



Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

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Item 4

28th May 2024

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 ☐

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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 CO₂ 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 Beyond 2020, Sustainable Glasgow evolved to continue its work in support of Glasgows Net Zero Carbon by 2030 target.
- 2.5 Figure 1, below, illustrates the progress made against the 2030 target and shows the city to have both achieved and exceeded that target.

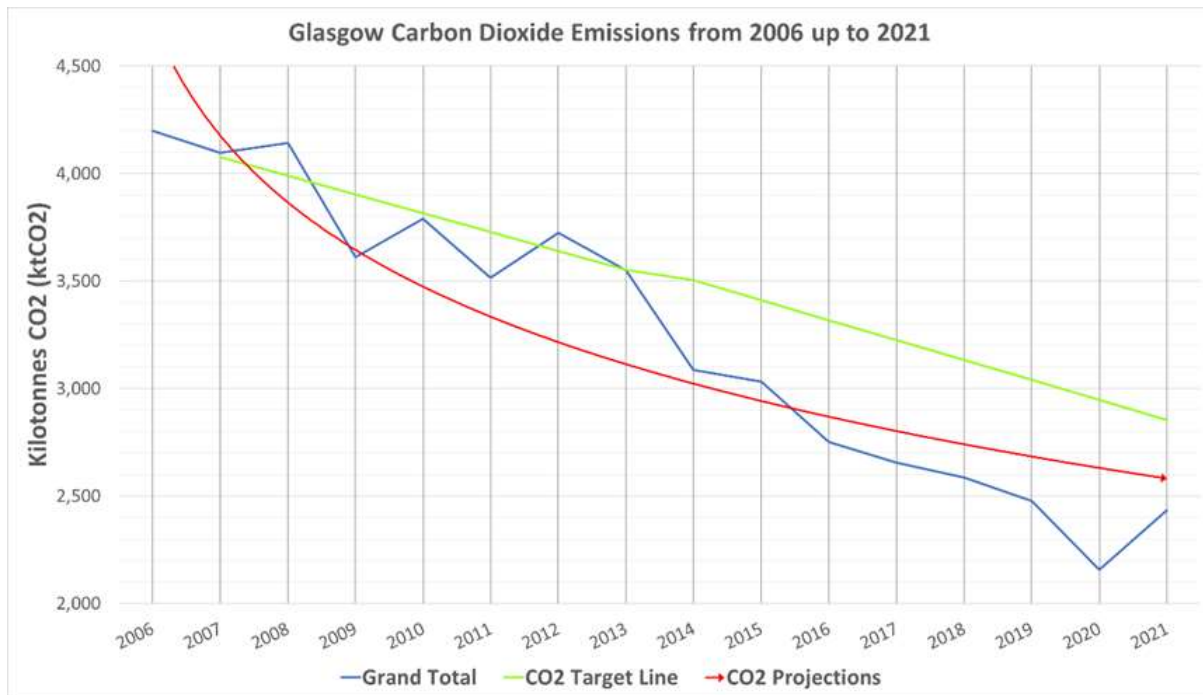


Figure 1 – Glasgow citywide CO₂ emissions

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 2030 target.
- 3.4 The Board is supported by 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
- 3.5 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.

- 3.6 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".
- 3.7 At time of writing, the charter has 37 major signatories with a further 3 lined up to sign. Efforts continue to grow that number.

4 Progress to Date

- 4.1 The Sustainable Glasgow Board has facilitated progress in a number of different areas. This progress can be measured through the work of the thematic hubs as well as through the Board. The work of each Hub is summarised in this section.
- 4.2 Heating and Housing Hub
- 4.2.1 The Heating and Housing Hub has developed to work on developing a focused approach to dealing with the implications of the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) on heating systems at a domestic level, especially in areas where the incidence on multiple deprivation and density of housing does not correlate with a viable economic approach for district heating roll-out.
- 4.2.2 This approach has led to the Hub engaging with various different housing associations and technology providers to evaluate potential pilot projects and look to connect organisations to create pilot project opportunities. As a result of this endeavor, the Hub is facilitating a potential pathfinder project that would see deployment of a shared ground array heating project, replicating work done in Cornwall. Initial studies have indicated this work to be viable and the business case will be further developed over the next 6 months.
- 4.2.3 The Hub is also engaging expertise in Heat Pumps to continue to evaluate their potential in the City, leading to the creation of a 'Heat Pump Accelerator' workstream that will work to support accelerated uptake of heat pumps whilst ensuring clear and consistent messaging is used when describing the benefits of deploying heat pumps. This will also support the LHEES as well as the Council's Climate Investment work.
- 4.2.4 A Retrofit Advisory Group (RAG) has been established by GCC Housing to provide a focal point and enable a deep dive into housing retrofit with a focus on pre-1919 tenements. The RAG has created a library of retrofit research and is connected to the Housing Retrofit Research Programme. The RAG will work in parallel with the Hub to further develop the approach to housing retrofit.

