Our Zero Selby
Impact Report

Overview and key outcomes of the <u>Our Zero Selby</u> pilot phase (May 2022)

Our Reach

525 Local residents reached directly through crowdsourcing methods: 32, 1 to 2 hour, community conversations and responses through our 5 themed surveys.

101 Specific ideas for change brought forward, across all topics.

14-60+ The age range of residents who shared ideas.

48 Stakeholders engaged with Our Zero Selby, ranging from local businesses, council bodies, not for profit organisations, educational institutions, faith groups, and funders.

What did we do?

We asked our community to join us to share their personal perspective about what they think is good about Selby already and that they want to keep the same or build on, and what they'd like to see change or improve.

These thoughts fed directly into the next phase, in which we invited 40 members of our community (reflective of Selby's local population in terms of their age, gender, educational qualification, ethnicity and where they lived), a group of regional stakeholders representing local businesses, local organisations, and councils.

The participants at the events learnt about climate change, developed criteria for what a good set of projects for Selby would look like, went through all 101 ideas from the community and then prioritised 5 projects for each of the five themes for local action.

What were the outcomes?

The outcome is a strong community mandate for a diverse portfolio of projects that can achieve measurable carbon reductions, whilst addressing issues of skills, jobs, social cohesion, fairness, health and wellbeing outcomes. Some projects are small-scale, others are long-term, multi-stakeholder investments, but each can play an important role in reducing carbon emissions. This summary document provides an overview of the 25 prioritised projects, five within each of the project themes.
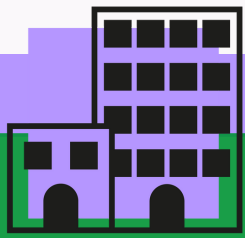
Buildings we Live In and Use

Retrofit Existing Public & Community Buildings to Passivhaus standard

1. Why this was chosen: Participants chose this project for its robust impact on reducing emissions, and strong potential to deliver community benefit including education and jobs.

2. Towards net zero: This would deliver a cost effective way to achieve low carbon buildings that would improve the energy efficiency standard of public and community owned buildings, following the best practice of Passivhaus. The retrofitted buildings could then be used to showcase the potential of retrofit through a programme of outreach and education to accelerate and deepen impact.

3. Towards a just transition: Through widespread retrofitting of public and community owned buildings within Selby, this project would reduce operating costs and in turn support the conservation of heritage and community buildings. The project delivery will generate job and training prospects for residents.

Retrofit Existing Social Housing

1. Why this was chosen: Existing homes constitute 80% of housing stock so this project was chosen for its significant impact on reducing emissions, and strong social value by reducing energy costs for occupiers.

2. Towards net zero: This would deliver a cost-effective opportunity to achieve lower carbon homes by retrofitting properties to a high energy efficiency standard. Retrofitted homes can then showcase the potential of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy technologies, to increase future take-up.

3. Towards a just transition: Improving the physical fabric of homes and reducing energy costs can improve quality of life and mental and physical health of local people. The volume of social housing and the opportunity to deliver a structured retrofit programme can deliver additional benefits for the people of Selby, creating opportunities for skill development and new jobs. The skilled workforce created would then be available for retrofitting of private housing and community buildings.

Retrofit Existing Private Buildings

1. Why this was chosen: Existing homes constitute 80% of housing stock so this project was chosen for its significant impact on reducing emissions, and strong social value by reducing energy costs for occupiers.

2. Towards net zero: This would deliver a cost effective, opportunity to achieve lower carbon homes by retrofitting properties to a high energy efficiency standard. Measures could include: insulation, double glazing, and the replacement of fossil fuel systems with clean alternatives.

3. Towards a just transition: Public education and information sharing around on the benefits of retrofit was hugely important to the participants as part of this project. Project delivery would not only future proof housing stock but generate additional benefits for residents: reducing household bills, improving thermal comfort, tackling fuel poverty and reducing the health impacts of cold homes, whilst creating jobs in the local area.

