



Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Committee

Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Sustainability

Contact: Gavin Slater Ext: 78347

Item 2

15th April 2025

UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF GLASGOW'S CLIMATE PLAN

Purpose of Report:

To provide Committee with an update on the development of the revised of Glasgow's Climate Plan covering 2025-2030.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the content of this report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1 Introduction

- 1.1 [Glasgow's Climate Plan](#) was unanimously approved by the City Administration Committee [in June 2021](#).
- 1.2 The Climate Plan represented a key step to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency and includes a target for the City of Glasgow to achieve Net zero carbon emissions by 2030, where any residual emissions that cannot be removed are negated by carbon sinks in the City. The Plan outlined the City's approach and strategic actions towards reaching its stated target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030, as well as supporting healthy biodiversity and climate resilience.
- 1.3 The Plan set out the City's ambition to reduce emissions through direct mitigation, while also adapting to the impacts of climate change and addressing the ecological emergency, all of which will provide carbon sequestration opportunities, whilst improving quality of life and place for all in the City.
- 1.4 The Plan adopted an iterative approach to ensure accounting for the continual changes and advancements in climate change mitigation and adaptation approaches and technology, including a commitment to undertake an annual progress review and provide an update to committee on successes, challenges, recommended additional action or support required.
- 1.5 The first annual update was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [September 2022](#), and further updates were provided in [November 2023](#) and [November 2024](#).
- 1.6 [Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan](#) was approved by the City Administration Committee [June 2022](#).
- 1.7 Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan, a commitment under action 19 within the Climate Plan, set the context for citywide adaptation action. This means action to adapt to those climate change impacts already observed and those that are projected to come.
- 1.8 The Adaptation Plan prepares the city to become climate ready and resilient towards any further and projected climate impacts. Action taken would enable the city to minimise or prevent significant disruption to the city through negative health, economic and environmental impacts.
- 1.9 The Adaptation Plan sat alongside the Climate Plan to help build capacity of Climate Adaptation and raise the profile of adaptation action in the City. It was informed by extensive stakeholder consultation, the relevant UK Climate projections and trends, recommendations from the Climate and Ecological Emergency working groups, and associated community consultation.
- 1.10 The first annual update was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [November 2024](#).

2 Progress to Date

- 2.1 Meaningful progress has been made in the intervening period since both plans have launched, as detailed in the update presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [November 2024](#) with additional details in the Appendix to that report.
- 2.2 Notwithstanding the progress achieved across various projects and initiatives, there are common challenges in delivery of the Climate Plan and Adaptation Plan. The main issues being:
- National Policy
 - Global socio-economic and geo-political issues
 - External involvement
 - Accelerating Climate change
 - Resources & Funding
 - Governance and progress tracking
- 2.3 Further details and mitigations are set out in the Appendices of the above report.

3 Climate Plan Review

- 3.1 As reported to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in November 2023, the Climate and Sustainability Board determined that a full review of the Climate Plan was to be undertaken and, as per the report to Committee in [November 2024](#), this was scheduled for 2025.
- 3.2 The review determined to amend the plan as follows:
- In conjunction with project owners across the Council, partner organisations and through stakeholder engagement, revise actions in line with **new information on current policies, technologies, available resources**, etc.
 - With input from the Sustainability Policy team, review actions in line with **updated policy, strategies and Scottish and UK legislation** as appropriate and revise/ remove actions.
 - Update actions in line with decisions resulting from the recently completed **Net Zero Routemap**, which was presented to Net Zero and Climate Change Progress Monitoring Policy Development Committee in November 24. This provides the scientific evidence to underpin our ambition and establishes a scientific basis for scenario planning that is both rigorous and flexible. The development of Glasgow's Net Zero Routemap has been built upon a platform for data to be used to ensure that we can be agile as we work towards addressing the evolving challenge that climate change presents. It will provide advice and costings and assist in determining priority areas for progression. This platform will also be used by all other Scottish Local Authorities through the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service, presenting a coherent approach to managing climate related data and reporting on progress.

- Consider the recent **Climate Plan template** issued by the Scottish Government.
- Consider the **Scottish Government Adaptation Plan 3 (SNAP3)** and the **Adaptation Capability Framework**, and with input from officers across the Council, seek to combine the Adaptation Plan and Climate Plan into one overarching Climate Plan **incorporating both mitigation and adaptation aspirations and actions** for the City and revise Actions to allow consistent focus on activities and reduce double monitoring.

4 Climate Plan Review status

4.1 Work has commenced to develop a new version of the Climate Plan with officers with expertise in the areas covered by the plans consulted.

