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### **Cheshire Pension Fund Invests in a Carbon Neutral Future**

The Cheshire Pension Fund is placing climate change at the centre of its investment decisions, by publishing its first Climate Change Strategy.

The Fund has set a target of further reducing the carbon footprint of its equity portfolio to 50 per cent below the market average. The long-term aim is for all of the Fund's investments to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Managers at the pension fund say the move reflects the view that climate change represents a significant risk to the value of its investments and needs to be managed. The document expresses support for the Paris Climate Agreement, which looks to limit global warming.

Cheshire Pension Fund is the pension scheme for more than 100,000 members across 300 employers, including Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and local authorities in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington. The Fund is administered by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The new climate change commitment from the Fund has been made against the backdrop of councils across Cheshire declaring Climate Emergencies and setting targets to become carbon neutral.

Through the new strategy, the Fund aims to encourage other investors to work with companies they invest in to transform their business models to tackle climate change. Managers at the Fund believe its future targets can be achieved without impacting on investment returns. In September, the Fund revealed that the carbon footprint of its equity portfolio was 30 per cent lower than the market average.

Cheshire Pension Fund Chair, Cllr Myles Hogg, said: "We have spent a great deal of time exploring the issue of climate change and investments and we are now making a significant commitment towards becoming carbon neutral". "We are doing this to help safeguard the future, reduce investment risk and to help safeguard the pensions of our members."

For more information and to see the report visit:  
[www.cheshirepensionfund.org](http://www.cheshirepensionfund.org) and click on news