

dCarb Upper Calder Valley Mission Statement

dCarb Upper Calder Valley is a pilot project to try out ways of reducing the carbon footprint of an entire area. On the basis of the pilot, we aim to create a workable model which can be used to create a low carbon zone in the whole of the Upper Calder Valley, and in other districts.

Governance

The pilot scheme is an UCV Renaissance Ltd project. Governance is through the dCarb UCV Steering Group, which has members from over 20 local environmental organisations, businesses, community groups as well as local Council officers. Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre (ATC) provides the Steering Group secretary and is currently applying for LEADER funding for a project coordinator post. The coordinator will have day to day responsibility for the pilot planning and implementation.

Underlying principles

We see carbon reduction as more than an environmental issue. We intend to use the pilot to find ways of making sure that carbon reduction activities also contribute to social and economic sustainability. We understand that this is based on social and economic equity, justice and resilience.

Reducing the area's carbon footprint

In the pilot, we want to find effective ways of reducing the area's carbon footprint by providing an integrated package of support for carbon reduction to a representative sample of the area's households, schools, businesses and public/community organisations.

This will involve:

- Identifying the baseline carbon footprint of the representative sample and setting a target for carbon reduction
- Working with the area's households, businesses, schools and public/community organisations to find out what they most need help/support with in order to reduce their carbon footprint
- Working with the area's environmental organisations to put together an integrated package of support for carbon reduction by participants in the representative sample
- Collecting and monitoring carbon reduction in the representative sample over a one year period
- Evaluating the pilot

Low carbon capital projects

We also hope to raise investment funding for low carbon capital projects such as community renewables (which will enable communities to benefit from feed in tariffs), increasing the energy efficiency of hard to treat houses, and a tree station.

Creating jobs and skills

In the pilot, we want to plan training schemes and jobs creation in the new, local low-carbon economy. The aim here is to provide opportunities for young people who are not in employment, education and training. Implementation of training schemes and job creation would happen after the pilot.

Building on the cooperative legacy of the UCV and having fun

We intend to bring together environmental organisations, community groups, businesses, schools and individuals, to share ideas and leadership of the pilot. We plan to use the interactive functionality of Web 2.0 to enable everyone who is participating in or interested in the pilot to share ideas and information on the dCarb UCV website. The website will also support interactive community arts, themed around low carbon areas.