

LOCAL AUTHORITY ZERO

Sustainable solutions to help councils achieve net zero



WHAT IS LOCAL AUTHORITY ZERO?

For local authorities, tackling climate change has been a priority for many years. More than three quarters of UK councils have declared a climate emergency and are now planning action for urgent decarbonisation. Many have set targets to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 or 2030 – well ahead of the government's 2050 deadline.

For councils, the challenge of decarbonising is complicated by the varied portfolio of properties and assets for which they are responsible, each with differing ownership arrangements. These can include offices, depots, leisure facilities, community centres, schools and care homes – encompassing buildings of all sizes and ages – as well as large vehicle fleets. Councils have a wide sphere of influence and need to consider

the implications of their actions not just for their own emissions, but also those of their supply chains and communities.

The budgets of most councils are under severe pressure, leaving limited financial resources available to invest in carbon-reduction measures and low-carbon technologies. These financial constraints are exacerbated by a lack of time and internal expertise to dedicate to decarbonisation projects in often under-resourced councils.

With so many challenges to overcome, councils urgently need specialist help to meet their decarbonisation targets. **Local Authority Zero** is the innovative carbon-reduction solution offered by EQUANS to help councils fulfil their net zero ambitions.

Through Local Authority Zero, we combine our sustainable energy expertise with our facilities management capabilities to save energy, increase sustainability and cut carbon emissions for local authorities. We follow a tried and tested process, closely aligned with the government's Net Zero Estate Playbook, to enable councils to optimise their decarbonisation programmes.



HOW DOES THE **PROCESS WORK?**

We follow the PAS 2060 framework approach to decarbonisation, which involves analysing emissions, developing fully costed plans, and implementing targeted solutions for local authorities to achieve net zero carbon.



CLICK ON THE BLUE AREAS TO READ ABOUT EACH STAGE OF THE PROCESS



HOW DO WE DELIVER NET ZERO CARBON?

Achieving net zero requires a coordinated programme of carefully prioritised actions to tackle the sources of carbon emissions across your property portfolio, assets and supply chain. In partnership with council leaders, managers and implementation teams, we work to adapt buildings and assets, refine operational processes and introduce sustainable sourcing to meet your net zero goals.

Decarbonising involves initially maximising energy efficiency, without compromising the operation of your sites or the delivery of your services. Where possible, we replace existing equipment and assets with more energy-efficient versions and introduce carbon-free transport solutions. We also look at energy sourcing, helping you procure electricity from renewable generators, or installing on-site renewable generation systems.

To tackle the challenge of financing carbon-reduction programmes, we help to connect you to appropriate sources of funding. These include green grants such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and government-backed interest-free loans, as well as funding from third parties. EQUANS can provide direct funding for capital investments, with repayments made from the savings achieved or from the sale of surplus site-generated electricity to the grid.

At the planning stage, we provide clear whole-life cost calculations for every scheme we propose, along with guaranteed return on investment figures – so you can properly assess the financial implications, carbon savings and long-term benefits.

SOME OF THE MEASURES WE MAY IMPLEMENT INCLUDE:

Energy efficiency – introducing energy-efficient products and services, such as LED lighting or building insulation, and changing operational practices to optimise energy use.

Asset conversion – Converting oil and gas boilers to low-carbon technologies, such as electric heat pumps. Transitioning fleets to electric vehicles and introducing hydrogen fueling for larger vehicles.

Green power – sourcing electricity from renewable generators, installing on-site or off-site renewable generation facilities (e.g. solar PV) or setting up corporate power purchase agreements.

Decarbonising heat – sourcing green gas for heating, installing on-site or off-site renewable heat generation plant (e.g. biomass, hydrogen, anaerobic digestion) and local heat networks.

Local infrastructure – installing public EV charging or solar car ports to encourage and support decarbonisation across communities.

Offsetting – tackling residual emissions by funding certified carbon-offsetting schemes or local tree planting and sustainable landscaping.



SET YOUR SIGHTS **ON ZERO**

**To begin your journey to net zero with
EQUANS please contact us today:**

netzero.uk@engie.com