

Economy

Introduction

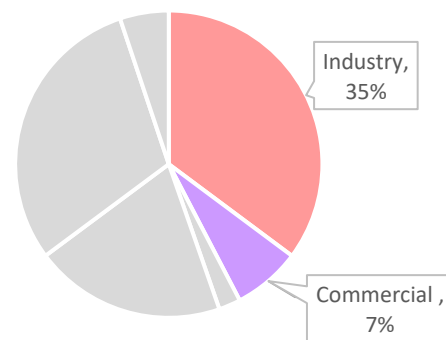
The commercial and industrial sectors are significant contributors to climate change in the East Riding of Yorkshire, accounting for over 40% of the County's carbon emissions.

Across these two sectors, industry makes up a large proportion of the emissions, reflecting the industrial base present in East Riding, particularly in the areas bordering the Humber Estuary.

It is important we work together to drastically reduce commercial and industrial emissions, whilst making sure our diverse economy thrives, building on our natural strengths in the food, manufacturing, tourism and renewable energy sectors.

Growing the green economy will also be vital for powering the transition to net zero, as we look to increase capacity and skills in key sectors such as sustainable farming, electric vehicles, domestic retrofit and renewable energy.

Industry and commercial sectors as a % of overall carbon emissions in East Riding



What we have done

- Provided support to maximise growth and opportunities in the green economy, delivering on the 'sustainable economy' priority of the East Riding Economic Strategy 2018-2022. Below are some examples of this support.
 - Led on the designation of key sites across the Humber to form the largest Enterprise Zone in England. The sites of Green Port Hull and Able Marine Energy Park offer an attractive space for the renewable energy sector with opportunities to co-locate with businesses in the supply-chain providing cost reductions.
 - Helped establish freeport status for the Humber aiming to expand and strengthen the clean growth and decarbonisation cluster of businesses across the region, including offshore wind manufacturing and processing facilities to create materials used in the production of electric vehicles.
 - Led on the Fusion Yorkshire bid to secure a new home for the UK Atomic Energy Authority's STEP Programme (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production). Nuclear fusion is increasingly seen as one of the most promising options for generating cleaner energy.
 - Set up the ERGO centre, a hub for renewables and environmental technologies and innovation. The centre, located at the heart of the UK's Energy Estuary, provides a collaborative space where key players can come together to strengthen the renewables and low carbon agenda.

- Our business investment and tourism services offer a comprehensive range of service for start-up and established businesses, as well as inward investors, with expertise on the growing low-carbon sectors.
 - Stimulated the local green economy by delivering carbon reduction programmes in sectors such as housing retrofit, utilising local contractors and suppliers.
- Worked with partners to support businesses of all sizes helping them to reduce carbon emissions. Officers from across the authority are able to offer a range of advice and expertise to local businesses on climate change. We are also a lead partner of the Aura project, led by the University of Hull, providing advice and support for businesses to reduce carbon emissions, save on energy costs, increase efficiency and productivity or access to new markets.
 - Promoted through our communications and social media platforms the climate change and wider environmental benefits of supporting the local economy and making environmentally informed purchases.

Key Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges to Delivery

Carbon intensive business – East Riding is home to many traditional heavy industries that are essential to our economy but remain carbon intensive. Working with these to decarbonise is a priority on our pathway to net zero.

Working population – Compared to the national average, a lower proportion of the population of East Riding of Yorkshire is of working age and there are less jobs available for this working age population. Whilst these pose different challenges for the local economy, green job creation and then attracting high skilled workers in the low-carbon and sustainability sector can help overcome these.

Skills deprivation – There are pockets of skills deprivation in some urban and coastal areas in East Riding. Alongside green job creation, working with schools, colleges and training providers in these areas to enhance career opportunities in the green sector will be necessary for creating a greener economy and ensuring we reduce rather than exacerbate existing inequalities through climate action.

Understanding climate change – A survey undertaken by the Carbon Trust in 2020 found many small and medium sized companies (SME) were yet to fully appreciate the importance of climate change for their business and most thought it would not impact their organisation. This suggested more work is needed to communicate the impact of the climate emergency sufficiently to all parts of the economy.

Opportunities

Natural environment – Our environment in East Riding underpins our local economy through agriculture, forestry, fishing, tourism and through an abundance of natural energy

resources. This means to strengthen and grow our economy we must protect and invest in our natural environment which can also have wider health and wellbeing, climate mitigation and adaptation benefits, through carbon restoration or flood resilience, for example.

Green jobs – The share of jobs in the Yorkshire and Humber that are in the green economy is above the UK average, indicating a solid foundation for future growth as we look to focus on the production of higher-skilled, better paid and permanent jobs.

Renewable energy – The Humber has established a merited reputation as the UK's Energy Estuary, with a world-leading renewable energy sector and ambitious industrial decarbonisation targets, indicating further growth opportunities for the local energy economy.

Warmer climate – With East Riding set to experience warmer days we can expect there to be an increase in coastal tourism as a result. Maximising the local economic opportunities from the visitor economy can help facilitate economic growth, whilst presenting opportunities to enable and encourage sustainable and responsible tourism.

Areas of Action

Please note that until the final Climate Change Strategy has been approved, we have chosen to use the wording 'East Riding of Yorkshire Council can.' Once the Strategy has been fully consulted on internally and with the public we will commit to 'East Riding of Yorkshire Council will.'

East Riding of Yorkshire Council can...

- Stimulate the local green economy by working with local contractors and suppliers to deliver carbon reduction programmes in sectors such renewable energy, district heating and housing retrofit.
- Develop an approach to mapping and valuing natural capital and ecosystem services across the sub-region, highlighting the importance of our natural environment to the local economy.
- Deliver education and training to ensure East Riding residents are better placed to take advantage of job opportunities in the green economy.
- Provide advice and support to local businesses to help them reduce their carbon emissions.
- Support innovation, commercialism and growth in the local green sector, through further investment in local economic growth and promoting the attractive opportunities for low-carbon and renewable enterprises in East Riding.
- Look to support businesses in the green sector, through financial incentives such as business grants or shared energy networks.
- Work with local partners at the Aura Innovation Centre to engage with SMEs, raising awareness of climate change and sharing opportunities for reducing carbon emissions.
- Maximise collaborative opportunities for renewable and environmental enterprises through our Ergo partnership.
- Work with local schools to engage staff and students on climate change and environmental issues, showcasing the opportunities for careers in the green sector.

- Promote the climate change and wider environmental benefits of supporting your local economy and making environmentally informed purchases.
- Showcase examples of how businesses are responding to climate change across East Riding.

What can you do?

- Consider shopping local. Locally owned businesses often make more local purchases requiring less transportation and cutting carbon emissions.
- If planning a holiday, have you considered local or domestic destinations? Staying local can reduce your carbon footprint.
<https://www.visithullandeastyorkshire.co.uk/>
<https://www.visitbritain.com/gb/en>
- When installing renewable energy or heat pumps, source a reputable local trader to help build local supply chains.
<https://mcscertified.com/find-an-installer/>