

Delivering on Glasgow's Net Zero Commitment - Motion dealt with, after division.

12 Councillor Docherty, seconded by Bailie Garrity, moved that

“Council notes that in 2019, Glasgow City Council declared a climate emergency and committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

However, 5 years on, Council highlights reports indicating that the city is on course to miss this target, with current projections showing only a 73.8% reduction by 2030, far short of the 100% goal.

Council further notes that Glasgow has reduced territorial carbon dioxide emissions by 46% since 2005, largely due to UK electricity grid decarbonisation, over which the Council has no control. In areas where local policy has greater influence, progress has been slower, with transport-sector emissions falling by only 19% between 2005–2021 – the smallest reduction among major sectors.

Council believes that after 5 years, Glasgow should be far further ahead in cutting emissions in sectors it can directly influence. Council notes that the current approach lacks a fully funded, timebound delivery plan with clear annual milestones to meet the 2030 target.

Council notes that Glasgow's household recycling rate was just 27.2%, as reported to the Operational Scrutiny Committee on 4 June 2025. This is significantly below both the Scottish national average of 43.5% and the Scottish Government's target of 70% by 2025, making Glasgow one of the poorest performing local authorities in Scotland for recycling. Despite national progress, Glasgow's rates have remained in the low 20% range for several years, indicating systemic issues that require urgent attention and reform.

Council further notes that persistent issues such as missed bin collections, fly-tipping, and contamination continue to undermine public confidence and environmental outcomes.

Council further believes that climate action must be delivered fairly, ensuring benefits for all communities, particularly those in fuel poverty, through lower bills, warmer homes and cleaner air.

Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Ask the City Administration to present to Full Council, or the appropriate committee for approval, within six months, a credible, fully costed and timebound Net-Zero delivery plan with:
 - Sector-by-sector milestones and annual targets for reducing emissions in transport, buildings and waste.
 - A costed programme for large-scale retrofitting and rapid roll-out of low-carbon heating.

- Measures to address underperformance in reducing emissions.
- (2) Encourage the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government seeking the necessary funding and legislative powers required to deliver these actions, and to report the Government's response to Full Council or the relevant committee within three months of receipt.
 - (3) Establish a cross-party Climate Delivery Review Group, reporting to the most appropriate committee every six months to monitor progress and recommend delivery action."

Councillor Millar, seconded by Councillor Aitken moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with the following:-

"Council reaffirms its target of Glasgow achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and redoubles its commitment to climate action. Council acknowledges that this target will be highly challenging to meet, but considers that this level of ambition is necessary given the urgency required to meet the challenge of the climate emergency and accelerate the momentum of the transition to a net zero carbon future.

Council notes that Glasgow's performance in relation to both climate mitigation and adaptation action has received very high scores in both statutory and independent non-statutory assessments, with Glasgow the joint-highest ranking UK council outside of London in the 2025 Council Climate Action Scorecard, and ranking amongst the A-rated 15% of cities across the world through the Carbon Disclosure Project.

Council notes that its net zero ambitions do not and never have entailed a target of 100% carbon emissions reduction, but rather that the city is pursuing a *net* zero position. Council understands that a *net* zero position will be achieved through a balance of reducing carbon emissions as far as possible and removing residual emissions through carbon sequestration. Council notes that the latest available DESNZ figures, due to be presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee later this month, record a 49.3% carbon dioxide emissions reduction in 2023 compared to the baseline year of 2006.

Council recalls the publication of Glasgow's Net Zero Routemap in November 2024, which sets out two pathways to net zero – a Projected Pathway and an Accelerated Pathway. Council recalls that the Projected Pathway models an absolute carbon emissions reduction of 60% by 2030 on the basis of the delivery of existing plans and initiatives, with an estimated Pathway delivery cost of £23.5billion. Council further recalls that the Accelerated Pathway models an absolute carbon emissions reduction of 80% by 2030 on the basis of maximal mitigation activity, stretching the boundaries of what is currently technically achievable, with an estimated Pathway delivery cost of £36.8billion.

Council notes that both Pathways to net zero inherently require a level of residual emissions to be removed through carbon sequestration. Council further notes that the Routemap maps the level of sequestration potential within the city boundary and highlights that despite the significant level of tree planting and habitat

enhancement taking place in the city, the level of sequestration required in either Pathway exceeds the geographical footprint available in the city. Council recalls its finding that a national approach to managing residual emissions will therefore be required to support the transition of Glasgow and other urban areas to a net zero position.

