

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY VULNERABILITIES IN THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

A POLICY BRIEFING FROM THE YOUNG FOUNDATION
AND THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY STUDIES



**The Young
Foundation**



**Institute for
Community Studies**

The Young Foundation is the UK's home for community research and social innovation. As a not-for-profit, we bring communities, organisations and policymakers together, driving positive change to shape a fairer future. Working to understand the issues people care about, we support collective action to improve lives, involving communities in locally-led research and delivering distinctive initiatives and programmes to build a stronger society. We also power the Institute for Community Studies, an evidence centre exploring what works in UK communities.



INTRODUCTION

The Young Foundation's Institute for Community Studies has conducted landmark research, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, on the impact the UK's transition to net zero carbon emissions will have on our society's most vulnerable families and communities.

The research unequivocally points to an urgent need for national and local policymakers - and those leading and delivering transition strategies - to consider more deeply the potential negative impacts on people who are already experiencing the greatest disadvantage – as well as the positive opportunities they may benefit from. This includes opportunities for the most deprived and poorest communities to participate in the UK's shift to net zero, ensuring transition isn't simply another macro policy change that leaves people behind.

Most other research focuses on the changes to behaviours that society will have to make in a successful transition to net zero. The Institute for Community Studies believes framing the transition as a movement of mass participation toward net zero is likely to be more effective than relying on nudges and incentives. And, for the most vulnerable to participate, people need to be supported and empowered, with specific policies to support a 'just transition' to net zero. This means not only looking at net zero policies against their impact on families living in poverty, but also vice versa -

considering the range of other policies and interventions that aim to reduce poverty through a net zero lens.

The poorest can't be incentivised to switch to electric vehicles when they can't even afford or access public transport. They can't be nudged to install a heat pump when they can't afford to heat their home or are a tenant who lacks agency in decision-making. People can't be encouraged or persuaded to shift to a net zero-friendly diet if their food options are based on affordability.

This research was always necessary but, in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis that is seeing energy and food bills soar, and compounded by other effects, including the impacts of Covid-19 and Brexit that already disproportionately impact the most deprived, it is even more relevant – and impossible to ignore.

Achieving the UK's net zero target is dependent on understanding population, geography, engagement, and participation. It is as much a social as it is a technical challenge, with far-reaching effects on people's lives and the ways they live and work. It will affect people's homes, travel, and the way they consume foods, goods, and services. However, people's level of confidence in knowing how the

transition to net zero will affect them, as well as their ability to readily engage with the behavioural changes that will be needed, decreases with age and socio-economic status, and there is concern that many parts of the country already experiencing deprivation will be put at further, deep disadvantage.

Both historically and in future, higher-income households bear greater responsibility for climate change. However, its most severe impacts will be felt by the most vulnerable. These households are not only among the poorest 20% but are also more likely to be in areas with greater pollution, low-quality housing, inaccessible transport, and fewer green spaces. Low income is a key factor, but age, disability, gender, and ethnicity all also have a significant bearing on how effective the government's policies and plans to mitigate the effects of climate change will be.

The impact of changes needed will be felt very differently across families and communities, shaped by their current and future circumstances and by spatial deprivation, but also by a wider range of policies and factors, which will either serve to ease or worsen the challenge. The Institute for Community Studies research evidences this, examining which types of households and

neighbourhoods are more, or less, 'ready' for transition to net zero. Across the UK, households in neighbourhoods, local authorities and cities are starting the transition to net zero from differing foundations. This needs to be accounted for, if transition is to be a success and not experienced unequally by the public.

While there are policies, targets, and plans across the four nations to reach net zero, the UK has some of the highest levels of inequality in Europe – and the Institute's research shows that current policies and plans lack two crucial dimensions: accounting for different levels of readiness within our towns, cities and neighbourhoods; and enabling people's participation in transition actions and activities. Rather than universal policies, a targeted approach to support is needed if the effects are to fall more evenly across households.

Meaningful community engagement is essential to encourage people's participation not only in implementing policies intended to effect change, but also in the process of policy development. This is vital in understanding how individual circumstances - that will entrench or transcend existing inequalities - are to be addressed, and crucial in understanding how inclusive opportunities for social and environmental change may be realised. This briefing paper considers how some of the most relevant national policies measure up against the Institute for Community Studies' new research. It highlights key areas that must be considered to help make sure the most vulnerable feel improved and equitable outcomes, and that the costs and benefits of the transition to a net zero economy are distributed more fairly across the UK.



Part one

NET ZERO POLICY: ENABLING PARTICIPATION

The Institute for Community Studies' emerging research provides a framework to help policymakers understand how net zero policies affect household and community participation and enable them to identify those at most risk of being excluded or 'left behind' in the transition. The framework describes the domains of life that will be affected by net zero policy (Where we live; Where we go; What we eat, etc) and considers different forms of participation that will be required (economic; social; education and skills; and political and civic participation).

In this report, we first make an assessment, against the framework, on whether national-level net zero policies include mechanisms or goals for enabling the different forms of participation needed. We then consider the key aspects of policy across the four nations that are most relevant in terms of their potential impact on deprived families and communities. These span housing and heat; transport; food; employment, education and skills; and community.

