



Transformative Action & Local Knowledge: Six dynamic ways to fight climate change



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About the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES):

The IES is a visionary organisation leading debate, dissemination and promotion of environmental science and sustainability. We promote an evidence-based approach to decision and policy making.

We are devoted to championing the crucial role of environmental science in ensuring the well-being of humanity now and in the future.

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Executive summary

Recognition of the current climate crisis and the challenge involved in addressing it has never been greater. Succeeding in the fight against climate change relies on effective action at every scale, from international agreements and national governments down to Local Authorities and communities.

Despite that, not enough has been done to transform strong ambitions for local climate outcomes into actions which align with pathways to a more sustainable society. The local scale is crucial to delivering on climate goals. Not only are many interconnected climate pressures significantly influenced by policy areas under the control of Local Authorities, climate decisions made locally also present a major opportunity to pilot policies which can then be scaled up to wider contexts. Importantly, given the extent of the challenge posed by the climate crisis, decisions at the local scale provide the opportunity to set out actions which are small and achievable but which can make a significant difference.

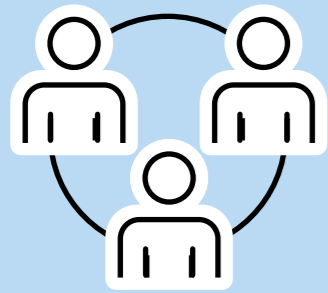
This report consolidates knowledge on local climate action, drawing on insights from across the environmental sciences, including on the natural systems which influence climate change and the social systems which determine whether or not climate action will be effective. The aim of the report is to share that consolidated knowledge with policymakers and decision makers, creating a positive vision where necessary changes can be viewed as the opportunities they are, rather than as risks.

To achieve this, the report recommends six dynamic changes in the ways Local Authorities operate to increase knowledge sharing between Authorities, improve monitoring and the measuring of success and progress, and to ensure wider recognition of the urgency of the climate emergency while also respecting the need for evidence-led action and appropriate governance. Crucially, it also recommends a culture of innovation which champions the use of 'living labs', pilot schemes, and the role of academia. The goal is not to instantly solve substantive climate issues, but to give Local Authorities and communities the tools to address these problems themselves.

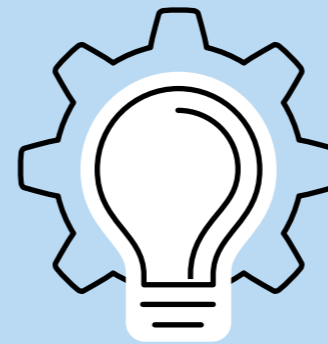
The most important practical step would be to work towards the creation of a platform for knowledge sharing to encourage the distribution of best practice and to give Local Authorities a license to create and innovate. Whilst this kind of platform would benefit from resources and the support of national government, professional bodies like the IES can play a role in co-producing simplified knowledge sharing systems until more sophisticated ones develop.

Despite the extensive potential of Local Authorities and communities to support climate action, there are increasing fears of the risk of a 'stale state' within which Authorities would become unable to act as needed to meet ambitions. In order to move towards dynamic delivery on the climate agenda, there are a handful of intuitive changes which make a big difference.

Policy recommendations



1. Local Authorities should adopt a common knowledge sharing platform to exchange innovative ideas and how they have learned from their action on climate change. This platform should be developed collaboratively by national and local governments. Until a single common platform can be created, knowledge sharing should be heavily promoted between Local Authorities and other partners.



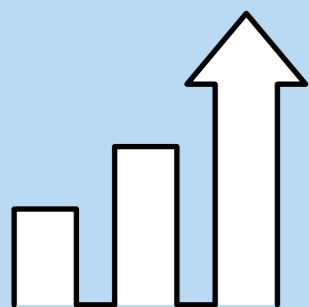
4. Local Authorities and national governments should embrace pilot schemes, 'living labs', and other forms of innovation which allow for action which recognises the urgency of an emergency situation while respecting concerns about finances, governance, and evidence-based decisions.