4.2 The following issues have been considered so far:

4.3 The Climate Plan 2025-2030 Structure

4.3.1 The Climate Plan document will be leaner and more accessible, explaining its overarching mission, how it is governed, the principles of engagement adopted, brief descriptions of the categories and inclusion of a more detailed Action Plan.

4.3.2 It will include links to further information and how citizens can engage with city activity.

4.3.3 The Plan will continue to have an aspiration for a net-zero carbon city by 2030.

4.3.4 It will also incorporate the aspiration of a city resilient to climate change as previously outlined in the 2022 Adaptation Plan.

4.3.5 In line with Scottish Government guidance and to ensure statutory duties are incorporated, the Plan will cover both mitigation and adaptation activity and identify these separately within the Action Plan.

4.3.6 Where combining both plans leads to duplication, these actions will be merged.

4.3.7 Adaptation activity will be governed by both the Climate and Sustainability Board. See Section 5 for more governance information.

4.3.8 Activity will include statutory and other functions of the Council as well as areas of influence.

4.3.9 Activity will also include actions required of citizens, organisations and visitors of Glasgow.

4.3.10 The Plan will include reference to statutory reporting and governance.

4.3.11 The Net Zero Routemap will determine the Actions included and will provide some costs and prioritisation of activities.

4.3.12 Understanding of current national policy and technological changes will influence the retention or removal of some actions, and some activities will be replaced by more appropriate ones.

4.3.13 Target dates will be amended where appropriate to better reflect deliverable action plans.

4.3.14 Performance measures and metrics will be revised to facilitate improved monitoring and reporting of progress of the actions contained within the plan.

4.4 New Policies and Strategies

4.4.1 Since 2021, the following council policies, strategies and plans, amongst others, have been published and will be referenced in the revised Climate Plan:

- [Children and Young People's Climate Charter](#)
- [Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy \(LHEES\)](#)
- Glasgow City Council's [Sustainable Procurement Strategy](#)
- [Just Transition Skills Action Plan](#)
- [Just Transition Implementation Plan](#)
- New Conditions of Let for Events in parks
- Glasgow [Tree Plan Portal](#)
- [The Thriving Glasgow City Portrait](#)
- Plastics Reduction Strategy (since absorbed into a revised CE Routemap)
- Updated [Circular Economy Routemap](#)
- The Glasgow Transport Strategy – Spatial Development Framework
- [Local Biodiversity Action Plan \(LBAP\) Delivery Plan 2024-2029](#)
- [Forestry and Woodland Strategy](#)
- The Council's [Carbon Management Plan 3](#)
- In addition the City Development Plan 2 is in preparation and drafts consider the Climate Plan aspirations.

4.4.2 Further publications will be identified and incorporated as appropriate.

4.5 The Net Zero Routemap

4.5.1 In 2024, the Council commissioned [The Net Zero Routemap](#), which was built using the Climateview platform. The outputs of the Routemap have provided two pathways, Projected and Accelerated, to attaining net-zero by 2030 together with projected costings and has assisted in determining priority areas for progression.

- 4.5.2 The “projected pathway” option was based on existing policy and strategies and the revised Climate Plan will adopt this option to allow projected costings to be aligned to certain actions. The Accelerated pathway was based on reaching the maximum limits of what is deemed possible, unhindered by local or national constraints, or availability of finance.
- 4.5.3 The Climateview platform separates out actions across a variety of themes and lists them as ‘Transition Elements’. As this platform is being implemented across all Scottish Local Authorities by the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service, terms such as these will become the commonplace language used as we work towards our net zero goals. The Climate Plan categories will be revised to better align with the Transition Elements identified in the Routemap:

Net Zero Routemap Transition Elements
Transport
Heat
Energy
Waste & Resources
Carbon capture

- 4.5.4 This allows direct correlation with the projected costs in the Net Zero Routemap.
- 4.5.5 Projected costings resulting from the Net Zero Routemap “projected pathway” will be aligned to some corresponding actions and categories in the Action Plan. The total of £23.5Bn identified in the Routemap will however only cover mitigation activities.
- 4.5.6 Further categories have been proposed that cover areas not part of the Routemap such as Biodiversity and Communication.

4.6 Statutory Duties

- 4.6.1 [The Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) places climate change duties on relevant public bodies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to delivery of the Scottish National Adaptation Plan, and to act in the most sustainable way and [The Climate Change \(Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements\) \(Scotland\) Order 2015](#) and [The Climate Change \(Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2020](#) require public bodies to submit annual climate change reports.
- 4.6.2 In 2025, the Scottish Government produced a draft climate plan template for Scottish Local Authorities and advised that, in developing their

climate plans, Scottish Local Authorities should identify corporate and area wide activities in terms of mitigation (reducing emissions), adaptation and acting in the most sustainable way, i.e. they should cover the full scope of the climate change duties.

