



Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring
City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods Regeneration
and Sustainability

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Item 1

7th November 2023

ANNUAL REVIEW OF GLASGOW'S CLIMATE PLAN

Purpose of Report:

To provide committee with an update on Glasgow's Climate Plan for discussion and consideration.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1) Notes the progress update of Glasgow's Climate Plan.
- 2) Requests a further update in 12 months' time.

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

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

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 [Glasgow's Climate Plan](#) was unanimously approved by the City Administration Committee [in June 2021](#).
- 1.2 The Climate Plan represents a key step to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency. It outlines the City's approach, pathway, and strategic actions towards net zero carbon emissions, healthy biodiversity, and climate resilience.
- 1.3 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.
- 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 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.
- 1.6 The first annual update was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [September 2022](#).
- 1.7 This update report includes a summary of progress towards the City's 2030 net zero targets and the 59 strategic actions, and 5 key themes included in the plan.

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.
- 2.2 A **Scoping Group** has been convened to support the Board and recommend projects for inclusion in the Climate Programme. Membership includes senior officers from across the Council and ALEOs.
- 2.3 A **Sustainability Programme Management Office (PMO)** is now fully resourced within the Sustainability service of the City Development division within NRS and supports the governance, delivery and monitoring of the Climate Programme.
- 2.4 Climate Plan Actions are assigned to officers across the Council and ALEOs and in some cases to external partners. The PMO monitors progress and

provides support, where possible, to aid delivery of these actions. Where appropriate, activities in support of each Action are being developed into projects that can be monitored and provide tangible measurable deliverables.

2.5 Further plans for governance of the Climate Plan are set out in Section 8.

3 Emissions Reduction

3.1 The Climate Plan aims to reach net-zero carbon emissions for the City by 2030. The greatest measure of success of the Climate Plan is Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the City.

3.2 A report on citywide CO₂ emissions for 2021¹ was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [August 2023](#). The City continues to make good progress in reducing carbon emissions within areas under its direct control, achieving an overall **reduction of 42%** from the 2006 baseline, and remains ahead of target despite an increase in emissions as a result of recovery from the pandemic

3.3 The report concluded that the overall increase in annual emissions, although expected due to pandemic factors, highlights the need to continue to raise the pace and scale of climate action and to prioritise the most impactful action wherever possible, in particular around heating & transport where decreases from baseline lags behind other sectors.

4 Action Plan Progress to Date

4.1 The 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

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

- 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. Detail in relation to progress of Amber actions is presented in Section 7.
- Red implies significant delay due to issues for example outwith the Council’s control.

¹ Data on the UK’s greenhouse gas inventory, including emissions of CO₂, 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.

4.4 The current status is:

- **26 Actions (44%)** are on track and shown as Green.
- **33 Actions (56%)** are Amber
- **No Actions** are Red.

4.5 It should be noted that 20 Actions have a target date of 2020/2021/2022 assigned on publication. Due to the impact of the pandemic a number of these targets have not been met. However the affected Actions have been assessed and as the delays have not unduly impacted the overall objectives of the Climate Plan and as work is underway on mitigating activity to recover and make progress, these Actions have been classed as Amber. The target dates will be revised in the next iteration of the Plan.

