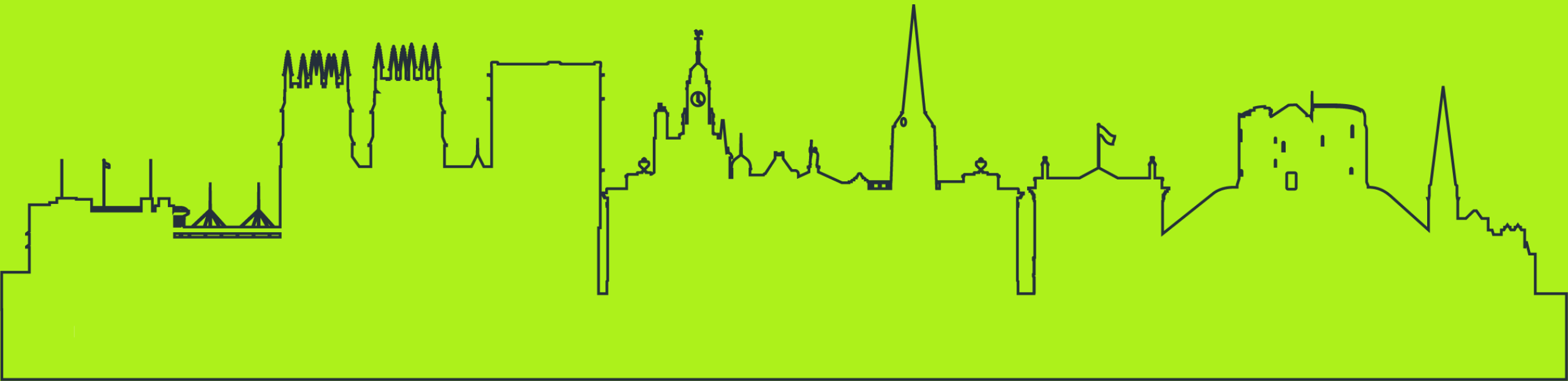


Climate Emergency Update



Background

City of York Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019 in response to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report, "Global Warming of 1.5°C", Oct 2018. This report said that, unless emergency action is taken, global warming will likely reach 3°C with disastrous consequences.

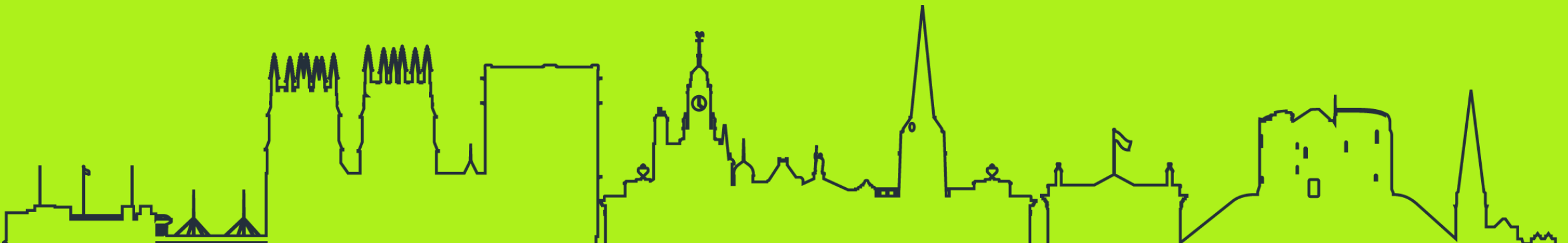
As part of the declaration of a Climate Emergency, the council recognised that whilst lots of good work and progress on climate change has already been achieved, much more needs to be done.

A target of becoming carbon neutral as a city by 2030 was set. A report went to Council Executive in August 2019 to update on activities already underway. Since then, significant progress has been made to support carbon reduction and we are planning further activity to accelerate the impact of activities.



What does this update include?

- What the Council could do to become carbon neutral itself
- What the City could do together to become carbon neutral
- What we, as individuals, can do to reduce our carbon footprint



What could the Council do to make itself carbon neutral as an organisation?

What the Council could do for itself

Heat

Reduce our fossil fuel use for heating and the amount of heat that is lost from our buildings

- Invest in modernising council houses to provide much better insulation
- Convert or replace existing boilers to low carbon alternatives

The 2020/2021 budget outlines a capital programme of over £40 million to support refurbishment and improvement of council housing stock

- Utilise low carbon technologies that convert energy in the ground, water and air into useful heat.

