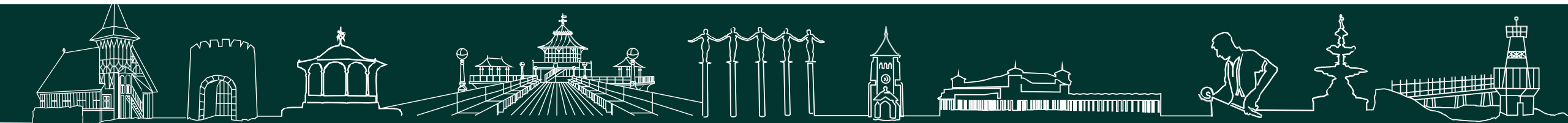


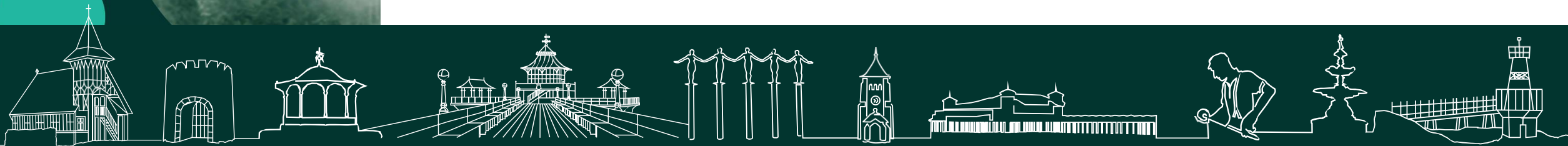
Enhancing Green Opportunities for SMEs in North Somerset

Victoria Barvenova, Head of Economy
North Somerset Council



“Green” is a corporate priority

- Council declared climate emergency in 2019
- Ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030
- North Somerset Climate Emergency action plan refresh
- Low Carbon Business and Skills

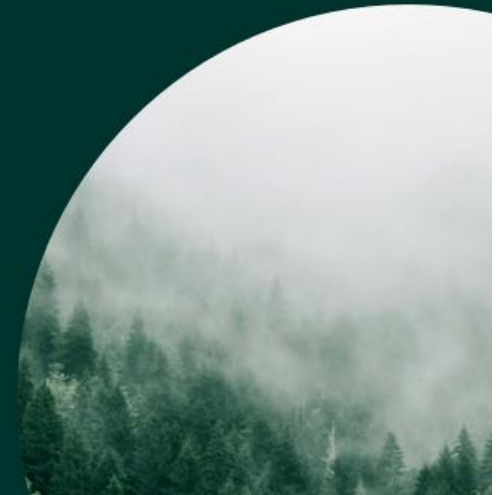


In 2021 LGA/NSC commissioned a report to:

- Assess SME sectors in North Somerset
- Understand challenges and obstacles SMEs face in exploring the decarbonisation agenda
- Identify key enablers to support SMEs take positive action
- Recommend business support programme activities to support SMEs carbon.

Enhancing Green Opportunities for SMEs in North Somerset

Local Government
Association
North Somerset Council



North Somerset SME Baseline analysis Top 5

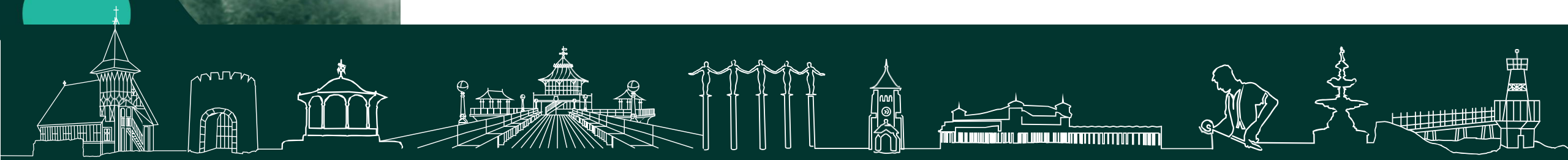
Only 6% of small businesses had measured their carbon footprint in the last five years

