





Integrating the SDGs into Urban Climate Plans: Insights from the UK

Subhes Bhattacharyya, Leticia Ozawa-Meida and Birgit Painter
Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development

De Montfort University, UK

4th July 2019

The support of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is gratefully acknowledged through ES/S013547/1 (SDG-Capacities project)





SDG-CapaCities

ESRC collaborative networking project between UK (De Montfort University) and Japan (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies)

- Develop an understanding about climate planning and SDG awareness of cities in two countries
- Examine interagency coordination within cities and central-local government relations
- Develop a framework of analysis to evaluate the readiness of cities
- Identify and develop a network of researchers in Japan, UK and elsewhere who may be interested in similar issues







Aim and objectives of the paper

Conduct a preliminary analysis of the integration of the SDGs in the climate action plans of urban areas in the UK

- To identify whether city-level climate actions consider sustainable development of cities
- To explore the alignment of UK cities' climate actions and plans with SDGs



UK Local Authority background



SDGs through governance Conference on Energising the appropriate technology and

Country (principal authorities)

United Kingdom

- 353 in England
- 22 in Wales
- 32 in Scotland
- 11 in Northern Ireland

England (urban and rural authorities) URBAN - 125 single-tier authorities - 16% geographical area - 53% population RURAL - 228 two-tier authorities 84% geographical area - 47%

population

Local level 56 Unitary Councils 36 Metropolitan Borough Councils 33 London Borough Councils 27 County Councils 201 District

Councils

Education Highways Transport planning Passenger transport Libraries Social care Housing Leisure and recreation **Environmental** health Waste collection Waste disposal Planning application

Strategic planning

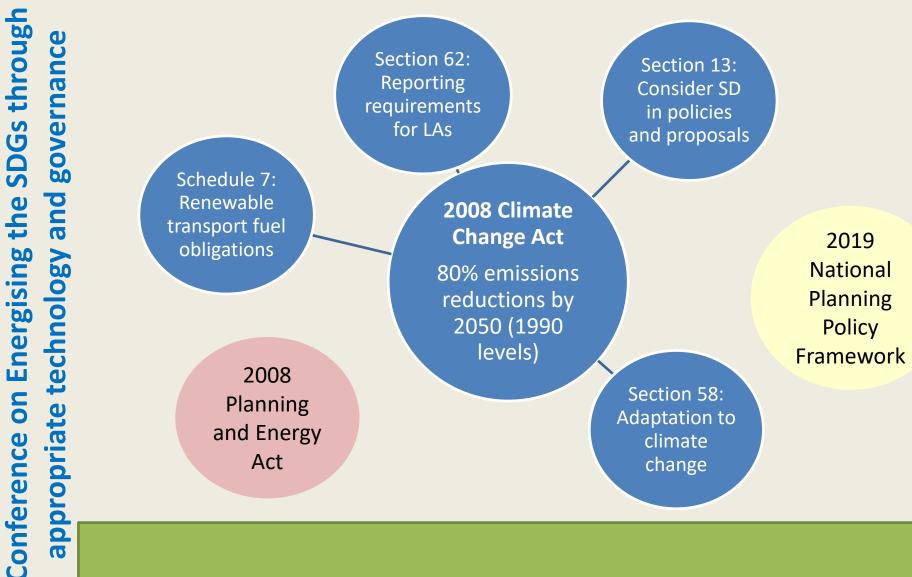
Local taxation



DE MONTFORT

Legal and Policy Context



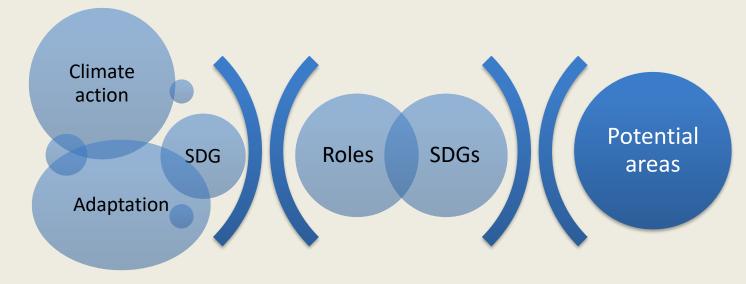






Methodology





Text analysis

- Systematic analysis of main themes using NVivo and Voyant tools (word clouds / word trees)
- Selected LAs: Bristol, Leicester, Milton Keynes

Mapping

- Selection of 26 UK local authorities (CoM signatories)
- Quick scan of local climate mitigation, adaptation and SD plans
- Mapping of LAs services and related SDGs