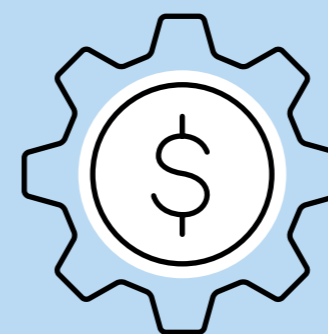
2. Local Authorities need to effectively utilise frameworks for measuring and tracking progress, replacing fear of failure with a clear drive to learn lessons from their work so far. Past plans must be consistently monitored against, even if strategies adapt and develop in response to monitoring or new governance.



5. Local Authorities need to push for a whole organisation commitment to action which unites the Authority and its officers at every level, giving every officer and partner a license to create, to innovate, and to fail, as long as collective progress is being made towards good practice which improves environmental outcomes.



3. Local Authorities must embrace and upscale monitoring, ideally through their own monitoring statements and through interim progress monitoring against medium and long-term plans for improving climate outcomes at local scales.



6. Local Authorities should be provided with the necessary resources to achieve these transformative changes. Though budgets are scarce at a local and national level, money and time spent towards creating a sustainable climate now will limit the need for further transitions in the future, saving money in the longer term.

Background on the report

The Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) is a membership organisation that represents professionals from fields as diverse as air quality, climate, transport, energy, waste, sustainability, and education. The organisation leads debate, dissemination, and promotion of environmental science and sustainability, and supports an evidence-based approach to decision and policy making. The Institution stands up for science, scientists, and the natural world.

Most importantly, the IES is an interdisciplinary organisation, representing specialisms from across the environmental sciences, so the IES has a unique ability to identify trends and bring together the best evidence from across the scientific community. Many IES members work on the front lines of climate action, so the Institution has first-hand experience of how important the local and community scales are to the delivery of environmental outcomes, especially in terms of climate change.

That perspective provided the insight that whilst many Local Authorities have strong climate ambitions, with widespread declarations of a climate emergency and increased activity, more still needs to be done to align the work of Local Government with the pathways we need to follow to fight climate change. In light of that, the goal of this report is to identify the barriers to action as well as practical solutions which can be put in place immediately.

This report was developed by incorporating the best available evidence from a range of existing reports, articles, and publications from across the environmental sciences, government, and international organisations. This evidence was considered in discussion with a working group of expert members, at a public engagement event, and through consultation with IES members, those working in Local Government, and representatives of community and environmental organisations.



Policy context

Local scales

As we search for climate solutions, there are several practical outputs of Local Government work which interact directly with climate pressures: energy, transport, waste management, infrastructure, planning, housing, finance, legislation, and culture are all systems where Local Government institutions have significant influence, and all have substantial ties to our ability to secure climate outcomes.¹ Though solutions are unlikely to simultaneously address all of these systems, it will be necessary to account for how they interact and how they contribute to climate change or its mitigation.²

Partly due to the number of interconnected systems involved at local scales, there are often disagreements about what our climate ambitions should be, or how to define key concepts, such as the debates around what it means to achieve carbon neutrality or 'net zero' emissions, and by what date this process should be complete.^{3,4} This report will avoid addressing these contentious issues directly, setting out ways to overcome the barriers to meeting climate goals, regardless of the nature of those goals.

Ambitions and declarations

Despite the scale of the challenge, Local Authorities have raised their ambitions for addressing climate pressures significantly.^{2,5} Hundreds have declared climate emergencies, and many have also set out climate action plans.^{1,6} However, these ambitions have not been universally translated into the delivery of strategies which align with tangible evidence-based progress towards fighting climate change.^{1,5}

Ahead of COP26, the UN's climate conference under the UNFCCC, there has also been progress at a national level. The UK Government has increasingly recognised the importance of the battle against climate change, especially in its 25 Year Environment Plan and the legislative agenda associated with it.⁷ The local scale will be crucial in meeting that ambition, which may require greater action to deal with the increasing challenges faced by Local Authorities.⁸

