



ZERO CARBON OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

12th MARCH 2025

The ZCOP Steering Group met on 12th March to review delivery from the past 4-months, discuss governance and delivery updates, and explore opportunities for deeper collaboration across the county as partnership officially becomes the Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Partnership.

Governance and Partnership Operations

The Steering Group approved both the [annual report](#) and the new [Chair recruitment pack](#) for publication.

Members also approved a set of updated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which will support clearer measurement and reporting on partnership progress.

The group discussed and signed off an updated governance model and associated Terms of Reference (ToR) for ZCOP, including the introduction of working groups alongside sprint groups. There was strong support for ensuring broad and inclusive representation, while recognising a shift away from role-specific expertise. As part of this, the group highlighted the importance of mapping existing activity and gaps to guide the focus of new working groups.

Topics including local area energy planning and energy grid flexibility were highlighted as cross-cutting infrastructure issues that need more coordinated attention. The group also noted specific gaps in representation - particularly within transport, food systems, agriculture, and land use - and agreed that the Secretariat will work to engage new partners from these areas.

ZCOP Delivery Updates

The Steering Group were presented with updates from the following areas:

- **Sustainable Travel:** A trial of e-bikes for school staff will commence for the summer term. Results of this trial will be reported to the SG, and recommendations for next steps. Members also discussed the Oxford Travel Options project, a resource for commuters and employers, which has been created in partnership and with significant contributions from Low Carbon Oxford North. The SG advised on the promotion of the website.



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- **Adaptation:** The County Council, in collaboration with partners, have finalised and published the [climate adaptation route](#) map. Discussion in the meeting highlighted significant economic risks of climate impacts. A working group will be formed under ZCOP, and an Adaptation Summit is planned for 17 March at Worcester College.
- **Buildings:** Members were encouraged to support and share the “House Like Mine” campaign aimed at different households types in Oxford City. A draft letter to suppliers and contractors is being prepared to promote skills development in net zero technologies. ZCOP will also be hosting an event on 14th May 2025 for commercial owners and tenants to explore retrofit barriers in leased properties.
- **Industrial Decarbonisation** A summary of the ZCOP Industrial Decarbonisation project was shared, outlining three future scenarios for emissions reduction. Only the ‘enabled’ scenario - with significant investment and structural change - would meet the 2040 carbon reduction targets. The work identified 16 priority actions, many of which could be applied beyond industrial sectors and beyond the Oxford Industrial Cluster. Approach for forming new clusters in the county discussed.

Other presentations

Low Carbon Hub presented their model and structure and proposed a sprint group focused on local area energy planning for the Cowley substation—an opportunity to explore community-led solutions to grid capacity challenges and social equity with local business. The proposal was welcomed, and a new sprint group will be set up, with representation from key stakeholders across the area.

Abingdon and Witney College presented their sustainability initiatives, including the development of a new Low Carbon Heating Technician programme. The group explored the importance of student voice in sustainability governance and discussed the gender gap in related skills sectors, with suggestions to boost engagement with young women.