The VONNE Climate Project

Tees Valley Nature Partnership Steering Group Middlesbrough Football Club 1230-13- Wednesday 18th December 2019

COP 25 Madrid. UN Secretary General's opening

"Three major reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – on land, on the oceans and cryosphere, and on the 1.5 degree Celsius climate goal – each confirm that we are knowingly destroying the very support systems keeping us alive.

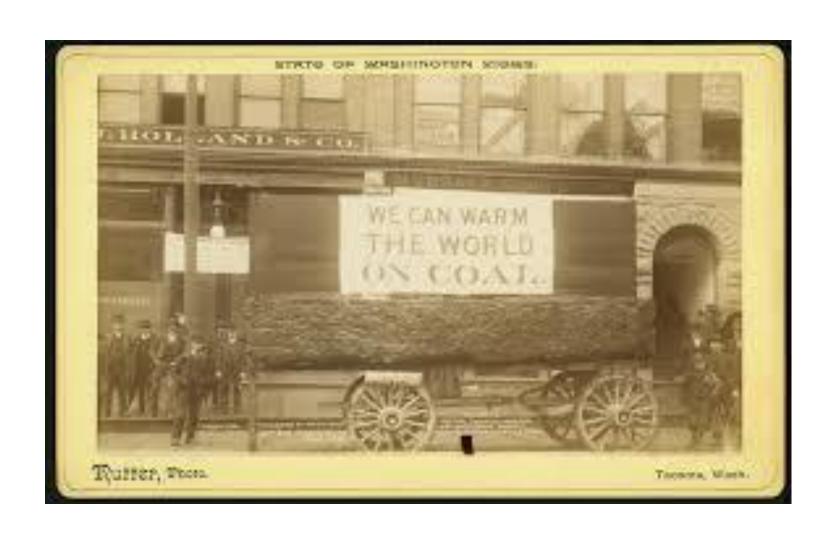
And indeed, we are.

In several regions of the world, coal power plants continue to be planned and built in large numbers.

Either we stop this addiction to coal or all our efforts to tackle climate change will be doomed.

And, as the UN Environment Programme has just revealed, countries are planning to produce fossil fuels over the next decade at over double the level that is consistent with keeping temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius"

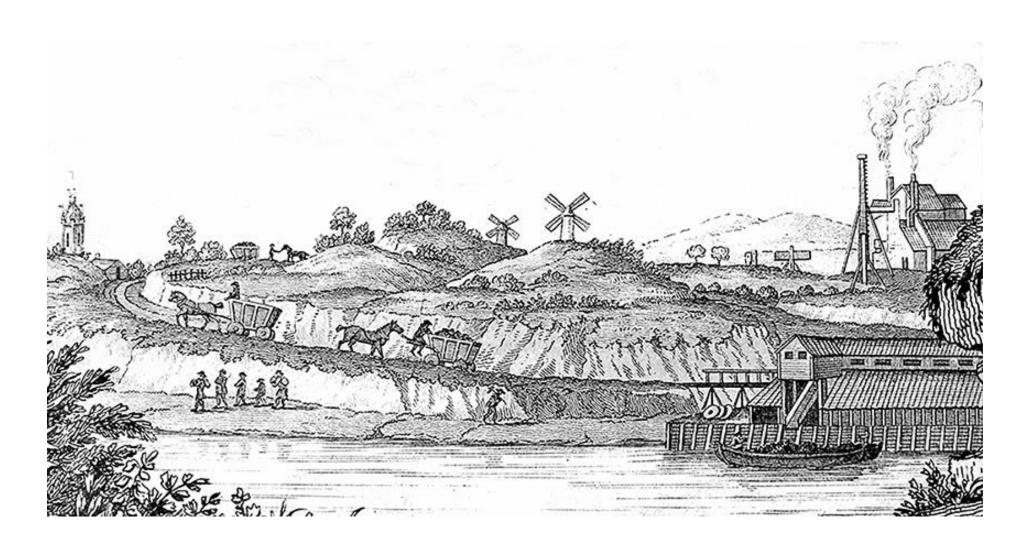
It was the engineers of the NE that 'released the genie of coal into the world'



