



**Glasgow City Council**

**Report by Executive Director of  
Neighbourhoods Regeneration and  
Sustainability**

**Contact: Gavin Slater Ext: 78347**

**Item 3**

**11th December 2025**

## **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:**

*Any Ordnance Survey mapping included within this Report is provided by Glasgow City Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function to make available Council-held public domain information. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey Copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping/map data for their own use. The OS web site can be found at <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk> "*

*If accessing this Report via the Internet, please note that any mapping is for illustrative purposes only and is not true to any marked scale*

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Following on from the update to Full Council in [December 2024](#), this second annual report includes a summary of progress towards the City's 2030 net zero targets and the 5 key themes and 59 strategic actions included in the Climate Plan as well as a summary of progress of the 13 interventions and 50 actions included in the Adaptation Plan.
- 1.2 This update also provides information on the revised Glasgow's Climate Plan 2026 - 2030 currently out for Consultation.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 [Glasgow's Climate Plan](#) was unanimously approved by the City Administration Committee [in June 2021](#).
- 2.2 The Climate Plan represents a key step to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency. It 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 stated target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030, as well as supporting healthy biodiversity and climate resilience.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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](#).
- 2.6 [Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan](#) was approved by the City Administration Committee [June 2022](#).
- 2.7 Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan, a commitment under action 19 within the Climate Plan, 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.
- 2.8 The Adaptation Plan prepares the city to become climate ready and resilient towards any further and projected climate impacts. Action taken will enable the

city to minimise or prevent significant disruption to the city through negative health, economic and environmental impacts.

- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 The first annual update was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [November 2024](#).

### **3 Governance**

- 3.1 As reported in the first annual update in 2024, a **Climate & Sustainability Board** chaired by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability (NRS) and consisting of Directors from across the council meets quarterly to review the progress of the Climate Programme.
- 3.2 The Terms of Reference of the Board were updated in February 2025 to include governance of the Adaptation Plan.
- 3.3 The Board therefore reviews both Glasgow's Climate Plan and Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan and discusses key topics relating to the Sustainability Agenda.
- 3.4 A **Scoping Group** consisting of senior officers from across the Council and ALEOs supports the Board and recommend projects for inclusion in the Climate Programme.
- 3.5 The **Sustainability Programme Management Office (PMO)** within the Sustainability service of NRS supports the governance, delivery and monitoring of the Climate Programme.
- 3.6 Climate Plan Actions are assigned to officers across the Council and ALEOs and in some cases to external partners including the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership.
- 3.7 The Sustainability PMO monitors progress and provides support, where possible, to aid delivery of these actions. Where appropriate, activities in support of each Action are managed as projects that can be monitored and provide tangible measurable deliverables.

### **4. Emissions Reduction**

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 A report on citywide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for 2023<sup>1</sup> was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in September 2025.
- 4.3 After witnessing a significant drop in emissions during 2020 due to Covid-19, and then a 'bounce-back' as normal life resumed in 2021 as seen in Figure 1 below, Glasgow's emissions in 2023 were lower than they were in 2020, during the first year of the pandemic (2,170 ktCO<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup> and 2,242.1 ktCO<sub>2</sub> respectively).
- 4.4 This represents a **6.2%** reduction from the 2022 total of 2,314.1 ktCO<sub>2</sub> and a **49.3%** reduction in emissions from the baseline<sup>3</sup> of 2006.
- 4.5 Since the baseline year, Glasgow has reduced its emissions on average by **2.9% per annum**.
- 4.6 As a percentage of the baseline year of 2006, in 2023 Glasgow reduced its emissions by **3.4%**. By maintaining an average annual reduction of 2.9% reduction, emissions can be forecast to reduce by **69.6%** by 2030 from the baseline – this would be a considerable achievement for a post-industrial city like Glasgow. It should be noted however that emissions reductions get increasingly more difficult as we continue to make progress on the low hanging fruit and have to tackle the more stubborn emissions.
- 4.7 The report concluded that the City Council, and city stakeholders, continue to drive progress towards net zero through (i) the delivery of our Climate Plan, (ii) our Net Zero Routemap, which provides a technical framework to support prioritisation towards net zero by 2030, and (iii) our third Carbon Management Plan which focuses on reducing GCC emissions and using such interventions as catalysts for wider climate action across the city.
- 4.8 The approach has manifested itself in several successful initiatives including, though not limited to, (i) installation of solar PV across the Council estate, (ii) increased cycle lane infrastructure, (iii) the Low Emissions Zone and (iv) the ongoing electrification of the city's bus fleet.
- 4.9 Work continues to progress the establishment of a Model for Climate Investment which will help to unlock delivery of net zero at the pace and scale required for Glasgow – something that future years of emissions reporting will reflect. The Model for Climate Investment will support the continued delivery of Glasgow's LHEES which outlines City Council intentions to roll out district scale

---

<sup>1</sup> Data on UK greenhouse gasses, including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 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.

<sup>2</sup> 1 kilo-tonne (kt) is equal to 1000 tonnes.