Top 5 GHG emissions by sector NSC

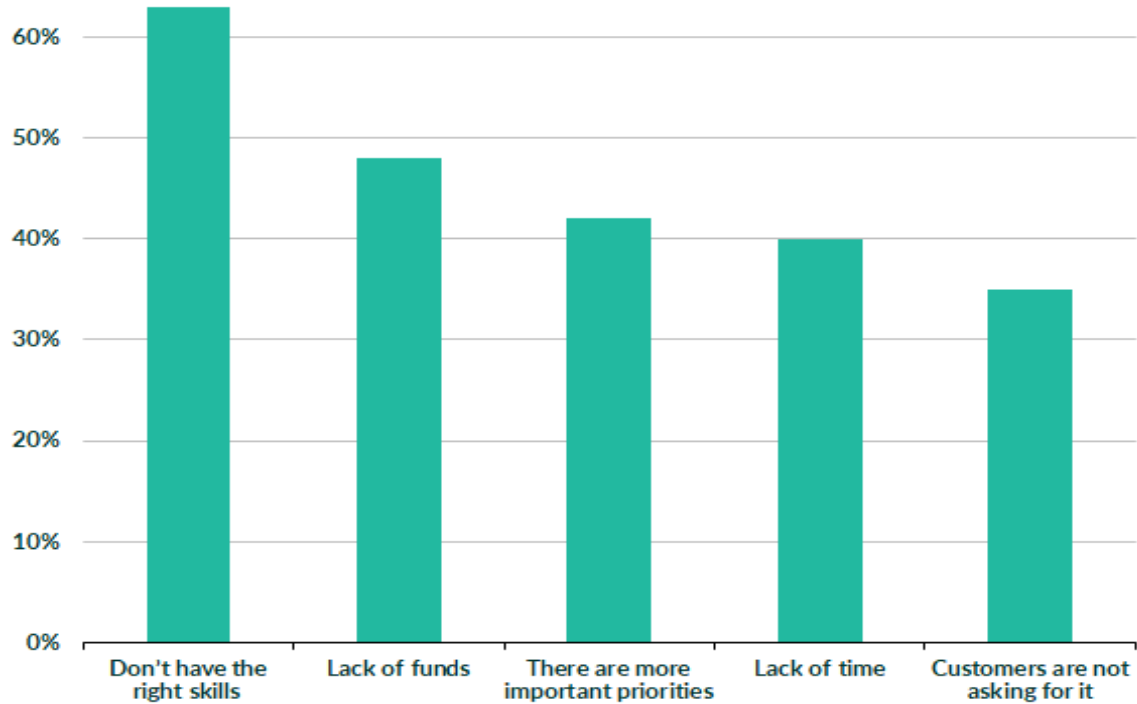
1. Manufacturing
2. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing
3. Transportation and storage
4. Construction
5. Wholesale and retail trade.