The Guildhall Project is using a water-source heat pump to generate heat for the building

- New buildings should aim to be very low or zero carbon and must consider the future phase out of fossil fuels in their design

CYC Housing Design Guide 2019 provides guidance on the delivery of low/zero carbon homes



What the Council could do for itself

Transport

Reduce our need to travel, encourage sustainable travel options and reduce reliance on fossil-fuelled vehicles

- Increase the use of electric vehicles in our fleet, with charging facilities to make them a practical option
 - We are investing in trialling electric vehicles for our waste fleet*
 - We are reviewing our fleet of cars and vans, with a view to move to electric as soon as is practicable*
- Utilise flexible working and technology to reduce the need for staff travel
 - We are increasing our use of telephone and video conferencing, and webinars to ensure we only travel when necessary*
- Consider our approach to reducing carbon in all our services, including the frequency of services and the way we move around to deliver services
 - For example we have moved from daily deliveries to weekly deliveries in office supplies, saving time, travel and carbon*
- Encouraging our colleagues to travel to work by walking, cycling, using public transport or electric vehicles



What the council could do for itself

Electricity

Minimise our demand and maximise renewable electricity generation

Moving away from fossil fuels to heat our buildings and power our vehicles may increase our electricity consumption. We can mitigate the effect of this by:

- Switching to a green energy tariff on ALL electricity

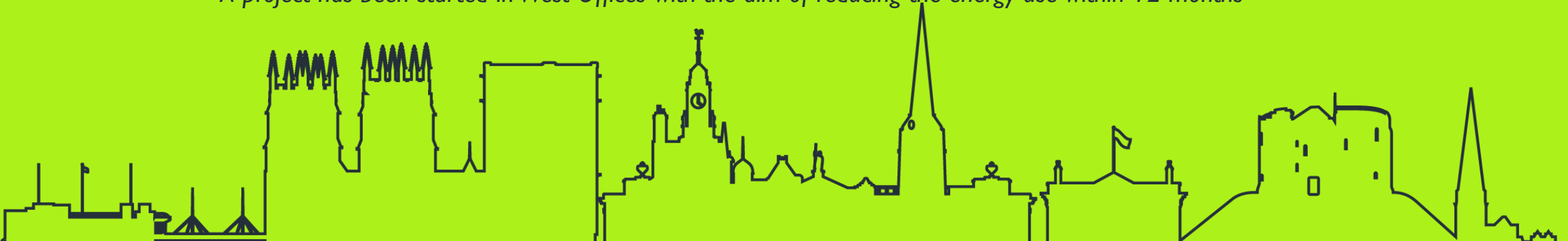
The council will be on a green energy tariff from 1st April 2020, this includes all street lights & traffic lights

- Maximising the generation and storage of renewable electricity on our land and buildings

Solar canopies are being planned for the new St George's Field car park and Hyperhubs at Park and Ride sites to support electric vehicle recharging. Addition solar panels are being installed at Hazel Court.

- Monitor our energy use and educate ourselves to lower our use and demand

A project has been started in West Offices with the aim of reducing the energy use within 12 months

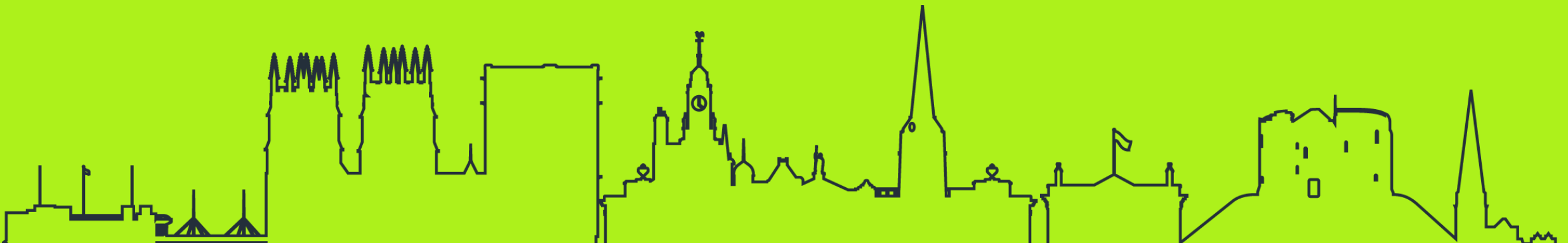


What the Council could do for itself

Policies and Practices

Review and update our policies and practices where necessary to ensure they embed a climate emergency ethos.

