

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Commission
Climate Commissioner Application Pack



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Overview: Join the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Commission

Are you keen to see increased and more joined-up conversations and action in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in response to the climate and ecological emergencies?

Could you bring your unique perspective and skills to making it happen?

Could you be one of the first Climate Commissioners for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly?

A new Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Commission (CioSCC) is seeking applications to join as its first Commissioners.

It is an independent organisation that brings together people and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors who work together to help drive, guide, support, and track climate action.

The Application Pack explains what the Commission is, what it has been set up to do, the role of a Commissioner and how to apply.

If you have any questions about the Commission, becoming a Commissioner and how to get involved (including the role or the process) that are not answered here, please feel free to contactinfo@cornwallandiosclimate.org.uk.

The deadline for you to send in your application is 11am on Monday 8 April 2024.

To find out more about Climate Commissions and how they work in other places, visit the Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN) website: <https://pcancities.org.uk/climate-commissions>

How to apply

Please send a statement (no more than 1 A4 page) or an audio recording/video (no more than 4 minutes) to info@cornwallandiosclimate.org.uk by 11am on Monday 8 April 2024. In your application please answer these three questions:

1. What makes you want to become a Commissioner?
2. What will you bring as a contribution to the scope and function of the Commission, including your skills, experiences, and background? We encourage you to reference one or more of the different Commissioner roles [listed below](#).
3. Are you able to commit the required level of energy, capacity, and commitment to the Commission?

We will review applications using the following criteria:

1. How applicants can contribute to the scope and function of the Commission.
2. Ensuring the required level of energy, capacity and commitment across Commissioners.

Successful applicants will be invited to join the Climate Commission as a Commissioner for a three year period. Additional calls for Commissioners will be made (likely to be annually).

Application timeline:

- Monday 8th April 11am - deadline for applications
- Tuesday 9th April to Monday 22nd April - applications reviewed
- Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 26th April - all applicants will be contacted with information about the outcome of their application
- End of April - Commissioners appointed
- May 2024 - First Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Commission meeting

Your data will be used only for the purposes of your application, and will be held by the University of Exeter in accordance with their [Privacy Policy](#).

What is a Climate Commissioner?

The Commission will initially consist of between 10 and 15 Commissioners, who will serve a 3-year term with the potential for re-selection for a second term. The membership will include a Chair (appointed in the first year by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Commission Development Group) with the

potential for the Chair to continue for the full 3-year term] and Vice Chair. The Chair will act as an independent individual and not as a representative of a particular organisation or group.

Commissioners will meet quarterly, with the option for more frequent meetings as necessary. Meetings will take place in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format as required.

The role of Commissioners is to act on behalf of the Commission to fulfil its purpose and functions within the scope outlined above.

Climate Commissions need support from across the private, public and community sectors, so having involvement from local organisations, businesses, NGOs, community groups, academic institutions, and representative bodies (such as Chambers of Commerce) and the local authority is essential. It is important that Commissions consider their wider constituency and reflect the diversity and makeup of the place, and that Commissions are balanced and representative of gender, ethnicity, age, area, income level etc. and are not dominated by the usual suspects.

Each Commissioner may bring different skills and experiences to the Commission, and a range of perspectives is vital. These are the specific roles that the Development Group have identified as being important for a diverse and effective group of Commissioners:

- **Informer** - providing guidance, evidence, and expertise on the implementation and development of the strategic framework for Cornwall's transition to a zero carbon, regenerative, just, climate-adapted, and inclusive future.
- **Connector** - linking with existing stakeholders and groups across Cornwall who have either the ability to influence the change needed or to lead in making that change.
- **Facilitator** - transferring and sharing of knowledge amongst existing groups and facilitating collaboration and communication on our climate, ecological and social targets, and creating spaces where people can share and develop pro-environmental norms.
- **Broker** – between a wide range of groups, including those outside of Cornwall, seeking to provide resolutions to issues and blockages that are impacting on the delivery of a carbon neutral framework.
- **Champion** – for the work toward a sustainable and inclusive Cornwall, raising the issues of climate, nature, and justice with a range of existing groups and organisations, and feeding into their wider discussions.