Top 5 GHG emissions by sector UK

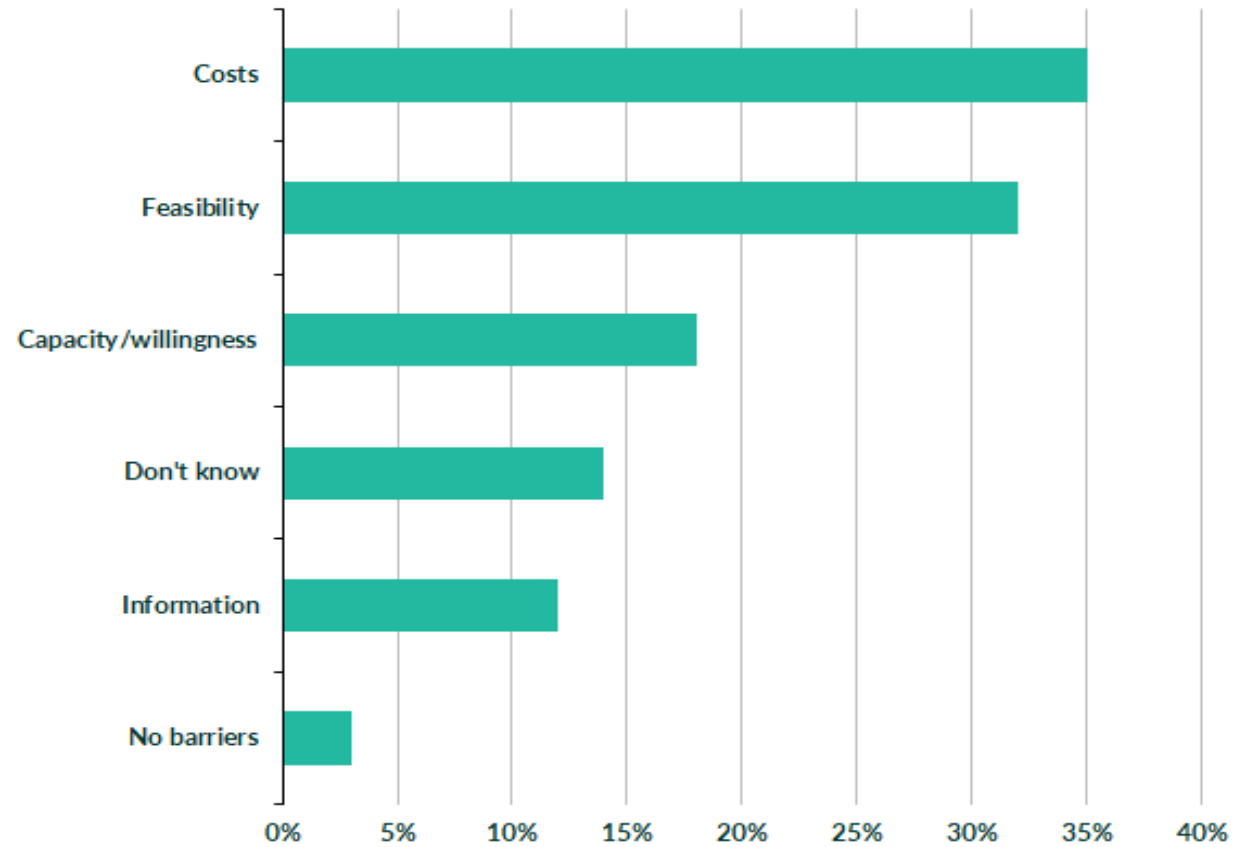
1. Manufacturing,
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing,
3. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply,
4. Transportation and storage,
5. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.