Council recalls that the Net Zero Routemap analyses the potential for carbon emissions reductions across sectors and intervention areas, including energy, heat and transportation.

Council acknowledges that electricity grid decarbonisation has played a significant part in Glasgow's emissions reduction to date, and notes the contribution of the Council and Glasgow businesses to this through the deployment of renewable energy assets in the city, such as the Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre, which exports some 50,000-60,000GWH of electricity onto the grid, as well as the Cathkin Wind Turbine and a growing number of solar PV arrays. Council reaffirms its continued commitment to supporting the deployment of renewable energy assets, and recalls the recent Council Budget investments to extend this programme.

Council recognises that despite positive change, significant further progress is required in decarbonising transport within the city through the achievement of modal shift to sustainable transport modes, the shift to lower- or zero-carbon vehicles for private and public transport, and the reduction in private car use. Council reaffirms its commitments within the Glasgow Transport Strategy, including to seek improvements to public transport, deliver a comprehensive segregated active travel network, progressively extend on-street parking controls, and explore the use of road user charging powers. Council considers that the negative politicisation of sustainable transport interventions is wholly counterproductive to achieving the transition required.

Council agrees that the decarbonisation of heat in buildings will be essential to reducing carbon emissions, and recalls the adoption of the city's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy. Council notes that the transition cannot be financed solely by the public sector, and will require a marshalling of public and private finance to deliver interventions at pace and scale. Council recalls the substantial ongoing work to develop a Climate Investment and Delivery model, to be established by November 2026, which will be required to leverage in potentially billions of pounds in investment in heat networks in the city. Council believes that a just transition approach must be embedded in the delivery of the LHEES and other climate action activity, ensuring that we deliver benefits across communities. Council further notes that the ongoing work to develop a Climate Investment and Delivery Model is overseen by a cross-party Political Oversight Group, which will continue to meet at relevant junctures.

Council notes recent improvement in recycling rates in Glasgow, with a provisional rate of 30.6% in 2024 compared with 24.6% in 2018, and further notes the significant reduction in landfill rates from 68.3% in 2018 to a provisional 18% in 2024. Council agrees that significant further progress is required and notes that recycling rates are expected to continue to improve as key policy and infrastructure

changes are rolled out, including the extension of twin-stream provision, the installation of new bin hubs for tenemental properties, the construction of a new Material Recovery Facility (MRF), and associated informational and educational communications to householders.

Council notes that a detailed revision of the Climate Plan, reflecting and incorporating the evidence-led Net Zero Routemap, is due to be presented to committee in November this year, as tabled in the latest Net Zero and Climate Progress CPC workplan. Council notes that this will include indicative costs for the delivery of the pathway to net zero, and that this will require both public and private investment.

Council further stresses its ongoing commitment to climate advocacy, including its continued advocacy for greater resources, powers and policy responses to support the rapid transition to net zero. Therefore, Council resolves to write to relevant UK and Scottish Government Ministers upon finalisation of the revised Climate Plan, setting out those areas where further governmental support is required to support Glasgow's net zero transition. Council further resolves to bring regular Climate Plan monitoring updates to our dedicated Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee."

Councillor Reid-McConnell, seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with the following:

"Council reaffirms its commitment to reach Net Zero by 2030, acknowledging that whilst it is an ambitious target due to the constraints on local government, it is absolutely necessary that Glasgow continues to lead in delivering a just transition for its citizens. Council understands the opportunity to restructure our economy and society that this transition presents, and reaffirms its commitment to tackling inequality whilst taking climate action.

Council notes the ongoing work by council officers to develop pathways to Net Zero using data driven tools to assess policy across various sectors including energy, transport, waste and more. Council recalls that a report to the Net Zero Climate progress and monitoring committee outlined two pathways, our projected pathway and a potential accelerated pathway. Council acknowledges that whilst we should be striving for the accelerated pathway, cutting our emissions by 80%, it will cost an estimated £36.8 Billion, requiring significant investment into the city.

Council recalls the report to the Net Zero policy committee in May 2025 updating the committee on the progress of GCC's work to develop a Model of Climate Investment and formally establishing a cross-party Political oversight group which has since met. Council acknowledges that this is a significant piece of work that requires significant financial and legal groundwork to determine an appropriate model that most benefits the citizens of Glasgow, working towards the aim of lessening inequality.

Council recalls this year's budget 2025-2026 identified funding for a new officer post to drive forward the work of ensuring our decisions and policies are data driven

towards reaching our target, as well as developing our carbon budgeting and monitoring.