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

How people's finances and spending will change in the transition to net zero

Economic participation is necessary in the transition to net zero, as changes to the price of goods and services, and costs associated with compliance and access to employment, will all shape households' ability to engage. Families will need capital or affordable credit, flexibility of spending power, and the ability to take financial risks, as well as decent jobs.

In this regard, the UK Government's **Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener** offers few areas of comfort to those most likely to be at risk, such as low-income families, pensioners, and the unemployed. There is lack of clarity around how existing and future employment opportunities

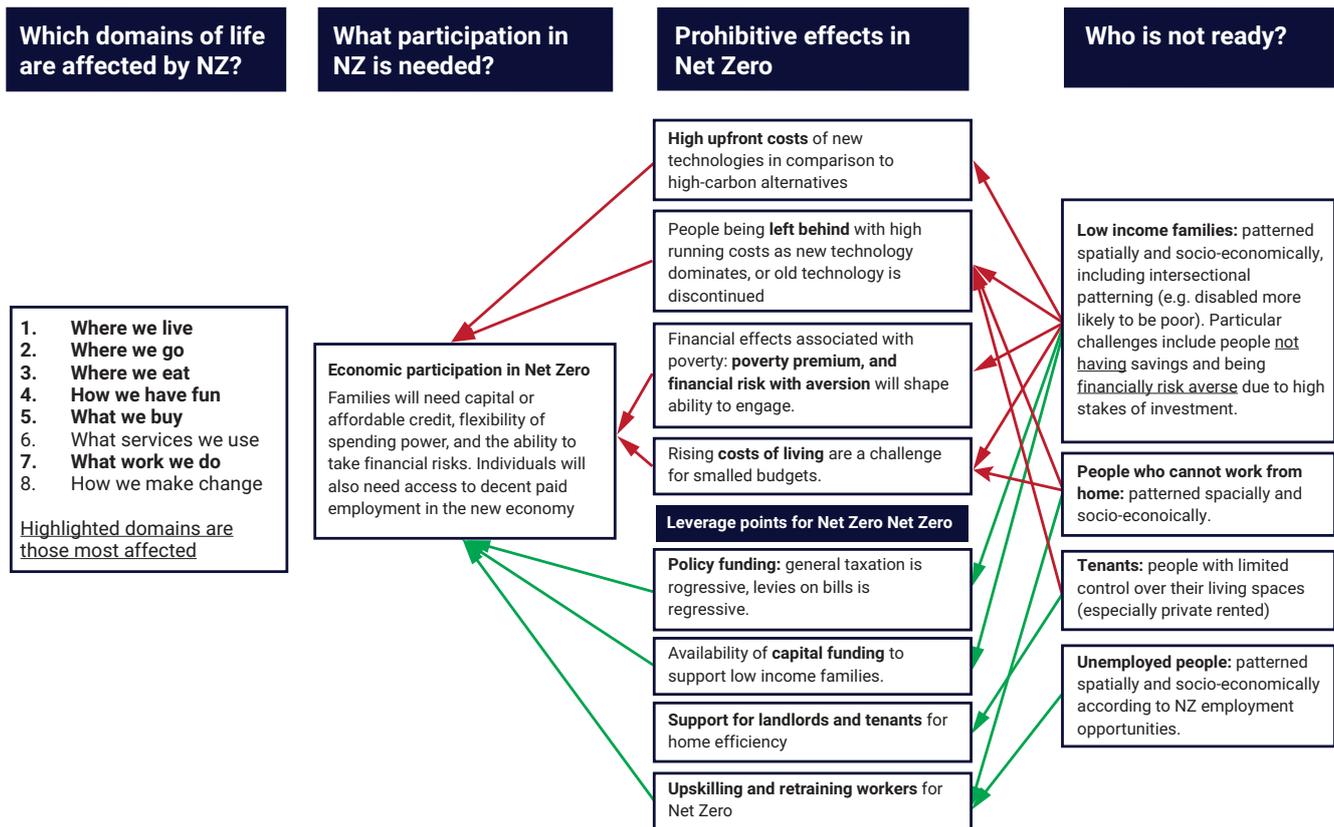
will be targeted and accessed, or how the future costs associated with the transition will be passed on to consumers. Through its related fuel poverty strategy, however, it does set out a range of policy commitments to upgrade the energy efficiency of fuel-poor homes for the most vulnerable, and related initiatives for the social and private rented sectors.

The **Northern Ireland Executive's Path to Net Zero Strategy** and associated action plan sets out a vision to create new jobs but contains few specific provisions to better enable economic participation for the poorest. It does, however, commit to considering specific financial assistance and support for those who are vulnerable and on low incomes.

In addition to harnessing the opportunities for job creation presented by net zero, the Welsh Government's **Net Zero Wales** plan has a focus on alleviating fuel poverty but does not go further in considering how to address the likely economic inequalities of transition for the most deprived.

The **Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan (updated)** reflects the 'just transition' principles in its Climate Change legislation and includes measures to better enable the economic participation of those

experiencing inequality and poverty. This has an emphasis on fuel poverty and presents the opportunity to address inequalities through good 'green' jobs.



SOCIAL PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

How people's social lives and activities will change in the transition to net zero

The transition to net zero will likely impact on people's social life, due to the need to localise work, leisure and social activities. Therefore, social participation in the transition is also needed. This requires strong, inclusive and cohesive social relations, infrastructure and communities. Social participation is particularly important for people living in rural areas, for low-income families, for socially isolated people, and for people from minority groups.