- 4.6.3 It further advised that LA Climate Change Plans (CCPs) should cover:
- corporate (organisational) assets and activities and the emissions generated by these, including relevant scope 3 emissions
 - area wide activities and emissions, many of which will lie outside the control of the LA but within their sphere of influence.
- 4.6.4 Also that climate change duties require to be met as LAs 'exercise [their] functions' which include:
- corporate operational functions
 - delivery of public services within the authority area
 - policy making functions or influence
 - discharging of other mandatory duties
 - exercise of regulatory powers.
- 4.6.5 [The Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3](#) (SNAP3) sets out the actions that the Scottish Government will take to prepare for and build Scotland's resilience to the impacts of climate change between 2024 and 2029.
- 4.6.6 It includes The [Climate Adaptation Capability Framework](#) (revised in 2024) which outlines four key capabilities essential for an organisation's adaptation journey. It details specific tasks to help develop these capabilities across four progressive stages, from Starting to Mature. To use the framework, a benchmarking exercise should be completed on an annual basis.
- 4.6.7 The above guidelines and requirements are being incorporated into the revised Climate Plan structure and content. The Climate Plan is being updated to highlight mitigation and adaptation activity, corporate and city wide ownership and continues to support sustainable practices. The Plan will also reference other policies, and activities within the Action Plan that support statutory duties such as the Sustainable Procurement Strategy.

5 Governance

- 5.1 As referenced in 3.1, overarching governance of the Climate and Sustainability Programme is managed by the Council through a Climate and Sustainability Board which will drive forward activity, recommend new policies and strategies and monitor progress, providing governance and accountability for the council's own actions and reviewing wider city activity.
- 5.2 The Terms of Reference of the Board were updated in February 2025 to include governance of the Adaptation Plan which is now incorporated into Glasgow's Climate Plan 2025-2030.

- 5.3 Progress will continue be reported annually to this Committee.
- 5.4 The Climate Plan includes a detailed Action Plan and each action has an identified owner which may include the Council, the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership, other public bodies and private organisations. Owners will work on the action and through the Sustainability Programme Management Office (PMO) provide updates regularly to the Board.
- 5.5 Actions will be assessed by reference to performance indicators and progress will be reported annually to the appropriate Council Committees.
- 5.5.1 The Action Plan will continue to include a number of short, medium, and long-term actions with a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) scoring for each. The RAG status has been initially provided by the action owners and further assessed by officers in the Sustainability PMO.
- 5.5.2 The current status is:
- **7 Actions (12%)** are Complete (or Business as Usual) (Blue)
 - **30 Actions (51%)** are on track and shown as Green.
 - **22 Actions (37%)** are Amber
 - **No Actions** are Red.
- 5.6 As referenced in 4.11, [The Climate Change \(Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements\) \(Scotland\) Order 2015](#) and [The Climate Change \(Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2020](#) require public bodies to submit annual climate change reports. The council fulfils this duty by submitting data on an annual basis via the [Annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report \(PBCCD\)](#). The report includes information on how the Council is performing on climate mitigation, adaptation and sustainability practices and includes output from many of the actions included in the Climate Plan.
- 5.7 **Mitigation reporting**
- 5.7.1 The collection of emissions data will also inform progress.
- 5.7.2 Council emissions are collected through an internal process and presented annually as part of the Public Bodies Reporting Duties process referenced in section 5.6.
- 5.7.3 Citywide emissions are collected and reported on an annual basis to Committee using data provided by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ). It should be noted that this information is 2 years in arrears on publication.
- 5.7.4 Both sets of results can be viewed on the Council's [Environmental Performance](#) webpage.

- 5.8 Mitigation activities will be monitored against an annual Carbon Budget, derived from the [Net Zero Routemap](#), which projects the required amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reduction each year.

5.9 Adaptation reporting

5.9.1 The Scottish National Adaptation Plan, published in late 2024, sets out the actions that the Scottish Government and partners will take to respond to the impacts of climate change. Objective C1 highlights that 'Regional collaborations are driving inclusive, effective and place-based adaptation action across all of Scotland'. Climate Ready Clyde, a leading cross-sector initiative funded by 12 member organisations and supported by Scottish Government to create and deliver a shared vision, strategy and action plan for an adapting Glasgow City Region, completed a [Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment for Glasgow City Region](#) and a subsequent [Glasgow City Region Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#).

5.9.2 Actions within the revised Climate Plan will aim to support the regional approach and where necessary input in from a city perspective.

