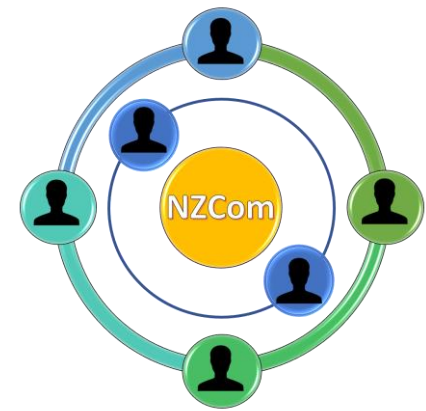


NZCom Questions for Communities

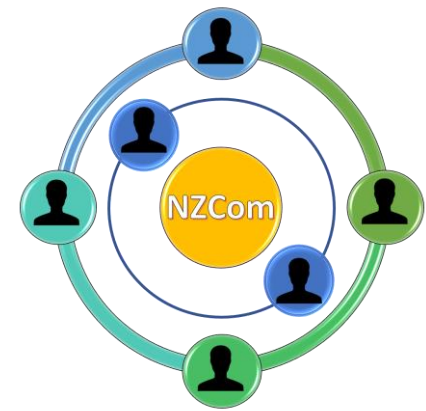


By integrating a wealth of information relating to technological and societal change, future energy scenarios can help to shape a framework for decision-making relating to housing, energy infrastructure, transport, and social engagement. They can be valuable tools for a range of stakeholders, including (but not limited to) investors, community groups, parish or town councillors, and the local public.

When starting discussions around what the transition to net zero might mean for your community and how you might go about achieving it in a desirable timescale, questions should be asked about:

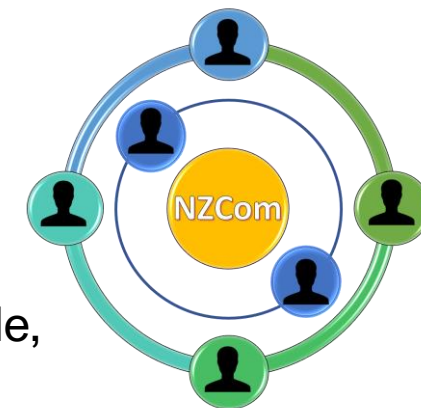
- Local engagement
- The social and technological feasibility of reaching net zero
- Local housing
- Renewable energy generation and infrastructure
- Local transport
- Cross-cutting issues

Local engagement



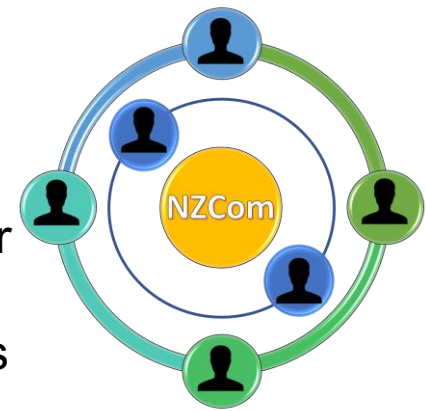
- How engaged is our local community in sustainable energy issues?
- How do groups in our neighbourhood interpret and interact with the net zero agenda? What actions have been taken so far to engage our community on net zero issues and/or vulnerability?
- How can the parts of our community that are currently unable or unwilling to engage in energy issues be included?
 - How are their views considered in the outcomes we want, as well as in decision-making processes?
- How can existing capacity and work that has already been done by local organisations be used to engage our community, particularly those who might be difficult or less likely to engage?
- How can our group increase the range of people and other organisations advocating and working towards inclusive net zero pathways in our community?
- How does energy relate to people's 'sense of place'?
- Do considerations about access to and consumption of energy and wider net zero issues resonate with local priorities and concerns?