The UK Government's Strategy includes provision for improved public transport and infrastructure for 'active travel', such as walkways and cycle paths. The Strategy also notes the positive effects that active travel can have not just on climate change, but also improving health and wellbeing,

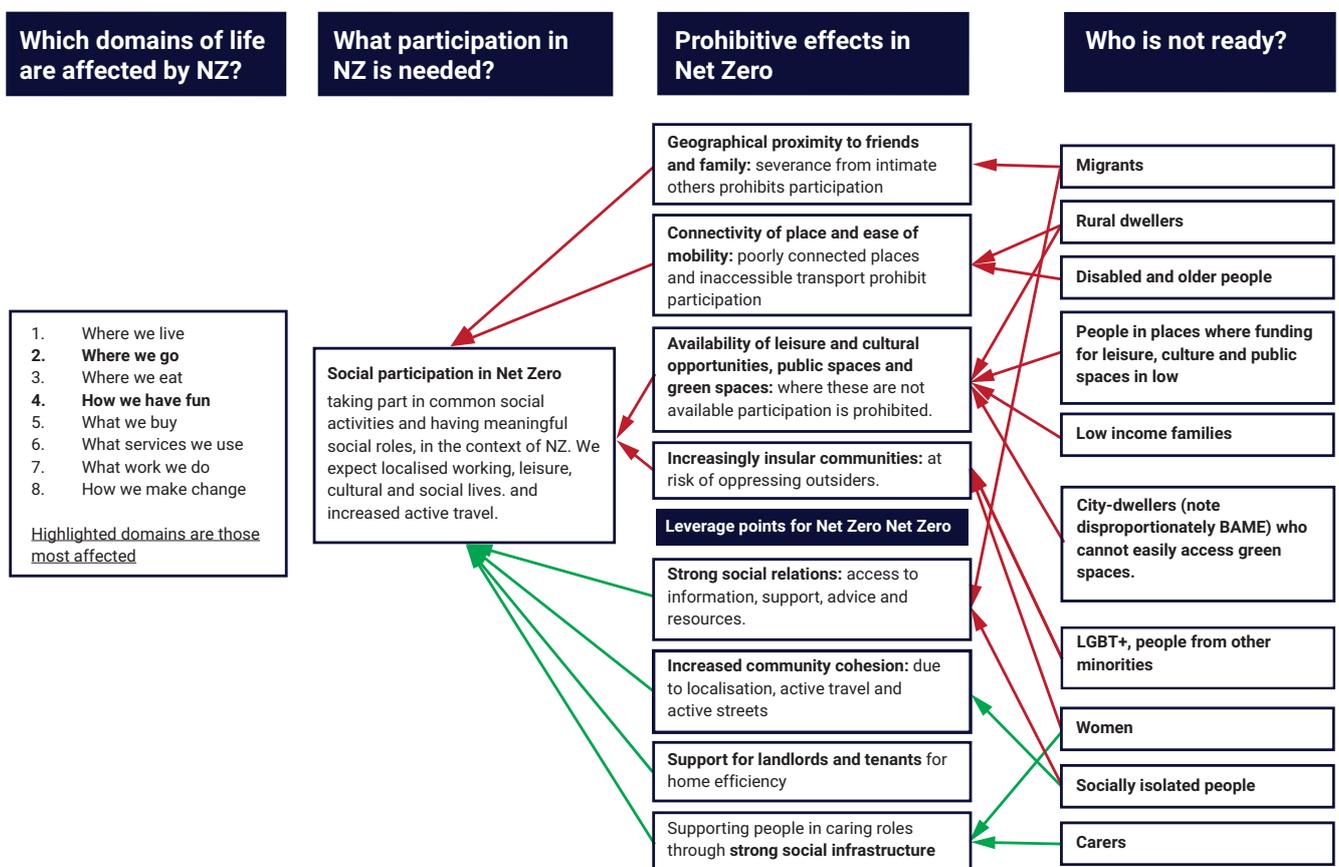
and addressing inequalities. However, aside from reference to considering how the planning system can further support the transition to net zero, there is no specific development of how the strong social infrastructure needed for social participation in the transition to net zero will be delivered.

Northern Ireland has many remote areas and communities, and car dependency is high. This brings challenges when looking to increase social participation. The Net Zero Plan commits to continual investment in active travel and public transport, but there is little detail in the plan beyond this. Their recent Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 makes provision for a Just Transition Commission, which could have a role in considering the importance of social participation further.

The Net Zero Wales Plan makes extensive reference to the potential benefits on social and community cohesion, including those that may be gained through its planned investments in public transport and active travel for those who are less well-off and socially excluded. It also notes that its Planning Policy supports consideration of social and cultural, as well as environmental and economic, impacts.

The Scottish Government commits to building on the already established 'Place Principle'. This currently aims to promote a collaborative approach to a place's services and assets to achieve better outcomes for people and communities. A newly established Place-Based Investment Programme would support building

sustainable places, and local access to goods and services. Alongside specific public transport and active travel commitments, its next National Planning Framework will also take account of the need to refocus existing transport policies to specifically build in sustainable travel choices.



PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

How people can develop understanding and skills to thrive in a 'green' economy

Participation in education and skills development around net zero and the 'green economy' will be necessary, given the predicted impact of the transition to net zero on jobs. Due to potential issues accessing training and development opportunities, people most at risk of being unable to participate include those living in areas that rely, to a significant extent, on high carbon industries, those living in rural and high-unemployment areas, disabled and older people, and those on low incomes.

