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## BELFAST USING DATA TO MAKE EVERYONE A CLIMATE HERO

New climate data platform enables City to reach sustainability development goals.

(Belfast, UK - October 15, 2023) Today, Belfast City Council launched BCD, the new Belfast Climate Data platform to monitor and drive progress towards the city's climate goals. BCD serves as the one source of truth for climate data, analytics and climate simulations. BCD supports community adoption through decision making and collaboration to catalyse climate efforts in the city. Belfast citizens are, for the first time, removing more carbon than they are omitting according to city metrics. BCD provides the insights needed to continue progress and realize zero emissions by 2030.

Belfast has a range of climate goals including being committed to reaching net zero emissions. Measuring and understanding progress towards these goals has challenges around accuracy, completeness and timelines of the data and analytics. The lack of one trusted source of data makes it hard for leaders and the public to make informed choices about their impacts on the climate. All of this leads to confusion and a lack of action.

BCD solves this challenge by combining a data hub with a suite of customised designed data analytics and visualisations that align to city climate priority initiatives. BCD makes it possible for users in and out of the city to share data through a collection tool. All climate data is included in a located to a single space and includes additional metadata such as location and date/time. BCD also provides a simulation engine to allow users to model scenarios and see the impacts of changes over time. BCD is supported by auto-update functionality for data sets.

"I am delighted that Belfast is leading the way on the world stage by developing an innovative platform like BCD to measure the city's efforts to achieve net-zero", said Councillor Teresa Green, Chair of the Climate and City Resilience Committee at Belfast City Council. "With climate data at its heart, our residents and communities can get involved in delivering a sustainable and resilient Belfast".

BCD is an open-source, cloud based, software application users can access from any connected computer or smart device. The application is accessible without a login and includes a dashboard showing current progress towards city objectives and tabs to maps, data, research papers and training. Users can access raw data and build their own simulations or use a suite of stock reports and visualisations. Users can also register and get access to upload and share data and content. BCD has a facility to allow data producers to share data, but keep control.

"I never understood what climate change was or what it had to do with me. When the Council talked about the climate change action plan I thought it was another report that would just sit on a shelf and waste ratepayers money. When I saw the platform I was really surprised. I was able to see what the Council was doing in my postcode area," Joe Soap (50) a resident from East Belfast. "I knew solar panels and heat pumps were put in the leisure centre and this has reduced the energy costs which means I can get in cheaper. It's made me think about how I heat my own home and helped me understand climate change."

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