

Broads Authority

28 July 2023

Agenda item number 10

Race to Zero

Report by Carbon Reduction Projects Manager

Purpose

To inform members about the Race to Zero scheme and the UK National Parks' ambition to join the scheme, and the next steps the Broads Authority needs to take to join.

Broads Plan context

A3 - Agree carbon reduction targets for the Broads National Park and promote action to reduce emissions.

Recommendations

To:

- i. note the information on the Race to Zero Scheme and
 - ii. support the Broads Authority joining the Race to Zero scheme and affirm the required commitments.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The UN Race to Zero Campaign is a global initiative aimed at addressing climate change by mobilising various stakeholders to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. It was launched in 2020 in collaboration with the COP26 Presidency and is aligned with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The UN Race to Zero Campaign is coordinated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat. Further information can be found at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>.
- 1.2. The UK National Parks Climate & Energy Group began exploring Race to Zero as part of the process of applying for a stand at COP26. Committing to join the Race to Zero was a requirement for participating in the COP26 pavilion. Although the bid for a stand at the pavilion was not successful, the initiative was kept under discussion, with work co-ordinated by Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority.
- 1.3. The objective is for all UK National Parks to make a collective decision to join, with a target date of August 2023.

1.4. One of the joining conditions is to establish a science-based target for reaching Net-Zero, so it ties in with the work by all UK National Parks with Small World Consulting Ltd to develop footprints for each National Park. The Broads' work was completed last year and presented to members at a workshop on 25 July 2022. The full report from Small World Consulting is available [here](#).

2. Requirements of Race to Zero in the context of the Broads

2.1. Each Race to Zero member must commit to five actions (the five Ps):

- **Pledge:** to take concrete action toward or beyond a fair share of the 50% global GHG reduction needed by 2030, and to reach net zero by 2050 at the latest.
- **Plan:** within 12 months develop an evidence-based emissions reduction plan in line with the pledge.
- **Proceed:** take immediate action towards meeting the pledge.
- **Publish:** commit to report data and actions in relation to meeting the pledge, publicly and at least annually - feeding into the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal.
- **Persuade:** align lobbying and advocacy activities with net zero by proactively supporting climate policies consistent with the Race to Zero criteria.

2.2. The National Parks Climate and Energy Group met with representatives of Race to Zero on 25 April 2023 to discuss what this means in the context of a Protected Landscape, and the work that has been done by each of the Parks to date.

2.3. **Pledge:** The essential requirement is a public declaration, and an official decision taken at the highest level within the organisation. For the Broads Authority this means publicly declaring an ambition to follow the Small World targets presented last year, with a member decision at an Authority meeting, along with information on our website regarding Race to Zero, and a supporting press release.

2.4. **Plan:** In the [report](#) presented to members last December, we set out a series of actions that we would seek to implement in regard to the various footprints identified in the Small World Report. Some work would be required with the Race to Zero Champions to ensure this is in an adequate format, however it is a strong basis to start. This plan would need to be published on the Broads Authority website, and regularly updated.

2.5. **Proceed:** The Authority needs to agree to follow the plan and commit resources to its delivery. This includes continuing to finance the Carbon Reduction officer role, investing resources in projects such as installing solar panels at the dockyard, using biofuels where electrification is not yet viable, and developing emission savings measures in the Broads Authority's operations. There is also officer time needed to support securing external funding (such as the Peatland Restoration bid or the FibreBroads Project) and continuing to develop external funding pipelines and projects.

2.6. **Publish:** The reporting templates will be provided by the Race to Zero organisation. Annual reporting would be carried out with information already collected by the

Authority, documenting progress towards its Net-Zero objectives. The annual report would be published on the Authority's website, as well as presented to members.

- 2.7. **Persuade:** The National Parks are seen as being well placed to influence behaviour changes at an individual and organisational level, by informing their inhabitants and visitors about the importance of their actions in fighting climate change and enabling companies operating in their areas to act to reduce their emissions. The Authority can carry this out by supporting projects which enable farmers to increase their sustainability, such as those developed by the Broadland Catchment Partnership, Farming in Protected Landscapes and FibreBroads. Other relevant examples include the on-going review of the Sustainable Tourism Plan and seeking funding to support sustainable tourism in the Broads.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1. If members support the proposal, the Authority would aim to complete the application by the end of August 2023. Participation in the scheme will be discussed at the National Parks' Chairs meeting, and it is anticipated that all parks will opt to join the scheme.
- 3.2. Assuming all National Parks agree to submit a joint application, then the Authority, along with the National Communications team, would support a joint media effort.
- 3.3. Submission of the delivery plan, in line with the **Plan** commitment, would be due in August 2024. This would be an updated version of the plan presented in December 2023, which would be presented to members at the July 2024 Authority meeting.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. The scheme is free to join, as is the ongoing reporting. Broads Authority staff time is required for the submission of annual reports. The data collection would form part of climate change tracking, and procedures would be designed to avoid duplication of effort. This work can be carried out within the existing staff resources.

5. Risk implications

- 5.1. If the Broads Authority fails to make progress towards Net-Zero objectives then this would be highlighted through the reporting, leading to a potential loss of reputation and confidence.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The Race to Zero campaign fits well with the ambitions of the Broads Authority and provides a clear accountability mechanism to drive action. Joining with the other UK National Parks would be a powerful tool to inspire action.

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Background papers: [Climate Change update \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](https://broads-authority.gov.uk) (December 2022)

[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: A3