As already highlighted above, in terms of the economic participation needed - while the UK Government's Strategy includes case studies setting out the creation of new 'green' jobs and signals the introduction of UK-wide growth funding schemes in support

of communities such as the Shared Prosperity Fund, the Levelling Up Fund and the Towns Fund – it is unclear how it will deliver a 'just transition' through ensuring appropriate local skills provision and re-training opportunities.

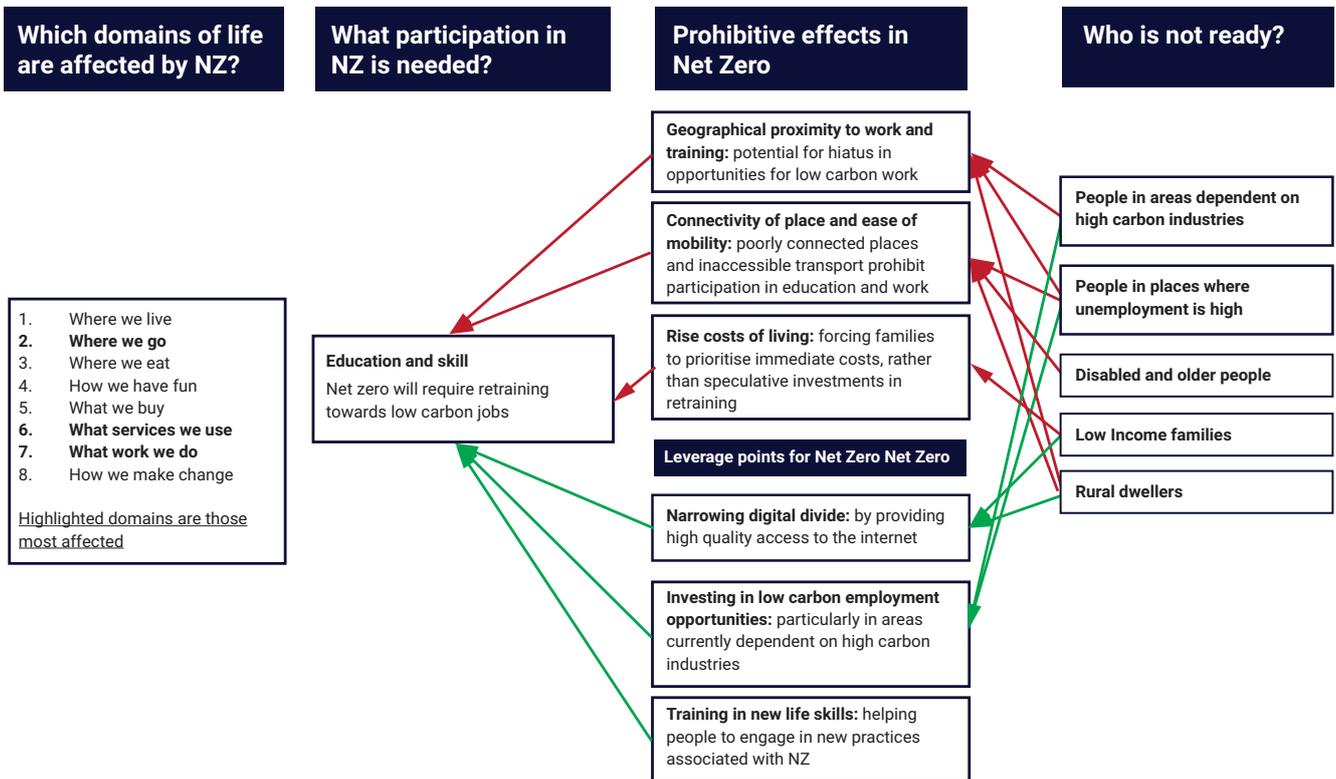
Following its Net Zero Plan, Northern Ireland published its Skills for a 10X Economy Strategy. This highlights existing disparities in outcomes, including educational achievement, for those living in its most deprived communities, and the importance of cohesive and focused skills policy. While net zero is acknowledged as a significant driver for the Strategy, it simply acknowledges that work needs to begin immediately to fully understand future education and training requirements, and to deliver a just transition.

In common with others, the Welsh Government sets out to provide sustainable employment opportunities but explicitly sets this in the context of tackling inequity and delivering a just transition. It signals the development of a net zero skills action plan to support new training opportunities in the transition. This is due to be developed later in 2022.

Scotland's Just Transition Commission was established in 2019 and has a role to provide scrutiny and advice on Scottish Government-led Just Transition Plans. Now in its second iteration, it published its initial report in July 2022 and highlighted, amongst other issues, the need for a plan on the future of energy sector jobs and

the importance of retraining and reskilling. The Climate Emergency Skills Plan acknowledges existing spatial inequalities and notes the targeted support that will be needed

for different groups in the labour market, as well as ensuring fairness and inclusion in the skills system as part of a just transition.



POLITICAL AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

How people's political engagement will change in the transition to net zero

Political and civic participation are needed, as a successful transition to net zero will require public support and engagement. This will not only be through voting but also having a say in policies and plans, and through opportunities to get involved in policy development. This is particularly relevant for those living in deprived areas who may, for a range of different reasons, need more support to build the capacity and capability to meaningfully engage and share their perspectives, experiences and own activities.

