

The VONNE Climate Project

NE Culture Partnership Forum
Sunderland 15th January 2020

Carol Botten, CEO VONNE

COP 25 Madrid. opening

UN Secretary General's

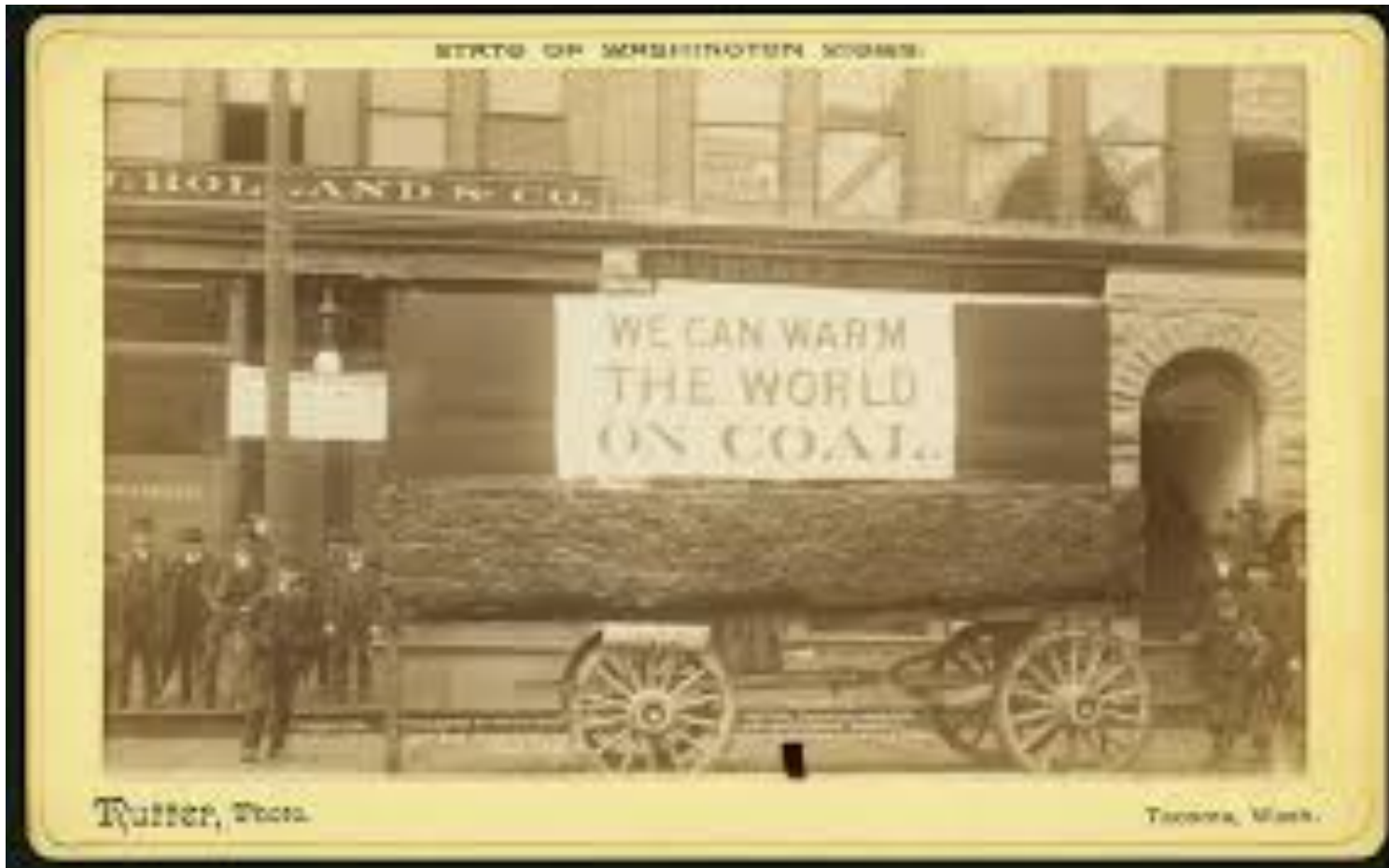
“Three major reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – on land, on the oceans and cryosphere, and on the 1.5 degree Celsius climate goal – each confirm that we are knowingly destroying the very support systems keeping us alive.

And indeed, we are.

In several regions of the world, coal power plants continue to be planned and built in large numbers.

Either we stop **this addiction to coal** or all our efforts to tackle climate change will be doomed.