<sup>3</sup> <sup>3</sup> UK Government, DESNZ, London, 2025 [https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/723c243d-2f1a-4d27-8b61-cdb93e5b10ff/local\\_authority\\_carbon\\_dioxide\\_emissions](https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/723c243d-2f1a-4d27-8b61-cdb93e5b10ff/local_authority_carbon_dioxide_emissions)

heat networks to address heating-based emissions and tackle fuel poverty, as well as addressing the energy efficiency of the Council's estate.

## **5. Action Plans Progress to Date**

### **5.1 Glasgow's Climate Plan**

5.1.1 The current Climate Plan includes 59 Actions, across 5 key themes:

- Theme 1 - Communication and Community Empowerment
- Theme 2 - Just and Equitable City
- Theme 3 - Well Connected and Thriving City
- Theme 4 - Health and Wellbeing
- Theme 5 - Green Recovery

5.1.2 The Plan includes a number of short, medium, and long-term actions and this review includes a progress update and RAG scoring for each. The RAG status has been initially provided by the action owners and further assessed by officers in the Sustainability PMO:

- Completed actions are identified as blue
- Actions considered "On Track" are identified as green.
- Where actions are marked as amber, this reflects some progress, but less than originally planned due to minor issues.
- Red implies significant delay due to issues for example outwith the Council's control.
- A small number of actions are Closed due to non-viability.

5.1.3 The current status is:

- **13 actions (23%)** are Complete or BAU (Blue)
- **35 Actions (59%)** are progressing and shown as Green.
- **9 Actions (15%)** are experiencing minor issues and are Amber
- **No Actions** are Red.
- **2 Actions (3%)** are closed and were not taken forward.

5.1.4 It should be noted that a small number of Actions have a target date between 2020 & 2024 assigned on publication and have not yet been fully met. This would ordinarily mean they are classed as Red. The affected Actions have been assessed by the Sustainability PMO & it has been determined that the original target timeframe in some cases was too short or the action not fully defined. As the missing of the published date has not unduly impacted the overall objectives of the Climate Plan and as work is underway on mitigating activity to recover and make progress, those Red Actions have been classed as either Green or Amber. The target dates will be revised in the next iteration of the Plan.

### **5.2 Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan**

5.2.1 Glasgow's Adaptation Plan includes 50 Actions, across 13 key "Interventions:

- Intervention 1 - Governance

- Intervention 2 – Planning and Housing
- Intervention 3 – Sustainable Transport
- Intervention 4 - Natural Environment and Assets
- Intervention 5 - Health and Wellbeing
- Intervention 6 – Environmental Health
- Intervention 7 - Risk Planning
- Intervention 8 - Economy
- Intervention 9 - Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Intervention 10 - Climate Justice and Resilience
- Intervention 11 - Raising Awareness
- Intervention 12 - Adaptation Maintenance
- Intervention 13 - Improve Response to Climate Events

5.2.2 The Plan includes a number of short, medium, and long-term actions and a progress RAG scoring for each. The RAG status has been initially provided by Action owners and further assessed by officers in the Sustainability PMO.

- Actions that are complete or now ongoing Business as Usual are Blue.
- Actions considered “On Track” are identified as “Green”.
- Where actions are marked as Amber, this reflects some progress, but less than originally planned due to minor issues.
- Red implies significant delay due to issues for example outwith the Council's control.

5.2.3 The current status is:

- **8 actions (16%)** are Complete or BAU (Blue)
- **36 Actions (72%)** are progressing well and shown as Green.
- **5 Actions (10%)** are Amber
- **No Actions** are Red.
- **1 Action (2%)** is Closed.

## 6 Key Activities and Achievements

6.1 Key activities achieved in implementing the Climate Plan and Adaptation Plan in 2025 are to be noted:

### 6.2 Awards / Positions

6.2.1 Glasgow was declared an EU Net Zero [Mission City](#) in 2025. One of only 2 cities in the UK (the other being Bristol) and 112 across Europe to hold this prestigious accolade, this will provide us with advice, support and networking to reach climate neutrality.

6.2.2 The Leader of the Council was appointed to Scotland's [Climate Delivery Framework oversight group](#). This group was established in December 2024 to enable national and local leaders to jointly shape key climate change policies and implementation at the national, regional and local level. The group is part of the Climate Delivery Framework which aims to drive more effective delivery of policy and programmes against climate goals.

6.2.3 Glasgow declared Joint Top in Scotland in the [Council Climate Action Score Cards](#).

6.2.4 Glasgow ranked #1 in UK and #5 in Europe in the [Global Destination Sustainability Index](#).

6.2.5 Glasgow the first UK signatory to the [Berlin Urban Nature Pact](#).

### **6.3 Policies, Strategies and Initiatives**

6.3.1 The **Circular Economy Route Map** was updated.

6.3.2 The **LEZ Community Climate Project Support Fund** was launched to support community led climate action activity that aligns with the main objectives of the LEZ. £620k has been awarded to local groups so far with another £111k awarded in November 26.