The UK Government recognises, in its strategy, the role that community empowerment, engagement, and action can play in supporting the transition to net zero. Despite commitment to a Local Net Zero

Forum to ensure direct input from local leaders, more clarity is needed on local capability, capacity, powers and funding. Public awareness of net zero, and levels of concern about climate change, are being reported quarterly. But, despite research published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy that highlights the importance of public engagement and participation, it is not clear how inclusive participation by the public will be achieved.

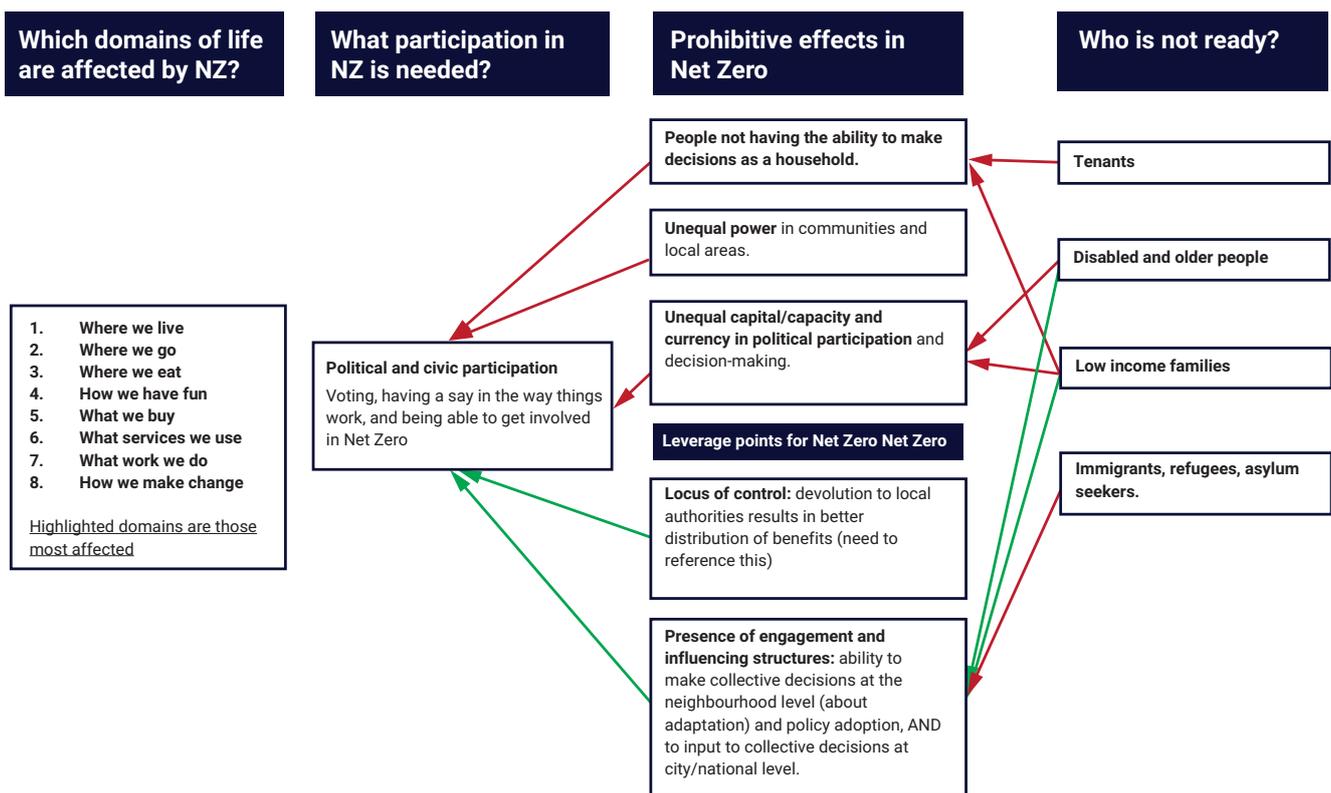
The Northern Ireland Executive is not explicit about how it will improve political and civic participation in net zero. However, its establishment of a Just Transition Commission, as already noted, is a positive step. The same legislation makes provision for an independent Climate Commissioner. However, it is not clear if the Commissioner will have any specific role in this regard.

The Net Zero Wales Plan acknowledges that understanding and engaging the public in decision-making will also provide a stronger basis for behaviour change. Its published engagement approach builds on its 'Team Wales' philosophy and sets out a range of activities, taking a people-centred approach to encourage active participation in decision-making and the delivery of net zero. It specifically highlights a focus on developing evidence and gathering views on its approach to a

just transition in the remainder of this year. It also flags the important role of the third sector and the need for multiple joined-up policy initiatives, as well as communication, engagement and participatory mechanisms.

The Scottish Government has set out its public engagement strategy for climate change: Net Zero Nation. It includes a series of actions aimed at improving people’s understanding, participation and action in the transition to net zero. These include supporting participation in shaping

just, fair and inclusive policies. Alongside this, Scotland’s Climate Assembly is supporting public climate conversations, and it’s Just Transition Commission has a role to undertake meaningful engagement with those most likely to be impacted by the transition, hearing from a broad range of representative voices, and advising on how to ensure these can shape and contribute to just transition planning work.