5.9.3 It should be noted that during the creation of the original Climate Adaptation Plan, a high-level city level risk assessment was completed. The actions within the plan then committed to completing a Local Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment drawing on the existing high level risk assessment for the city council, the latest UKCCRA and Climate Ready Clyde's RVA. There are also several actions within the original Climate Plan which commit to this city-level RVA.

5.9.4 There is currently no statutory requirement to complete a risk assessment at a local authority boundary level. The Climate Ready Clyde Risk and Opportunity assessment covers the Glasgow City Region area and therefore includes Glasgow City Council. A decision is required to confirm if a RVA will be completed for GCC area and actions in the new version of Glasgow's Climate Plan will advise that regional risk assessments will be used where appropriate for the city.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 The Climate Plan will be essentially be a "Plan of Plans" and refer to policies and strategies already approved and in place. However, target dates and key metrics will be amended, and some new activities added. It is therefore expected that The Climate Plan will require approval at the City Administration Committee.
- 6.2 The Climate Plan priorities and costings will be in part determined by the Net Zero Routemap's "projected pathway" which was based on current policies and practices.

- 6.3 Crucially, further work still needs to be done to utilise the Climateview platform to work through the action plans and each of the Transition Elements to understand the various enabling actions required to successfully deliver the actions. This work has been delayed due to the need to align pace with the development of the SCIS and their data management protocols to ensure GCC is working in alignment with the national approach. This work can now proceed on more detailed review of the Net Zero Routemap outputs, and, by utilising the Climateview tool, action plans developed for each transition element. This will form the basis of the Action Plans in the revised Climate Plan.
- 6.4 More detailed costings will be developed for these new Actions.
- 6.5 Costings for adaptation actions and other actions not covered by the Routemap will be investigated separately and considered amongst existing project plans. Further work is also being done through the Model for Climate Investment and 3Ci Net Zero Neighbourhood work to explore how adaptation measures can be financed.
- 6.6 An “accelerated pathway” was also produced as part of the Net Zero Routemap exercise and while the Climate Plan does not adopt this, where opportunity presents, every effort will be made to push the envelope to exceed the Projected pathway towards the Accelerated pathway.
- 6.7 Work on the revised Climate Plan will continue and the new version is expected to be presented to this Committee post-summer recess 2025.

7 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	There will be financial implications to fund the delivery of the actions proposed in Glasgow’s Climate Plan. Funding may be required to support studies and research, support action on the ground, as well as communications and capacity building activities.
<i>Legal:</i>	The delivery of this plan strongly supports the requirement to fulfil the Public Bodies Duties on Climate Change under Climate Change (Scotland) Act (2009).
<i>Personnel:</i>	There may be resource impacts as actions are developed and passed onto the appropriate areas within the council family for delivery/stewardship.
<i>Procurement:</i>	There are likely to be procurement implications associated with actions proposed both for

developing guidance and policy and potentially procuring services such as consultancy from academic institutions.

Council Strategic Plan: Glasgow's Climate Plan supports the Council Strategic Plan Grand Challenge 3 "Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow", specifically Mission 2 "Become a net zero carbon city by 2030" and also supports GC3 Mission 1 "Deliver sustainable transport and travel aligned with the city region", GC2, Mission 1 "Support Glasgow residents into sustainable and fair work", GC2, Mission 2 "Support the growth of an innovative, resilient and net zero carbon economy" and GC4, 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.

Yes, the plan aims to ensure that those citizens most vulnerable, due to their socio-economic circumstances or geographical location, are not disproportionately affected by climate impacts or left behind in the transition to a net zero society.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

The action proposed in Climate Plan will deliver positive equality impacts. The Plan aims to address the impacts of climate change and ensure not only that those most vulnerable in our society are not disproportionately disadvantaged by the costs of the transition to a net zero economy, but also that they don't bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change.

The Plan will continue to work towards meaningful engagement with communities in the City, specifically young people, disability groups, women and residents in geographic areas worst affected by flood or overheating who may at times be disproportionately affected by climate impacts or are likely to bear the costs of interventions disproportionately.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

Place Based Climate Action is known to provide multiple wider benefits, it supports action to address environmental loss, improve quality of place, helps to reduce socio economic inequalities, and supporting economic

prosperity. The Climate Plan has people and a just transition at its core.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

Yes. The proposal supports Glasgow's Climate Plan's ambition to achieve a net zero carbon and climate resilient City, by adopting a more open and transparent approach to monitoring and communicating progress. In particular it addresses action within Theme 1, but provides an update on all themes and related actions within the plan.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

The potential climate impact is a net-zero carbon city by 2030.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

Yes. The Climate Plan focusses on addressing the climate and ecological emergency, supporting the delivery of the 2030 net zero carbon target.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

No data protection or privacy implications.

8 Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the content of this report.