Now that the UK Government has signalled a move for more action, there is an increase in ambition at a local level, as well as some early action to provide more certainty for local developers on broader environmental issues, such as through Biodiversity Net Gain requirements in the Environment Bill.^{2,5,9} Despite that signal, Local Authorities are faced with significant challenges in delivering on the ambitions they share with the UK Government. More must be done to ensure the promise of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan is achieved, particularly in addressing the limited resources and capacity of Local Authorities.^{1,2}

Progress so far

In recognition of the importance of the local scale in fighting climate change, there are already many effective case studies, projects, and initiatives in place.^{1,3,10} However, these are not universally being effectively utilised to promote best practice. Therefore, more must be done to unite the many examples and approaches into a dynamic way forward for Local Authorities which recognises the need for subjective and contextual approaches to the different goals and challenges which communities have.¹¹

“More must be done to ensure the promise of the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan is achieved, particularly in addressing the limited resources and capacity of Local Authorities.”

COP26 presents the ideal opportunity to raise awareness of best practice, case studies, and other relevant evidence. These examples should be brought together in a single resource, presenting a relevant vision for what local areas could become, and how climate aspirations can be made a reality. In playing its part to address this challenge, the IES will build upon its experience as a visionary organisation driving an ethos of sustainability and learning, as well as its strength as a convening body which helps complex conversations take place between diverse stakeholders.

The report recommends solutions to the challenges of knowledge sharing, acting on aspirations, and changing cultures. Additionally, the Institution has begun taking the first steps towards providing a space for knowledge sharing between Local Authorities to become widespread and effective.

What are the challenges facing Local Government?

Communication

Barriers to communication may prevent effective climate action taking place.¹⁵ Linked-up action requires communication between Local Authorities and communities, within Local Authorities, and between the national and local scales. There are many structural barriers to effectively managing those scales of communication, along with differing perspectives and priorities for the stakeholders involved.^{3,4} Historically, this has also led to some areas where Local Government and communities have become disconnected, in which further empowerment may be needed.³

Innovative models including citizens' assemblies can provide opportunities for citizen and community engagement in climate decision-making, spreading awareness of evidence and information while enabling behavioural change within communities.^{2,12} Citizens' assemblies may also provide a means to bypass concerns around the political sensitivity of climate action where local political leadership would otherwise be less confident to act.¹² Despite these innovations, communication is still imperfect and presents a challenge for realising visions in practical terms.

Risk aversion

The political pressures on Local Authorities may lead them to avoid perceived risks or more substantial long-term projects without immediate rewards, in favour of policies with short-term benefits, where the overall effect on climate outcomes may not be as beneficial.^{13,14} Similarly, there may be a tendency to follow standard practices by other Local Authorities, further resisting against the transformative change needed to address climate change.¹⁵

Risk aversion often comes at the expense of innovative action to address social and natural systems as a whole.¹⁴ Many local authorities lack the skills, confidence, or resources to pursue innovative approaches and there can also be political sensitivities around the risk of failure.^{11,16,45} This has been exacerbated by overstretched resources and the natural pressures of the global COVID-19 pandemic.¹

Any innovative policy work leads to different outcomes for those involved, with those who are less successful potentially facing higher scrutiny. There may be prohibitive perceptions that the risk of failure is greater than the potential reward of success, particularly for political and executive leaders.¹⁶ Ultimately, Authorities which do not act are at risk of being 'left behind' during the transition. There are opportunities associated with the inevitable climate transition for those who are proactive, as well as risks for those who do not transition quickly enough. Local Authorities have a responsibility to help their communities secure 'just transitions' which share the benefits of climate action across their communities.⁴⁷

In order to act, Local Authorities need a positive vision which presents these necessary changes as an opportunity, rather than a risk, reducing concerns and encouraging more proactive strategies. Authorities want proof that concepts work and can be successful, though this evidence may not always exist.¹³ As a result, situations may arise where no Local Authority feels able to be the first to translate their vision into action.