4.6 A summary Status of the Climate Plan is shown in Charts 1 below:

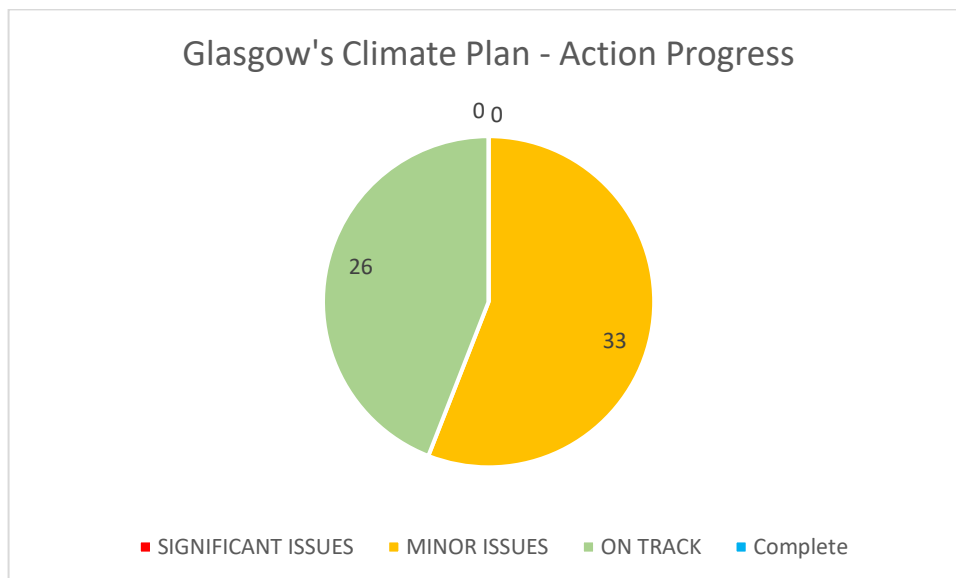


Chart 1 – GCP Actions Progress

4.7 The Action Plan and status for each Action is provided in **Appendix 1**.

5 Key Activities

5.1 A summary of key highlights achieved in implementing the plan in the last year broadly split into the aforementioned Climate Plan Themes is contained in **Appendix 2**.

6 Department Climate Responses

6.1 In addition to specific projects, several departments and sections have also developed their own approaches to tackling climate change in support of the overarching Glasgow Climate Plan:

- **Glasgow Life** – Update on Net Zero - presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [March 2023](#)

- **Corporate Procurement** – Approach to support the council’s Net Zero 2030 ambition – presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [March 2023](#)
- **Strathclyde Pension Fund- Climate Change Strategy** – presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [August 2023](#)
- **Education Services** – Climate Action and Learning for Sustainability – presented here [August 2023](#)
- **Health & Social Care Partnership** – Service update (Update on work being undertaken by Social Work Services in relation to Climate Plan) presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [September 2023](#).

7 Key Challenges

- 7.1 Notwithstanding the progress achieved across various projects and initiatives, there are common challenges in delivery of the Climate Plan. The main issues are:
- Resources & Funding
 - Governance and progress tracking
 - National Policy
 - External involvement
 - Accelerating Climate change
- 7.2 Further details and mitigations are set out in **Appendix 3**.

8 Review of the Glasgow Climate Plan

- 8.1 [Glasgow’s Climate Plan](#) was unanimously approved by the City Administration Committee [in June 2021](#). The Plan is now approaching its third year, through most of which the city has, like the rest of the country and beyond, been faced with multiple crises.
- 8.2 The [Glasgow Climate Adaptation Plan 2022 - 2030](#) was approved by the City Administration Committee in [June 2022](#). It 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.
- 8.3 The Climate & Sustainability Board has been launched and the Sustainability Programme Management Office (PMO) is now fully operational. It is the intention of the Board to now focus on 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, updated technology, 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.
- With reference to the Net Zero Routemap, which is currently being procured and will evaluate various technical and economic scenarios and advise on the most appropriate and expedient route to Net Zero Carbon emissions, develop a protocol for prioritisation of Actions to focus available resource where it will make most impact in delivery of the Climate Plan.
- With input from officers across the Council, develop the Adaptation Plan and Climate Plan into one overarching **Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan** for the City and revise Actions to allow consistent focus on activities and reduce double monitoring.

8.4 This undertaking is expected to take several months and is intrinsically linked to the Net Zero Routemap work, thus an updated Climate Plan will be brought to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee no sooner than 12 months hence.

8.5 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.

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 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 Committee:

- 1) Notes the progress update of Glasgow's Climate Plan.
- 2) Requests a further update in 12 months' time.