

**Glasgow City Council****Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee****Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Sustainability****Contact: Gavin Slater****Ext: 78347****GLASGOW'S CLIMATE PLAN 2026-2030****Purpose of Report:**

To provide Committee with the draft revised Glasgow's Climate Plan 2026-2030.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the content of this report.
- 2) Recommends Glasgow's Climate Plan 2026-2030 to the City Administration Committee for approval to proceed to consultation.

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 [Glasgow's Climate Plan](#) was unanimously approved by the City Administration Committee [in June 2021](#).
- 1.2 The Climate Plan represented a city-wide approach to addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency and includes a target for the City to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, a position where any emissions that cannot be removed are negated by carbon sinks in the City. The Plan, which was informed by extensive stakeholder engagement, outlined the City's approach and strategic actions towards reaching its stated target, as well as supporting healthy biodiversity and climate resilience.
- 1.3 The Plan set 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, and explore 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.
- 1.5 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](#).
- 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, set the context for action to adapt to those climate change impacts already observed and those that are projected to come.
- 1.8 The Adaptation Plan sat 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.
- 1.9 The first annual update was presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [November 2024](#).

## 2 Progress to Date

- 2.1 A Climate & Sustainability Board chaired by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, and a Sustainability

Programme Management Office (PMO) were created to govern and direct the activity in the Climate Plan.

- 2.2 Significant progress has been made in the time since both plans were launched, as detailed in the update presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [November 2024](#) with additional details in the Appendix to that report.

### **3 Climate Plan Review**

- 3.1 Notwithstanding the progress achieved across various projects and initiatives, common challenges have been identified in delivery of the Climate Plan and Adaptation Plan. The main challenges are highlighted below:

- Global issues
- National Policy
- External involvement
- Accelerating Climate change
- Resources & Funding
- Governance and progress tracking

- 3.2 Other influences on the scope and future delivery of the plans have also been identified such as:

- progress on current pertinent council, policies, strategies and action plans
- new council policies, strategies, action plans and initiatives
- the availability of new technologies
- new national policies and legislation
- learning from the Net Zero Routemap, which was presented to Net Zero and Climate Change Progress Monitoring Policy Development Committee in [November 2024](#)
- Guidance by way of the new Climate Plan template issued by the Scottish Government which encourages local authority climate plans to include both mitigation and adaptation measures
- the Scottish Government Adaptation Plan 3 (SNAP3) and the Adaptation Capability Framework.

- 3.3 As reported to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in November 2023, the Board determined that due to influences identified at that time, a full review of the Climate Plan was to be undertaken. In the report to the Committee in [November 2024](#), this was scheduled for 2025.

- 3.4 A report to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [April 2025](#) outlined the process for development of a revision.

- 3.5 Significant work has since been undertaken to develop this revision with key Stakeholders from across the Council including Transport Strategy, Active Travel, Planning, Housing, Policy, Procurement, Economic Development, Education and Sustainability engaged in the development of actions providing input.

- 3.6 Updates have been shared with both the Climate and Sustainability Board and the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership.