Past social and economic schemes, such as the 'Fairtrade Towns' approach, indicate that Local Authorities may be amenable to undertaking substantial projects which would historically have been viewed as risks, as long as there is an appropriate vision in place and a chance to become a leading example of good practice.^{17,18}

Scaling up case studies and learning the right lessons

There are many positive projects and case studies, particularly on the built environment and local connectivity, which may offer Local Authorities clear and tested approaches.^{19,20,21} Examples include carbon positive homes, prosumer housing, local transaction models, and locality-wide initiatives like cycle-friendly cities.^{6,22,23,24}

Many of these initiatives could offer substantial value to Local Authorities which are not yet adopting them, and there is key learning which can be drawn from these case studies, even where adopting them without adaptation would be inappropriate.¹³ While learning from other places, it is also important that Local Authorities are able to innovate and drive their own ideas forwards, using the inspiration of case studies elsewhere to develop their own ideas and projects.¹³

Monitoring

Monitoring of progress at local scales is often not consistent enough to support the ambitions of Local Authorities.² Many Local Authorities produce action plans or strategies which are not uniformly monitored against or which are subsequently replaced without an assessment of progress.²⁵ In particular, there are limits to the consistency of monitoring statements and their role in tracking the progress of a given Local Authority over time.

Consistent monitoring may be viewed as burdensome on already limited resources, and may be challenging when strategies, leadership, and metrics for success are often subject to regular change in Local Government.²⁵ Despite these challenges, monitoring plays a crucial role in testing whether policies and strategies are having the desired results, and in facilitating productive changes in strategy.^{5,26} Monitoring should be built into projects and planning processes to ensure higher degrees of success in meeting initial targets.⁴¹

Given the complex natural systems involved in climate change, and the multiple interconnections between both policies and their consequences on those natural systems, it is important to check that progress is being made towards climate goals, while also evaluating the success or failure of individual climate policies against expectations.^{2,5} Crucially, monitoring forms a key part of the evidence base which Authorities rely on, including the quantified performance of an intervention which can empower proposals. Monitoring also supports the identification of emerging challenges or environmental harms and ensures environmental improvement is consistent.²

Natural systems

One inherent challenge facing Local Authorities is that they exist within confined boundaries, which natural systems like air, water, soil, and ecosystems do not recognise. The pressures which affect climate change work across local boundaries, and Local Authorities often lack control of the full social or natural systems they are trying to influence.^{27,28} This may require greater collaborative work between Authorities and may also pose limitations for the effectiveness of individual local policies.

“Local Authorities need a positive vision which presents these necessary changes as an opportunity, rather than a risk, reducing concerns and encouraging more proactive strategies.”

There are also associated knowledge barriers which prevent Local Authorities from having the information they need to respond to these challenges.² While some Local Authorities have expertise in using 'systems thinking' to support their climate action, including those involved in the Sustainable Scotland Network, this approach is not universal and policies are often implemented and monitored without explicit reference to the natural systems which may be affected.^{6,45,46}

Resources and capacity

Many Local Authorities are currently under-resourced or reliant on bidding for funds in order to improve climate outcomes.^{1,2} In some cases, Local Authorities and communities could benefit from receiving clearer information about funds and how to access them. Local Authorities spend significant amounts of money on public health, with more than £3.6 billion of spending in 2021-2022.⁴² Public health can mutually benefit from policies to support climate action, such as those relating to cycling or green spaces.^{24,32} Despite this, cross-budget initiatives to improve climate outcomes are not universally promoted.

Further apprehension to spend public money may exist where the benefits of action are felt outside the budgets which require

mobilisation to reach those outcomes. For example, the financial benefits of a healthy population may accrue to the National Health Service, even where spending which promotes healthier lifestyles is at a local level.³² Environmental approaches to improving public health may be less appealing where the benefits are not immediately experienced by the Local Authority responsible.³³ There may be opportunities to improve climate action through community assets where the costs and benefits of action are more tangibly linked.³

Concerns about limited resources may also contribute towards the tendency in local climate action to look for simple solutions to problems, or to identify a sole answer to the complex and interconnected causes of climate change. For example, some decision makers may view offsetting carbon emissions as a preferable alternative to mitigation at a local level. In truth, offsetting emissions complements reducing direct emissions but cannot replace mitigation or the transformation of social and economic systems which contribute to carbon emissions.⁸