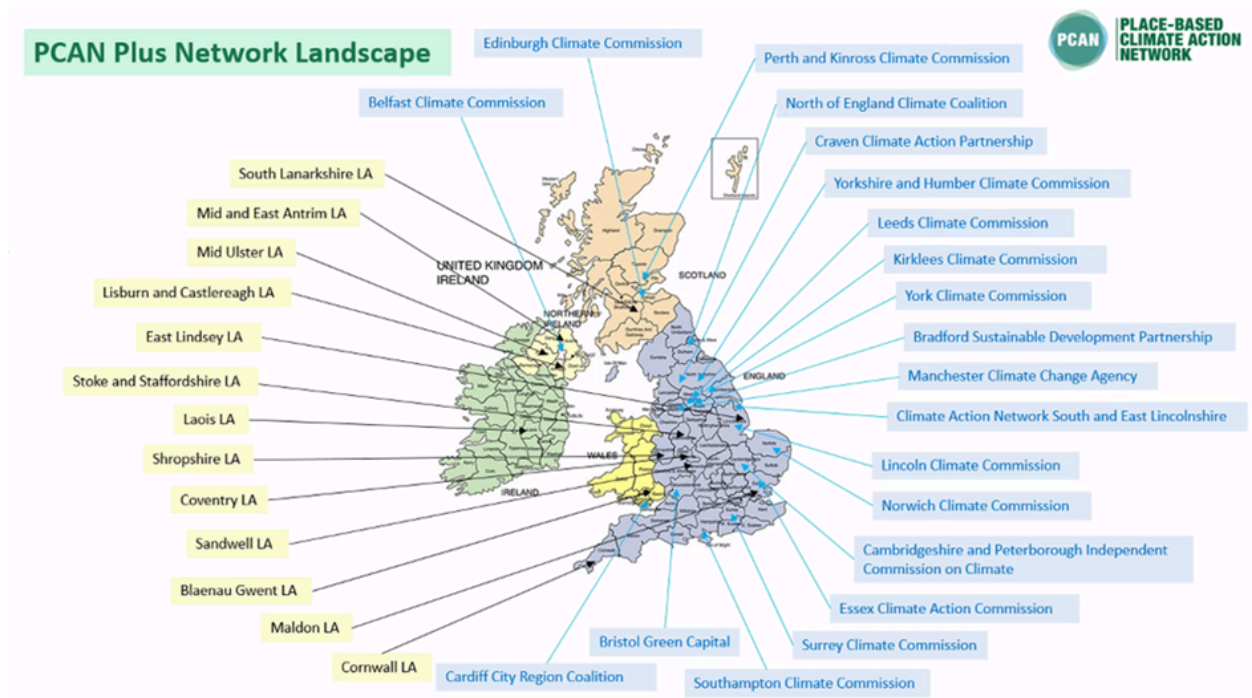
What is a Climate Commission?

Climate Commissions are city or area-wide partnerships bringing together people and organisations from the public, private and civic sectors who work collaboratively to help drive, guide, support and track climate action. Commissions are independent bodies that complement the activities of local government and regional partnerships, and that extend their reach and build an area’s capacities to deliver climate resilience and low carbon transitions.

The Climate Commission model has been designed to create:

- A visible and widely representative mechanism
- Proactive, engaged, neutral, knowledgeable networks with collective ‘climate clout’
- A platform for broader engagement and democratic deliberation.

The map below shows the cities and regions across the country that have Climate Commissions. They are supporting the driving of the green agenda in the area – reviewing what is happening, identifying gaps, joining up conversations and recommending what should come next.



Map: PCAN Plus Network

At their heart, Climate commissions are independent bodies that bring together the key actors from across an area to drive, guide, support and track local climate action. There is no single, one size fits all structure of a climate commission, experience from around the country demonstrates that they need to be flexible to meet local needs.

Common functions of Climate Commissions include:

- Area-wide climate **strategy** or action plan development
- Independent **assurance** over the delivery of the action plan by different sectoral agencies and actors
- Providing independent and expert **advice** to aid area-wide leadership and decision making
- **Advocacy** for businesses, communities and civil society to act through engagement and behaviour change interventions

To maintain their independence, integrity and neutrality, it is also helpful to define what a Climate Commission is *not*:

- A place for marketing or lobbying
- An attempt to take over council responsibilities
- An extension of local authority powers
- A substitute for direct public representation
- A body that directly designs or delivers programmes or projects
- A policy maker (but they can guide/advise on policy)
- A talking shop – they are there to make a tangible difference in the delivery of climate action

For more information on the Climate Commission model, visit the PCAN (Place-Based Climate Action Network) website: <https://pcancities.org.uk/climate-commissions>.

To find out about other Climate Commissions take a look at these links:

- [Belfast Climate Commission](#)
- [Edinburgh Climate Commission](#)
- [Essex Climate Commission](#)
- [Leeds Climate Commission](#)
- [Surrey Climate Commission](#)
- [Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission](#)

Why has a Climate Commission been created for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly?

In mid-2023, Cornwall Council and the University of Exeter identified the opportunity to create a Climate Commission for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. To ensure its independence from any individual organisations, a Development Group was created to guide the process, identify whether a Climate Commission would be beneficial, and co-create a Terms of Reference.