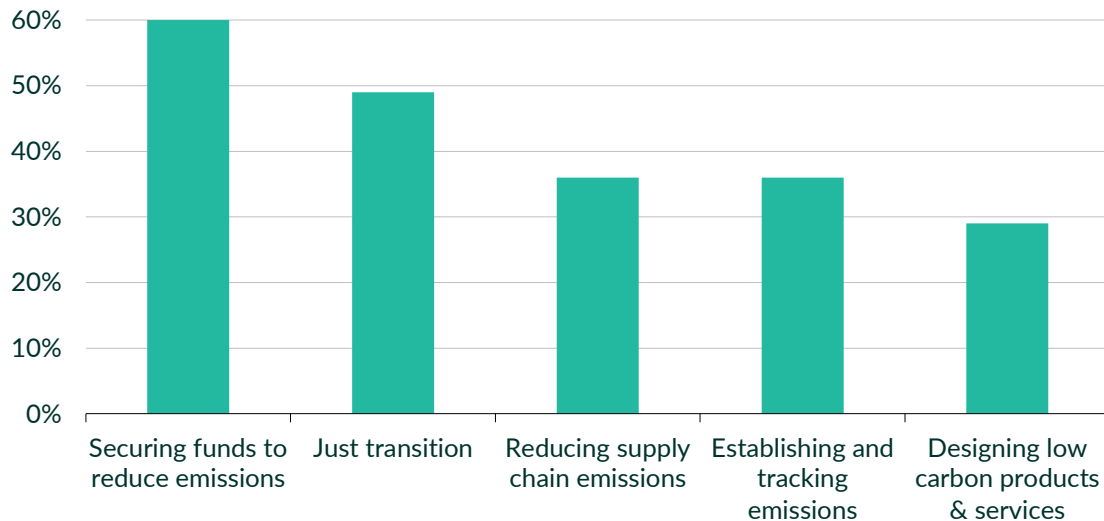
Reasons SMEs are not acting on climate



Barriers to Net Zero Action



Top 5 areas SMEs need further support



Key opportunities from Net Zero transition

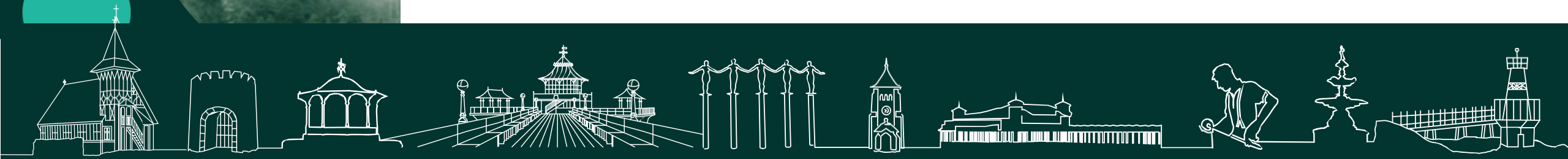
- Increased guidance and awareness raising
- Clear, simple, and impartial advice that is accessible online.
- Tools and assistance for carbon baseline emissions calculation.
- Guidance and support to enable SMEs to take steps towards sustainable supply chain strategy.
- Access to skilled advisors.
- Training courses that cover a variety of topics linked to decarbonisation strategy.

Awareness raising

Quick wins, short term actions

Events, webinars, website information, business networks and clubs.

- Accelerate project through Community Renewal fund
- Sustainable Businesses Club – North Somerset Enterprise Agency
- Support and grants information page on Council website and Business support website

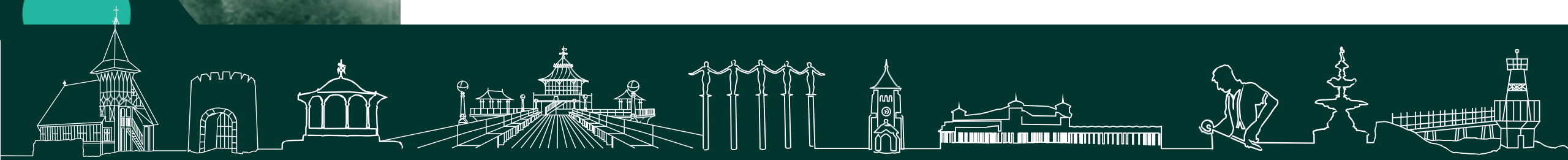


Implementation

Meaningful, medium term actions:

Training, workshops, 121 support, toolkits and guidance, consultancy

- Carbon literacy training for local businesses and council officers
Silver accreditation received in July 2022
Train the trainer in carbon literacy for Enterprise advisors
- Accelerate project delivered tailored 121 support and workshops to our SMEs



Finance

Meaningful, medium-longer term actions

Grants and loans

- Low Carbon Challenge Fund
 - Free carbon surveys for SMEs
 - Green Business Grants for capital improvements approx. £200k awarded to date

Looking ahead

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Rural England Prosperity Fund