And, as the UN Environment Programme has just revealed, countries are planning to produce fossil fuels over the next decade at over double the level that is consistent with keeping temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius”



It was the engineers of the NE that 'released the genie of coal into the world'

The last shift. Kellingley 2015



Towards a Vision, Mission and Programme

- The VONNE Climate Project – in two parts
 - 1] Convening the Region to develop an overall Vision and Programme
 - 2] Developing and delivering a programme from Civil Society within it

A **Programme** Frameworkis needed for both +

An overall **Vision** for living in the North East in a low carbon economy

A **Mission** to ‘Become England’s Greenest Region’

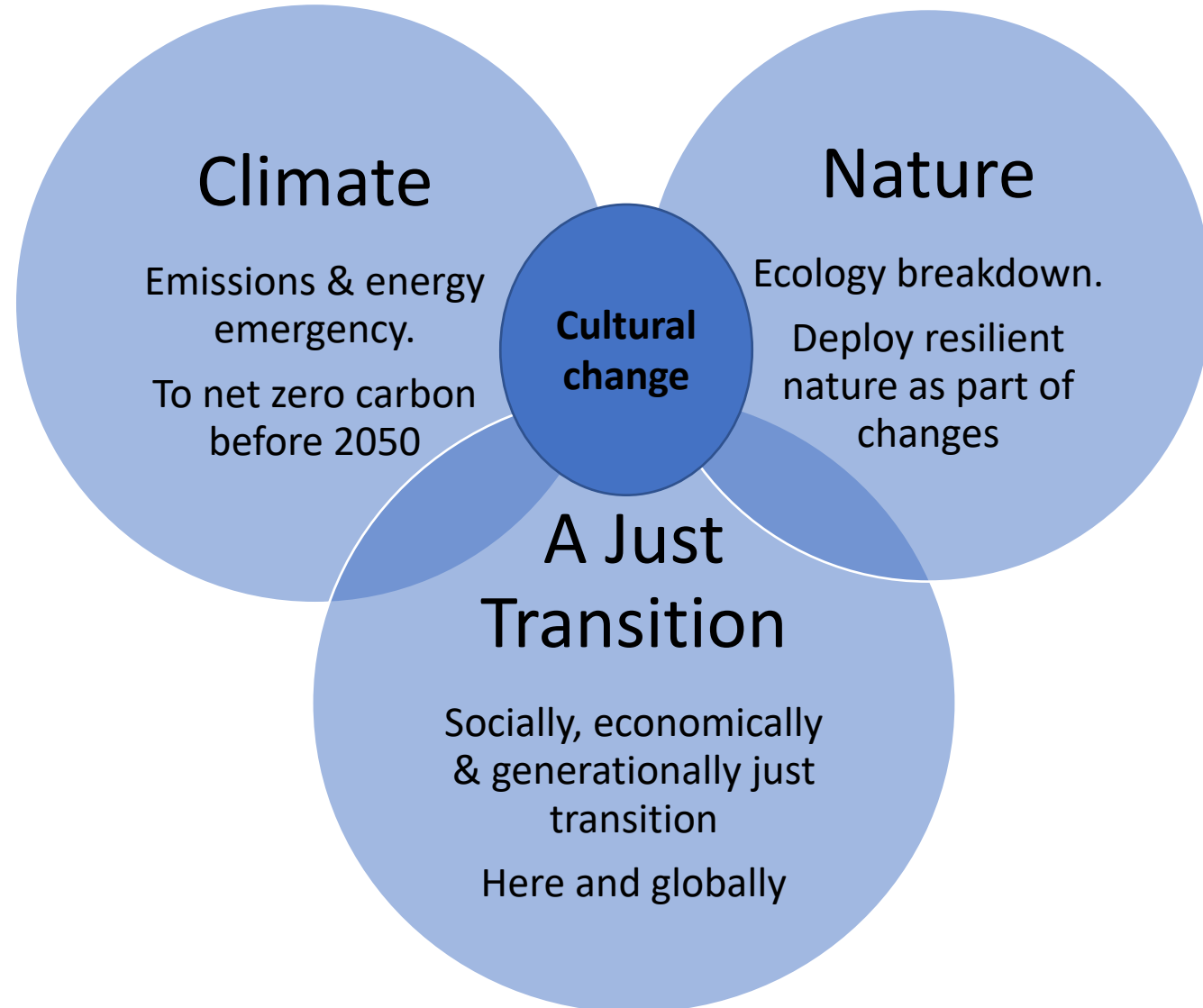
A **Structure** to deliver it through and the **Resources** to deliver it with

