

Citizens Forum on Climate Change Session Five – Online

The Five Year Plan

Our fifth session of the Citizens Forum was held online due to the high level of community cases of COVID 19. This was a first for the team and for the forum members holding a citizen's forum online. Even though we do hold regular webinars, the forums' format tends to be different.

We wanted to make sure the forum members could still break out in groups and capture the information and feedback needed for the session. We invited some special guests to our online forum to be our subject matter experts, our colleagues Sian from the Department of Infrastructure and Richard from Building Control.

We started the online session with a few words by Mrs Jane Poole-Wilson and Mr Ralph Peake who are the Chair and Vice Chair of the Citizens Forum. Jane and Ralph gave the forum members an update on how the feedback they give this evening will directly feed into the five year plan consultation and the review into the forum. Jane thanked the members for those who have already provided feedback on the online consultation (link can be found here: <https://consult.gov.im/cabinet-office/climate-change-plan-2022-2027/>).

A member of the Climate Change Transformation team then introduced the five year plan to the forum. Although there are many topics in the five year plan, this session only focused on some core themes within the plan.

The members who joined us online were then divided into virtual breakout rooms where a member of the team and a subject matter expert joined them. Each breakout room were given a different topic from the plan. The team members then led the discussion by asking the forum members to consider two main questions (each specific to their relevant topic).

Listed below are the topics and questions the forum considered in their breakout rooms, along with the main feedback for each question below them:

Just Transition

- 1. What changes to life in the Isle of Man to reduce emissions could have the most significant impact on the vulnerable/and those with limited resources to fund those changes themselves?**
- 2. What proactive measures could be put in place to ensure that no-one is unfairly impacted on by climate actions?**

Transport

- 1. What would help you reduce your on-Island transport emissions?**
- 2. What would help you reduce your off-Island transport emissions (or for those who have already made changes – what has made that possible?)**

Energy use & Buildings –

- 1. What would help you and your household significantly reduce your energy use? (Or if you have done so already what has made it possible for you)**
- 2. What would help you and your household significantly reduce your energy use?**

Agriculture & Land

- 1. What changes do you think would help the Isle of Man protect its natural environment more effectively to store more carbon and protect ecosystems and biodiversity?**
- 2. What would help you choose food with a lower carbon footprint?**

Just Transition

Feedback: Summary of 6 main points from group for

Question 1 :

1. Housing
2. Government policy on social housing
3. Household Bills
4. Technologies that help – fearful that if you don't have them they will be left behind
5. Access to funding
6. Heating (still using fossil fuels)

Feedback : Summary of 6 main points from the group for

Question 2 :

1. Own growth (like the Good Life)
2. Tighter regulations for landlords to get property's up to scratch
3. Tenancy security both private and public
4. Community meetings so people feel supported /small community assets
5. Local gov support
6. Community share scheme – for all ages
7. Support – advocacy service
8. Grants and loans scheme

Transport

Feedback: Summary of 6 main points from group:

Question 1

1. **EV** – but not everyone can afford (although this will change in time, so might not be the case in the LT). Not sufficient charging infrastructure on island – need to improve this.
2. **Public transport** – free for all? More routes for rural areas. But cost issues. Shuttle on demand in the North is working and there are plans to extend this to other parts of the island (but taxi drivers disagree).
3. **Active travel** – but not everyone can do this (health, IOM landscape)
4. **Decentralising Douglas** – remove the need to have to travel to Douglas (changing community landscape/ businesses)

Feedback: Summary of 6 main points from group:

Question 2

1. **EV** – if own EV completely renewable if off-island
2. **Personal off setting** – e.g. change diet
3. **A lot of people here have family off island** – this is hard, find shorter routes for ferries.
4. **Changing mindset** - People need to buy into 'what is better for the environment' and not always what is quickest/easiest.

Energy Use & Buildings

Feedback: Summary of 6 main points from group:

Question 1

1. Money is the biggest issue – although savings over the longer term
2. Quick wins – insulation, double glazing, air tightness improvements, boiler management, Fabric first
3. Energy Surveys and EPCs (but done in the right way)
4. Significant upskilling needed in retrofit
5. Older buildings an issue – eg Victorian homes – need a specific route for them

Feedback: Summary of 6 main points from group:

Question 2

1. Upskilling everyone in the supply chain
2. Educating residents on energy efficiencies
3. Public sector/LA housing – behind the UK in this regard. Social inclusion
4. A way forward for older homes
5. Embodied vs Operational carbon – RIBA
6. EPCs linked to taxes/rates –

Agriculture & Land use

Feedback: Summary of 6 main points from group:

Question 1

1. Improvements to efficiency of food production – e.g. issue of soy production for meat industry – v. inefficient
2. Require local sourcing of IOM Government food for schools etc
3. Better education in schools about cooking from scratch and buying local
4. Diversification of local agriculture and support for this
5. Tax on food miles
6. Labelling about transport method, seasonality, carbon footprint etc

Feedback: Summary of 6 main points from group:

Question 2

7. More farmers markets and ogps for local food buying and better marketing for those we have
8. Ensuring accurate local food labelling – e.g. non-Manx meat wrongly labelled
9. Encourage more plant-based diet

The members debated the two questions; giving half hour consideration for each question before the team facilitator recorded the feedback on the power point slides. The feedback captured was then presented back to the groups in the main online 'room'.

The members had the chance to debate each topic and the points raised in the summary feedback. The forum members also expressed they would like to keep the momentum going with some expert led webinars over the summer.

The forum finished on time and the members were thanked for attending online.

End

