



Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City
Committee

Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of
Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Sustainability

Contact: Gavin Slater Ext: 78347

Item 4

12th November 2024

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF GLASGOW'S CLIMATE PLAN AND GLASGOW'S
CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN**

Purpose of Report:

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

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the progress update of Glasgow's Climate Plan.
- 2) Notes the progress update of Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan
- 3) 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 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 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, 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 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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

Climate Plan, as well as a summary of progress of the actions included in the Adaptation 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)** within the Sustainability service of NRS 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 Sustainability 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 of this report.
- 2.6 The Climate Adaptation Plan has been monitored by a separate process to date. Moving forward, the actions contained within the Adaptation Plan will be integrated into the next iteration of the Climate Plan and will be included within the Governance arrangements above.

3 Emissions Reduction

- 3.1 The Climate Plan sets out the City's ambition to reach net-zero carbon emissions for the City by 2030. The success of the Climate Plan is measured by the volume of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions produced by the whole City.
- 3.2 A report on citywide CO₂ emissions for 2022¹ 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 the 2006 baseline, and remains ahead of target despite an increase in emissions from

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.

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 bounce-back 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.
- 3.6 Finally, the robust climate governance in place across the city, will ensure that the costs and the benefits of the Net Zero Carbon transition are shared equitably across the city and that the delivery of Net Zero Carbon is done in a manner which brings all key stakeholders along.

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:

- 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

4.1.2 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. 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.

4.1.3 The current status is:

- **5 actions (8%)** are Complete (Blue)
- **23 Actions (39%)** are on track and shown as Green.
- **31 Actions (53%)** are Amber
- **No Actions** are Red.

4.1.4 It should be noted that 17 Actions have a target date between 2020 & 2023 assigned on publication and have not been met. This would ordinarily mean they are classed as Red. A further 3 Actions with earlier target dates are making good progress and would be classed as Green were it not for the target date. 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 and some targets were not met due to time lost by the pandemic. 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 all been classed as Amber. The target dates will be revised in the next iteration of the Plan.

4.1.5 The Action Plan and status for each Action is provided in **Appendix 1** at [Appendix 1 Climate Plan Action Tracker Oct 2024](#).

4.2 Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan

4.2.1 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

4.2.2 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 Sustainability PMO.

- Actions that are discrete and complete are marked as Blue.
- Actions considered “On Track” or embedded as ongoing Business as Usual 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.

4.2.3 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.

4.2.4 The Action Plan and status for each Action is provided in **Appendix 2** at [Appendix 2 Climate Adaptation Plan Action Tracker Oct 2024](#).

5 Key Activities

- 5.1 A summary of key highlights achieved in implementing the Climate Plan in the last year broadly split into the aforementioned Climate Plan Themes is contained in **Appendix 3**.
- 5.2 A summary of key highlights achieved in implementing the Adaptation Plan in the last year is contained in **Appendix 4**.

6 Department, ALEOS and Partner Climate Responses

- 6.1 In addition to specific projects, several council departments and sections, ALEOs and partners have also developed their own approaches to ensuring their specific area of work is contributing to tackling climate change in support of the overarching Glasgow Climate Plan and have been invited to report to this Committee.
- 6.2 Committee has previously heard from Glasgow Life, Strathclyde Pension Fund, Corporate Procurement, Education Services and Health & Social Care Partnership and updates provided in the last 12 months are below:
- Clyde Gateway presented in [February 2024](#).
 - City Property Group update on net zero activities presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [April 2024](#).
 - Sustainable Glasgow Partnership update presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [May 2024](#).
 - Scottish Events Campus report on Net Zero Energy plans presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [August 2024](#).

6.3 An invitation to present on sustainability activities will next be extended to Jobs & Business Glasgow.

7 Key Challenges

7.1 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

7.2 Further details and mitigations are set out in **Appendix 5**.

8 Future Considerations and Next Steps

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

8.3 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.
- 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.
- Update actions in line with decisions resulting from the recently completed Net Zero Routemap, which will be presented to Net Zero and Climate Change Progress Monitoring Policy Development Committee in November. This provides the scientific evidence to underpin our ambition and establishes a scientific basis for scenario planning that is both rigorous and flexible. The development of Glasgow's Net Zero Routemap has been built upon a platform for data to be used to ensure that we can be agile as we

work towards addressing the evolving challenge that climate change presents. It will provide advice and costings and assist in determining priority areas for progression. This platform will also be used by all other Scottish Local Authorities through the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service, presenting a coherent approach to managing climate related data and reporting on progress.

- 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.

8.4 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.

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 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 Committee:

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