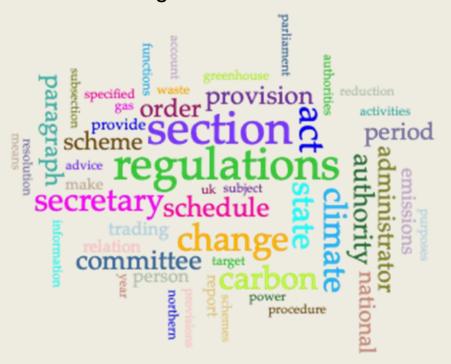
Alignment

- Exploring to what extent cities are directly or indirectly influencing the climate-driven SDGs
- Work in progress





Climate Change Act 2018 word cloud



Commonly occurring terms:

Climate change: 323 times

Sustainable Development: 7 times

Sustainable: 17 times

Adaptation: 28 times

Local authorities: 11 times

 Missing terms: city, urban area, mitigation

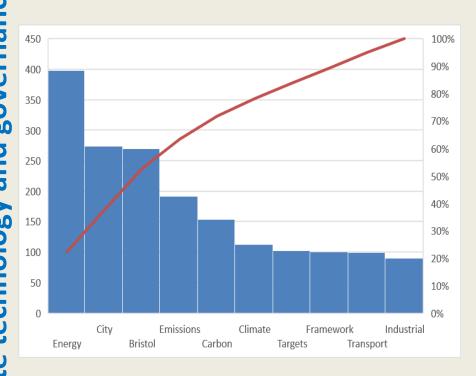
Greater emphasis on adaptation

 No direct obligations impose to cities regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation

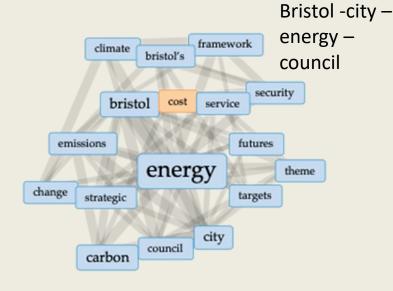




Bristol Climate Change and Energy Security Framework



Most frequent words Pareto chart



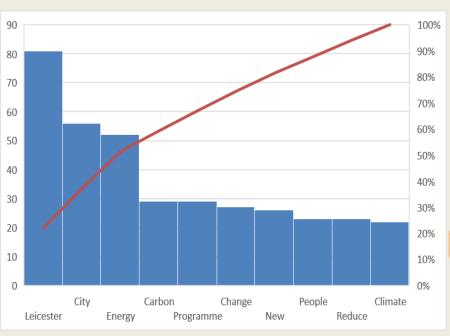
Energy – security – Bristol – climate – city – framework - efficiency

