Item 5

11th April 2023

Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Sustainability

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SUSTAINABLE GLASGOW UPDATE

Purpose of Report:

To update Committee on the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership

Recommendations:

a) Committee notes the update.
b) Committee notes the next steps.
c) Committee requests a further update in 12 months.

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 This report provides background on the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership, how the partnership has been organised, and updates on the work undertaken in recent years.

1.2 The report also sets out the direction of travel for the partnership and how it intends to support the city's target of being net zero carbon by 2030.

2 Background

2.1 The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership was established in 2009 in tandem with production of the Sustainable Glasgow, which was report written by the University of Strathclyde in partnership with Glasgow City Council and through funding supplied by Scottish Government through the Central Energy Efficiency Fund allocated to Glasgow.

2.2 The Sustainable Glasgow report established a target for Glasgow to reduce its CO_2 emissions by 30% by 2020 against a baseline of 2006. The report set out 33 actions that, if delivered, were stated to enable this target to be achieved. The report set a cost in excess of £1B.

2.3 Amongst the actions set out in the report were recommendations to set up a system to turn sewage and municipal waste into biogas, developing a district heating scheme, introducing efficient natural gas/biogas-fuelled Combined Heat and Power systems and running a smart grid system.

2.4 Figure 1, below, illustrates the progress made against the 2020 target and shows the city to have both achieved and exceeded that target.

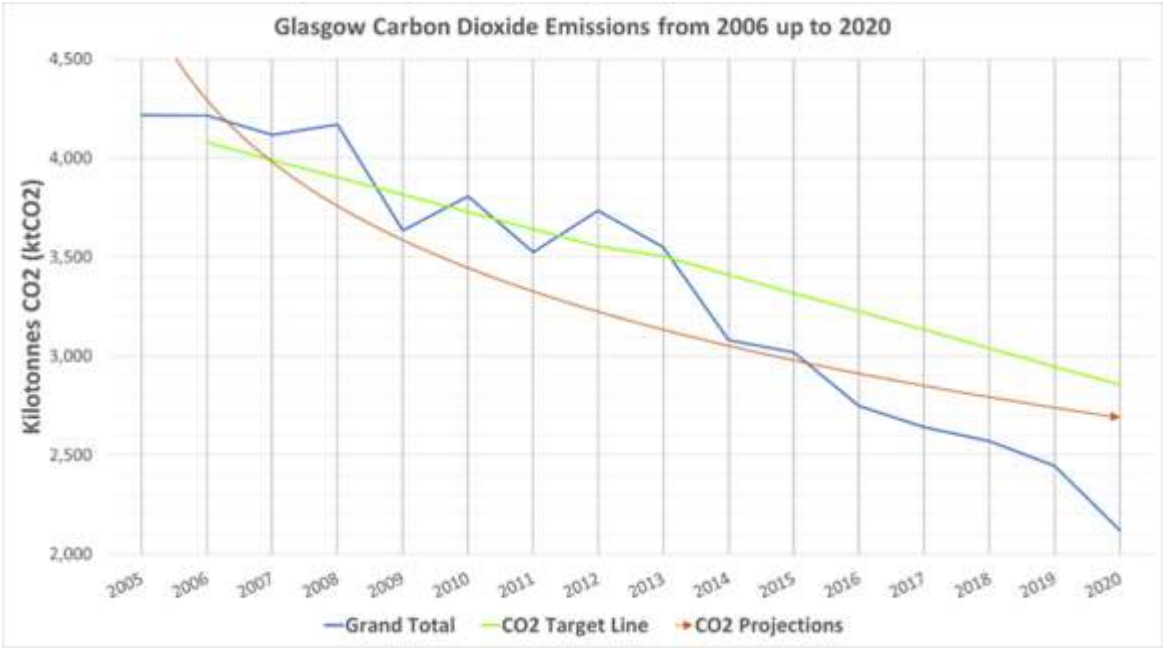


Figure 1 – Glasgow citywide CO_2 emissions

3 Composition of Sustainable Glasgow

3.1 At the time the partnership was established, the vision was for a public/private partnership that would drive delivery of the actions set out in the Sustainable Glasgow Plan. The board included Glasgow City Council, and the universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde, NHS, Scottish Government and others as representatives of the public sector, and included Scottish Power, Scottish & Southern Energy, Honeywell, and Siemens, representing the private sector.

3.2 The board was reviewed by Legal Services, the outcome of which was to have public sector membership of the group only to support good governance.

3.3 In the interim period, a number of significant projects have been delivered that have been supported by Sustainable Glasgow and have contributed to the city reaching its 2020 target. These have been reported in annual updates on city emissions to committee. These include the Cathkin Wind Turbine, mass roll-out of solar PV, the construction of the Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre, the EV charging network, and many more.