Planning systems

Currently, the planning system in the UK has a limited capacity to support climate-positive outcomes and drive zero carbon developments or properly connected transport systems.^{2,16} The planning systems across England, Scotland, and Wales are expected to see further reform, though until these systems are addressed, current planning mechanisms are not yet sufficient to support the UK in meeting its ambitions for climate action and its commitments under international climate agreements.^{29,43,44}

The UK Government has sought to ensure that new homes are 'zero carbon ready' by the middle of the decade, though this commitment does not extend beyond making homes ready to be carbon neutral.³⁰ Without further action, small scale plans to retrofit existing properties will not address the unsustainable elements of the planning system as a whole.² Construction has historically required strong regulatory incentives to embed climate-positive outcomes, requiring legislation, standards, and funding to be aligned simultaneously.³¹ Without this, innovative ideas in the housing sector have not been able to be fully utilised.

Similarly, transport projects should address carbon from an early stage at a system level, recognising the interlinking context of decarbonising road transport as well as public transport.¹⁶ Transforming this system will require significant behavioural change in how people use vehicles, and will require recognition that addressing fuel in isolation will not remove all climate pressures in the transport system.⁶

What are the solutions for local climate action?

Knowledge sharing

The most important lesson to learn about climate action at local scales is that many of the answers exist already. Our goal should be to share the knowledge which we already have and ensure that it is available to support the right decisions being made in the right places. Local Authorities should share not only case studies, but also the evidence supporting the project and the learning gained from its implementation.

Appropriate forms of knowledge sharing could encourage greater communication, both between Local Authorities and with their communities, as well as overcoming risk aversion and supporting the scaling up and transferral of effective case studies.^{2,3,34} By reducing the time taken to find the appropriate information to adopt case studies, knowledge sharing also supports the process of innovation while reducing the challenges associated with limited resources and capacity.¹⁵ Although individual instances of good practice may be adopted elsewhere, more formal collaborations should be utilised to make information sharing the norm of Local Authority activity.⁴⁵

Recommendation 1: Local Authorities should adopt a common knowledge sharing platform to exchange innovative ideas and

how they have learned from their action on climate change. This platform should be developed collaboratively by national and local governments. Until a single common platform can be created, knowledge sharing should be heavily promoted between Local Authorities and other partners. The IES will work collaboratively with Local Authorities to promote this approach.

Learning and measuring success

Improved use of information and knowledge by Local Authorities should not be limited to where ideas originate. Local Authorities also need to be more consistent in learning from the actions they undertake. Often, the plans which offer the greatest insights will be those which are delivered, properly reviewed, and reflected upon to inform future plans.

Actions towards environmentally-positive outcomes should be measured continuously and consistently, as reliable monitoring is necessary for effective progress.⁵ Updated climate action plans and strategies should not displace measurement against past action or prevent evaluation of what was successful in previous plans.^{1,2} This approach to pursuing continuous success should be reflected across all levels within Local Authorities and their climate action plans, emergency declarations, and strategies.



Recommendation 2: Local Authorities need to effectively utilise frameworks for measuring and tracking progress, replacing fear of failure with a clear drive to learn lessons from their work so far. Past plans must be consistently monitored against, even if strategies adapt and develop in response to monitoring or new governance.

Monitoring

Historic barriers related to the consistency of climate action can only be solved with effective and regular monitoring of success. Once Local Authorities have exchanged knowledge and learned from their own projects, it is important that these understandings are placed in the context of long-term progress towards climate goals.² These goals may vary between Local Authorities, though a long-term perspective remains vital regardless of what system of monitoring is used to achieve it.