Word linkage

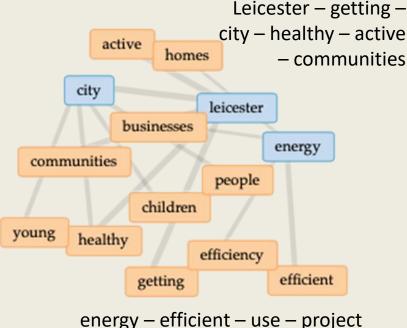




Leicester 2014 Low Carbon Plan





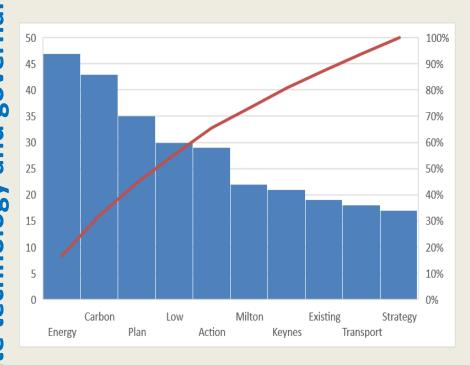


Word linkage

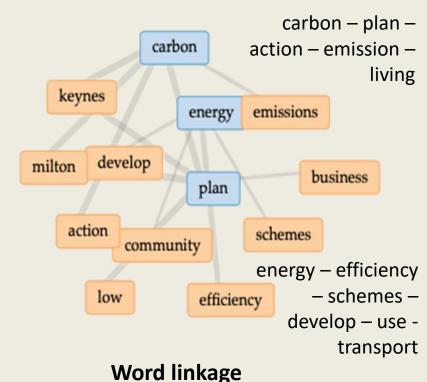




Milton Keynes 2012 Low Carbon Plan

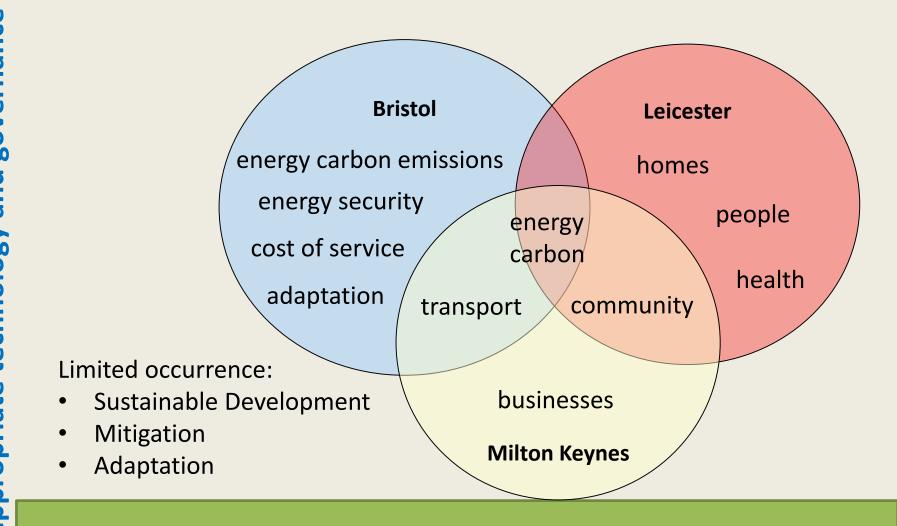


Most frequent words Pareto chart





Summary of selected cities







SDG mapping of climate actions

Approach: How city-level SDGs are influenced by climate actions?

SDG example: (Bristol Green Capital Partnership, 2018)







Example of city goal:

Significantly increase renewable energy use and improve energy efficiency

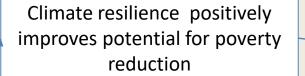
13 CLIMATE ACTION



DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER

SDG mapping of climate actions

Reinforcement



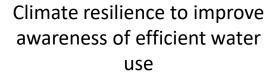


50% less people in poverty in the city compared to now

Climate action reduce pollution and promotes sustainable activities



Reduce by 1/3 all premature deaths from non-communicable diseases





Substantially increase efficient use of water

Climate actions supports awareness about production and consumption



Substantially reduce waste and improve awareness of consumption





SDG mapping of climate actions

Enabling effect

Climate adaptation measures reduces the risk of food insecurity



End all forms of malnutrition, including children under 5, pregnant women and elder people

Climate actions create new opportunities for jobs and skills



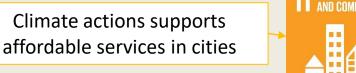
Ensure access to quality early childhood care and education.

Significantly increase the number of people with relevant skills for decent jobs.

Decent employment for all



New businesses and skills improve the opportunity for decent jobs





Inclusive safe and affordable housing and services for residents



SDGs through governance onference on Energising the appropriate technology and Conference

CLIMATE ACTION



SDG mapping of climate actions Constraining effect or no direct influence

New technologies could increase exclusion of certain section of the population

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce exclusion in the society

Climate action likely to reduce the risk of damage and hence, social tension



Reduce violence and related death





Conclusions

- Despite no direct obligations of cities in the 2008
 Climate Change Act, LAs should report policies and progress towards national emissions reduction targets
- City-level climate action plans differ considerably, with limited and indirect link to Sustainable Development
- Climate actions can support the achievement of citylevel SDGs
- Better alignment could benefit local authorities and citizens





Next steps



- Map SDG targets against climate action objectives
- Further thematic analysis of documents



WORK IN

PROGRESS

- Thank you for listening!
- Welcome suggestions and questions



Conference





References

- Bristol Green Capital Partnership (2018). Driving the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda at City level in Bristol, Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Bristol (https://bristolgreencapital.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/07/Bristol-Method Driving-the-SDGs-agenda-atcity-level-in-Bristol 17-Jul-2018.pdf)
- Leicester City Council (2014). Carbon Reduction Roadmap, Leicester.
- Milton Keynes Council (2012). Milton Keynes Low Carbon Action Plan 2012, Buildings Control and Sustainability Team, Milton Keynes.
- Nilsson M, Griggs D, Visbeck M (2016). Map the interactions of sustainable development goals. Nature 534:320-322. https://doi.org/10.1038/534320a