Emissions from heat in buildings and transport are the most significant contributors to Glasgow City Council's 2030 Net Zero emissions target which includes the scope 1 emissions in the city.

Council reaffirms its commitment to improved public transport in our city, and commends the recent scrapping of peak rail fares, as well as the introduction of free bus travel for under 22s since the city declared a Climate Emergency. Council renews calls on the Scottish Government to support the delivery of bus franchising in the city to ensure that buses are provided at an affordable price with improved connectivity and reliability. It is an incredible failure of bus privatisation and road block to achieve a just transition that Glasgow has one of, if not the highest, single bus fare in the whole of the UK and the Scottish Government should treat this with greater urgency as this not only impacts Glaswegians but those from surrounding authorities. Council also calls on the Scottish Government and transport providers to work together to deliver an integrated ticketing model that operates across the city and wider city region, as is common in many other UK and international cities.

Council welcomes the announcement that a new contract will be awarded for 1000 electric hire bikes across the city as well as increases in bike shelters. Council welcomes the continuing development of new segregated cycle arteries across the city but expresses concern that further projects on this scale may be at risk due to a change in funding models. Council calls on the Scottish Government to commit to multi year active travel funding that allows the Council to prepare and roll out active travel projects at a faster pace.

Council recognises that we will only hit our emissions targets with a significant change in Glasgow's transport system, which will require significant investment. Council believes that road user charging schemes may be a necessary tool and asks officers to continue to consider options for schemes for consideration/reporting to committee. Funding raised via a road charging scheme could be hugely beneficial to improving the public transport and active travel infrastructure across the city, including bus priority corridors and bus lanes, and would fairly reflect the strain placed on Glasgow's road networks by users from outside the city boundary.

Energy prices are set to rise once again, and with a significant percentage of Glaswegians experiencing fuel poverty, we know that many homes would benefit from improved energy efficiency and insulation. Council acknowledges that significant funding is required to retrofit homes across Glasgow and calls on the UK Government and Scottish Government to provide greater funding towards this which would in turn create a pipeline of skilled work and greater employment opportunities. This may include expanding the funding available to the Council's Affordable Warmth Programme as well as the Net Zero Heat Fund available to Social Landlords, increasing affordability of running cost as well as comfort of homes for those most vulnerable to fuel poverty.

Council expresses disappointment that the Heat in Buildings Bill has been watered down, particularly in terms of incentivising and mandating able-to-pay owners and landlords to improve the energy efficiency of homes.

Council notes positive progress on the roll out of the bin hubs and will continue to support their expansion to ensure that tenemental and flatted properties have suitable recycling facilities. In the short term, Council requests an assessment to the relevant committee of communal food and glass bins, seeking to ensure there's sufficient capacity across the city.

As has been outlined, the transition to Net Zero is well outwith the finance currently available to Glasgow City Council however, progress is being made in important areas particularly in respect to community led climate action and community wealth building; including but not limited to the development of a Community Renewable Energy Framework, LEZ Community Climate Action Fund, and Community Municipal Investment.

Community led climate action is essential and Council commits to exploring opportunities for continuing this fund on an annual basis. With the new extended producer responsibility tax, Council commits to allocating a percentage of this to community led, third sector action on the circular economy, acknowledging that our third sector infrastructure is supporting a just transition by increasing access to preloved clothing, laptops, phones, bikes and other essential resources.

Council recalls that a previous council motion agreed that a report should come to the Full Council meeting on an annual basis to report on the Council's overall progress to meeting their Net Zero target and that this would include an update on all relevant plans that are reported to the Net Zero policy committee. Council also notes that training on carbon reduction and climate is available to all Council staff, and to elected members

Council renews calls for the UK Government to support the campaign to Stop Rosebank Oil field as well as calling on the Scottish Government to join Glasgow City Council in signing up to the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Council agrees that the continuous burning of fossil fuels is not compatible with a just transition.

Ultimately, Council acknowledges that whilst work is underway to support Glasgow in achieving their Net Zero ambitions, work could move faster with the greater support from the UK and Scottish Governments. Council requests that the relevant Convener writes to the Ministers to update them on Glasgow's progress to net zero and outline ways in which their respective Governments can support ongoing work in the city."