Eco-Housing On Brownfield Sites

1. Why this was chosen: The project was chosen by participants for its long-term potential to reduce the impact of housing stock on carbon emissions and the resultant reduction in energy bills for occupiers. The project can also improve the clean-up of brownfield sites, protecting green spaces for wildlife and community enjoyment.

2. Towards net zero: An eco-house is an environmentally low-impact home designed and built using materials and technology that reduces its energy needs and carbon footprint. This project would aim to make all new housing (social and privately owned) as close to Passivhaus as possible, with a minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of B.

3. Towards a just transition: By following the highest industry standards, the project could deliver a wide range of community and biodiversity benefits, including rainwater collection and wildlife habitat creation. Developing such a project on brownfield land can also bring unused spaces back into community amenity.

Utilise Selby's Mining Heritage

1. Why this was chosen: Participants chose this project in recognition of Selby's heritage and the opportunity to develop new renewable sources of heat at scale.

2. Towards net zero: Learning from research by the University of Lancaster, this project would utilise old, existing mining infrastructure and the heat stored in the water of flooded mine shafts, to create a ground source heat network to meet Selby's future energy needs.

3. Towards a just transition: If the innovative approach is proven, participants realised the economic and social benefits the project could deliver. Selby has a long mining history so this project was chosen to generate historic pride in using what residents already have and value in the area, and the chance to share stories and build connections across generations.

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More than just a Tree

1. Why this was chosen: By encouraging indigenous growing of food, safe foraging and seasonal eating, participants chose this projects for its fun approach to supporting biodiversity and increasing local understanding of food and its production.

2. Towards net zero: Trees capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so by increasing the number of fruit trees in the community, there will be a greater number of trees working to capture carbon from Selby!

3. Towards a just transition: With a focus on education, community food growing and healthy eating, this project delivers a range of social benefits, including skills development and supports biodiversity by encouraging the community to value and care for open spaces, which enhance physical and mental wellbeing.

Food, Glorious Food! Community Kitchen

1. Why this was chosen: The participants chose this project because of its potential to bring people together and empower local residents to develop healthy, sustainable and cost-effective eating habits.

2. Towards net zero: By encouraging seasonality with the provision of surplus from local allotments, farms and the community fridge project, the less distance our food has to travel. By using locally-grown seasonal foods we can reduce our carbon emissions, help our community and eat tastier food.

3. Towards a just transition: This project aims to establish a Community Kitchen, open to all, with a number of benefits for the local community: increasing social connection, improving food and nutritional education, reducing household food costs, and creating opportunities for cross-generational and cultural skill exchange.

Vertical Farming - the only way is up!

1. Why this was chosen: The participants chose this project for its ability to utilise existing empty spaces like office space (already lit and heated) for new approaches to agriculture, rather than using limited or inaccessible outdoor space, to reduce waste, save water and create new opportunities for local production.

2. Towards net zero: This project aims to introduce small vertical farms in local buildings and businesses, alongside a local information campaign with public engagement to educate the community on what vertical farming is, how it works, and its benefits. Vertical farming can maximise yields, producing more food on the same amount of land. This project may be the answer to local agricultural challenges, providing us with more food on less land, doing so sustainably!

3. Towards a just transition: As an exciting opportunity for the community, this project offers the chance to learn and develop new skills in a sector with potential job creation, whilst reducing food insecurity, generating more plant-based food, and encouraging gardening to benefit overall wellbeing and mental health.

Composting From You To Everyone

1. Why this was chosen: Participants chose this project as a practical solution to repurpose food waste, whilst creating fertiliser and energy from anaerobic digestion.

2. Towards net zero: Organic waste sent to landfill produces methane, one of the greenhouse gases contributing to climate change. Diverting food waste for anaerobic digestion can produce energy and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

3. Towards a just transition: This multi-stranded approach brings together individual and council action to have a large-scale impact and deliver benefits across the community. This project includes a four-part local plan for composting:
1. Encourage residents to compost at home and in schools with the provision of information and resources;
2. Establish means for the Council to collect food waste from homes and schools;
3. Invest in anaerobic digestion with commercial and council collected domestic food waste;
4. Run an information campaign, e.g. films on reducing waste and composting.

