



As nations conclude their negotiations at a pivotal moment for humanity and for our planet, our cities urge them to make the right, the only possible choice and commit fully to accelerate Net Zero and to a just and fair transition.

What nations commit to, localities must deliver, and communities must support. This historic decision must therefore come with a recognition of the central role of cities and local government in delivery, and in listening and responding to communities, taking people with us on this journey.

The UK Cities Climate Investment Commission (UKCCIC) is a partnership between Connected Places Catapult, London Councils and the UK's 11 Core Cities, whose urban areas, including many towns, deliver more than 50% of the UK economy, and are also responsible for 15% of emissions. But these are also the places most capable of delivering change, at scale and at speed.

And this is the opportunity we present, to ensure delivery of our ambitious national commitments through city and city region decarbonisation plans that are grounded in actual places and measurable outcomes set against hard deadlines.

There are a number of conditions we need in place to deliver the whole of this opportunity.

**Our first Ask of Government is to commit to a renewed and robust national-local partnership to unlock the on-the-ground complexity of Net Zero and deliver results.** Specifically, to use the platform we have built through the UKCCIC, engaging directly with it as a means to deliver investment for cities and wider UK local government.

**Our offer is to work together, with national and local government as well as investment institutions across the UK and beyond:** applying our resources, expertise and convening powers to bring communities, investors, public and private sector together with the sole focus of accelerating a just transition to Net Zero, and building sustainable markets for investment and innovation in low carbon cities.

Across the world nation states are already making this commitment, providing unprecedented resources for urban areas to deliver Net Zero and reap the jobs and skills dividends across the green supply chain, presenting significant economic opportunity for the UK by building a coherent market for business and enterprises to operate in. We need as much financial certainty as possible so we can prepare our populations and plan our pathway through the economic restructuring the UK's journey to net zero requires.

Unless that commitment is made in the UK, our cities, residents and businesses risk being left behind. This risk will be highest for the most vulnerable communities, who may be disadvantaged by this restructuring, creating health, social and political consequences. Instead, this can be a major opportunity to Level Up, promote Global Britain, and harness the collective resources of cities across the UK nations toward a common goal.

We already have many of the technical solutions we need to achieve Net Zero, and the tide of public opinion has turned. Yet the cost and risk of delivering change and attracting the investment to do so remains a significant challenge.

We created the UKCCIC to tackle this issue across the Core Cities and London, with support from the Connected Places Catapult. We estimate £200bn must be invested across our 12 cities to enable us to reach Net Zero. For us it is not just the money needed, it is also the market shaping required to ensure its delivery and efficiency. This is a challenge, and far beyond the ability of the public purse to fund alone. But it is also an investment opportunity, and our Stage Two report contains proposals that could bring £100s of billions of investments into UK Green Growth, boosting jobs, trade and the economy at a critical moment.

Our Commission has identified the critical role of a place-based approach, attractive to global investors, capable of dealing with the difficult to do elements of Net Zero through a blended financial model. Our work has also revealed specific capacity and skills needs at the local level which will be required to deliver.

This neighbourhood-level model has the potential to be quickly scaled up within and between places, and to help all local authorities. Demonstrator projects are now urgently needed to realise its benefits, proving concept and increasing skills and know-how on the ground.

**Our second Ask of Government is to work with us to fund a small number of demonstrators:** in places that can successfully deliver them, and develop the local skills base needed to plan the detailed implementation of projects, transforming these into investable propositions.

This will help us unlock the opportunity to deliver a workable, place-based financial model, attracting £100s of billions into the UK, which can be replicated across wider local government, boosting skills, jobs and trade, as well as delivering Net Zero.

We also commit to using our convening powers to bring our local communities, businesses, universities, public sector partners, unions, social businesses, voluntary sector and faith groups with us on this journey, delivering a green skills and jobs dividend through this investment contributing toward a just transition to Net Zero.

This is a win-win offer, for the UK, for business, for our cities and communities. It is a world-leading programme of change with transformational economic benefits. It's an approach that connects UK cities across these islands, the commonwealth, and beyond. Our approach is globally unique in bringing together multiple cities within in the same country with Government, communities, business, and Financial Institutions to deliver a new era of sustained investment. We urge Government to grasp this opportunity now, to show the global leadership this issue requires, and to announce its commitment to work with us to take this forward.



Birmingham City Council



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Cardiff City Council



Glasgow City Council



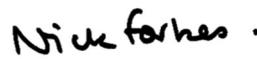
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