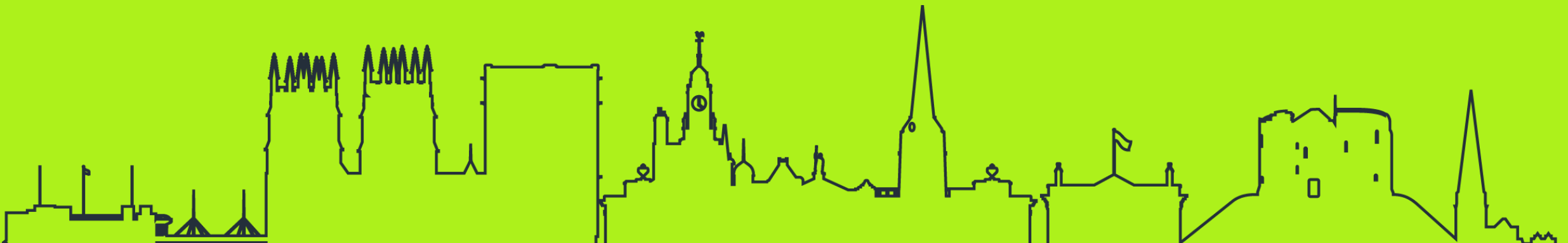
We are looking at our procurement policies to ensure they support a zero carbon future and developing supplementary planning documents in relation to ‘Green and Blue Infrastructure’ and ‘Carbon Reduction, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design and Construction’.



What could York do as a whole
city?

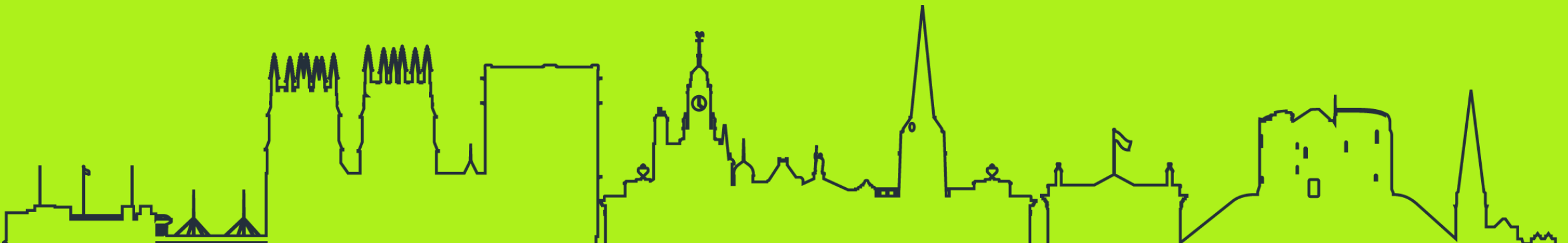
What the City could do together; businesses & academia

1. **Renewable Energy** – appropriately increase York’s use of its natural, renewable energy resource. Move to Green Energy tariffs - on the whole they are often cheaper!
2. **Buildings** – Improve the energy efficiency of our buildings and increase our use of low carbon forms of heating, by:
 - Moving to solar generation, air, water or ground source heat pumps where possible across your buildings
 - Insulating as best you can; loft lagging, double glazing, draft proofing
 - Measuring your usage and feedback regularly to colleagues to support energy reduction
3. **Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure** – support colleagues in walking, biking or using public transport to get to work
4. **Land use** – support citywide planting of 50,000 trees in 3 years
5. **Waste** – Reduce levels of waste, increase re-use, recycling and composting
6. **Education** – making sure we’re all aware of what we can do - working together we can make a great difference!



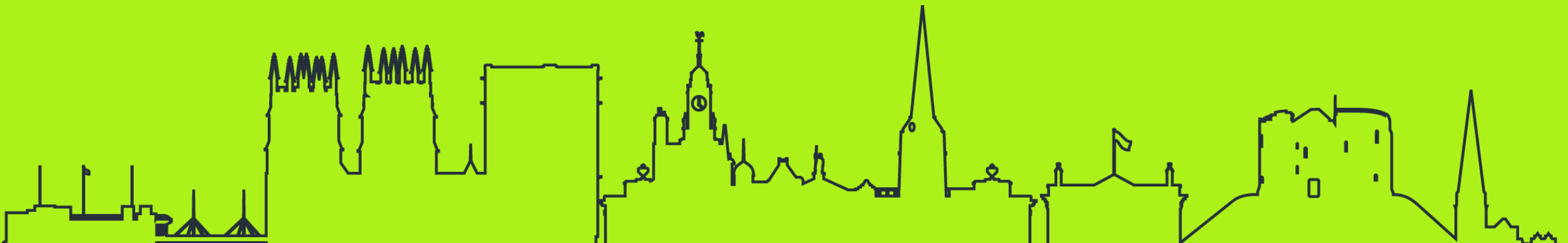
What the Council could do to support the city's actions

1. **Renewable Energy** – the council is writing new Supplementary Planning Documents to support and guide the use of renewable and low-carbon energy solutions
2. **Buildings** - The council is supporting Better Homes Yorkshire to encourage the use of better insulation in the private homes across the city.
3. **Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure** – The council is investing in electric charging points for vehicles, better cycling and walking infrastructure and supporting the conversion of the city's bus fleet to electric.
4. **Clean Air Zone** – the Council has the only voluntary clean air zone in the UK, supporting the shift to electric buses.