1715 at Tanfield Lea



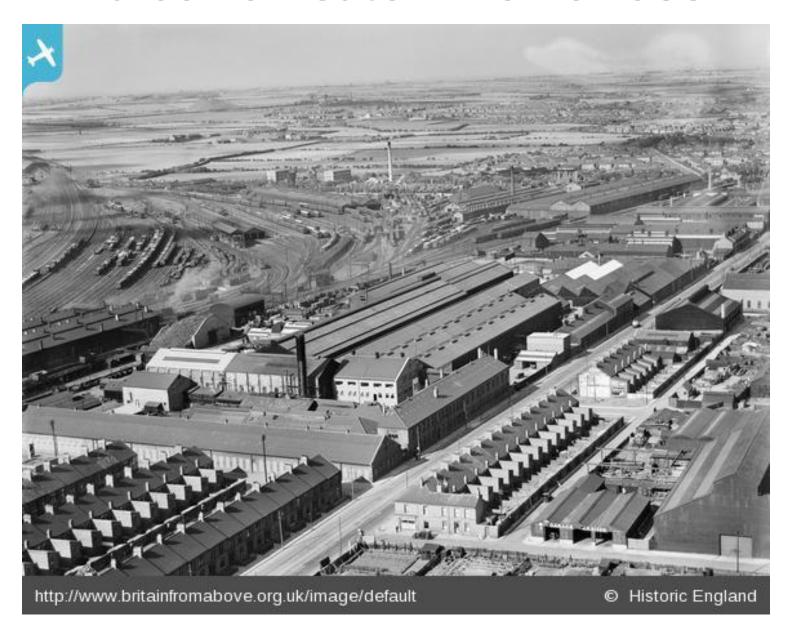
Gibson cartouche of 1787



Hetton Colliery 1830s



Parson's Heaton Works 1933



Shotton in the 1930s



The last shift. Kellingley 2015



Towards a Vision, Mission and Programme

- The VONNE Climate Project in two parts
 - 1] Convening the Region to develop an overall Vision and Programme
 - 2] Developing and delivering a programme from Civil Society within it

A **Programme** Frameworkis needed for both Plus

An overall **Vision** for living in the North East in a low carbon economy

A Mission to 'Become England's Greenest Region'

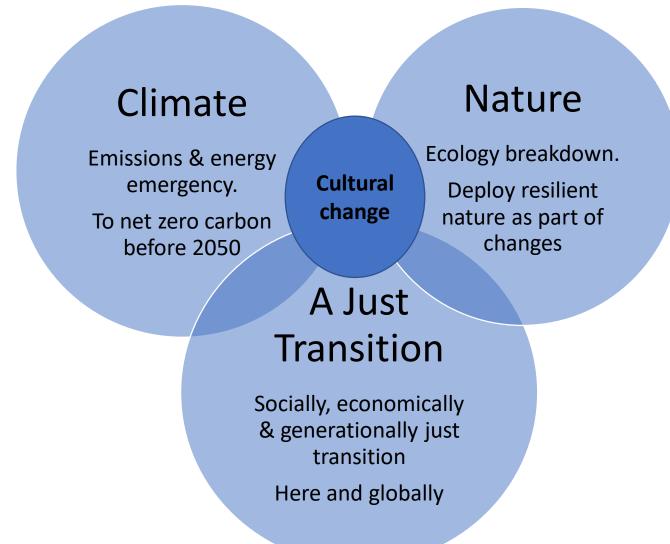
A **Structure** to deliver it through and the **Resources** to deliver it with

Towards a Programme Framework for a North East Climate Coalition – chickens and eggs

- CEOs of all 12 NE Local Authorities and 3
 Combined Authorities
- The NE Local Enterprise Partnerships
- The Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership
- The Environment Agency
- The Health Strategy Group, Integrated Care system (CCGs, Hospitals, Public Health)
- Schools North East (linked to 1,150 schools)
- HE via Sustainability leads and a first group of Research institutes/departments
- CBI, Chamber of Commerce and FSB
- Regional TUC

- The North East England Nature Partnership
- The Tees Valley Nature Partnership
- Groundwork NE & Cumbria
- Youth Focus North East
- Climate Action North
- Northumberland Wildlife Trust
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- Social Action Leaders Network
- North East Cultural Partnership
- NewcastleGateshead Initiative
- The Common Room NEIMME
- Redhills Durham Miners Association

We started with a basic, three-part framework for thinking about Climate Change in the Region



We argued that Climate Change was 'different in kind' and not amenable to 'local' or even regional address

Climate

Emissions & energy emergency.

