



## 2023 ESG OBJECTIVES

## ELECTION YEAR PRIORITIES

Discussion Paper – GHG (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) – See [2019 List of Objectives for more detail](#).

**Climate Change Strategy (CCS)** – Climate Change is the most serious issue facing humanity today. The **CCS** is the critical tool setting out Gibraltar's carbon responsibilities and pathways to achieve meaningful reductions. ESG will campaign during this election year to ensure priorities to meet the climate emergency are adopted by all parties with clear, defined timeframes for implementation. By reducing GHG we also reduce pollution and improve public health.

### Current situation-

- The **CCS** needs Government funding to rollout its aims and meet deadlines (**which must be re-set & published**)
- Produced as a **dynamic document** ESG would like to know if and when this paper will be reviewed?
- The **CCS** aims to reduce our **City Emissions** that include: **Transport** (*aviation, local boats, road transport*), **Energy** (*commercial & residential*), **Building** and **Waste**. According to the **2020 GHG Inventory Report**, this will factor **approx. 10%** of emissions directly attributable to Gibraltar.
- The lion's share of emissions attributed to Gibraltar comes from our **sale of fossil fuels** for **Bunkering, International Shipping and Non-local road fuel**. These account for **around 90%**.
- There is no plan/ or detail in the **CCS** at present to diversify from this oil trade as an economic pillar, an omission the ESG has long been critical of. Any movement here will be seen as positive but should feature in the **CCS** going fwd.
- Gibraltar cannot declare itself a green city while we continue to trade in oil.
- Gibraltar's independent **Climate Committee** asserts in June 2023 that much more needs to be done:- <https://www.chronicle.gi/gibraltar-very-much-at-start-of-road-to-net-zero-economy-ccc-finds-2/>
- Governments own recent **Aspire Conference** called for urgent action on all climate-impacting activities – these words need action from Government leaders and support from cross party MPs as well as the business community.

### Further points:-

- **CCS** – Is wide ranging. **Must be costed, funded and prioritised**. Who decides this? **Professional Outsourcing?**
- **Climate Change Committee** made up of external members and 2 Gibraltar based citizens (scientist and business person). No NGOs involved. ESG has lobbied for transparency and independent reporting by this Committee to share its recommendations to Government as well as resources needed. **We now have seen a first statement from them and know we have it all to do**. However there is no detail published, more of a broad summary. Community must be engaged.
- **Parliamentary Select Committee** – This **cross party representation** announced at the last election has yet to **meet which is hugely disappointing**. All parties signed up to the Climate Emergency Pledge in Parliament and met with protesters calling for unity to support this important position. We don't want more promises this election; we want cross party agreement to prioritise an approach that can deliver meaningful reduction in ALL of Gibraltar's GHG. More visible priority to be made by ALL political parties and every section of Government. Every party to include a commitment to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Climate Change as a priority in their manifesto.
- **Net Zero Delivery Body** to present its report to Parliament.
- **Development and Construction in Gibraltar – CCS** includes several references to this impact and carbon cost. **Gains have been made** with the Net Zero Energy requirement from new build being legislated but more should be done on **retrofitting existing buildings** and on ensuring that key Green building measures are legislated into planning law and not wait for the next Development Plan, still a couple of years away, while we build, build and build. Green areas should also be legally protected from new development even if not in a park or nature reserve. Carbon assessments of existing structures and possibilities of reuse-over-demolition should also be applied in planning. Holistic and strategic planning for short, medium to long-term needs should be applied as well as gauging a sustainable pace for construction, protection of important heritage sites, conservation areas and public amenity lands. **DPC Mtgs** must resume to physical meetings, which made these far more accessible.

### General:

- **On Waste Water Treatment Plan** – **2023 has to be the year that we sign up** the start of the construction of this plant. The sheer volume of construction & development warrants some type of moratorium until this infrastructure and support projects are underway, if not completed. Infrastructure too must be resourced to eliminate odour pollution and contamination from overspill from storm drains. Additionally ESG has pushed for years for best technology to be used in the sewage treatment plant to optimise energy use and reduce waste produced as a by-product of treatment. Eg. Anaerobic digestion.
- **Solid Waste Plant** – Gibraltar is a high volume waste creator and **we have to step up with adequate facilities** and processing sites to handle this. Brexit has created many problems here and therefore pressing for suitable modern premises to be made available asap. Furthermore we need to match the rapid, physical growth of our community with 21<sup>st</sup> century waste handling, maintenance and cleansing support.