What the Council could do to support the city's actions

- 4. Land use** –The council is progressing the Local Plan, supported by policies including thermal efficiency, alongside policies which promote biodiversity and tree planting. The council is also proposing the planting of a significant number trees (50,000) across the city
- 5. Waste** –The council is considering how it can increase the available of green bins across the city and increase the range of recycling options for residents, increasing the city's recycling performance. Recycling rates are already strong in the city.
- 6. Education** –The council is looking at options to promote citywide engagement in climate action.

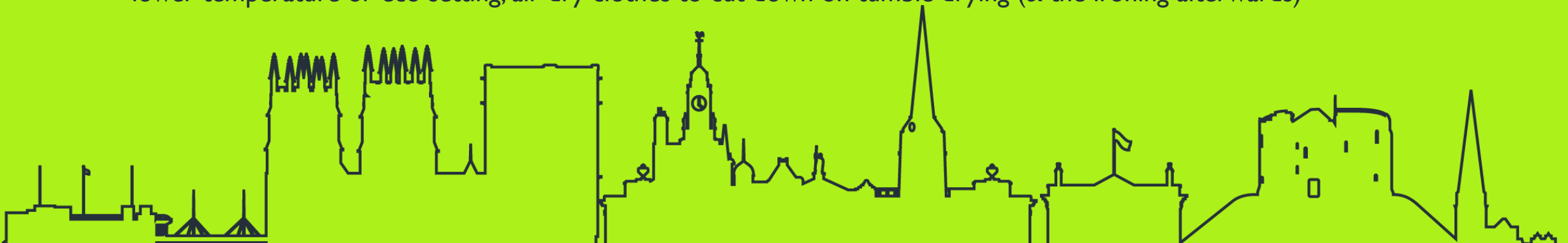


What can individuals do to
reduce their carbon footprint?

What, we as individuals, can do?

Where possible:

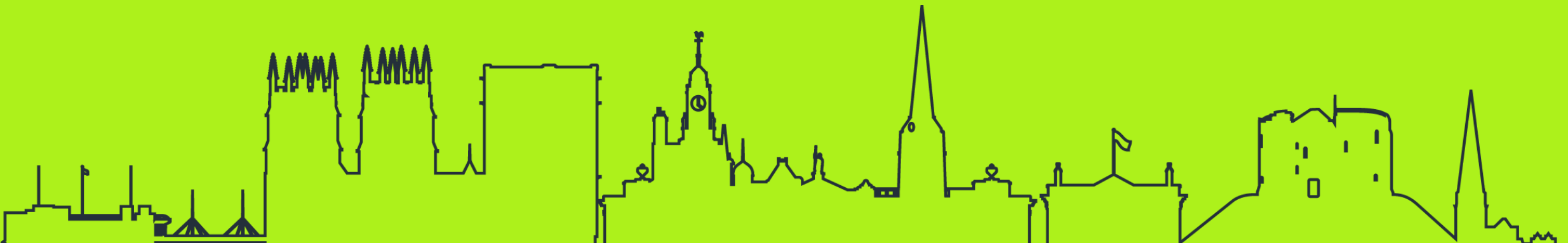
- **Use less energy for heating** – turn down the thermostat by 1°C or more, put on a jumper rather than turning up the heating, stop draughts and ensure your home is insulated. Look to see if you are eligible for grants for insulation or more efficient boilers or heating systems – see www.betterhomesyorkshire.co.uk
- **Use less energy for hot water** – make sure your boiler is on the most eco-friendly setting, don't leave hot water taps running, take a quick shower rather than a bath.
- **Lighting** – Turn lights off, use natural light where possible, use energy efficient LED lighting
- **Food** – Try to eat less meat if possible, buy locally and only what you need, composting all suitable waste
- **Washing and Drying Clothes** – Wait until there is a full load before using the washing machine, use a lower temperature or eco setting, air dry clothes to cut down on tumble drying (& the ironing afterwards)



What, we as individuals, can do?

Where possible:

- **Electrical appliances/gadgets** – Purchase the most efficient equipment you can, turn off all equipment when not in use, turn off phone and laptop chargers when not in use.
- **Rubbish** – Reduce, reuse and recycle as much as you can.
- **Travel** – Walk, use a bus, train or cycle; walk or cycle part or all of the way where possible, combine activities to reduce car journeys; car share; reduce the number of flights you take and consider buying an electric car if you can.
- **Renewable Energy** – switch to a green energy tariff; consider the suitability of your home for the installation of renewable sources of energy, like solar panels or air/ground source heat pumps.



What, we as individuals, can do?

If possible:

- **Gardens** – plant a tree or sponsor one through the Woodland Trust, compost what you can, mow lawns less frequently and create wild areas in you garden.
- **Education** – help other people to understand what they can do too.