Schools Out for Food Waste

1. Why this was chosen: This project was chosen for its proactive long-term approach to mindset change, improving the knowledge of young people and their relationship with food, whilst benefiting their households and families.

2. Towards net zero: This project aims to significantly reduce local food waste by working in local schools to encourage schools to grow their own fruit and vegetables on site (could be allotments, containers, vertical farms etc), thus avoiding the need to transport food and reducing associated carbon emissions.

3. Towards a just transition: This project presents a significant opportunity for education and community engagement, promoting positive health and wellbeing through nutrition knowledge and access to fresh food, whilst preventing food waste. The project aims to be cross-generational, creating opportunities for skills and knowledge sharing and tackling social isolation.
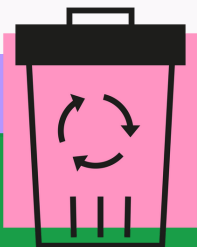
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What We Buy and Waste

Reduce, Repurpose, Resume: Create a Library of Things

1. Why this was chosen: This project was chosen to reduce the need to buy new things, enable and empower repairing and self-sufficiency, and build community unity through sharing knowledge and skills.

2. Towards net zero: This project will work to prevent usable goods from going to landfill, by repairing and repurposing broken items, and educating the community with the skills to mend and opportunity to lend rather than putting in the bin! This reduces the use of resources needed for the production of new items.

3. Towards a just transition: This project creates the opportunity for community enterprise, and supports skills sharing and educational outreach by establishing a communal space that promotes co-operative use of tools, repair of items and involvement in community companionship. By incorporating a tool library, workshop space and a repair facility or repair café.

Introduce Community Clothing Swaps

1. Why this was chosen: The participants chose this project to reuse and extend the life of clothing, reduce costs and build community spirit through swap events.

2. Towards net zero: Clothes swapping will contribute to the decrease in items sent to landfill. Billions of garments are sent to landfill every year, polluting air and land. Clothes swapping can result in lower industry production of new clothes. A large proportion of natural resources are used in the production of clothes. For example, 7000 litres of water is used in the production of a single pair of jeans!

3. Towards a just transition: This project would aim to encourage wide participation by swapping all kinds of clothes, including uniforms, maternity wear etc. As clothing swaps have been historically positioned as associated with 'poverty' this project seeks to remove this stigma and reframe clothing swaps as a fun and creative way to make climate conscious choices that benefit us all!

Improve Local Refill Knowledge and Capacity

1. Why this was chosen: The participants chose this project to raise awareness and availability of local refill options with better information about what is available, how it works, and what you need in order to encourage wider uptake.

2. Towards net zero: By making refill options more accessible, this project works to reduce the amount of disposable packaging and cut down on food waste by being able to buy quantities needed.

3. Towards a just transition: As well as the environmental aims, this project works to be an affordable option for the community because of the ability to buy the amount needed and support local enterprise. Working towards complete accessibility and community inclusion is at the forefront of this project, including delivery for people who can't get to the shops and refill options in other shops like supermarkets which are traditionally, more convenient for residents to get to.

Business Waste Audit & Registry

1. Why this was chosen: The participants chose this project for its circular economy principles - the opportunity for local businesses to reduce their use of virgin resources, and reduce business costs by reusing waste from others.

2. Towards net zero: Reducing business waste sent to landfill and incineration helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, and reduces the energy needed to harvest new raw materials. By establishing a registry where businesses can document all the different types of waste that they produce, businesses will be able to review and improve their waste handling methods.

3. Towards a just transition: Greater transparency and information sharing between consumers and producers can help to address climate change and support community unity. Businesses will be encouraged to be transparent about the materials and energy they use and their waste (a little like food hygiene scores on doors). Businesses will also be encouraged to make public the different waste they have available for others to reuse and repurpose, supporting partnerships and small businesses due to the cost-savings.

Help Communities Recycle Plastic Locally

1. Why this was chosen: This project was chosen as a local solution to reducing the magnitude of plastic waste, creating community ownership through creative repurposing.

