

Theme 2- Decarbonising- UK commitments to reduce GHG by 80% by 2050

We first discussed some general points

1. As highlighted by James Lewis (Leeds Council) we need to make it measurable
2. Carbon Budgets- long term targets should support long term investments
3. Legal framework exists but there is no real repercussion if we do not meet them- maybe there is no legal binding issue
4. The geography of emission, cultural changes (behaviours) and the public buy needs to be considered
5. Biggest contributors are transport and housing- maybe we should link the emissions to air pollution as people will feel ownership for clean air- can the decarbonising argument supported by the air quality argument?
6. Emissions are linked to income generation

We then moved on to the knowledge gaps and solutions

7. We need an assessment matrix- similar to a dashboard that shows multiple indicators
8. The system of provision requires powers, that considers the political economy (i.e. where are the interests) and the infrastructure owners awareness (i.e. investors, pension schemes etc.)
9. Different financing mechanisms provide different pieces of infrastructure and returns i.e. short term projects provide long term investment e.g. Water industry builds WWT within a couple of years and the facility cleans the water for many years to come (same with Victorian sewers etc)
10. Regulation does not seem to work- what about taxation (e.g. landfill tax, Emission trading Scheme etc.)