1] Towards a Programme Framework for a North East Climate Coalition

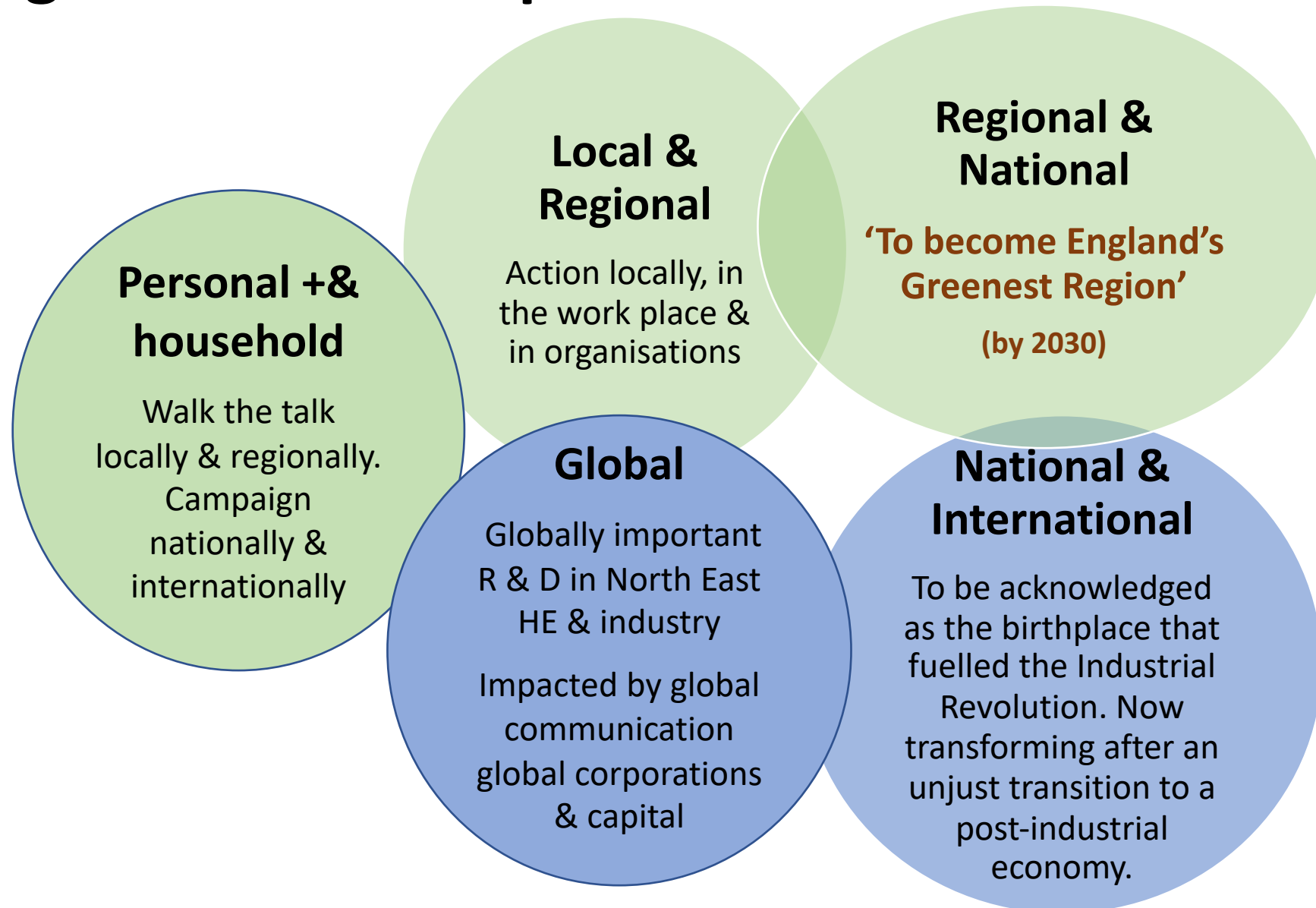
- CEOs of all 12 NE Local Authorities and 3 Combined Authorities
- The NE Local Enterprise Partnerships
- The Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership
- The Environment Agency
- The Health Strategy Group, Integrated Care system (CCGs, Hospitals, Public Health)
- Schools North East (linked to 1,150 schools)
- HE via Sustainability leads and a first group of Research institutes/departments
- CBI, Chamber of Commerce and FSB
- Regional TUC

- The North East England Nature Partnership
- The Tees Valley Nature Partnership
- Groundwork NE & Cumbria
- Youth Focus North East
- Climate Action North
- Northumberland Wildlife Trust
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- Social Action Leaders Network
- NewcastleGateshead Initiative
- The Common Room - NEIMME
- Redhills – Durham Miners Association
- **North East Cultural Partnership**