- **Energy - CCS** explores the many areas where energy is the core GHG emission producer in Gibraltar.
  - While Renewable Energy quota continues to grow this must increase. ESG welcomes the [update given in the Minister for the Environment budget speech on how solar energy is beginning to make serious inroads on our energy use and hope to see detailed reports published soon.](#)
  - Active promotion of [green measures and incentives](#) within the **CCS** is necessary.
  - Are [soft loans for solar projects](#) contained in the **CCS still available?**
  - While our **water desalination system** saw major upgrade with latest technology and systems reviewed to reduce leaks and waste in the network, it is still a massive energy user in Gibraltar. It places pressure on us to find a reliable and clean energy source (currently diesel and LNG) to move us away from fossil fuel.
  - Our **LNG/Diesel Power Station at the North Mole** is evidently cleaner than its 3 aging and illegal predecessors, however LNG reduces GHG by 25% only. We still await publication of [real-time stack emission data](#) in an easy to interpret format. This, we are told, is imminent but it is taking too long. Concerns arise regarding [volume of diesel used/skid generator](#) role and storage capacity to respond to incidental power cuts.
  - We hope that as part of the **CCS** a plan will soon be in place to move us away from our major reliance on fossil fuels for day-to-day needs and replaced with clean, renewable energy. (Even looking at Morocco's solar farms (as the UK is doing), often mentioned, but nothing serious yet?).
  - A positive move for removing [idling fumes from shipping berthed in our port/dockyard](#) with [onshore power provision is excellent news](#) and shows it can be done here. Next Extension Jetty and Cruise ships.
- **Recycling Expansion** – Gibraltar conforms to EU standards on recycling but we need fit for purpose facilities by way of a [modern solid waste plant and well kitted out recycling centre](#). Direct encouragement of community and provision of more recycling bins supported by regulation will result in a more positive outcome.
- **Incineration - ESG is totally** opposed to this as managing any of our waste given the localised pollution this produces and threat to public health as well as a clear disincentive to community to recycle. The group has researched and presented Government with a few options in the past that could be considered such as **plasma gasification and anaerobic digestion**.
- **Rubble** – A challenge in Gibraltar not surprising given the pace of development and rate of demolition. [Review of situation needed](#) to determine what level of activity is sustainable (in terms of space and transport associated with construction activity).
- **General cleanliness and maintenance** – A seriously difficult job to do and much discussed by the community. ESG has carried out major campaigns since 2005 with latter years seeing attention given to difficult to access hotspots as well as central chronic areas. We lobby year round for attention to areas we tackle as well as for action on enforcement and facilities. [CUTW 2023](#) will be the **19<sup>th</sup> Community wide clean up in Gibraltar** encouraging several initiatives and seeing many areas improve over time. But social littering, fly tipping and vandalism continue and highlight the need for more fines and monitoring to change behaviour – [there must be consequences](#) for degrading the environment both for its sake and for others to enjoy. [Enforcement is key](#). [Litter Committee mtgs](#) have resumed fully and in person since Covid and are critical to ensure stakeholder discussion in both identifying chronic problems and finding solutions. [The Litter Committee](#) must continue, whoever is in office. Dog numbers create major cleaning challenge also.
- **EMF Emissions-** Gibraltar should continue to support the Precautionary Principle and keep mobile masts away from vulnerable groups such as children and young people, avoiding and minimising RF exposures in schools and classrooms (*2011 Council of Europe document 12608, section 5*).
- **Transport-** There are many areas where we think transport impacts must be addressed and agree with the **CCS** targets between 2020-2025. This has lapsed and needs to change. Critically the ESG believes that: Public Buses, Taxis and Coaches should run on hybrid and/or electric and [funding must be produced for this](#). 2<sup>nd</sup> hand buses operating the border route should be replaced urgently as [are operating and often seen idling](#) in busy areas, pumping out harmful emissions, which is totally unacceptable. It applies to all aging vehicles be they domestic or business. **Removing pollution from our streets is really important to our health**. As well as walking, cycling and using the bus we must tackle polluting vehicles simultaneously. A cleaner environment and road would greatly enhance the cycling and walking experience! The ESG understands there are companies talking to Government and industry about technologies and products that [can clean up dirty diesel emissions](#) and we believe our older and more polluting vehicles should adopt their use until they are replaced. One such company is called SulNox. This measure is also applied **to shipping** and could reduce pollution from our port also.
- The issue of [anti-idling and its enforcement](#) is still a losing battle but **MUST** be addressed.
- **The Climate Change Strategy** must be embraced for action [at cross party level](#), by businesses and the community. We all need to understand why it is so critical we take action. It will not be an easy task as we manoeuvre our way around **Brexit** and new arrangements with our neighbours. We must aim to reduce any **offsetting** in the strategy (currently being mentioned as solutions) and take bold, considered action together, to truly green up our community and our economy. We have a lot of work to do as does the rest of the world, we are running out of time, **but inaction is simply not an option**.
- **Conservation and protection of all green areas and marine environments**
- Contact us at [esg@gibtelecom.net](mailto:esg@gibtelecom.net) Visit [www.esg-gib.net](http://www.esg-gib.net) for our 2019 Wish list and more details.