



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Agenda  
Item

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## Members of the Public's Questions to Environment Committee.

### Questions from Councillor Stephen Davies

1. Does the leader of the Council believe that Stroud District Council will achieve Carbon Neutrality by the target the Council set of 2030?

#### Reply

I am assuming that Cllr Davies is referring to our pledge –captured in the climate emergency declaration endorsed by Full Council in January 2019 -to 'do everything within the Council's power to make Stroud District carbon neutral by 2030'.

Cllr Davies will be aware that we have been a carbon neutral council since 2015 –the first in Europe to declare this. We have continued to cut our carbon emissions, reducing these by a further c.800 tonnes –or 30% -over the last 5 years, not including our housing stock. Over the past years hundreds of council homes have had energy efficiency measures installed, including renewable energy generation, and this work will continue into the future.

Achieving carbon neutrality across the whole district is undoubtedly a massive challenge but one which is indeed possible by 2030. The technical solutions exist and are rapidly developing to be more accessible to more people. Our pledge to do everything in our power to achieve a carbon neutral district will require a huge emphasis on collaboration between the Council, communities, partners and businesses.

The council is due to adopt its CN2030 strategy on 18 March and I am sure Cllr Davies is familiar with that and the detailed action plan that accompanies it. This contains a series of targets and time lines by which these are to be achieved. Our 2030 Strategy maps out our approach clearly in terms of continuing to take action ourselves but also to enable and encourage action by others.

We also have high expectations of national government to bring in policies and funding in order to reach the national goals of carbon reduction which will be required. National government has far more power than us to make the changes over carbon emissions we cannot easily influence. Even if we do achieve our Carbon Neutrality by 2030, this will mean nothing for the climate emergency if we don't see a national and international effort for the entire planet, especially wealthy nations like our own, to rapidly cut their emissions. So the short answer to his question is - we cannot achieve carbon neutrality alone, but together we will.