3.4 In the approach to COP26 taking place in Glasgow, and in light of the developing Climate Plan and 2030 Net-Zero Carbon Target, a review was undertaken into the operation and impact of the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership. This included a public event in the SEC in 2020 to identify opportunities and guage public opinion on how Sustainable Glasgow could support the journey towards Net Zero Carbon.

3.5 Following the public event, it was agreed that input from non-board member organisations would be critical to achieving the 2030 target and, as a result, agreement was reached on the establishment of four thematic hubs that would invite non-board member organisations to get involved and support activity within the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership. The four thematic hubs and their chair organisations are listed below:

- Heating and Housing – Chaired by GCC
- Green Infrastructure and Transport – Chaired by University of Strathclyde
- Green Economy and Private Sector – Chaired by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)
- Greening the City – Chaired by Clyde Gateway

3.6 Each of the hubs is tasked with working on ways to enhance delivery of action in relation to their specific theme and reporting progress to the board on a quarterly basis.

3.7 In addition to the creation of the four thematic hubs, a new Sustainable Glasgow website was launched to help communicate much of the good work that has been delivered in the city in response to the climate emergency, including activity of the hubs, case studies on best practice, information on the circular economy, plus more. The website is located at https://sustainableglasgow.org.uk/

3.8 One of the key pieces of work produced is the Sustainable Glasgow Business Charter. The Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy Hub Charter is a commitment by leading businesses and employers in Scotland's largest city, and host of COP26, to take action within their own organisations and sectors to contribute to a green recovery and radically reduce the City's carbon emissions. The charter commits organisations to "effect significant and demonstrable change in our business practices resulting in an accelerated reduction in climate emissions that contribute to Glasgow's net-zero carbon target".

3.9 At time of writing, the charter has 27 major signatories with a further 3 lined up to sign. Efforts continue to grow that number

4 Success to Date

4.1 The Sustainable Glasgow Board has facilitated progress on a number of different projects. Highlights of that success are summarised in this section.

4.2 Energy, District Heating & Transport

4.2.1 The Board has been instrumental in addressing the issues that the city faces in relation to decarbonisation of the electricity and heat supply in the city. It has provided support and governance to the development of the Climate Neutral Innovation District, a project focused on deploying mitigation and adaptation projects in the city centre, mostly focused on the creation of a district heating network ustilising heat captured from the River Clyde via heat pumps.

4.2.3 It has also supported the installation of the first air-source heat pump district heating scheme in the city, led by Sustainable Glasgow board member, the Wheatly Group, in the South-Side of the City. The partnership has also supported the development of roof-mounted air-source heat pumps on high rise blocks with North Glasgow Homes, a very exciting project that has resulted in significant energy savings to the residents.

4.2.4 The partnership has also supported work done in Clyde Gateway in the development of its 4th and 5th generation district heating networks through supporting funding bids and providing assistance in their development. The project received £6.2M in investment, with £2.1M coming from the SPEN Green Economy Fund.

4.2.5 The partnership has also worked to unlock challenges in relation to accessing grid connections and supporting grid infrastructure improvements through the support of Scottish Power Energy Networks, leading to successful deployment of renewable energy connections and new grid infrastructure assets being installed to support increased demand on the electricity grid in Glasgow, including upgraded infrastructure in the City Centre for COP26 and in the South-Side to support growing development needs.

4.2.6 In addition to successes such as those above, the Board has supported initial investigations into geothermal energy and is supporting current investigations

with a view to developing an investment opportunity into baseload renewable energy into the City's electricity and heat networks.

4.2.7 The EU funded RUGGEDISED project also received critical input from the partnership, with key work delivered in partnership with Scottish Power Energy Networks and the Wheatley Group delivering 20 – 30% reductions in energy bills to residents in the Drygate area. These benefits were subsequently rolled out to some 14,000 electrically heated homes in the City.

4.2.8 The partnership has also helped to further efforts to decarbonise transport through funding from SPEN's Green Economy Fund for e-cargo bikes and for electric bus charging infrastructure. The partnership has also, through its Green Infrastructure and Transport hub, applied academic resource from the University of Strathclyde and Glasgow to investigate ways to promote last mile solutions, leading to work on a last mile hub in the City.

4.2.9 The retrofit of domestic and non-domestic properties is a critical element in reaching the City's Net-Zero Carbon target. The Sustainable Glasgow Board has supported efforts to address this by working with Glasgow University on the full retrofit of a tenement block on Niddrie Road to EnerPHit, an important piece of work given the 73,000 pre-1919 sandstone tenement homes in the City. The board is also working with Glasgow City Region on a wider evaluation of how to approach retrofit in the City.

