



Helping local authorities deliver an effective response to the climate emergency

The net-zero challenge

The need for decisive action that cuts carbon emissions and adapts to the unavoidable impacts of climate change is pressing. Local authorities around the world are beginning to act, declaring climate emergencies and setting ambitious new targets to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.

The key challenge now is how to turn these ambitions into reality. In practical terms, local authorities need to:

- **Stop** doing things that will make achieving net zero harder.
- **Start** mainstreaming net-zero considerations into everything they do.
- **Ramp up** activities to reduce emissions now, such as removing barriers to action and seeking out where the biggest gains can most easily be delivered in the short term.
- **Plan** now for larger emissions reductions in the longer term by developing policy mechanisms that support and drive widespread action in future years.

Ricardo's multidisciplinary team of net-zero experts is supporting local authorities through their net-zero journeys, helping places to deliver cohesive responses to the climate emergency. Our specialists understand the scale of the challenge, the options for different net-zero pathways and the importance of evidence-based roadmaps, action plans and projects that deliver on net-zero commitments.

Adaptation and resilience strategy

Understanding existing and future climate risks and developing an adaptation and resilience strategy are key to any climate emergency response. Our world-leading adaptation experts can support you through the assessment of risks, appraisal of adaptation options and governance and implementation of climate resilience projects.



How Ricardo can help

- Step 1: Understanding your current emissions**
 Our inventory experts develop the detailed evidence base needed to underpin pathways for action, including creating greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories; providing advice on GHG reporting, energy and transport activity data and drawing upon powerful analytics, interpretation, mapping and visualisation tools.
- Step 2: Analyse pathways to net zero and set targets**
 We model alternative mitigation pathways using Ricardo's net-zero gap analysis tool. Scenarios are underpinned by a deep understanding of the impact of mitigation measures and investment timelines on factors such as emissions, energy use and costs.
- Step 3: Develop your net-zero roadmap**
 We develop net-zero roadmaps that are implementable, drawing upon in-depth understanding of the action planning process, setting out possible routes to net-zero emissions and identifying action necessary to deliver planned outcomes.
- Step 4: Build and maintain governance**
 We work with key internal and external stakeholders to ensure the appropriate systems are in place to facilitate the changes needed.
- Step 5: Feasibility studies and design**
 Our sector experts provide the deep technical insight necessary for the development of robust and effective policies and projects that deliver emissions reductions and adaptive action. As well as looking at technological solutions, our specialists can assess options for behaviour change,

sustainable procurement, circular economy and waste and water management.

- Step 6: Implement changes**

Ricardo's team provides support on funding options and management support to drive the mobilisation of project implementation necessary to achieve net zero.

Experience

Ricardo has supported many cities, and local and central governments, in support of their journey to net zero. In the UK, our work has supported Sheffield City Region, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Suffolk County Council, Bristol City Council, Leicester City Council, Sheffield City Council, Mid-Sussex District Council, the Shetland Islands Council and East Dunbartonshire Council. Further afield we have supported Gibraltar, Malta and Lagos among many international projects. Our work covers the full net-zero journey as we draw upon our unrivalled understanding of GHG emissions – Ricardo compiles the UK's GHG emissions inventory and the Government's local authority carbon dioxide (CO₂) statistics. Our depth and breadth of emissions sector expertise ensures detailed assessment of technical options and investment needs to deliver credible, evidence-based pathways and implementation roadmaps.

Project example

Ricardo is working with partners to develop a toolkit for calculating and appraising the carbon impact of projects for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to support alignment with its net-zero objectives.

For more information about the services Ricardo offers on local authority net-zero planning, contact us at info@ricardo.com or +44 (0) 1235 753000