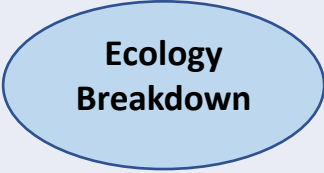

We started with a basic, three-part framework for thinking about Climate Change in the Region



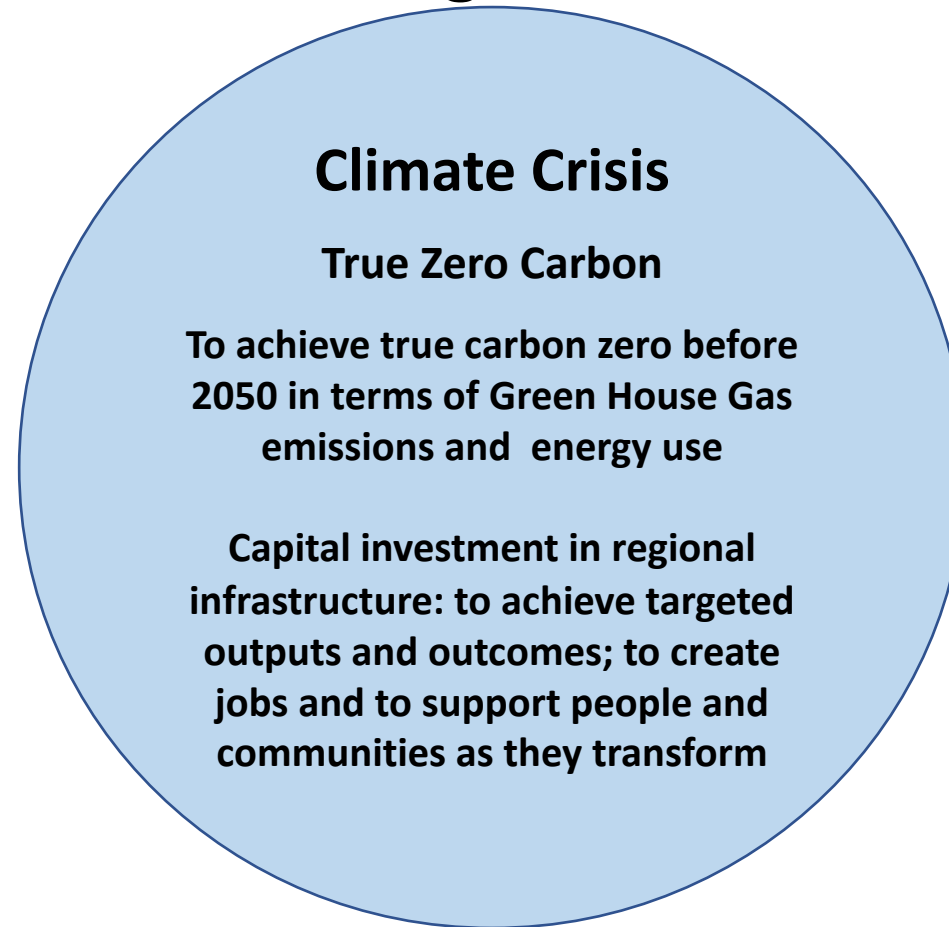
We evolved a mission 'To become England's Greenest Region' that we hope can link action at varies scales



