

THE ACCUSED:



November 2018:
Bristol City Council was the first Local Authority in the UK to declare a climate emergency.

THE CLAIMS

"Bristol will be a carbon neutral and climate resilient city by 2030."

"A long-term, flexible City Leap Energy Partnership will be established, to develop, co-ordinate, deliver and facilitate low carbon, smart energy infrastructure that supports Bristol on its pathway to carbon neutrality" (Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan, July 2019, these pledges were reiterated in the One City Climate Strategy in 2021).

THE REALITY

Three years have passed and BCC has not reported on progress towards a carbon neutral Bristol. A number of excellent projects have been initiated or supported, including community based renewable energy initiatives. In January 2022, the Council's response to a Freedom of Information request revealed these projects have reduced CO₂-equivalent (CO₂e) emissions by 9,209 tonnes per year. **This is 0.5% of the reduction needed to achieve carbon neutrality for the city by 2030.***

The City Leap partnership was initiated in May 2018. In November 2020, Council's website informed us that "The council's search for a partner is expected to conclude in 2021". The partnership has still not been announced.

Bristol City Council has set an ambitious vision but lacks any clear, measurable plan with a timeline for delivery.

THE VERDICT





**GUILTY AS
CHARGED**

WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE CITY IS ON TRACK TO BE CLIMATE NEUTRAL BY 2030.





Council's own consultants, The Centre for Sustainable Energy, advised that an "**unprecedented rate and scale of change**" was required. When will Council accelerate its efforts to deliver its commitments?

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