6.3.3 The **Greening the City** programme was launched with funding made possible through LEZ income. New trees in planters have been located in the city centre to provide immediate visual impact, and the [Trees for Streets](#) initiative launched to engage residents and establish more trees in local and priority neighbourhoods.

6.3.4 **The City Deal Canal and North Gateway** project providing housing and active travel networks was delivered.

6.3.5 Glasgow's second annual **Climate Week** ran from the 12th -16th May 2025. The aim of Climate week was to showcase and celebrate some of the positive action happening across the city and provide opportunities for learning and collaboration through a calendar of events and web-based blog posts authored by different organisations from across the city.

6.3.6 To augment the council's own climate literacy training, an Energy Management training module was added this year. The training has so far been delivered to over 1000 staff.

6.3.7 PV Solar panels were installed across 8 council family properties including the Kelvin Hall, Castleton Primary School, Camstradden Primary School, Dalmarnock Primary School, Haghill Primary School, St Bernard's Primary School, Mallaig Road Daycare, and Muirhead Road Daycare.

6.3.8 The [Community Renewable Energy Framework](#) (CREF) was launched in June 2025. The CREF outlines the Council's package of support for local groups to develop community-led renewable energy projects.

6.3.9 Glasgow was chosen as the location for the **Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance** (CNCA) annual conference, hosting representatives from 40 global cities.

6.3.10 The first **Community Municipal Investment** (CMI) was launched to raise £1m for renewable projects.

## 6.4 Collaboration

- 6.4.1 A **Cooperation agreement** was set up in September 2024 between West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) and Glasgow City Council (GCC) to support both parties working together towards their shared common objectives in relation to achieving Net Zero.
- 6.4.2 The main objective of the Co-operation is to assist with respective common objectives and duties in relation to the four Cooperation areas as detailed below and work closely together to provide each other with assistance in achieving Net Zero.
- 6.4.3 Good progress has been made across all workstreams, especially in relation to waste as the basis upon which the partnership was established. Clear plans have been devised to drive forward a number of joint initiatives over the next 12 months and continue to build on the good progress in the first year of the agreement. More detail is below:
- 6.4.4 Waste Management and Recycling
- There is a clear opportunity to co-operate and shape strategy through knowledge transfer and the sharing of lessons learned, given the fact that the sector is undergoing significant policy change, impacting how local authorities deliver waste and recycling services.
- 6.4.5 Transition to Electric Fleet and Implementation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- Transport makes up a significant amount of carbon emissions and as such is a key contributor to harmful air pollution across both local authorities. Both parties have therefore agreed to act in cooperation to reduce emissions from transport through collaboration.
- 6.4.6 Sustainability, LHEES, District Heating Systems and Renewables
- There are shared common goals and a strategic objective to achieve Net Zero and meet the same policy drivers around Heat. Both parties have agreed to identify ways in which collaborative opportunities can be identified across these themes and taken forward.
- 6.4.7 Sustainable and Active Travel
- Both parties have agreed to cooperate and support each other in the delivery of their shared objectives by sharing knowledge, expertise and resources to promote the design and delivery of active travel infrastructure.



## **7. Climate Plan Review**

- 7.1 The Climate Plan is now into its fourth year, through most of which the city has, like the rest of the country and beyond, been faced with multiple crises.
- 7.2 The Adaptation Plan focuses on the existing and predicted future local impacts of global climate change, what they mean for the city and how, with other partners, the Council plan to respond to them now and in the future.
- 7.3 As reported to the Council last year, the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee determined in November 2023 that a full review of the Climate Plan was required.
- 7.4 Following extensive engagement with officers from across the council, the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership and the Pupil Forum, the draft Plan was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee on 11 November 2025 and from there recommended to the City Administration Committee in December 2025 which approved the launch of a formal consultation.

## **8 Next Steps**

- 8.1 Wider opportunities for engagement have been scoped and will also be delivered during the formal consultation window. These broadly fall under 3 categories:
- 8.2 Information stalls in public spaces – providing opportunities through hosting a stall and conversation points within public spaces such as shopping centres or train stations
- 8.3 Attending existing events / meetings – for example attending the Community Council Information Session for Community Council leaders, sharing information at the wide range of networking sessions the team attends e.g. Climate Ready Clyde forum.
- 8.4 Targeting specific locations / groups – where we know there is an area of interest, such as that stimulated through the Creative Climate Futures community activity or providing assemblies in schools.
- 8.5 It is anticipated that sessions covering the three categories will take place during the consultation window, which will cover different areas of the city and a range of different demographic groups. Information will be gathered during this engagement activity, which can be used as a starting point for further conversations around climate action across the city. These in person sessions will enhance the formal online consultation requirements. Both will be accompanied by a social media and communications Plan.
- 8.6 It is anticipated that following formal consultation, Glasgow's Climate Plan will return to the Net Zero Committee with a request to be recommended to the City Administration Committee for approval and publication by the end of March 2026.

## 9 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 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.

## **10 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council:

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