2. Towards net zero: This project aims to simplify plastic recycling, facilitated by council collecting, to encourage more local recycling and repurposing of plastics.

3. Towards a just transition: The plastic recycled in this project would be used locally to make items such as benches/play equipment, repurposing plastic for community and benefit. Different plastics could also be used for fibres for insulation, for social housing and public building retrofits. By marking products as 'produced by local plastic waste', this could increase local pride and enthusiasm over recycling plastics.

How We Travel

Improve Walking Routes Within The District

1. Why this was chosen: This project was chosen by the participants as a long-term solution to connect rural areas, improve accessibility and make walking a more viable option by making it safer and easier for all members of our community, whilst reducing carbon emissions associated with transport.

2. Towards net zero: This project aims to improve walking routes and connect local rural areas by increasing accessibility, signage and awareness. These measures will promote active travel, which provides the opportunity to reduce carbon emissions associated with transport, particularly for local journeys.

3. Towards a just transition: Active travel solutions can deliver a wealth of health and wellbeing benefits, and encouraging footfall can bring economic benefits for local traders. Associated street improvements, such as street lighting and pavement surface enhancement can bring community safety benefits.

Improve the Cycle Route Network

1. Why this was chosen: Participants chose this project to reduce private transport by encouraging active travel, which can improve physical and mental health, improve air quality, increase safety on the roads and reduce congestion.

2. Towards net zero: This project aims to both create new and improve existing cycle routes and paths around Selby to improve safety, promote active travel and reduce car use. In the creation of well-lit, clearly signposted, cycle paths, which are separated from the road by curb barriers, the project would create a joined-up network of paths that are user-friendly, encouraging greater use.

3. Towards a just transition: By prioritising cycle paths from residential areas to schools, the project provides the opportunity to work with local schools and encourage cycling proficiency, with a focus on cycle skills, safety and road sense, route mapping and bike maintenance. This is turn, could reap longer-term change in travel habits and carbon reduction.

Pedestrianisation of Areas In Selby

1. Why this was chosen: Participants chose this project for its ability to reduce the carbon emissions associated with transport and improve air quality, whilst delivering health improvements for residents and economic benefits for high street traders.

2. Towards net zero: In 2019, 27% of net greenhouse gas emissions in the UK were estimated to be from the transport sector (BEIS), therefore by creating pedestrian friendly neighbourhoods in and around Selby Town, this project has the potential to encourage sustainable modes of travel and reduce carbon emissions associated with transport.

3. Towards a just transition: Less local traffic will reduce congestion and improve air quality, delivering health benefits to residents. Pedestrianisation can improve safety and accessibility and increase footfall in the town centre, benefitting local traders and developing the local business economy. This project offers the potential to bring more visitors in the area, creating pockets of green space with seating and rest areas and opportunity to host community events.

Improve the Reliability and Frequency of Public Transport

1. Why this was chosen: Participants chose this project as part of the strategy to remove cars from the road, decrease carbon emissions, air pollution and congestion, but also for the delivery of a wide range of social benefits.

2. Towards net zero: This project would work to increase the efficiency of local public transport, making it more frequent and reliable, to encourage greater use and thus reduce carbon emissions associated with private transport. The project seeks to work with the council and operators to monitor where and when the demand for public transport lies, looking into bus and train timetables, making sure they work in tandem so people can make efficient journeys. For example, solutions may be found in operating minibuses as a cost-effective option to serve rural areas, or the addition of electric busses during peak demand times.

3. Towards a just transition: This project would tackle the existing challenges of rural isolation by ensuring effective public transport is available to residents. As well as opening up employment opportunities for residents, improved public transport can address social isolation, and improve community connectivity and accessibility.

Subsidise Local Public Transport

1. Why this was chosen: Participants chose this project for improved accessibility and inclusivity of public transport, and reduced private transport and carbon emissions.

2. Towards net zero: This project would provide subsidised or free public transport to encourage greater public use. By making public transport more cost-effective, the project would allow access to all members of the community as an inclusive and accessible solution to making carbon-friendly transport choices. This solution could be combined with other measures designed to reduce the carbon intensity of public transport such as electrification.

