Freedom of Information (FOI) request / Research Questions

**Introduction**

In 2019, the Government amended the Climate Change Act 2008 by changing the UK's CO2 emissions target from an 80% reduction to achieve "Net-Zero". This study aims to investigate how local authorities in England intend to achieve Net-Zero carbon emissions by 2050, with a focus on current and future social housing stock.

I am requesting data through a freedom of information (FOI) request, and I am collecting data required for the project through the questionnaire below.

**Key Terms**

Local Authority- A local government authority. Synonyms are local council, the authority, local government.

Net-Zero CO2 emissions- Net-Zero is a balance of greenhouse gas emissions admitted into the atmosphere and the amount removed from the atmosphere. Or CO2 emitted = CO2 extracted

Social Housing- Dwellings owned by a local government authority or other organisations that do not make a profit, rented by people who often have low incomes. Synonyms are council, public or affordable housing.

1. Which local authority do you represent?

Leicester City Council

1. Is achieving Net-Zero CO2 a priority for your local authority?

Yes

X

No

1. How does your local authority monitor CO2 emissions?

We gather data on energy and fuel use from across all areas of the council, and produce an annual carbon footprint report, using UK government conversion factors. We also report upon city-wide carbon emissions using figures produced by the UK government.

A copy of a previous versions of both of these reports are available at: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-plans-and-strategies/environment-and-sustainability/climate-emergency/>

1. What are the barriers, if any, of your local authority achieving Net-Zero CO2?

There are a number of barriers to the city council achieving our net zero ambitions, in particular:

* Lack of funding for councils, limiting ability to finance necessary measures.
* Need for greater action from national government to tackle areas not under local authority control.
* Engagement… making

1. Does your local authority have a strategy for achieving Net-Zero for any of the sectors below? (Tick if appropriate)

None

Transport

Waste

Highways

Education

Environmental Health

Other (please specify:

We currently have a Climate Emergency Strategy which sets out a high-level strategy for the approach to net zero in Leicester, although it doesn’t set out the exact steps required. To support this strategy, we are currently developing a carbon neutral roadmap for the city, which will identify the actions required to reach this goal, although they will not necessarily be broken down into the exact categories given above.

1. Does your local authority have a strategy specifically for achieving Net-Zero within the social housing stock?

Yes

X

No

1. Does your local authority have a heating replacement strategy for the social housing stock?

Yes

X

No

1. Does your local authority have an insulating retrofit programme for the social housing stock?

Yes

X

No

1. Does your local authority have a programme for alternative energy productions within social housing other than gas or mains electricity? E.g. solar, district heating, air/ ground source heat pumps?

Yes

X

No

1. Are measures being put in place to change tenant behaviours when retrofit programmes occur?

Yes

X

No