During the debate Councillor Millar and Councillor Reid-McConnell, with the approval of their seconders, agreed to combine their amendments resulting in the following adjusted amendment:

"Council reaffirms its target of Glasgow achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and redoubles its commitment to climate action. Council acknowledges that

this target will be highly challenging to meet, but considers that this level of ambition is necessary given the urgency required to meet the challenge of the climate emergency and accelerate the momentum of the transition to a net zero carbon future. Council understands the opportunity to restructure our economy and society that this transition presents, and reaffirms its commitment to tackling inequality whilst taking climate action.

Council notes that Glasgow's performance in relation to both climate mitigation and adaptation action has received very high scores in both statutory and independent non-statutory assessments, with Glasgow the joint-highest ranking UK council outside of London in the 2025 Council Climate Action Scorecard, and ranking amongst the A-rated 15% of cities across the world through the Carbon Disclosure Project.

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Council notes that this year's Council Budget 2025-2026 identified funding for a new officer post to drive forward the work of ensuring our decisions and policies are data driven towards reaching our target, as well as developing our carbon budgeting and monitoring. Council recalls that the Net Zero Routemap analyses the potential for carbon emissions reductions across sectors and intervention areas, including energy, heat and transportation.

Council acknowledges that electricity grid decarbonisation has played a significant part in Glasgow's emissions reduction to date, and notes the contribution of the Council and Glasgow businesses to this through the deployment of renewable energy assets in the city, such as the Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre, which exports some 50,000-60,000GWH of electricity onto the grid, as well as the Cathkin Wind Turbine and a growing number of solar PV arrays. Council reaffirms its continued commitment to supporting the deployment of renewable energy assets, and recalls the recent Council Budget investments to extend this programme.

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Council notes that the transition cannot be financed solely by the public sector, and will require a marshalling of public and private finance to deliver interventions at pace and scale. Council recalls the substantial ongoing work to develop a Climate Investment and Delivery model, to be established by November 2026, which will be required to leverage in potentially billions of pounds in investment in heat networks in the city. Council acknowledges that this is a significant piece of work that requires significant financial and legal groundwork to determine an appropriate model that most benefits the citizens of Glasgow, working towards the aim of lessening inequality.

Council believes that a just transition approach must be embedded in the delivery of the LHEES and other climate action activity, ensuring that we deliver benefits across communities. Council further notes that the ongoing work to develop a Climate Investment and Delivery Model is overseen by a cross-party Political Oversight Group, which will continue to meet at relevant junctures.

Council notes that progress is being made in important areas particularly in respect to community led climate action and community wealth building; including but not limited to the development of a Community Renewable Energy Framework, LEZ Community Climate Action Fund, and Community Municipal Investment. Community led climate action is essential and Council commits to exploring opportunities for continuing this fund on an annual basis.

Council notes recent improvement in recycling rates in Glasgow, with a provisional rate of 30.6% in 2024 compared with 24.6% in 2018, and further notes the significant reduction in landfill rates from 68.3% in 2018 to a provisional 18% in 2024. Council agrees that significant further progress is required and notes that recycling rates are expected to continue to improve as key policy and infrastructure changes are rolled out, including the extension of twin-stream provision, the installation of new bin hubs for tenemental properties, the construction of a new Material Recovery Facility (MRF), and associated informational and educational communications to householders.

Council notes positive progress on the roll out of the bin hubs and will continue to support their expansion to ensure that tenemental and flatted properties have suitable recycling facilities. In the short term, Council requests an assessment to the relevant committee of communal food and glass bins, seeking to ensure there's sufficient capacity across the city.

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Council recalls that a previous council motion agreed that a report should come to the Full Council meeting on an annual basis to report on the Council's overall progress to meeting their Net Zero target and that this would include an update on all relevant plans that are reported to the Net Zero policy committee. Council also notes that training on carbon reduction and climate is available to all Council staff, and to elected members

Council renews calls for the UK Government to support the campaign to Stop Rosebank Oil field as well as calling on the Scottish Government to join Glasgow City Council in signing up to the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Council agrees that the continuous burning of fossil fuels is not compatible with a just transition.

Council further stresses its ongoing commitment to climate advocacy, including its continued advocacy for greater resources, powers and policy responses to support the rapid transition to net zero.

Therefore, Council resolves to write to relevant UK and Scottish Government Ministers upon finalisation of the revised Climate Plan, setting out those areas where further governmental support is required to support Glasgow's net zero transition. Council further resolves to bring regular Climate Plan monitoring updates to our dedicated Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee."

On a vote being taken electronically and by calling the roll, 44 voted for the amendment as adjusted and 33 for the motion with 4 abstentions.

The amendment as adjusted was accordingly declared to be carried.