3. Towards a just transition: The aim would be to use incentives such as coupons, discounts, a booking system and online timetable, encouraging operators to provide more services, and employers to consider subsidising travel, benefiting both the residents and the business economy through improved access to the town centre.

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theme 5:

Our Land and Nature

Map Green Areas & Natural Assets In Selby

1. Why this was chosen: This project was chosen by the participants to share information about all local green spaces through a mapping system, to educate the community on how to access and enjoy nature, while feeling safe doing so.

2. Towards net zero: This project would create a mechanism for identifying local green areas, to encourage use, with the ability to visualise cross-overs in how we can enhance and protect our green spaces. By mapping these spaces we can better deliver on other project ideas such as identifying locations for planting schemes and where to prioritise wildlife corridors to connect up our green spaces.

3. Towards a just transition: Mapping can enable the community to better access, utilise and enjoy the green spaces we have. Whilst increasing use of the green spaces, this project works to increase local pride in the area and encourage a continuation of use.

Operation Education!

1. Why this was chosen: This project was chosen to increase people's connection with nature, foster a sense of ownership and care for the environment and our local surroundings and to encourage thinking about our climate impact.

2. Towards net zero: By improving the community's understanding of the green spaces on our doorstep, we can empower the community to better care for these spaces. "Operation Education!" will help the community develop this appreciation to ensure that our green spaces will be maintained and preserved for the future, enabling these spaces to remain biodiverse and continue to function as carbon sinks, removing carbon from the atmosphere.

3. Towards a just transition: This project aims to establish an educational programme about gardens, biodiversity, and local green spaces. This project would also provide opportunity for community engagement activities and events such as nature trails and forest schools in the area, to promote a love for nature!

Planting and Greening In The Area

1. Why this was chosen: This project was chosen as a cost-effective and low maintenance solution to increase biodiversity and increase knowledge and skills around planting and pollinating insects.

2. Towards net zero: More biodiverse ecosystems are more resilient to climate change. Developing and maintaining healthy ecosystems, such as by improving green spaces for pollinators and creating wildlife corridors, increases plant biodiversity which in turn increases the ability for those systems to act as carbon sinks, taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. This project aims include wildflower planting, community herb gardens and wildlife corridors.

3. Towards a just transition: This project aims to increase local pride in the community and local green spaces through increased knowledge and opportunities to get involved in nature. With flourishing green spaces, residents are more likely to spend time outside which will work to improve mental wellbeing and physical health.

Improve Access to & Facilities Within Green Space

1. Why this was chosen: The participants chose this project to improve physical and mental health with greater accessibility to local green spaces.

2. Towards net zero: If green spaces are better equipped for the community to enjoy them, we can limit habitat disturbance (e.g. having dog waste bins on site to reduce the amount of dog waste left in the habitat, or having raised platforms for wheelchair access both increases accessibility and will limit long term damage to soil and ground flora), protect and conserve biodiversity and natural landscapes, and open the spaces up for people to appreciate.

3. Towards a just transition: For a community to feel a sense of ownership over their green spaces and thus wish to preserve and maintain them, the spaces must be accessible to all members of the community. This project aims to remove barriers to access, through consideration of travel and transport, creation of accessible routes, positioning of bins in walking hotspots and provision of toilet facilities.

Introduce Sustainable Drainage Systems & Car Parks

1. Why this was chosen: This project was chosen as a natural and more efficient solution to water drainage, allowing car parks to act as a soak-away with more water dispersing than conventional drainage.

2. Towards net zero: This project will replace concrete and tarmac car parks with a garden brick or slab surface to create sustainable urban drainage through car park redevelopment. With extreme weather conditions and greater levels of precipitation, this project aims to mitigate the impact of climate change in our local area, managing flooding and protecting surrounding areas of green space which could be damaged by severe water run-off.

3. Towards a just transition: The aim would be that all new car parks would be built this way to maximise the protection of the local area from flooding. From housing, roads and infrastructure, the aim is to keep Selby safe and protected from the potential cost-intensive damage flooding can cause for residents.

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