5 & ‘25 conference exploring progress toward 2030 and 2050 targets to expanded research and knowledge-sharing programmes. Infrastructure constraints, planning issues, funding indecision and political uncertainty continue to hamper local climate delivery. But

there are also unprecedented opportunities. The government’s Clean Energy Superpower by 2030 mission and commitment to ending competitive funding could unlock local potential – if they get the implementation right.

Success will require genuine partnership between local and national government. UK100 will make the evidence-based case for empowering local climate leadership while fostering collaboration across the network to demonstrate what’s possible when councils are ambitious and properly resourced. The journey to 2030 — and 2050 — starts in our communities. By working together across political and geographical boundaries, and speaking with one voice, local government can lead the way in delivering a cleaner, fairer and more prosperous future for all.

Cllr Lucy Nethsingha and Cllr Andy Mellen,
UK100 Co-presidents

Our Prospectus for the Year Ahead:

5

THINGS WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT

A NEW-LOOK MEMBERSHIP NETWORK AND OFFERING

From January 2025, our enhanced membership model offers tiered access to unique resources, research and advocacy opportunities. Paid membership unlocks exclusive policy briefings, research insights, and priority access to events, while maintaining our core mission of empowering ambitious local climate action.

KNOWLEDGE HUB AND POLICY WORKING GROUP

We're enhancing our knowledge-sharing capabilities with new case studies and enhanced Knowledge Hub resources and establishing a Policy Working Group of members to shape research priorities. Regular policy briefings will help local leaders navigate the changing landscape of local climate delivery.

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The fourth year of our Climate Leadership Academy will equip 20 new ambitious local leaders with the skills and knowledge to drive climate action. Focused on energy, housing and transport, the programme includes three residential weekends and ongoing support through our growing graduate network.

MILESTONE CONFERENCE

Our flagship conference in summer 2025 will bring together local leaders to reflect on progress toward 2030 climate targets and chart the course to 2050. Working with partners and BSN supporters, we'll explore shared priorities and develop a research-backed roadmap for accelerating local climate action.

AGENDA-SETTING ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

Our evidence-based advocacy will seek to influence key legislation, from the English Devolution Bill to the GB Energy Bill, whilst supporting local authorities with delivery toolkits. Our research and advocacy team will track the key bills, the Spending Review, EPC and planning reforms, and monitor the Local Power Plan and Clean Energy Superpower Mission roll-out.

Thank You to our Members and Supporters:

Members of our Business Supporters Network in 2024 include:



HomeRun



OMILITY

**energy
saving
trust**



VIVID



airscape™

co₂sense™
carbon sense 2 commercial sense

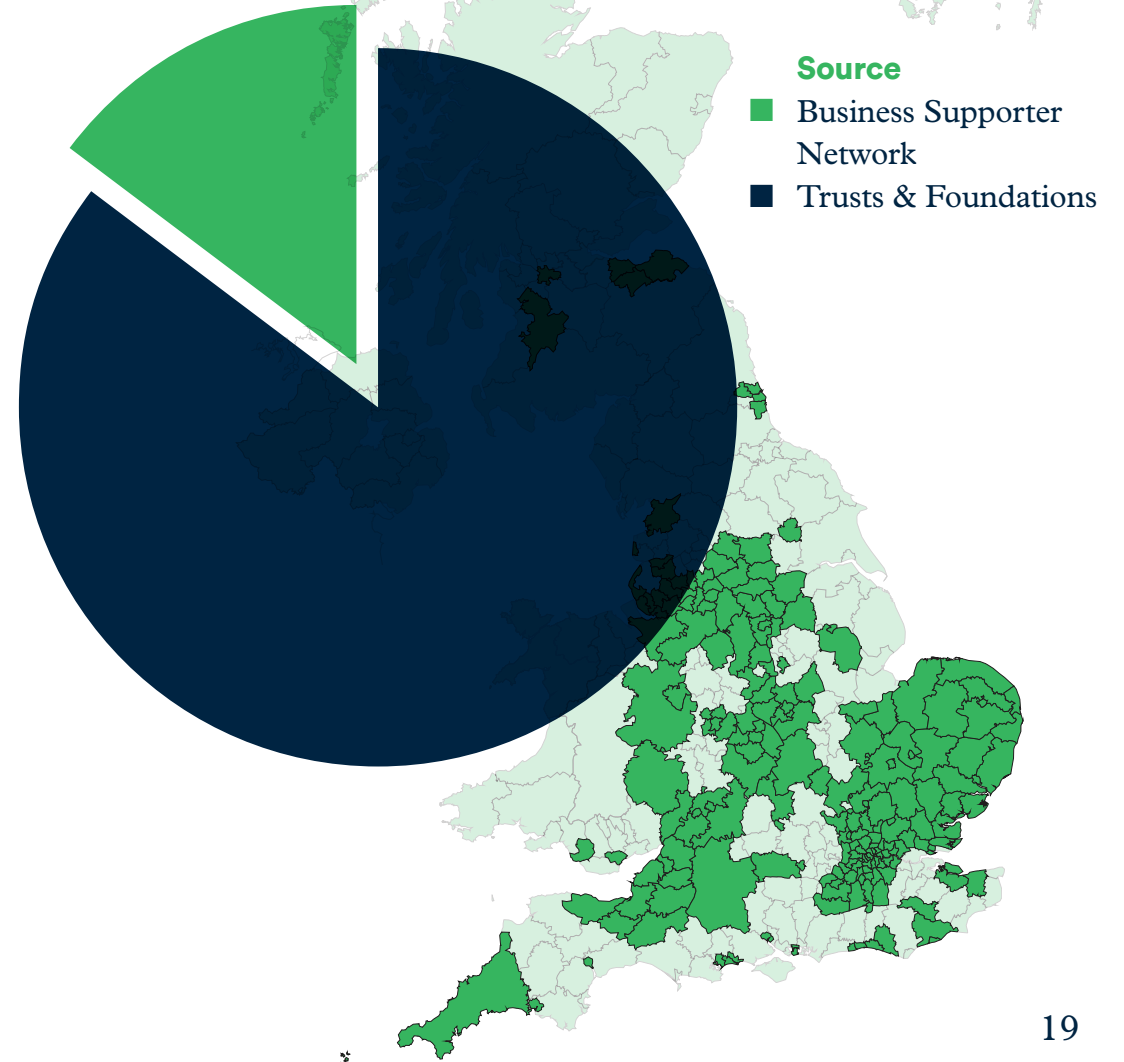
regen 
transforming energy

Our Trusts and Foundations funders in 2024 include:



The European Climate Foundation has supported two projects featured in UK100's annual review. Responsibility for the information and views set out in this 2024 Annual Review lie with the authors. The European Climate Foundation cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained or expressed therein.

UK100 funding in 2024:



The image features a dark blue background with large, semi-transparent, light blue letters 'U', 'K', and 'O' scattered across it. In the center, the text 'UK:100' is displayed in white. The 'UK' is in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a colon and the number '100'. The two dots of the colon are replaced by two small, solid green circles. To the right of the text, there are two larger, solid dark green circles stacked vertically. The overall design is modern and minimalist.

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