To net zero carbon before 2050

Driven by hard Science

Nature

Environmental destruction & ecology breakdown.

Resilient nature is also part of global climate amelioration

Transition

A Just

Cultural

&

Political

change

Socially, economically, historically & generationally just national and international transition

Essentially regional in impact with cumulative global consequences

Essentially global in impact with specific regional consequences

We evolved a mission 'To become England's Greenest Region' that worked but had a weakness

Personal +& household

Walk the talk locally & regionally.
Campaign nationally & internationally

Local & Regional

Action locally, in the work place & in organisations

Global

Globally important R & D in North East HE & industry

Impacted by global communication global corporations & capital

Regional & National

'To become England's Greenest Region'

(by 2030)

National & International

To be acknowledged as the birthplace that fuelled the Industrial Revolution. Now transforming after an unjust transition to a post-industrial economy.

What if we added a focus on the national investment needed? Our address to Climate Crisis might then be:

Climate Crisis

True Zero Carbon

To achieve true carbon zero before 2050 in terms of Green House Gas emissions and energy use

Capital investment in regional infrastructure: to achieve targeted outputs and outcomes; to create jobs and to support people and communities as they transform

Investment in: Power generation, distribution, storage, insulation, housing, transport, industry, offices, public buildings, farming, digital, retail etc

That might produce this for Ecology Breakdown:

Ecology Breakdown

Exponentially net positive

By 2025 in terms of significant and sustainable outcomes and outputs for the natural world

Investment in natural capital: to nurture, renew and re-wild the natural environment; to increase bio-diversity; to create jobs and to support people and communities as they transform.

Investment in: land, rivers, sea and air, in farming, forestry and fisheries and in the natural environment in cities, towns, estates and villages

and this in terms of 'A Just Transition'

A Just Transition

Exponentially net positive

By 2025 in terms of significant and sustainable outcomes and outputs for people and place

Investing in human capital: to promote aspiration; to create jobs; to support workers through job transition and to support people and revitalise communities as they transform

Investment in: Health and wellbeing; social care; education; skills and training; culture and heritage; local community facilities and the local environment

Climate Crisis

True Zero Carbon

To achieve true carbon zero before 2050 in terms of Green House Gas emissions and energy use

Capital investment in regional infrastructure: to achieve targeted outputs and outcomes; to create jobs and to support people and communities as they transform

Ecology Breakdown

Exponentially net positive

By 2025 in terms of significant and sustainable outcomes and outputs for the natural world

Investment in natural capital: to nurture, renew and re-wild the natural environment; to increase bio-diversity; to create jobs and to support people and communities as they transform.

England's Greenest Region

Becoming

A Just Transition

Exponentially net positive

By 2025 in terms of significant and sustainable outcomes and outputs for people and place

Investing in human capital: to promote aspiration; to create jobs; to support workers through job transition and to support people and revitalise communities as they transform

Towards an illustrative NE Climate Coalition Framework

Strategic partners	Possible Regional Programme strands	Connections
Local Enterprise Partnerships	Becoming England's Greenest Region	UN COP 26 and IPCC
Local Government	Media, Comms and PR On-line presence	UK Presidency 2020 & 2021 UK Climate Change Committee
Higher and Further Education	Climate Crisis	UK Presidency Programme
Business organisations & TUC	Ecology Breakdown	UK Government Departments and investment Programmes
Nature Partnerships	A Just Transition	UK Climate Coalition (NGOs)
Schools North East	Prospectus launch	UK National and International Civil Society movements (NB re COP 26)
Health – Integrated Care System	Statement of Ambition for 2030	Political Parties
Environment Agency	Annual Regional Climate Conference	Export potential
Civil Society	Research Evaluation and a 'Test Bed'	Other global 'place based' projects

2] ...and Civil Society within that overall programme?

•to support people and communities as they transform

Can we do that and address the aims of the Climate Action Fund which:

- will support communities across the UK to take action on climate change.
- will demonstrate what is possible when people take the lead in tackling climate change.
- will support projects that will work together, share their learning and be active participants in a broader movement of change
- aims to reduce the carbon footprint of communities.
- will support up to 15 place-based community-led partnerships to make the changes in their community they believe will have the biggest impact on climate change.