This research is funded by the Nuffield Foundation and conducted by the Institute for Community Studies with the University of Leeds, University of York and Trinity College Dublin.



Part two

NET ZERO POLICY AND COMMUNITY POWER

The second half of this report sets out brief policy implications for supporting a ‘just transition’ to net zero. It draws on the broad array of research and social innovation practice from The Young Foundation, Institute for Community Studies, and other sources to inform policies and initiatives that can support a fair transition to a carbon neutral society, achieved by, with and for communities.

Communities exercise their strength in response to climate change in many ways and are profound sources of support and care during times of crisis. As the impacts of climate change become more severe through our transition to net zero, what is the role of our communities - and what policies will best support their capacity to respond?

WHY DON'T THEY ASK US?

There is strong evidence from the Institute for Community Studies that 15 years of national investment to support 'levelling up' type activities resulted in 0% average change in the relative spatial deprivation of the most deprived local authority areas. Where we see stronger impact, we see stronger involvement of local communities in decision-making, and in action. This means:

- The perspectives, experiences and proposed local solutions for transitioning to net zero will benefit from increased community participation. Beyond citizen assemblies, we need to build sustained, equitable partnerships between communities, local government, businesses and education to accelerate change and transition.
- The focus must be on experimentation, learning and innovation which places communities at the heart of transition activities which directly affect them. The 'analysis paralysis' which comes from focusing too heavily on the nature of the problem, at the expense of taking action must be outpaced by new models and strategies for collective change.

SOCIAL AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The shared spaces we access to learn, work, play, create, exercise and socialise are the fabric of our communities, and we have seen substantial loss of those spaces over the last ten years. The government recognises this challenge to society, arguing in its Levelling Up agenda (February 2022), that 'poor endowments of social capital and social infrastructure give rise to unsafe and unclean streets, weak community and cultural institutions [amplifying] the centrifugal economic and financial forces impacting these places.' As we anticipate the impacts on (particularly poorer and more deprived) local communities through the transition to net zero, colliding with the extreme weather and other consequences of an already changing climate, our social infrastructure is critical to ensuring some resilience, and in maintaining a cohesive society.

- The Young Foundation endorses all recommendations from the 2020 **Kruger report** supporting the investment in community and social meeting places, hubs, libraries, cultural institutions, charities and social enterprises which add social value to and build social capital across our communities – in times of crisis, in times of calm.
- Digital infrastructure is too often limited to the subject of connectivity, data and broadband. While this is vital, the potential of

digital infrastructure to support the transition to net zero is under-explored at a national policy level. Whether providing online re-training or access to resources not available to non-urban communities, the opportunities to use digital platforms to share assets, knowledge, skills and resources - and the potential for digital platforms and services to connect people to transition-related information and activities - is huge. They also present savings to the public purse over time.

- The Young Foundation proposes the development of a National Civic Service for providing access to social and environmental services to the public. This would be publicly-owned digital infrastructure, providing the central architecture for citizens to access charity, social enterprise and government services to meet household and community needs - both in times of crisis and on the longer journey to transition.
- Public information campaigns must link directly to local opportunities for action. Despite the words 'crisis' and 'existential' being part of our climate narrative, there is minimal public information supporting individual, household or community action. Sustained, multi-channel, community campaigns to support awareness and action should be piloted; and scaled nationally if effective.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Community leaders are powerful forces for action and change within our communities; making things happen that people in those communities care about. These leaders are part and parcel of our social infrastructure and yet are rarely supported; either in developing their practice or preventing their burn-out and retirement from community life.

- The Community Leadership Academy, pioneered through funding from Local Trust, should be a Universal Offer for any citizens seeking to make social change in their communities – and, crucially, social change that supports a just transition to net zero. There are far too few opportunities on highstreets and in neighbourhoods for people to learn how to take positive climate action.

Community-led approaches to retrofitting have emerged in recent years, offering localised, distributed approaches to the huge task of making changes to older housing stock and lifting people out of fuel poverty.

- Rapid learning from (and roll out of) current pilots, such as Manchester's Carbon Co-Op, could prompt mass participation in a just transition to net zero, at a grassroots level.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

Community businesses represent only a small fraction of all UK businesses, and yet they provide strong routes towards an equitable transition to net zero. Across the country community energy businesses are using the commercial income they generate to finance socially beneficial activities and promote local priorities. Using solar PV sites as workplace and 'destination' parking to directly power electric vehicles, installing heat networks and renewable heating systems in community buildings and social housing, developing innovative data tools for energy users and loan schemes to fund LED lighting and other energy efficiency improvements. The list is endless and limited only by the imagination of local communities.

It is the unique combination of locally rooted, socially motivated and commercially oriented behaviours exhibited by all community businesses that not only makes the places they operate in better but which has also proved to be resilient to national emergencies such as the pandemic.

- Given the vital role they play in levelling up local communities, local authorities should be encouraged to enter into Community Power Covenants, formed in partnership with community businesses, as a signal of their commitment to an equitable transition, and as a channel for greater and more systemic resourcing.

- The Young Foundation also recommends the implementation of a Community Power Act; making legal provision for a community's right to exercise self-determination, and enabling more community ownership of assets, which present clear value to the community.