4.2.5 In addition to the above, the Hub has also been working on issue relating to new build housing, scaling up retrofit, and opportunities for renewable energy, as well as having contributed collective response to the following consultations:

- Glasgow Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) – public consultation by 25 September 2023. Strategy publication by December 2023.
- Scottish Government Energy Performance Certificate Reform, 10 October 2023.
- Scottish Government Heat in Buildings Bill - during 2023.
- Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH2) Review 2023.

4.3 Green Infrastructure and Transport Hub

4.3.1 The Green Infrastructure and Transport Hub (GITH) has, due to the previous Chair leaving, appointed a new Chair to take the lead. The Chair position remains held by the University of Strathclyde.

4.3.2 The newly appointed chair has reviewed the previous terms of reference for the GITH and, with support of the Hub, agreed to revise them to be supportive of pushing more activity across the City. This follows the completion of phase 2 work supporting the development of the Climate Neutral Innovation District (CNID), with all documentation being made available to Glasgow City Council for inclusion in the development of the LHEES, in which the CNID is one of the Indicative Zones

4.3.3 The GITH has held meetings to identify where it can provide support for the Glasgow Transport Strategy. The Hub is in the process of evaluating the key actions in the Glasgow Transport Strategy where they can provide support, this includes looking at some of the activity of its fellow hubs, where there is a transport element.

4.3.4 The GITH is also looking to provide additional support for both the LHEES and the Council's Climate Investment work and has begun looking at ways in which it can provide support. This includes supporting the potential creation of a letter of intent to collect support from building owners in the City to connect to district heating, going beyond the commitment set out in the Sustainable Glasgow Charter and providing a more specific commitment that could be used to help build investor confidence. The Hub members have been asked to act as early adopters where possible.

4.3.5 In addition to the above, the GITH is also committed to supporting community owned renewables and is working with local community groups to develop approaches in this area.

4.4 Greening the City Hub

4.4.1 The Greening the City Hub continues to work promote efforts to green the City and has been working on an action plan that can be delivered through the Hub.

4.4.2 Following working directly with members of the Hub and issuing a survey, a number of focussed workshops are being planned to further develop an action. 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.

4.5 Green Economy & Private Sector Hub

4.5.1 The Green Economy and Private Sector Hub has continued to work businesses throughout the understand the issues faced by businesses of vary size and compositions, and has progressed a number of initiatives, including the continued support of the Sustainable Glasgow Business Charter, which now has almost 40 organisations signed up.

4.5.2 The hub has worked on supporting the transition of business-related mobility through the design of a Corporate Mobility Pact. A launch event is being planned for late summer 24.

4.5.3 In addition to the above, the Hub has been very active in connecting businesses with academia to try and support the Just Transition skills agenda.

4.5.4 Finally, the Hub has been active in supporting the City's greening ambition by working with the Council on exploring how businesses can support the increase of green assets in the City.

4.5.5 Subgroups of the Hub have been established to concentrate on supporting each of the activities described above, over and above the normal commitment of Hub members.

5. Sustainable Glasgow Membership

5.1 A review into the effectiveness of the board led to changes to how the board is managed to be considered. This review was aimed at facilitating more action and delivery related to the work of Sustainable Glasgow, building on the good work that has been done so far and advancing it to the next stage, in support of the Council's various policies and ambitions for the City.

5.2 The review concluded that the preferred way to facilitate more action would be to establish a model that required financial contributions from each of the Board members to support the delivery of more action.

5.3 Glasgow City Council worked on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that went through various iterations with the various Board member organisations before arriving at an agreed final draft. The MoU sets out the base requirement of an annual contribution to be made by each member as a condition of the place on the Board. Each of the members agreed that they would pay the first

three years in advance. The annual contribution does not apply to any of the members of the four thematic hubs.

5.4 The resulting budget will be used for the following:

5.5 Programme Management and Support

5.5.1 The Sustainable Glasgow Board is currently supported by the Sustainability Team within Glasgow City Council. This support includes secretariat support for the Board and Members.

5.5.2 The Sustainable Glasgow Hubs are chaired by Sustainable Glasgow Board Members, with the administrative burden of operating the Hub born by that organisation.

5.5.3 To facilitate a more holistic and coherent approach, it has been recognised that a dedicated Programme Manager is required to manage the action plans of the Board and the Hubs and coordinate delivery, providing the necessary skills and support required to accelerate action.