The Development Group consisted of 13 representatives from different sectors and perspectives from across the region, who have consulted with other Climate Commissions across the UK and collectively assessed the value it could bring to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The Development Group concluded that there is significant potential benefit in the establishment of a Climate Commission for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. They can yield benefits such as wider organisational and sector involvement, increased prominence and visibility for the climate agenda and can support increased action through adding value to what is already being undertaken. They can also serve to reposition the council as a key contributor and facilitator rather than the controlling entity that many stakeholders perceive them to be. It is important to recognise that many commissions were first established at the start of many locations' climate action journeys and are now being reviewed as approaches are more established and it is recognised that they need to evolve to continue to add value.

Particular motivations for a Commission in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly were identified as:

- **The need to go further faster:** whilst good progress has been made, the scale of the challenge is unprecedented and requires us to go further faster if we are to realise our ambitions. The latest Cornwall level inventory of emissions for 2019 (Cornwall level data is always 2 years in arrears) assessed by the Centre for Energy and Environment at University of Exeter shows that emissions fell by only 3% in the year 2018 to 2019 which falls significantly short of the annual reductions required for achieving carbon neutral by 2030. Maintaining our current reduction rate puts us on course to achieve carbon neutrality at least 13 years later than the ambition of our motion. Whilst national policies will play a major role in determining the pace of change the co-ordination, collaboration and commitment of local actors will be pivotal in how we maximise our own potential.
- **A changing governance landscape:** a review of how stakeholders, partnerships and sectors engage with and drive our response to climate change is now timely. The Carbon Neutral Cornwall Action plan was supported by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Board in September 2019, with a review of progress in 2022 however with increasing calls for involvement and ownership of the agenda by residents, a review of the governance landscape associated with climate action is timely. This should focus on how we can now accelerate action to reduce our carbon footprint.
- **Tackling the triple threat:** the opportunity to ensure the wider adoption of a triumvirate approach (mitigation, nature recovery and adaptation/resilience) aligned to the

development and adoption of key strategies such as the Local Area Energy Plan and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to ensure addressing climate change and nature recovery is reflected by and aligned to key strategic partners across the area.

What will the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Commission do?

The specific actions of the Climate Commission will be determined by the Commissioners themselves, however the Development Group have created a Terms of Reference that provides guidance and structure.

The scope of the Commission is defined as:

- **Net zero and beyond**
Accelerating the development and delivery of our climate mitigation plans and holding a focus on adapting to the impacts of climate change we are already experiencing and those we can predict to see in the future.
- **Ecological regeneration**
Working with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership and others to champion work to deliver natural climate and land and flood management solutions in support of environmental and biodiversity targets to support the ecological emergency response.
- **Just transition**
Working with sectors and systems (e.g. health, VCSE, business) alongside the proposed Fairer Cornwall Commission, to ensure a just transition for one and all.
- **Interconnection**
Acknowledging how solutions and challenges are connected across different sectors, and different places, and how they will change over time.

The purpose of the Commission is to provide the following functions:

1. **Challenge**
Provide a challenge to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's leaders, communities, residents and organisations on effective delivery and impact of plans and policies. Champion and promote at a strategic level the response to climate change. Commission and provide technical advice and assurance to existing strategic groups, networks and organisations.
2. **Catalyse**
Support the development of the strategy and vision of stakeholders and advance collective action towards climate targets. Deliver thought leadership, and an evidence base to help achieve climate commitments, including on system-wide issues where solutions are not yet known.
3. **Convene**
Bring together new groups and organisations where gaps exist, to enable evidence-based action to help drive climate commitments and accelerate progress.

The Commission will work within those parameters and has the potential to also establish separate Working Groups, Panels, and Committees in order to fulfil its purpose and perform its functions.

Who are we looking for?

Applications will be assessed by a Selection Group drawn from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Commission Development Group. We are keen to recruit a highly diverse range of Commissioners with a wide range of skill sets, experience, geography, ages, and backgrounds.

We believe that an equitable and inclusive environment and a diverse, empowered team are key to achieving our purpose. We're not looking for candidates who are all familiar with roles like these. We're looking for candidates who can expand our culture and challenge business as usual. We strive to foster an environment where all Commissioners can bring their whole selves to the process by their own definition, and we strive to provide all candidates with an equitable and accessible recruitment process. If we can offer accommodations for you in the recruitment process, or if you have feedback on how to make our recruiting more equitable or accessible, please contact us at info@cornwallandiosclimate.org.uk.

We are also committed to including representation from:

1. At least one Commissioner with a strong connection to the Isles of Scilly.
2. At least two Commissioners between the ages of 18 and 30.