NET ZERO POLICY: HOUSEHOLDS

We are in a period of inflation and facing a cost of living crisis not seen since the 1970's. The need for extensively retrofitting in homes will further impact disproportionately on lowest income households. Tackling fuel poverty and low-carbon, energy efficient retrofitting can be seen as one issue.

Social housing landlords - who are required to improve the quality and energy efficiency of homes to address inadequate ventilation, heating and insulation - need priority finance and investment. This will support them to both decrease the carbon footprint of housing and improve tenants' circumstances through reductions in energy bills and improvements in health.

There is also a significant role for the social rented sector in delivering the standards required for heating systems and insulation in new-build homes, and the associated regulation to ensure these are being met - as well as leading the way with community energy projects.

The energy efficiency rating of the private rented sector is generally sub-standard and requirements to retrofit likely to result in increasing rents or landlords offloading their property back for sale.

89% of private landlords in the UK are individuals, 92% work part-time, and only 2% have a portfolio of more than ten properties. This means landlord participation in the transition is primarily an individual, not organisational challenge.

- Any sector or institution interested in health inequalities should have an interest in retrofitting social and private rental sector housing.

Outright owners in poverty are frequently older, retired and single or in a couple. Mortgaged households in poverty are frequently middle-aged couples with children. Considerable upfront costs of upgrades are likely to be unaffordable, despite available grants. Even where households may be motivated and able to make improvements, access to the necessary finance and borrowing required to pay for upgrades has the potential to be more expensive due to financial status and history.

The burden of understanding new technology, navigating bureaucracy, and concerns over mess and disruption, are potential barriers and the importance of availability of and ease of access to trusted support cannot be underestimated.

- On-hand support to navigate the challenges of affordability and accessibility is critical. Community groups and social enterprises can play a leading role, if enabled to do so.
- Community-based energy has a potentially significant role in meeting net zero targets. However, the number of projects in low-income areas remains low, which underlines the concern that only wealthier communities are able to participate in the transition.
- Local leadership is critical. It is essential to build community capacity to support a just transition - including with interest groups, co-operative societies, community benefit societies, local authorities, and local businesses.

NET ZERO POLICY: TRANSPORT

The relationship between transport and inequality is influenced by geography; the distribution of opportunities (eg, for jobs and education); and accessibility.

Net zero transport policy is heavily focused on the transition to electric vehicles, but there is also commitment to investment in public transport and active travel, such as walking or cycling.

This is vital if inequities caused by the dominance of private vehicle ownership, as well as existing issues with availability and accessibility of public transport and active travel, are to be addressed.

The greatest proportion of carless households are in the lowest income groups, so even policies that seek to make electric vehicle (EV) ownership more attractive and affordable, primarily through grants, have limited positive effect for poorer households.

The ambition for petrol and diesel vehicles to become obsolete over time may prevent car ownership being financially viable for low-income households, through higher costs and difficulties accessing maintenance and servicing. This brings potential negative knock-on effects for employment, education and other opportunities.

People in rural and semi-rural areas will typically have fewer employment opportunities within travelling distance, and as such will face higher barriers to accessing opportunities for employment and retraining.

- The Young Foundation supports targeting investment into scaling successful vehicle-sharing and community ownership schemes, particularly in less densely populated communities.
- We also highlight the social market opportunity to offer affordable EV-sharing in places and communities that are least likely to be able to access, afford or need outright EV ownership.

CONCLUSION

Recognition of the vital role that community empowerment, engagement, and action can play in supporting the UK's transition to net zero is still highly variable.

Much decision-making power lies at a national level, and national engagement is important. But local areas and communities will need to determine their own routes to achieving net zero within these broad national frameworks, finding ways that work for them.

Concerted efforts within communities have a unique ability to help raise awareness and engage people in net zero. Yet the challenge of involving local people in net zero is too often defined as 'public engagement' or dismissed as too small scale to make a difference.

This fundamentally underestimates the mass power of individuals when acting together, and misses opportunities for valuable collective participation and communities powering a more just transition.

It also risks fundamentally misunderstanding how most people experience and manage their involvement in significant change. This typically happens through their families and relationships; in the context of their economic and social status; and in terms of their ability to access services, information and other amenities – many of which are accessed from the position of their local communities.

Our research is clear: 97% of us want to cut our carbon footprint and 64% think a transition to net zero will leave many people behind. Only one in ten of us know how our life will change in the transition. These statistics should serve as a huge wake-up call. People want to act on climate change but don't know where to start.

Enabling communities to shape and drive initiatives in their own area is essential to a just transition. It is essential to communicate this seismic shift as a fundamentally shared endeavour - provoked, prompted and accelerated by an engaged public who care for each other's welfare, as well as their own.

National domestic housing policies

UK Government

- Phase out the installation of natural gas boilers by 2035.
- Household grants of up to £5,000 for low-carbon heating systems.
- £1.75bn for Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme and Home Upgrade Grants to upgrade fuel poor homes to EPC C standards by 2030 where practicable.
- Regulatory standards for privately rented homes by 2028.

Northern Ireland Executive

- Minimum standards for the energy efficiency of buildings.
- Funding and support for retrofitting buildings.
- Support for low-carbon heat technologies, including heat pumps.
- Phase out fossil fuels home heating oil, coal and certain solid fuels for home heating
- Ensure all new buildings are net zero ready by 2026/27 (earlier if practicable).