5.5.4 The Sustainability Team within Glasgow City council already operates a Climate Programme Management Office that manages the delivery of the Climate Plan. An additional post will be created to allow a Sustainable Glasgow Programme Manager to be integrated.

5.6 Funding of research/feasibility works for projects.

5.6.1 As stated, It is the ambition of the Board to see more action in relation to delivery of projects that further the goals of Sustainable Glasgow and the City's climate ambition. The Board and Hubs are encouraged to propose research/feasibility, however until now there has not been any budget to support detailed design of these projects.

5.6.2 While the strength of the Partnership comes from the collective intellect and ambition of the Members, it is recognised that not all aspects of project design can be managed from the partners. Thus, it is crucial that funding is available to take projects from concept design to detailed design, and then onto a position of seeking funding for delivery. This part of the Sustainable Glasgow budget will be used to support such work.

5.6.3 The Sustainable Glasgow Programme Manager will utilise the programme management tools already embedded in the Glasgow Climate PMO to work with the Hubs to compile applications for funding, working with the Group Manager (Sustainability PMO) & Head of Sustainability to ensure the bids are sufficiently detailed to be successful.

5.6.4 The Sustainable Glasgow Project Manager will work with the bidder throughout the process of application and, if successful, through the design stage, towards creation of a fundable project for delivery.

5.7 Funding of Project Opportunities

- 5.7.1 Going beyond support for feasibility, funding will be made available to support the goals of Sustainable Glasgow and the City's climate ambition.
- 5.7.2 Proposals should be made to the Board in relation to utilisation of this funding. Proposals may request full funding from the Board though, given the relatively small quantum of funding available, the Board would encourage the fund to be used as match funding or contributory funding to unlock additional funding from external funders, such as local, national, EU, or international funding.
- 5.7.3 Projects may have already been successful in receiving development funding, however this is not a pre-requisite of a funding application and projects that have had development funding from other source will be considered.
- 5.7.4 The Sustainable Glasgow Project Manager will work with organisations/consortiums through the preparation of a funding bid, working with the Group Manager (Sustainability PMO) & Head of Sustainability to ensure the bids are sufficiently detailed to be successful.
- 5.7.5 The Sustainable Glasgow Project Manager will then work with successfully funded projects to support their delivery and ensure timeous reporting of progress to the Board. Individual governance of projects will be dependent on the organisations responsible for delivering the project. For example, projects developed and delivered by Glasgow City Council will be governed by the Climate and Sustainability Board and the Councils Committee structures whereas projects led by another Board Member will, be subject to the relevant governance that relates to that organisation. The Sustainable Glasgow Board is not a legal entity and will not provide governance and assurance for projects.

5.8 Hosting of an annual Sustainable Glasgow Climate Week

- 5.8.1 Glasgow City Council has committed to hosting an annual Climate Week in the City mid-May. Climate Week will be hosted to coincide with the All Energy Conference but will not be restricted to attendees of the conference and will be grown to be for all citizens of Glasgow.
- 5.8.2 This element of the budget will be used to support the development of Climate Week, including the potential creation of a Climate Festival in the City to celebrate Sustainable Glasgow's ambition, progress, and plans, alongside a celebration of Glasgow's communities and culture. The first iteration of this funded Climate Week will coincide with Glasgow 850-year celebrations.
- 5.8.3 Work will also be undertaken to develop a number of mini-COP type events to allow discussion and development of climate policy in the City, utilising the City's ability to attract international speakers to give talks on Climate action.
- 5.8.4 All work in relation to Climate Week will be considered by the Sustainable Glasgow Board to ensure alignment with the ambitions of Sustainable Glasgow.

The organisation of the events plan will be managed by the GCC Sustainability PMO, led by the Sustainable Glasgow Project Manager.

5.9 Creation of promotional materials/management of comms

5.9.1 Throughout the course of each year, there will be a requirement to ensure that the work of the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership is communicated widely, via its website and social media. This work will be managed by the Sustainable Glasgow Programme Manager.

5.9.2 This will include, but not be limited to, the creation of materials to promote Climate Week, creation of case-studies exemplifying the work of the Board Member organisations and Hub contributors where appropriate, signposting to external events relevant to the work of Sustainable Glasgow, and creation of an annual performance report.

6. Next Steps

6.1 The Board member contributions will be collected and recruitment will commence for the Programme Manager.

6.2 Processes will be put in place to manage the funding of the various other elements listed in section 5.

6.3 The Hubs will continue to deliver work in support of the LHEES, Climate Plan, Transport Strategy, and other relevant strategies.

6.4 Another report will be provided to this committee in 12 months.

7 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 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 result of this proposal?

The partnership seeks to promote local climate action to address the climate and ecological 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

8 Recommendations

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