Towards an illustrative NE Climate Coalition Framework

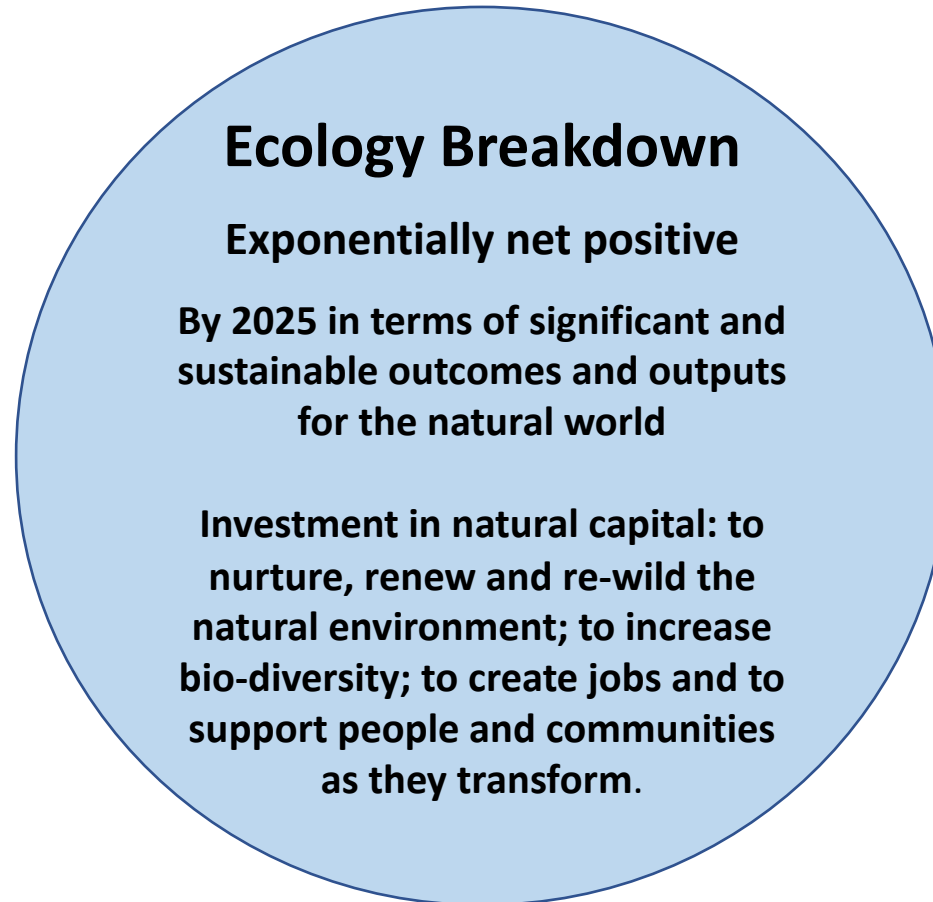
Strategic partners	Possible Regional Programme strands	Connections
Local Enterprise Partnerships	Becoming England's Greenest Region	UN COP 26 and IPCC
Local Government	Media, Comms and PR On-line presence	UK Presidency 2020 & 2021 UK Climate Change Committee
Higher and Further Education		UK Presidency Programme
Business organisations & TUC		UK Government Departments and investment Programmes
Nature Partnerships		UK Climate Coalition (NGOs)
Schools North East	Prospectus launch	UK National and International Civil Society movements (NB re COP 26)
Health – Integrated Care System	Statement of Ambition for 2030	Political Parties
Environment Agency	Annual Regional Climate Conference	Export potential
Civil Society	Research Evaluation and a 'Test Bed'	Other global 'place based' projects

What if we added a focus on the national investment needed?
Our address to Climate Crisis might then be:



Investment in: Power generation, distribution, storage, insulation, housing, transport, industry, offices, public buildings, farming, digital, retail etc

That might produce this for Ecology Breakdown:



Investment in: land, rivers, sea and air, in farming, forestry and fisheries and in the natural environment in cities, towns, estates and villages

and this in terms of 'A Just Transition'

A Just Transition

Exponentially net positive

By 2025 in terms of significant and sustainable outcomes and outputs for people and place

Investing in human capital: to promote aspiration; to create jobs; to support workers through job transition and to support people and revitalise communities as they transform


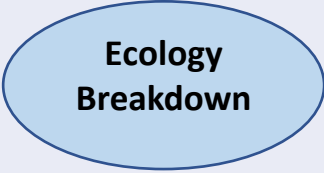

Investment in: Health and wellbeing; social care; education; skills and training; culture and heritage; local community facilities and the local environment

Why here?

North East England:

- is the smallest English Region (affordability)
- is targeting becoming England's Greenest (ambition)
- has a mix of dense urban/industrial, coastal and rural upland and lowland communities (spatial diversity)
- has a Civil Society, deeply rooted in work with marginalised groups (reach)
- has an acknowledged track record of regional co-operation (believable delivery)
- is a 'left behind' region, vulnerable to the impacts of AI and Brexit (in line with priorities)
- is the only English region with a positive balance of trade (economic contribution)
- already contains nationally important innovatory projects across technology, engineering, environmental restitution and the address to the social and economic consequences of an unjust transition (policy integration)
- is ten months into developing a multi-sector regionwide programme (self-help)
- has a history that connects directly to current climate challenges (a compelling narrative)

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2] ...and developing and delivering a programme from Civil Society within it ?

- **Pilot place-based community projects**
- **Regional strands**
 - Asset base
 - Climate Action Starter Packs
 - Capacity building & climate crisis information
 - Community Climate Indicators and targets
 - Convening the region
- **Connections to the wider regional coalition and beyond**

What next?

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Thank you!

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