Item 7

16th January 2024

Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability

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UPDATE ON THE CITIES4FORESTS INITIATIVE

Purpose of Report:

To provide Committee with an update on the Cities4Forests initiative.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:
1) Note the contents of this report;
2) Support the Cities4Forests Wood Material Flow Analysis project.

Ward No(s):	Citywide: ✓
Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐	consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Cities4Forests initiative and its contribution to the delivery of Glasgow's Climate Plan (Actions 35, 40, and 59) and Circular Economy Route Map.

1.2 Leading up to COP26, Glasgow signed the Cities4Forests Call to Action on Forests and Climate, a declaration designed to urgently accelerate policies to conserve, restore, and sustainably manage forests. Glasgow City Council became a member of the Cities4Forests network and joined its Partner Forest Program.

1.3 In addition, Glasgow's Circular Economy Route Map identifies construction as a key priority in terms of reducing city emissions and consumption. Construction waste accounts for approximately 50% of all waste in Scotland. Wood is a key construction material and it is one of the oldest and most versatile, widely used across Scotland. Creating a circular built environment in which construction waste is reused in place of virgin materials has the potential to reduce material consumption by 11.2% and carbon footprint by 11.5%.

1.4 Through the partnership with Cities4Forests and the Partner Forest Program, $35,000 of funding has been made available for the Pilot Projects Design Collective to procure the services of a consultants to undertake a Wood Materials Flow Analysis. This will investigate how wood used in construction moves into the City of Glasgow throughout its lifecycle, how it is used, reused, recycled, and disposed with the aim to support future circular policy and best practice.

1.5 This project will act as a demonstrator of the benefits of undertaking a material flow analysis, and its wider use as an evidence base to evaluate the efficiency of the use of material resources.

2. Background

2.1 Cities4Forests is a global alliance of cities that was co-founded in 2018 by Pilot Projects Design Collective and The World Resources Institute (WRI) to help cities across the globe become advocates for the world's forests. Cities4Forests have also developed the Sustainable Wood for Cities (SW4C) guide, which helps cities source wood to benefit climate, environment, and society.

2.2 Sustainable Wood for Cities (SW4C) simplifies wood sourcing for local authority officers and helps compare the impacts of different sourcing strategies. These strategies are represented by eight SW4C "Pathways" that can help protect and conserve forests, support sustainable forest management, promote local production, and reuse, and build resilience into urban spaces and beyond.

3. Wood Material Flow Analysis Project

3.1. Glasgow City Council's Sustainability team will work closely with Corporate Procurement Unit (CPU), City Building, Pilot Project Design Collective, and the appointed consultant/s to deliver the Wood Material Flow Analysis project.

3.2. The project has three key aspects:

i. A Material Flow Analysis (MFA) for wood in the city of Glasgow.
ii. A review of exiting Glasgow City Council procurement policies and tender processes and alignment with SW4C pathways.
iii. Production of visual material to support any project launch activities.

3.2 A **Material Flow Analysis (MFA)** is a systemic assessment of the flows and stocks of materials within a system. The MFA can provide information about the source of materials, how materials move in the city, where they end up and how they are managed at end-of-life. It can therefore provide insight as to how materials can be reused, remanufactured, and recycled more effectively and overall, become more circular. For this project, the material that will be investigated is wood and the system is Glasgow City.

3.3 Working closely with Glasgow City Council's Corporate Procurement Unit and with City Building as key stakeholders, the wood MFA will include a supply and demand map illustrating the upstream and downstream flows of wood-construction materials in Glasgow. This will allow us to identify the available wood quantities at various lifecycle stages. This is the first step to understanding how to develop a system for the city-wide recovery and reuse of wood. The wood MFA will also investigate the geographic source(s) of wood.

3.4 The **Procurement Policy Review** will investigate Glasgow City Council's procurement strategies and tender processes and how these align to SW4C pathways. A set of recommendations will be produced. The outcomes of the wood MFA and policy review will help identify opportunities to improve existing procurement policies and tender practices and help incorporate requirements for sustainable wood sourcing in future tenders.

3.5 **Visual materials** will be produced by the consultants. Work is currently underway to finalise what these will be. A conceptual supply and demand map will be created illustrating the flows of wood in the city. This will look at opportunities in the wood supply chain to move towards more circular practices.

4. Wider benefits and alignment with key policies

4.1. The MFA directly contributes to Action 5 of the Circular Economy Route Map, investigating opportunities to promote the reuse of construction materials city-wide.

4.2. The SW4C pathways analysis as part of the procurement policy review will inform wider circular procurement principles and directly contribute to Action 23

and Action 24 of the Circular Economy Route map. The SW4C pathway analysis will also help inform the city's Urban Woodland Strategy.

4.3. The wood MFA project will act as a demonstrator that will test the process of undertaking materials flows in the context of Glasgow. This process can be directly replicated for other construction materials in the future. Future analysis of this kind will help reduce raw material extraction, promote material remanufacturing and reuse and understand potential carbon impact.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The next steps in the Cities4Forests initiative, Wood Material Flow Analysis project will be:

- Working in collaboration with Pilot Projects Design Collective to appointment consultants by the end of January 2024.
- Working closely with the GCC Corporate Procurement Unit, City Building and Pilot Projects Design Collective to finalise requirements for visual materials and outputs by end of February 2024.
- Working closely with the GCC Corporate Procurement Unit and City Building, to facilitate the completions of the Wood Material Flow Analysis to be carried out by appointed consultants by the end of April 2024.

6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report. The project is funded by the Partner Forest Program and all procurement is carried out by Pilot Projects Design Collective.
Legal:	The report raises no legal issues.
Personnel:	The project is managed within existing resource in the Sustainability team.
Procurement:	The report raises no procurement issues.

Council Strategic Plan: The project supports Grand challenge 3 and 4:

- Fight Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to Net Zero; Mission 2: Become a Net Zero Carbon City by 2030.
- Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities; Mission 1:

	Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	The project indirectly supports the Council's Equality Outcomes by working towards a sustainable and circular built environment which can have a positive impact of tackling inequalities.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	Not applicable to this project.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	Not applicable for this project.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	The project will contribute to: • Action 35: Develop an urban woodland strategy by mapping the source(s) of wood and wood-based construction material in the Glasgow City Region and how that connects to "inner forests". • Action 40: The city and partners to support the adoption of circular practices across the city by mapping the flow of wood and wood-based construction materials and products and therefore identifying opportunities for implementing circular practices in construction. • Action 59: Work with partners in the city to accelerate the transition of Glasgow's economy by collaborating with City Building and other key actors to identify the flows of wood and wood-based construction materials and products in the city.
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	The implementation of sustainable, circular procurement policy and construction best practice.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	Yes, this project will positively contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target by developing our understanding of opportunities for increased circularity in wood based construction materials.
Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	None

7 Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is asked to:

1) Note the contents of this report.

2) Support the Cities4Forests Wood Material Flow Analysis project.