That long-term perspective requires consistency in the Authority's approach to monitoring, which should reference the same indicators and metrics over medium and longer periods.^{2,5} Where possible, indicators and monitoring data should be available to the public and other Authorities. 'Light touch' approaches to monitoring may be appropriate in some contexts, especially where capacity is limited, but this cannot be a substitute for monitoring of trends over longer periods of time. The long-term perspective is crucial to ensuring that individual actions lead to actual environmental improvement as well as establishing realistic expectations for performance and determining if expectations have been met.^{2,25}

Recommendation 3: Local Authorities must embrace and upscale monitoring, ideally through their own monitoring statements and through interim progress monitoring against medium and long-term plans for improving climate outcomes at local scales. Where possible, communities, businesses, and national governments should work to incentivise an increased recognition of the importance of monitoring.

Innovation

Climate action relies on dynamic, innovative Local Authorities taking action to find solutions which work in the communities they serve.^{8,15} Top-down direction of climate policy is important in some contexts, though local action will often be at its most effective when communities can work autonomously without the burden of complex bureaucratic structures.^{3,12}

Many Local Authorities have clearly established ways of working and some operate with high aversion to perceived risks; both of these factors may buffer against the processes of innovation which will be necessary to developing effective plans and projects to support climate action.^{13,14} Local Authorities should recognise the urgency of the climate emergency and act dynamically and flexibly to respond to that crisis. At the same time, they can remove any anxiety in the response to that emergency by showing those working for their organisation that they have permission to do what is needed to succeed.

Strategic approaches to innovation should be adopted where appropriate, including living labs, pilot schemes, and genuine

engagement with stakeholders to identify community-centred solutions.^{5,35,36,37} Ideas should be collected from a wide range of appropriate sources, especially from academia and the environmental profession in the context of increasing recognition of the importance of academics and science in decision making in the aftermath of COVID-19.^{15,16}

Recommendation 4: Local Authorities and national governments should embrace pilot schemes, living labs, and other forms of innovation which allow for action which recognises the urgency of an emergency situation while respecting concerns about finances, governance, and evidence-based decisions.

Ways of working

At every level, Local Authorities and their officers must embrace the approaches to knowledge sharing, learning, innovation, and monitoring progress set out in the recommendations above. This will often require significant changes in the ways that Local Authorities act and function.

Crucially, this change must be accepted across all levels. Both executive and political leaders need to see the reasons to act creatively and the potential to be recognised for finding innovative new best practice on climate action.¹⁵ Officers and agents of Local Authorities need to understand that they have a license to create and to imagine new ideas, but importantly also need to feel as though they can fail if they need to.¹³ Across the Authority, there should be targets and monitoring to make it clear that innovative climate action is a priority, as well as strategies and plans to demonstrate that it is viable.^{12,14}

The majority of new ideas will not result in best practice, but that best practice is only made possible by pursuing innovative ideas when appropriate, even if many new ideas do not succeed. Similarly, Local Authorities need to recognise that good practice need not solve the challenges of effective climate action on its own; pursuing a project which makes good progress towards addressing a single climate pressure may also be worthwhile.^{1,2}

Recommendation 5: Local Authorities need to push for a whole organisation commitment to action which unites the Authority and its officers at every level, giving every officer and partner a license to create, to innovate, and to fail, as long as collective progress is being made towards good practice which improves environmental outcomes.

Resources

Many of the work and transformations required by Local Authorities will necessitate appropriate levels of funding, staffing, and focus.^{1,2,11} These barriers will not always be within the power of Local Authorities to address and these resources must be in place to ensure that effective climate action is a possibility.

Tightly stretched resources and capacity make the necessary knowledge sharing and innovation significantly less likely, and Local Authorities need to feel able to act.¹⁵ National governments should

strongly consider whether or not Local Authorities are properly resourced to address the climate crisis.

Recommendation 6: Local Authorities should be provided with the necessary resources to achieve these transformative changes. Though budgets are scarce at a local and national level, money and time spent towards creating a sustainable climate now will limit the need for further transitions in the future, saving money in the longer term.