The social & technological feasibility of reaching net zero



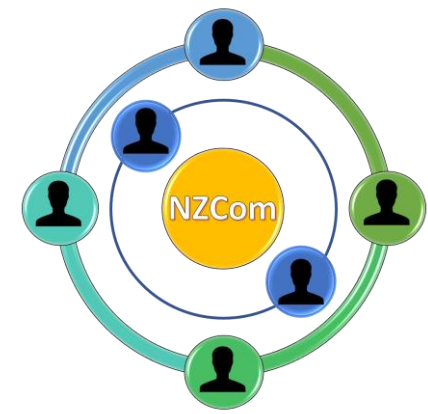
- In thinking about programmes to retrofit energy efficiency measures at a community scale, what resources do we need?
 - Consider: access to advice and information, the capacity and skills of local installers, maintenance of infrastructure; also, are there locally trusted groups that will help provide endorsement of any plans?
- What are the range of local attitudes in support of / opposition to increased wind and solar power generation in our community?
- What avenues are there to engage with people who are not currently engaged with energy issues in our community?
 - This may include ensuring that local councillors and other key decision-makers are supportive of your plans.
- How easy is it to connect new renewable energy infrastructure to the local network?
 - Are there any local constraint issues with the electricity grid?
- What renewable energy resources already exist in our area?
- What is the potential for additional renewable energy generation in our area?
- How do the regional projections align with local ambitions for new renewable installations?

Local housing



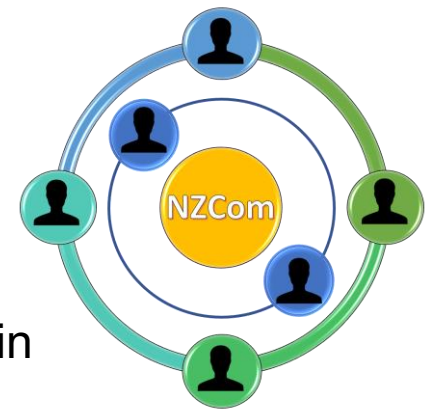
- Are there any specific challenges relating to retrofitting energy efficiency measures in our local building stock?
 - For example, higher than average numbers of detached properties, lots of properties with solid wall or prefabricated construction.
- Are there any properties in our community not connected to main gas network (off-gas)? Where are they?
- Are there conservation areas, AONB, or other planning constraints that will impact the delivery of area-based programmes?
- Is it possible to identify quick wins for energy efficiency programmes that we can promote?
- Is there a Neighbourhood Plan(s) for our area?
- What does it and the current Local Plan propose for standards for new homes built in the future and how can we influence this?
- What plans are there for retrofitting existing housing stock with energy efficiency measures in our community?
 - What investment in skills will be needed in the area to achieve this?
- Are there local exemplars of low carbon homes that could be replicated?
- How can vulnerable households in our community be assisted to access plans for decarbonising their homes?

Renewable energy generation and infrastructure



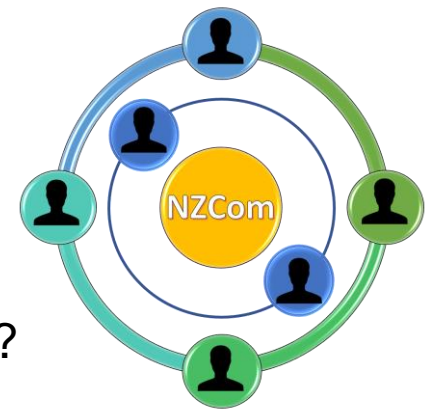
- What are the key energy challenges and opportunities for our community?
- What does the existing Neighbourhood or Community Plan say about renewable energy generation?
- What aspirations for the growth in renewable energy assets are included in the Local Plan (i.e., at the primary authority level – Unitary or County Council)?
- What opportunities exist to develop new renewable generation assets, such as solar PV or wind?
 - Where could these assets be sited in the area (on buildings or land)?
- What forms of governance are most appropriate to maximise success in terms of both local carbon energy and social outcomes?

Local transport



- What are the challenges and opportunities regarding a transition to low carbon transport in our community?
 - For example, train connections, bus routes, infrastructure for cycling and walking.
- What plans are there to introduce or extend active travel plans, for environmental and health reasons in our community?
- What plans are there to introduce electric vehicle charging points locally, to ensure accessibility, and that EV ownership is not dependent on being a homeowner or having access to off-road charging?

Cross-cutting issues



- What jobs and skills could be created through the transition to net zero in our community?
- What opportunities are there to align the transition to net zero with public health and environmental targets that have been established for our community?
- What activity or plans are in place to refer patients to support and advice keeping their homes warmer and free from damp to improve health outcomes?
- How might a local transition to net zero build on and support changes in neighbouring communities?
- What can we learn from other local communities who have trialled or delivered sustainability agendas?