Welsh Government

- 148,000 houses to receive retrofit measures to reduce heat loss by 2025.
- Increasing the proportion of heat that is electrified by 3% by 2025.
- All new affordable homes built to net zero carbon, and standards adopted by all developers regardless of tenure, by 2025

Scottish Government

- £1.8bn funding for heat and energy efficiency measures in homes and buildings.
- Household grants of up to £6,000 for energy efficiency improvements and up to £7,500 for new renewable heating.
- All new builds will have to have zero emissions heating systems from 2024.
- All homes to be upgraded to meet at least EPC C standards or equivalent by 2033.
- Targeting of fuel poverty, heat in buildings and energy efficiency investment to support fuel poor households.

National EV policies

UK Government

- End sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030.
- £620m extra for zero-emission vehicle grants and EV Infrastructure, with a focus on local on street residential charging.

Northern Ireland Executive

- Support the transition to low- and zero-carbon fuels for vehicles, including through EV charging infrastructure.

Welsh Government

- 10% of passenger car travel and 48% of new car sales zero emission by 2025.
- Access for all users of electric cars and vans in to appropriate electric vehicle charging infrastructure by 2025, including grant funding for local authorities from the Welsh Government Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund.

Scottish Government

- Phasing out the need for petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030; £80m to date from Low Carbon Transport Loan to support the switch to low-carbon vehicles.
- Developing new financial models for EV charging infrastructure.
- £30m to grow and develop the ChargePlace Scotland network; Domestic chargepoint funding scheme.

National public transport policies

UK Government

- Increase the share of journeys taken by public transport, cycling and walking.
- Over £12bn on decarbonisation of local transport systems.
- £3bn on the National Bus Strategy; 4,000 new zero emission buses and associated infrastructure.
- Electrify more railway lines as part of plans to deliver a net zero rail network by 2050

Northern Ireland Executive

- Develop and deliver Local Transport Strategy to continue to invest in infrastructure that supports public transport provision.

Welsh Government

- Reduce car miles travelled per person by 10% by 2030.
- Increase the proportion of trips by public transport and active travel to 35% by 2025 and 39% by 2030, including through developing an integrated, multi-modal public transport system.

Scottish Government

- £500m to improve bus priority infrastructure; £9m to the Ultra Low Emission Bus Fund; £120m towards zero emission buses.
- National Concessionary Travel Scheme for free bus travel for young people, and review of discounts available on public transport to those under the age of 26.
- Passenger rail services decarbonised by 2035.

National active travel policies

UK Government

- Invest £2bn in cycling and walking through segregated cycle lanes and more low-traffic neighbourhoods with the aim that half of all journeys in towns and cities will be cycled or walked by 2030.
- Create at least one zero-emission transport city.

Northern Ireland Executive

- Develop and deliver a Local Transport Strategy to: invest in infrastructure that supports active travel; create neighbourhoods that provide access to local amenities; and connect active travel and transport options.

Welsh Government

- Increase the proportion of trips by public transport and active travel to 35% by 2025 and 39% by 2030, including through behaviour change programmes and supporting uptake of e-bikes.

Scottish Government

- £500m for active travel infrastructure, including: active travel infrastructure; behaviour change schemes; and public bike and e-bike share schemes, particularly in areas of multiple deprivation - as well as interest free loans, grants and trials.
- Road Safety Framework to 2030 to improve road safety.

National employment policies

UK Government

- Support up to 440,000 jobs across net zero industries in 2030.
- Reform the skills system so that training providers, employers and learners can play their part in delivering the transition to net zero, including by: legislating for the skills required; delivering a Lifetime Skills Guarantee; growing key post-16 training programmes; and helping individuals get the training they need for a job in the green economy.

Northern Ireland Executive

- Skills Strategy with emphasis on identifying and addressing key skills needs for the low carbon and renewable energy sector.
- Support the generation of jobs in the low carbon and renewable energy sector.
- Regional Development Strategy, including the location of jobs and houses to help address and adapt to climate change.

Welsh Government

- Prioritise financial, and other, support for clean and green jobs.
- Net Zero Wales Skills Action Plan to review and develop the skills required for a green recovery and transition to net zero, including: building on Regional Skills Partnerships; defining industry requirements; developing national occupational standards; reviewing qualifications for future skills needs; and developing incentives to stimulate skills demand.

Scottish Government

- £100m Green Jobs Fund to help business create new, green jobs.
- Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan to support reskilling and retraining skills workers
- Retraining to sustainable careers for those who lose jobs due to Covid-19 though £25m National Transition Training Fund
- £60m Young Person's Guarantee that includes support for green apprenticeships and careers advice.
- Increased support for colleges for training and retraining for jobs in the energy efficiency and zero emissions heating sectors.

National food policies

UK Government

- £295m for local authorities to implement free separate food waste collections for all households from 2025.
- Halve food waste by 2030.
- Food Strategy to incentivise farmers to produce high quality, high welfare food in a sustainable way.

Northern Ireland Executive

- Supporting behaviour change to minimise food waste
- Encouraging sustainable land management and food production practices

Welsh Government

- Supporting behaviour change to minimise food waste
- Decarbonisation action plan for the food and drink manufacturing sector

Scottish Government

- Food Waste Reduction Action Plan to reduce food was by one third by 2025.
- Public engagement and communications on sustainable choices around food and food waste.
- Support for uptake of climate mitigation measures by farmers, food producers, etc.