Planning and construction

In the UK, the planning system and construction sector have not historically been aligned with supporting climate-positive

outcomes.^{2,16} Across England, Scotland, and Wales, planning systems are expected to undergo significant changes, which presents an opportunity to address many of the challenges which have historically led to less environmentally-positive outcomes.^{38,43,44}

It is not yet clear whether the changes will improve the planning system's effects on the climate. As such, there are no formal recommendations in this report for the planning system. Whatever changes are made to the planning systems across the UK, more must be done to ensure that developments have positive effects on the state of carbon and other climate pressures.^{16,29} Regulation has previously proven to be effective at setting a 'level playing field' and promoting environmentally-friendly action, and may prove useful in the context of planning.^{16,31}



What can we expect from communities and individuals?

As the world becomes more and more aware of the impacts of climate change and the work which must be done to fight back, it is increasingly clear that solutions to the climate crisis cannot come from governments alone.³⁹ Widespread behavioural change is needed, which must be driven by communities and individuals.⁸ Similarly, some of the most significant signs of progress have come from individual people and communities taking stances and proactively working to improve climate outcomes, even before government policy is in place.^{3,5}

Communities and individuals seeking to support an increase in dynamic delivery have a number of options. The first is to encourage their Local Authorities to proactively work to adopt the approaches to knowledge sharing, monitoring, and innovating which are set out in the recommendations; communities can get in touch with elected representatives in Local Government to help support transformative action and the spread of local knowledge.

Some of the barriers to effective climate action at local scales also originate from the ways that our communities interact with our Local Authorities.³ Creating proactive and innovative plans

within Local Authorities will require strong community support and willingness, so community groups and individuals should act to promote the kind of transformative cultural changes set out in this report's recommendations.¹¹

Box 1. Influencing the policy process as an individual

The IES believes that individuals should encourage their Local Authorities and elected representatives to participate in knowledge sharing and collaboration whenever possible. As part of our work to represent the voice of science, scientists, and the natural world, we support our members having influence over policy and decision making.

If you want to know more about how you can influence the policy process where you live, you can get in touch with the IES by emailing info@the-ies.org or joseph@the-ies.org. Alternatively, you can find [more information about how to influence UK Government policy](#) on the IES website.⁴⁰



Closing thoughts

Our Local Authorities play an important role in our lives; often serving as the closest point of interaction with government. It is important that communities have ownership of their Local Authorities and can use them as effective vehicles to pursue robust climate action. Crucially, as we push back against the threat of climate change, we need Local Authorities which are dynamic, giving us the tools we need to create sustainable futures.

Where historically the work of Local Authorities on climate action has been at risk of becoming trapped in a 'stale state', there are major opportunities to ensure dynamic delivery of climate-positive outcomes. Good ideas have begun to develop at local levels, but they need to be spread. We need to learn from one another and help each other to reach the full potential we have to fight climate change.

To achieve that goal, there are six dynamic changes which Local Authorities can make to tip the scales towards a more sustainable future: (1) embrace knowledge sharing and work wherever possible to exchange ideas and learn from one another; (2) acknowledge the need to learn lessons and measure both success and progress; (3) better utilise monitoring frameworks to track change over time; (4) use innovation appropriately and often, utilising living labs, pilots, and other ways to find creative solutions to climate challenges; (5) embed these concepts at every level of the organisation and its culture to unite the Authority

