

FAO:

Hannah Jewell
request-936993-0becab73@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 13th February 2023

Dear Ms Jewell,

Our Response to your Freedom of Information Request: Council Staff Working on Climate Action 16/01/23

Thank you for your enquiry received on 16/01/23.

We have endeavoured to answer your request to the best of our ability, as per below:

Your Request:

1a. How many staff does the Council directly employ (excluding contractors or subcontractors, and excluding teachers), that work directly for the Council as opposed to a school, leisure centres or other venture?

Our Response:

5,308 staff.

Your Request:

1b. How many directly employed staff spend 3 or more days per week (0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects? Please provide a list of all the roles. Please exclude waste management staff unless they are specifically working 3 or more days per week on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects.

If you have answered yes to have a biodiversity planning officer and/or a retrofit staff member below, both these staff members can be included in this question even if they are contracted.

This is likely to include all staff in your climate/sustainability team, such as Climate Change Officers or similar. This may include full time staff who spend 60% of their time on climate change projects and 40% of their time on other work.

You might include other staff in other departments, such as a procurement officer

if they are spending 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE) on writing and implementing a sustainable procurement policy or a planner that is working primarily on low carbon policies for new buildings.

Our Response:

There are 15 members of Newcastle City Council staff working more than 3 days per week on the 'Net Zero Newcastle – 2030 Action Plan' in total.

This includes 6 staff in the Net Zero team:

- 1 Principal Advisor for Climate Change
- 1 Climate Change Advisor
- 1 Climate Policy and Delivery Officer
- 3 Climate Change Support Officers

The remaining 9 roles are:

- 1 Technical Specialist (Major Projects)
- 2 Senior Specialist/Advisors (Major Projects)
- 1 Senior Housing Renewal Officer
- 1 Energy Officer
- 1 Engineer
- 1 Forest Manager
- 1 Ecology and Environmental Design Officer
- 1 Project Manager
- 1 Technical Advisor.

Your Request:

2. Does the council have one or more staff member who works on home energy efficiency retrofitting, such as retrofit officers or project managers across the council area, for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE)? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). The work of this officer may include working on any retrofit projects, including council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households.

Please list any roles that work in this area, including the full time equivalent (FTE) if they work part time.

Please include staff members that are shared with other councils, such as between county and district councils, and note if they are shared across other areas.

Our response:

Our total number of Council engaged staff and contractors working on home energy efficiency retrofit and energy efficiency and low carbon heating system retrofit to non-domestic buildings for 3 or more days per week is 62.

Current Council employees working on home energy efficiency retrofitting for 3 or more days per week (3 No.): 1 Senior Housing Renewal Officer, 1 Energy Officer and 1 Designer

Current Council employees working on energy efficiency and low carbon heating system retrofit to non-domestic buildings for 3 or more days per week (5 No.): 1 Energy Officer, 1 Technical Project Manager M&E, 1 Senior Specialist/Advisor, 1 Project Manager and 1 Technical Advisor.

Current contracted staff delivering home energy efficiency retrofitting works on behalf of the Council for 3 or more days per week (5 No.): 1 YHN-employed Assistant Contract Surveyor and 4 Warmworks Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Engineers.

Current contracted staff delivering energy efficiency and low carbon heating system retrofit to non-domestic buildings on behalf of the Council for 3 or more days per week (49 No.):

- 6 No. contractors working on PSDS with Technical Consultant: 1 Director, 1 Electrical Engineer, 1 Maintenance Consultant, 1 Senior Mechanical Engineer, 1 Building Services Engineer and 1 Project Engineer.
- 3 No. contractors working with Cost Consultant and Quantity Surveyor: 1 Partner, 1 Assistant Quantity Surveyor and 1 Project Manager.
- 12 No. contractors working with Energy Partner: 1 Head of Sustainability, 1 Commercial Lead, 1 Quantity Surveyor, 1 Compliance Manager, 2 Carbon Solutions Engineer, 1 Design Co-ordinator, 1 Construction Manager, 1 Project Manager, 1 Commercial Manager, 1 Verification Officer and 1 Site Manager.
- 1 No. contractor working with Technical Advisor for Heat Networks: 1 Senior Engineer.
- 11 No. contractors working on Low Carbon Skills Fund projects: 1 Project Manager, 1 Site Manager, 1 Project Director, 1 Buried Network Designer, 1 Senior Technical Manager, 1 Head of Mechanical Engineering, 1 Head of Design, 1 Senior Mechanical Engineer, 1 Mechanical Engineer, 1 Planner, and 1 Adoptions Manager.
- 5 No. contractors are working on live Air Source Heat Pump installations in schools: 2 project managers, 1 senior project manager, 1 project manager advisor and 1 director.
- 6 No. contractors are working on School Retrofitting Projects including 5 installation engineers and 1 project director.
- 4 No. contractors working with an Energy Conservation Consultancy: 1 head of energy, 1 quantity surveyor, 1 contracts manager and 1 project manager.
- 1 No. contractor for Legal Advisor – 1 Senior Lawyer.

Your Request:

3. How many planning ecologists (ecologists within the planning department) or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE) does the council employ to scrutinise planning reports for Biodiversity Net Gain? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE).

Our Response:

We have 1 No. Ecology and Environmental Design Officer working for 3 or more days per week delivering our Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request you can ask for an internal review of our decision. Please send details of your request for review to the following address:

Freedom of Information
Newcastle City Council
Civic Centre
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8QH
Phone: 0191 211 6500
Email: freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk

If you are still unhappy with how we have handled your request following our internal review you can complain to the Information Commissioner. Contact details are as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Laura Jackson

Climate Change Support Officer

-----Original Message-----

**To: Freedom Of Information Requests Mailbox
<freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk>**

**Freedom of Information request – Council Staff Working on Climate Action
From: Hannah Jewell Climate Emergency UK <request-936993-0becab73@whatdotheyknow.com>**

**To: Freedom Of Information Requests Mailbox
Mon 16/01/2023 19:45**

Dear Newcastle upon Tyne City Council,

Please treat this as a Freedom of Information/Environmental Information Regulations request.

I would like information about your council's staff positions in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information is most likely to be held by a HR department or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

1a. How many staff does the Council directly employ (excluding contractors or subcontractors, and excluding teachers), that work directly for the Council as opposed to a school, leisure centres or other venture?

1b. How many directly employed staff spend 3 or more days per week (0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects? Please provide a list of all the roles. Please exclude waste management staff unless they are specifically working 3 or more days per week on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects.

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even if they are contracted.

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You might include other staff in other departments, such as a procurement officer if they are spending 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE) on writing and implementing a sustainable procurement policy or a planner that is working primarily on low carbon policies for new buildings.

2. Does the council have one or more staff member who works on home energy efficiency retrofitting, such as retrofit officers or project managers across the council area, for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE)? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). The work of this officer may include working on any retrofit projects, including council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households.

Please list any roles that work in this area, including the full time equivalent (FTE) if they work part time.

Please include staff members that are shared with other councils, such as between county and district councils, and note if they are shared across other areas.

3. How many planning ecologists (ecologists within the planning department) or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE) does the council employ to scrutinise planning reports for Biodiversity Net Gain? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE).

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Hannah Jewell, Climate Emergency UK

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

request-936993-0becab73@whatdotheyknow.com

Is freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Newcastle upon Tyne City Council? If so, please contact us using this form:

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