

## Factsheet – Carbon Neutral Strategy

The Carbon Neutral Strategy is a report produced by the Government of Jersey. It was approved on 26 February 2020 by the States Assembly.

It agreed the following:

- the definition of climate neutrality
- that the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change and people powered approach should take place
- that a long-term climate action plan must be in place by the end of 2020

The impact of the pandemic meant that the Citizens' Assembly could not take place in 2020 and it is now happening in 2021.

The long-term climate action plan has been renamed the carbon neutral roadmap and will also happen by the end of 2021.

There are three sections of the Carbon Neutral Strategy and these are summarised in turn below. The full Carbon Neutral Strategy can be read at [www.gov.je/Government/Pages/StatesReports.aspx?ReportID=5138](http://www.gov.je/Government/Pages/StatesReports.aspx?ReportID=5138).

### Section 1 - the strategic context and principles for the carbon neutral strategy

The scientific evidence and existing international obligations are set out and the progress made through the energy policy is explained.

The highest emissions sectors are identified as heating and transport and prioritised for action.

Five principles to Jersey's approach to carbon neutrality are set out. A summary is given below.

- **Principle 1 - We will adopt a strategic focus on all emissions**  
Local choices have impacts across the world. Jersey based businesses have impacts across the world.
- **Principle 2 - We will work within a definition of carbon neutrality**  
Carbon neutral is an equation. It is balancing the amount of scope 1 and 2 emissions against activities that capture, absorb or reduce global emissions so that they are equal. By including scope 2 emissions we are exceeding our international legal obligations. Scope 3 emissions do not form part of the baseline for carbon neutrality.
- **Principle 3 - We will need high standards in the use of carbon offsetting**  
Any offset arrangements will be of the highest recognised standards.
- **Principle 4 - We will make sure that everyone can play their part**

Government will use all available options to deliver the long-term climate action plan. Government action must form part of a wider, collaborative approach.

- **Principle 5 – We will make sure that carbon neutrality policies do not overall increase income inequality**  
The impacts of all options will be assessed to ensure a just transition to carbon neutrality.

## Section 2 – roles and responsibilities

### The purpose of the Citizens' Assembly

The mandate and purpose of the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change is set out and a description of how it will run is provided. An explanation is given as to how the report from the Citizens' Assembly will inform the long-term climate action plan.

*“The Assembly of the States of Jersey mandates the calling of a citizens’ assembly as an exercise in deliberative democracy, to consider*

***“How should we work together to become carbon neutral?”***

*to make such recommendations as it sees fit and to report to the States Assembly and Government. In particular, the citizens' assembly should consider:*

- *the implications and trade-offs of a range of scenarios for achieving carbon neutrality; and,*
- *how a full transition to zero (or almost zero) emissions in key sectors might be achieved.”*

### The carbon neutral roadmap

Officers from government will write the carbon neutral roadmap. It will use the report and recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly. It will include the costs of the actions to reach carbon neutrality by the target date.

The road map will then be scrutinised and will be open for public consultation. The States Assembly will debate the action plan. It can be amended during the proposition and debate. When it has been approved, the actions will then be implemented. The Government can set policy, change laws, taxes and regulations to put in place actions.

## Carbon neutrality target dates

A key task for the Citizens' Assembly is to consider not just how we should become carbon neutral but to consider alternative deadlines for carbon neutrality and put forward their own recommendation for a date for carbon neutrality that might fall before or after 2030.

Across the world, many jurisdictions are setting target dates for carbon neutrality. These differ in their level of obligation. Some countries have put these targets into law, others are in the 'proposed legislation' phase, other targets are written in policy documents and some are still under discussion<sup>1</sup>.

The below table gives an overview of the commitments of other jurisdictions:

Country	Date	Level of commitment
Bhutan	N/A	Achieved
UK	2050	In law
Isle of Man	2050	In law
New Zealand	2050	In law
France	2050	In law
Finland	2035	In policy document
Austria	2040	In policy document
Guernsey	2050	In policy document
China	2060	In policy document
Uruguay	2030	Under discussion

## Policy options for achieving carbon neutrality

The Carbon Neutral Strategy includes a high-level review of a range of policies. It identified measures to reduce emissions from heating and transport activities on Island, by 2030 and their estimated costs. This is not the same as the cost of carbon neutrality for Jersey.

An analysis of the options for offsetting to cover residual emissions was carried out and current and potential future costs considered.

*The costs and benefits of a range of other dates for carbon neutrality will be provided in a later factsheet.*

## Section 3 - actions to be implemented in 2020

Actions to be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 were detailed, that would be undertaken alongside the development of the carbon neutral roadmap.

<sup>1</sup> <https://eciu.net/netzerotracker> [Note this section is additional content to the published Carbon Neutral Strategy]

Due to the pandemic this time frame has changed and any actions that were not implemented in 2020 will be considered for inclusion in the carbon neutral roadmap that is developed in 2021.

**The Carbon Neutral Strategy impacts on all aspects of government policy.**

**Read more on related Government of Jersey policies:**

- **Carbon Neutral Strategy** - [www.gov.je/Government/Pages/StatesReports.aspx?ReportID=5138](http://www.gov.je/Government/Pages/StatesReports.aspx?ReportID=5138).
- **Pathway 2050: an Energy Plan for Jersey** - the pathway to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 based on 1990 levels  
<https://www.gov.je/environment/generateenergy/greenhouseemissions/jerseyenergyplan/Pages/index.aspx>
- **Sustainable Transport Policy, 2019** – on-Island transport makes the largest percentage contribution to Jersey's greenhouse gas emissions  
<https://www.gov.je/government/pages/statesreports.aspx?reportid=5133>
- **Common Strategic Policy, 2018-2022** - the carbon neutral strategy impacts each of the five strategic priorities  
<https://www.gov.je/government/pages/statesreports.aspx?reportid=3918>
- **Government Plan** - the government committed to acting with energy and pace to the climate emergency. It established a Climate Emergency Fund, with an initial allocation of £5 million.  
<https://www.gov.je/government/planningperformance/governmentplan/pages/governmentplan.aspx>
- **Island Plan** - the Island Plan Review will set out how technologies that can support the Island's transition to a low carbon future can be accommodated.  
<https://www.gov.je/planningbuilding/lawsregs/islandplan/pages/default.aspx>
- **Adapting to climate change** - the Jersey Shoreline Management Plan was published in January 2020. It explains the management for the Island's coastline up to 2120.  
<https://www.gov.je/environment/generateenergy/pages/shorelinemanagementplan.aspx>