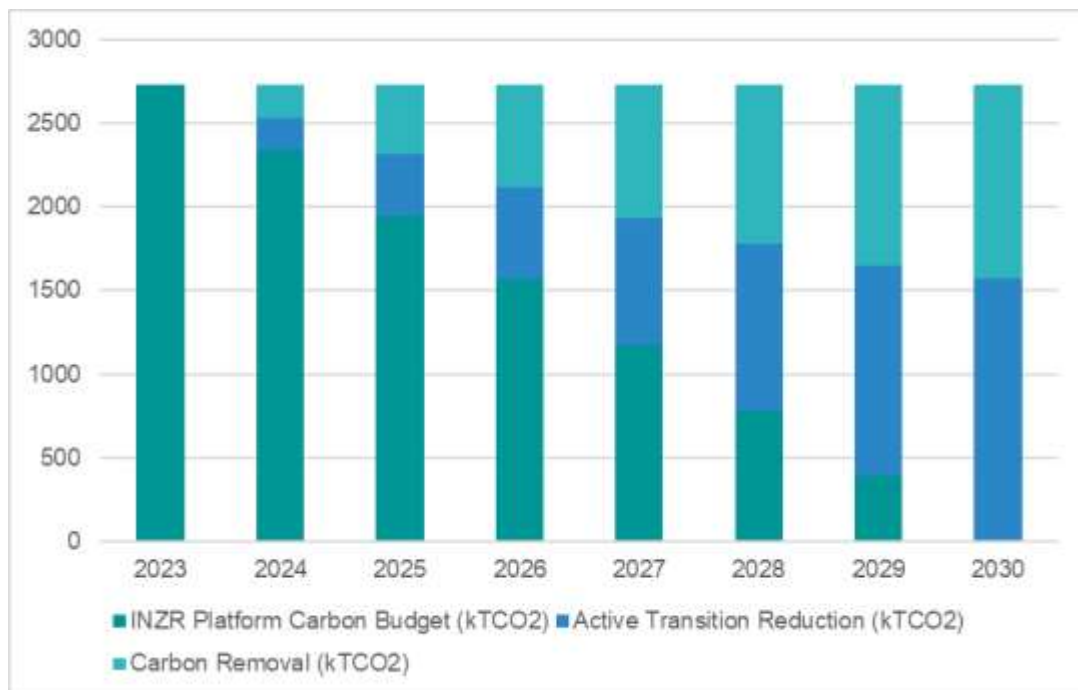
## **4 Glasgow's Climate Plan 2026 - 2030**

- 4.1 The 2<sup>nd</sup> version of Glasgow's Climate Plan is attached as Appendix 1 and the detailed Climate Action Plan is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4.2 The Plan continues to have a target to become a net zero carbon city by 2030 and also incorporates the aspiration of a city resilient to climate change as previously outlined in the 2022 Adaptation Plan. This plan therefore brings together the ambition and aspiration of both the previous Climate Plan and Adaptation Plan and allows a consistent focus on activities
- 4.3 Climate as a cross-cutting subject involves work from many different thematic areas, therefore one of the roles of the Climate Plan is to bring together under one umbrella plan, the contributions already committed to in different policies and strategies.
- 4.4 The Plan sets out how activities will be governed and includes reference to statutory reporting requirements on Glasgow City Council.

## **5 Key Revisions**

- 5.1 The Climate Plan is a document which is designed to be accessible to everyone. It has therefore been written to emphasise accessibility without sacrificing the science that underpins it. To further support accessibility, a separate Quick Guide version has been created and can be reviewed in Appendix 3.
- 5.2 The Plan demonstrates the true value of climate action by highlighting the wider benefits that can result from its delivery. This will help to ensure that residents and businesses across the city understand that climate action delivers benefits such as reduction in fuel poverty and child poverty, warmer homes, and improvements to mental and physical health through better access to greenspace.
- 5.3 In line with Scottish Government guidance and to ensure statutory duties are incorporated, the Plan now covers both mitigation and adaptation activity and identifies if actions should be influenced or delivered by the Council, or delivered by external bodies, citizens, and visitors of Glasgow.
- 5.4 The Plan has been developed using the science based approach developed through delivery of [the Net Zero Routemap](#). This understanding has allowed us to prioritise costed mitigation activities more effectively within the Plan. The rough order of magnitude costs are aligned to the actions within the Plan.

- 5.5 For the first time, the Plan will be measured against a Carbon Budget, developed from data used to develop Glasgow's Net Zero Routemap. The Carbon Budget will provide us with annual carbon emission targets required to be met if we are to stay on track to meet the projected pathway set out in the Net Zero Routemap. Having annualised science-based carbon budgets enables us to track and record progress at a much more granular level. We will be able to see clearly the areas of work which are accelerating emissions reduction but also areas where we need to focus attention if they are falling behind the targets set. The chart below shows the carbon budgets set for the city up to 2030.



*Figure 1: Carbon Budget projection for Glasgow based on the Net Zero Routemap projected pathway*

- 5.6 Many actions from the previous versions remain however have been updated due to the influences mentioned in Section 3 with some activities replaced by more appropriate ones.
- 5.7 There are several new actions now included where opportunity has arisen. Some highlights are the inclusion of new actions related to wider emissions monitoring (Scope 3 and other Greenhouse gas emissions); the challenge of carbon sequestration, consideration of the climate implications associated with the rise of AI, and activities around freight transportation.
- 5.8 Council policies, strategies and plans adopted since the publication of the previous version of the Climate Plan have been referenced in the full Action Plan.
- 5.9 Where policies and strategies include external organisations as key partners, these have been referenced in the Action Plan.

