



**Glasgow City Council**

**Item 5**

**12th December 2024**

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Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Sustainability**

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## **RESPONSE TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To provide Council with an update on Glasgow's response to the Climate Emergency.

### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Notes the progress of Glasgow's response.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

### **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in [May 2019](#).
- 1.2 [Glasgow's Climate Plan](#) was subsequently developed and unanimously approved by the City Administration Committee [in June 2021](#).
- 1.3 The Climate Plan 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 outlines the City's approach and strategic actions towards reaching its target, as well as supporting healthy biodiversity and climate resilience.
- 1.4 The Plan sets 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.
- 1.5 The first annual update was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [September 2022](#) and a further update was provided in [November 2023](#).
- 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, prepares the city to become climate ready and resilient towards any further and projected climate impacts, and sets 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 sits 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.

## 2 Governance

- 2.1 A **Climate & Sustainability Board** has been established and meets quarterly to review the progress of Glasgow's Climate Plan and Climate Programme and discuss key topics relating to the Sustainability Agenda. The Board is chaired by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability and membership includes Directors from across the Council.

## 3 Emissions Reduction

- 3.1 The success of the Climate Plan is measured by the reduction in Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions produced by the whole City when compared to its 2006 baseline. This data is sourced by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero and distributed two years in arrears.
- 3.2 A report on citywide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for 2022<sup>1</sup> was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [August 2024](#). The City continues to make good progress in reducing carbon emissions within areas under its direct control, achieving an overall reduction of 45.7% from baseline, remaining ahead of target despite an expected increase in emissions from 2021 as a result of recovery from the pandemic and the impact of the energy crisis.
- 3.3 However, it is anticipated that emissions from gas (still the largest source of emissions in comparison to transport and electricity) will rise in future years as the impacts of the energy crisis abate. As such, the report reaffirms the City's focus on reducing emissions from gas as a critical successful factor for achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2030. In addition, the ambition to accelerate the deployment of heat networks that utilise locally available sources of heat as a mechanism of lowering heating-based emissions will provide greater energy security for the city, minimising the impacts from the types of global economic shocks that caused energy prices to rise in 2022.
- 3.4 The report concluded that policies and projects aimed at supporting Glasgow's transition to a Net Zero Carbon city are having a positive impact and there continues to be significant work undertaken to continue the progress that the City is making towards Net Zero Carbon such as work to establish Climate Investment and Climate Delivery vehicles which will support unlocking investment into and delivery of Net Zero Carbon at pace for Glasgow.
- 3.5 These finance and delivery vehicles are being designed to support Glasgow City Council's robust policy framework that supports our Net Zero Carbon aspirations, with the initial focus being on the delivery of Glasgow's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and our Just Transition Plans.

## **4 Action Plan Progress to Date**

### **4.1 Glasgow's Climate Plan**

- 4.1.1 The Climate Plan includes 59 Actions, across 5 key themes. A full report on the progress of these actions was submitted to the Net Zero Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The current status of those actions is:
- 5 actions ( 8%) are Complete (Blue)
  - 23 Actions (39%) are on track and shown as Green.
  - 31 Actions (53%) are Amber

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<sup>1</sup> Data on the UK's greenhouse gas inventory, including emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, are published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The time taken to collect, analyse and disaggregate these geographically means that these are published annually, covering emissions data from two years prior.

- No Actions are Red.

## 4.2 Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan

4.2.1 Glasgow's Adaptation Plan includes 50 Actions, across 13 key "Interventions". The current status is:

- 1 actions ( 2%) is discrete and Complete (Blue)
- 39 Actions (78%) are on track and shown as Green.
- 10 Actions (20%) are Amber
- No Actions are Red.

## 5. Key Challenges

5.1 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 are:

- National Policy
- Global issues
- External involvement
- Accelerating Climate change
- Resources & Funding
- Governance and progress tracking

## 6. Future Considerations and Next Steps

6.1 The Climate & Sustainability Board has been launched and the Council's Sustainability Programme Management Office (PMO) is now fully operational. As reported to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in November 2023, as is the intention of the Board, the Sustainability Team has commenced a full review of the Climate Plan and, with activities led by the Sustainability PMO, to revise it 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.
- Update actions in line with decisions resulting from the recently completed Net Zero Routemap.
- 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.

- 6.2 This undertaking is expected to take several months and is intrinsically linked to decisions resulting from the Net Zero Routemap work, thus the intention is to bring a new revision of the Glasgow Climate Plan to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in early 2025.
- 6.3 It should be noted that significant effort will continue in service of current actions while this revision is underway and progress will continue to be monitored by the Climate & Sustainability Board.

## 7 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* 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.

*Legal:* The delivery of this plan strongly supports the requirement to fulfil the Public Bodies Duties on Climate Change under Climate Change (Scotland) Act (2009).

*Personnel:* There may be resource impacts as actions are developed and passed onto the appropriate areas within the council family for delivery/stewardship.

*Procurement:* 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*

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

*result of this  
proposal?*

*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 the Council:

- 1) Notes the progress of Glasgow's response.