



NEWS RELEASE

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Preston City Council recognised for work on measuring and reducing carbon emissions

Preston City Council has achieved the Carbon Neutral International Standard, granted by One Carbon World, for its work on measuring and reducing its carbon emissions. Preston City Council has also officially become a participant in the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, formalising its commitment to climate action and a net-zero world by mid-century.

The recognition comes following the work Preston City Council has undertaken over the past ten years to reduce its emissions and its aspirations moving forward to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Councillor Carol Henshaw, Cabinet Member for Climate Change at Preston City Council, said:

“We are proud to have achieved this recognition from One Carbon World for our work to reduce carbon emissions and make the services we provide greener.

In 2019 we declared a climate emergency, and since then, we have been working hard to look at the services we provide and the energy we use. As an organisation, we have always been mindful of the changes happening to the climate and the role we can all play, so we have been striving to make our operations more ecologically friendly for a long time.

I am very proud of the work everyone has done and the progress we’ve made despite the pandemic and the delays this has inevitably caused.

By making changes internally, we hope to inspire other businesses and organisations in the city to look at how they do things and see where they can cut their emissions to improve our carbon footprint as a city.

We are working hard to make Preston City Council a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030, and while there’s a long way to go, this recognition is a positive step along that journey”.

Over the past ten years, Preston City Council has taken steps to reduce its carbon emissions, including the installation of solar panels on the roof of Town Hall, switching to LED lighting in council buildings and installing more energy-efficient windows.

The city council are also undertaking projects to upgrade ICT equipment to greener alternatives and looking at how to make street cleaning and maintenance vehicles that the council operates more energy efficient. Climate Change also forms a key part of the renewed strategy for Community Wealth Building which was launched earlier this year. Part of the strategy is a commitment to drawing up a climate action plan which will outline the steps the organisation will take as it works toward its target of being carbon-neutral by 2030.

As part of the Lancashire County, Preston City Council and other local councils are now case studies in the AgriCaptureCO2 project, funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme, which aims to make it easier and more profitable for farmers to adopt regenerative agriculture practices.

Preston City Council will work also be working closely with other local authorities and organisations in the city, such as Uclan, to share ideas and approaches on reducing carbon emissions.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- Preston City Council actively applies and prioritises the principles of Community Wealth Building wherever applicable and appropriate. Community Wealth Building is an approach that aims to ensure the economic system builds wealth and prosperity for everyone. For more information, please see: www.prestoncommunitywealth.org
- One Carbon World is a carbon-neutral not-for-profit organisation and a global resource partner of the Climate Neutral Now Initiative, launched by United Nations Climate Change (UNFCCC). For more information, please see: <https://www.onecarbonworld.com/>
- The AgriCaptureCO2 project was launched in January 2021. It is a 3-year project funded under the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation fund. For more information, visit: <https://agricaptureco2.eu/>

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