

The Association of North East Councils (ANEC) and ClimateNE

ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST COUNCILS
SPEAKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE REGION



Joint regional sign up to the Covenant of Mayors

Key Points

- All Local Authorities in North East England, through the supporting structure of ANEC have signed up to Covenant of Mayors
- North East England is the first region to jointly sign the Covenant of Mayors
- ClimateNE, the North East climate change partnership is supporting the exchange of best practice.
- Better access to EU funding

Association of North East Councils (ANEC)

All 12 local authorities in North East England have committed to reduce their carbon emissions by at least 20% by 2020, based on a 2005 baseline, by signing up to the European Union's Covenant of Mayors.

This is unique as North East England is the only European region where all local authorities have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors. ANEC acts as the Supporting Structure for these local authorities.

The Benefits of Regional Support

ANEC, in partnership with ClimateNE, was able to offer support to the 12 local authorities to establish their Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) and also to develop their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs). Although each authority has their own location specific SEAP, through the membership of the Covenant of Mayors support group, they have gained the shared experience of data gathering, scenario modelling and best practice examples.

As well as the 12 local authorities, the Covenant of Mayors support group comprises; The Energy Saving Trust, Carbon Abatement Network North East, Tees Valley Unlimited and the Brussels Office for North East England.

Carbon Modelling

The group has also enabled the development and agreement across all local authorities of shared assumptions. ClimateNE secured funding to enable shared access to carbon modelling monitoring software and worked with group members to develop this to ensure close alignment with the CoM monitoring requirements.

ANEC also secured funding for a carbon modelling officer who provided support with this process. This group is now exploring the potential use of Eco-Region, a fully scalable carbon modelling and monitoring tool, which is being piloted by Northumberland County Council as part of its Low Carbon Framework.

Funding

As signatories of Covenant of Mayors the region will also have a better chance of accessing EU funds to support the greening of their local economy and create new jobs in the expanding green industry.

The European Commission has created a series of specific financial mechanisms to help local authorities fulfil their commitments to the Covenant of Mayors including;

- European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA)
- Intelligent Energy Europe
- European Regional Development Programme (ERDP)

See Covenant of Mayors website for more details http://www.eumayors.eu/index_en.html

Support for new Signatories

Severn Wye Energy Agency can offer a package of support to 30 UK local Authorities considering signing up to the Covenant of Mayors. Details of the project Come2CoM and support package can be found on our website at:

www.swea.co.uk/CoM