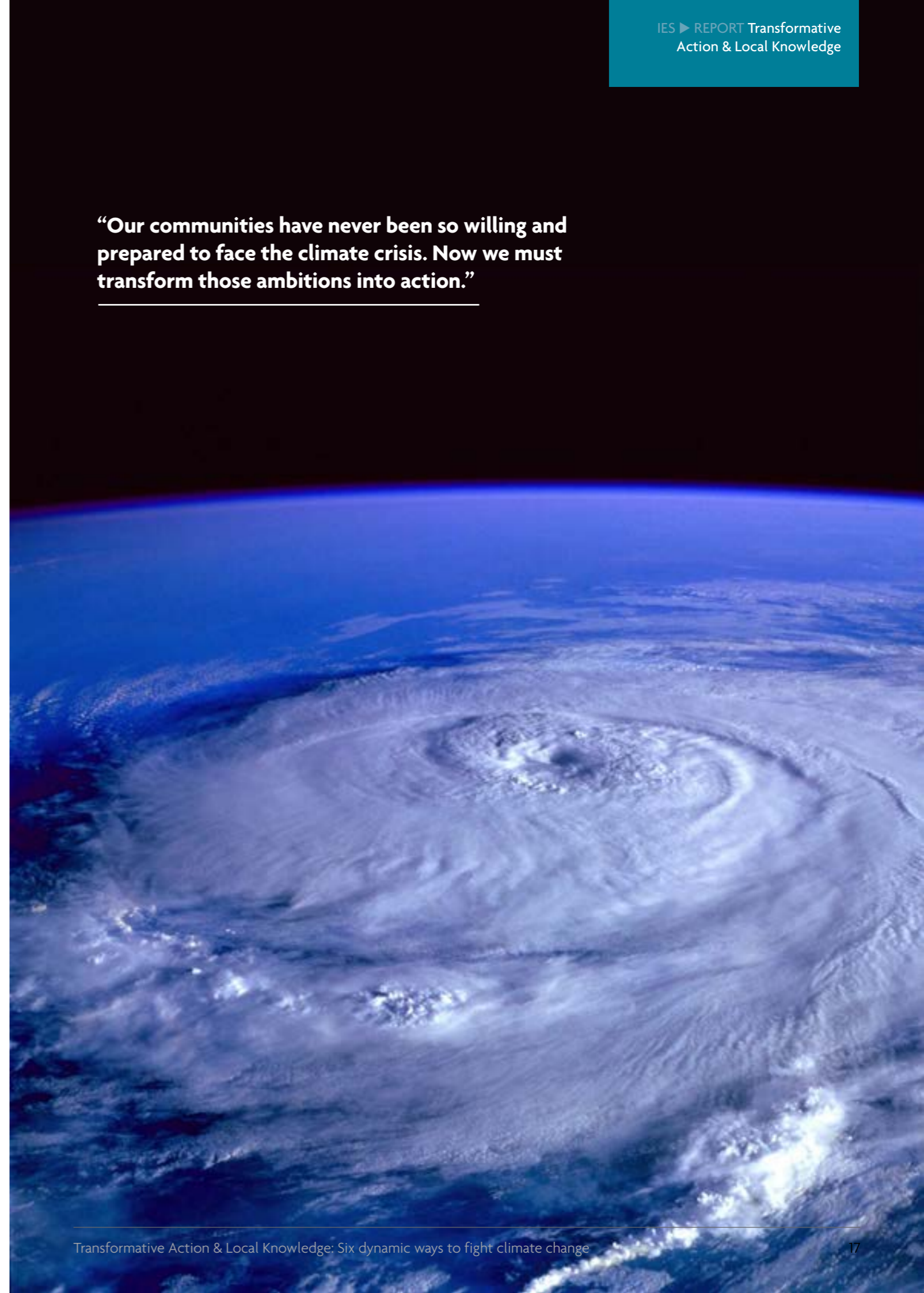
in pushing for success; and (6) locate appropriate resources to ensure the capacity needed to act, in collaboration with national governments where necessary.

In order to help Local Authorities pursue these goals, the IES will continue to work with its partners, especially in Local Government and communities, pushing for greater knowledge sharing wherever possible, and helping to equip Local Authorities with the tools needed to succeed. The ultimate goal should be to create a knowledge sharing platform where ideas can be quickly and effectively shared across local scales.

For a long time, much of the discussion around climate change has focused on the scale of the challenge or the risks of certain courses of action, especially at local levels. That challenge is not outside our reach, and collectively we can fight back. In order to do so, we need to work as a collective, which means transforming climate action at local scales.

Our communities have never been so willing and prepared to face the climate crisis. Now we must transform those ambitions into action. Overcoming the barriers of the past will require transformative approaches to knowledge, learning, cooperation, innovation, measuring success, and monitoring progress. However, with a renewed approach, local communities have much to offer in the continuing fight against climate change.

“Our communities have never been so willing and prepared to face the climate crisis. Now we must transform those ambitions into action.”



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