4.3 Glasgow Green Deal and Greenprint

4.3.1 The board has taken on a significant role in the development of the Glasgow Green Deal and Greenprint, with partner organisations contributing resource to the partnership, particularly through the Green Economy and Private Sector Hub, to provide a 'critical friend' role to the development of a Green Deal for the City.

4.3.2 In the lead up to COP26, the partners were tasked with identifying opportunities for investment in green projects in the city to be included in the first Greenprint for the City. This work included submissions from the Glasgow City Council, University of Strathclyde, SPT, and Clyde Gateway, as well as contributions by organisations outside of the partnership, such as Glasgow City Region and SEC. Work is now underway to review the Greenprint and update with new investment opportunities.

4.4 Communication

4.4.1 Communication and behavioural change are key to ensuring success in achieving the City's 2030 target and Sustainable Glasgow has a key role to play in this.

4.4.2 A major piece of of communication work by the partnership came with the creation of two stands I the COP26 Green and Blue zones. These stands were manned each day throughout the entire conference, with members of the board and their respective organisations taking turns to man the stands and engage

with delegates from across the world and from here in Glasgow to talk about the work underway through Sustainable Glasgow.

4.4.3 To provide further communication to the citizens of Glasgow and beyond, the partnership created a new website (www.sustainableglasgow.org.uk) that details the partnership, its work, case studies, the Sustainable Glasgow Charter, and more. Response to the website has been very positive and has helped promote further discourse and project design in the City.

4.4.4 The Sustainable Glasgow Charter was created by the partnership, led by SPEN and the Green Economy Hub. Its purpose is to build dialogue with businesses of all sizes in the city and to encourage them to commit, by signing the Charter, to contributing to achieving Net-Zero Carbon where they can. The work also provides support to those businesses keen to help but lacking the resource to develop a strategy.

4.4.5 The website also contains a storymap that maps out projects across the city contributing to Sustainable Glasgow's work.

5 Proposed Next Steps

5.1 At time of writing the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership consists of the following organisations:

- Glasgow City Council
- Clyde Gateway
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
- Glasgow Convention Bureau
- NHS
- Scottish Enterprise
- Scottish Government
- Skills Development Scotland
- Scottish Power Energy Networks
- SPT
- Transport Scotland
- University of Glasgow
- University of Strathclyde
- The Wheatley Group

5.2 The board has agreed that a review of the existing partnership is required to explore the resource requirements required to continue to support Sustainable Glasgow and to explore ways in which the partnership can bid into available funding pots to secure more investment into sustainability projects in the city. A paper in relation to these points is scheduled to be presented to the Board in May.

5.3 The four hubs have been considering their plans for the forthcoming year with the priorities being set out below. This work will result in proposals and business cases that may require committee approval, these will be presented to committee where appropriate.

5.3.1 The Heating and Housing hub is considering its role in relation to the requirements of domestic retrofit and seeking to develop and support funding bids and pilot projects in support of this aim.

5.3.2 The Green Infrastructure and Transport hub is focussing its work on supporting the delivery of phase 2 of the Climate Neutral Innovation District in the City Centre, and progressing this work to an investment ready position.

5.3.3 The Green Economy and Private Sector hub is focussed on getting more businesses to sign up to the Sustainable Glasgow Charter and providing support to those signatories in developing their plans to support the Net-Zero Carbon target. The hub will also seek to input to the Just Transition, Circular Economy, and Skills work being led by Glasgow City Council. The hub is also developing a workplan which will also seek areas where our 30 member organisations can collaborate to deliver a tangible contribution to the City's net zero targets.

5.3.4 The Greening the City hub will work on growing capacity to increase the deployment of nature based solutions in development, including tree planting, to support net gains in biodiversity particularly in urban areas.

6 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	No direct implications
Legal:	No legal implications
Personnel:	The project was implemented using existing staff resources.
Procurement:	No procurement implications

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

The initiative supports the grand challenge: Fight Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to Net Zero, empowering local communities to to take meaningful action on climate change.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	Yes, the partnerships activities support the Council's equality outcomes.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	The report is a high level update and does not present potential equality impacts. More detailed work led by the partnership will be subject to equalities impact assessments.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	The partnership seeks to develop projects that help address socio-economic disadvantage through addressing the climate emergency, fuel poverty and green economic development.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	The initiative supports the overall implementation of the city's Climate Plan, particularly its commitments for more meaningful community engagement and participation.
What are the potential climate impacts as a	The partnership seeks to promote local climate action to address the climate and ecological

result of this proposal?	emergency, and support the city becoming net-zero carbon by 2030
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	The initiative looked to support local action to help reduce city wide carbon emissions and therefore supporting the city's net zero target.
Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	NO
Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N	

7 Recommendations

a) Committee notes the update.
b) Committee notes the next steps.
c) Committee requests a further update in 12 months.