- 5.10 All actions have been revised to ensure that target dates have been amended where appropriate following review of progress with action owners. Performance measures and metrics have also been revised to better monitor progress.
- 5.11 It should be noted that costings for adaptation actions and other actions not covered by the Routemap will continue to be developed as part of the delivery of the Plan.
- 5.12 Additionally, an “accelerated pathway” was also produced as part of the Net Zero Routemap exercise and while the Climate Plan does not adopt this, where opportunity presents, some aspects of this pathway may be actioned in the future.
- 5.13 Further information on the key revisions incorporated into the Climate Plan is included in Appendix 4.

## **6 Governance and Reporting**

- 6.1 As referenced in 2.1, overarching governance of the Climate and Sustainability Programme is managed by the Council through a Climate and Sustainability Board which will drive forward activity, recommend new policies and strategies and monitor progress, providing governance and accountability for the council’s own actions and reviewing wider city activity.
- 6.2 The Terms of Reference of the Board were updated in February 2025 to include governance of the Adaptation Plan which is now incorporated into Glasgow’s Climate Plan 2026-2030.
- 6.3 The Climate Plan includes a detailed Climate Action Plan (CAP) and each action has an identified owner, which may include the Council, the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership, other public bodies and private organisations. The Sustainability Programme Management Office (PMO) will work with action owners to collate updates and to, where possible, assist in managing risks or issues, and provide updates regularly to the Board.
- 6.4 Actions will be assessed by reference to performance indicators and progress will be reported annually to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee and to full Council.
- 6.5 The Action Plan will continue to include a number of short, medium, and long-term actions with a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) status for each.
- 6.6 [The Climate Change \(Duties of Public Bodies; Reporting Requirements\) \(Scotland\) Order 2015](#) and [The Climate Change \(Duties of Public Bodies; Reporting Requirements\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2020](#) require public bodies to submit annual climate change reports. The council will continue to fulfil this duty by submitting data on an annual basis via the [Annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report \(PBCCD\)](#). The report includes

information on how the Council is performing on climate mitigation, adaptation and sustainability practices and includes output from many of the actions included in the Climate Plan.

- 6.7 City-wide emissions are collected and reported on an annual basis to Committee using data provided by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ). It should be noted that this information is 2 years in arrears on publication due to the time taken to collate information at a national level the disaggregate and issue at sub national level.
- 6.8 Both sets of results can be viewed on the Council's [Environmental Performance](#) webpage.
- 6.9 Mitigation activities will also be monitored against an annual Carbon Budget, derived from the [Net Zero Routemap](#), which projects the required amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions reduction each year.

## **7 Next Steps**

- 7.1 A formal consultation period is required prior to publication of a finalised Climate Plan. This will be conducted over a period no less than 8 weeks.
- 7.2 In preparation for the proposed formal consultation, which will include the documents being made available for comment both online and as a hard copy in Exchange House reception upon request, wider opportunities for engagement have been scoped. These will also be delivered during the formal consultation window. These broadly fall under 3 categories:
  - Information stalls in public spaces – providing opportunities through hosting a stall and conversation points within public spaces such as shopping centres or train stations
  - 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.
  - 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.
- 7.3 It is anticipated that we will run a number of sessions across these 3 categories during the consultation window, which will cover different areas of the city and a range of different demographic groups. We will ensure information is gathered on 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.
- 7.4 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.

## 8 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* Yes, the plan aims to ensure that those citizens most vulnerable, due to their socio-economic circumstances or geographical location, are not



2021-25? Please specify.

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. It includes wider benefits of climate action.

## Climate Impacts:

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

Yes. The proposal is a revision to the Climate Plan and continues to support Glasgow's ambition to be a net zero carbon and climate resilient City.

*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.

## **9 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the content of this report.
- 2) Recommends Glasgow's Climate Plan 2026-2030 to the City Administration Committee for approval to proceed to consultation.