

How have Scottish public bodies responded to the declaration of a climate emergency?

The Ferret emailed 30 public bodies in Scotland on 16 July 2019 as follows:

“On 28 April 2019 the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, declared a “climate emergency”. On 14 May the climate change secretary, Roseanna Cunningham, made a statement to the Scottish Parliament on the government’s response to the “global climate emergency” listing a number of measures being taken to cut carbon pollution. On 19 June the First Minister announced the “big climate conversation” to discuss action “to tackle the global climate emergency”.

“Though environmental groups welcome these moves, they question whether enough is being done to encourage government agencies to change their behaviour.

“Has (your organisation) received any direction or guidance from Scottish Ministers on how to respond to the climate emergency? If so, what did it say, and what was the agency's response? Whether or not any guidance was received from ministers, what specific measures has (your organisation) put in place since April to respond to the climate emergency? As much detail as possible would be welcome, as would any guidance or background information.”

We also asked the Scottish Government similar questions. The full responses of the government and 27 of the public bodies are reproduced below.

Scottish Government

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Scotland’s world-leading response to the global climate emergency needs to be system-wide and built on solid foundations of dialogue, collaboration and consensus. Our Big Climate Conversation will involve all sectors of society in identifying what needs to happen to end Scotland’s contribution to global warming.

“We are working with partners across the public sector to explore the most efficient ways of scaling up action. We will shortly launch a written consultation on the role of the public sector in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including seeking views on opportunities and challenges that public bodies face in decarbonising their operations, information about what works, and what support and guidance is needed.”

Background

On 19th June the Scottish Government launched The Big Climate Conversation. Scotland's response to the climate emergency will require significant changes across all sectors of society - individuals, communities, businesses – as well as across the whole of the public sector, and the Big Climate Conversation aims to build a collaborative approach to that. Several aspects of the Big Climate Conversation are focussed on the public sector.

We will shortly launch a written consultation on the role of the public sector in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The consultation will seek views on updating the Public Sector Climate Change reporting duties so they best support enhanced climate change ambition. The consultation will also seek views on the opportunities and challenges that public bodies face in decarbonising their operations, information about what works, and what support and guidance is needed. A conference aimed at sustainability professionals working in the public sector will be run on Scottish Government's behalf by the Sustainable Scotland Network in October.

Scottish Government is working with partners across the public sector to explore the most efficient ways of scaling up action. The Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) is a network of leaders at the heart of public services in Scotland. SLF met most recently on 3 June, and acknowledged that the Climate Emergency was one of several key national challenges that members will look to focus on in the future. Discussions are ongoing within the SLF to shape its future programme, and Scottish Government officials will continue to liaise with the SLF, to support any work on climate change. Similarly, officials are working with the Public Bodies Delivery Group, comprised of Chief Executives from Scotland's executive agencies, to assist in the development of a collective response to the emergency.

An amendment to our Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill was proposed during Stage 2 of the Parliamentary process in June that would require public bodies to set out how they plan to contribute to meeting or exceeding the national emissions reductions targets prior to Scottish Ministers approving their resourcing. The Scottish Government agrees that public bodies have a vital role to play in responding to the global climate emergency and that ministers should be satisfied that public bodies are contributing to reduced emissions prior to agreeing resources. The Scottish Government would like to take the opportunity to work with opposition members to refine the wording and to bring back an amendment at stage 3. It is essential that the amendment to the Bill helps drive the delivery of the positive actions and outcomes that we expect from all our public bodies.

Ministers routinely provide strategic guidance as part of their sponsorship of a wide range of public bodies and have recently written to those agencies involved in the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board around their expectations and priorities for 2019/20, including with regard to the First Minister's declaration of a global climate emergency. Guidance provided to these organisations highlight the need for all public bodies to help realise the significant opportunity for growing the low carbon sector, both through leadership and directly through action on their own estates.

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities

A spokesperson for the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities said: "COSLA accepts that climate change is a global crisis which requires an urgent and considered response. However, COSLA is not a Scottish Government agency so we do not receive guidance or direction in this way, on any matter. Since April we have been developing a response to the Climate Emergency declared by the Scottish Government and several of our members councils. As a first step the COSLA Environment and Economy Board agreed in June to support the Scottish Government's amendment to the Climate Change Bill to set a net zero emissions target for 2045. We will develop our thinking over the summer and we expect to be in a position to discuss how local government can respond to a climate emergency in more detail in the autumn."

Transport Scotland

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: "In light of the global climate emergency, Ministers informed Parliament that the Scottish Government, including Transport Scotland, would look across a whole range of responsibilities to make sure that we continue with the policies that are underway to reduce emissions and, where necessary, identify increased actions. We can confirm that extensive work is underway across our portfolio, in addition to existing initiatives already in the pipeline.

"The Scottish Government has already announced a change in its policy on Air Departure Tax. However, an emergency needs a systematic, evidence based response that is appropriate to the scale of the challenge.

"Our National Transport Strategy (NTS2), which will be launched for public consultation later this month, will set the future direction for transport over the next 20 years and taking climate action will be a priority.

"As Scotland's largest emitting sector, we know that more needs to be done to meet our net zero target. We are currently commissioning independent research to inform

what action is needed to decarbonise the Scottish Transport Sector. This will consider a range of policy measures across all modes of travel and the findings will inform the NTS2 Delivery Plan as well as the update of the Climate Change Plan.”

Background

Our second Strategic Transport Project Review (STPR2), which is being undertaken in tandem with the National Transport Strategy, will set out our strategic transport investment priorities for Scotland. STPR2 will look at the best use of existing assets and what new infrastructure may or may not need to be built. It will provide a clear alignment with Scotland’s national plans, policies and strategies including the new NTS2 and the forthcoming update of the Climate Change Plan.

The Transport Bill is an ambitious piece of legislation covering a wide range of issues which will deliver a cleaner, smarter and more accessible system for the travelling public across Scotland. A number of areas in the Transport Bill will contribute to our emissions reduction agenda including Low Emission Zones and an improved framework for our bus services. In addition we supported the Green Party amendments for a Workplace Parking Levy.

All major projects within the Scottish Government’s transport portfolio, including the A9 and A96, are subject to regular review and we will continue to make considered and measured decisions that fit with our circumstances. We need to balance the extensive changes required to meet a target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions with our duty to ensure that Scotland has high quality infrastructure to meet the needs of all our residents, businesses and visitors.

We have a successful rolling programme of rail electrification in Scotland, meaning that by the end of 2019 three quarters of all ScotRail journeys will be under electric traction. We are also progressing work to improve rail services on the Highland Mainline. During March 2019, the £55 million phase 2 of the Highland Mainline Enhancements programme was completed as scheduled, providing an immediate performance and resilience enhancement onto the route. By May 2020, a revised timetable, currently under development, will deliver journey time reductions and improve service frequency, providing better connectivity with the central belt and Inverness.

We are accelerating the provision of electric vehicle charging points, taking a co-ordinated approach with local authorities, energy network companies and commercial operators. As part of this we are establishing the UK’s first electric trunk road on the A9, ensuring all parts of Scotland benefit from the transition to electric vehicles. At the same time as supporting the transition to zero emission technology,

we are also investing over £1 billion per year in public and sustainable transport to encourage people onto public transport and active travel modes.

CalMac

A CalMac spokesman said: “Under the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service contract we were tasked to implement an Environmental Strategy which is now complete. One of the main outputs within the strategy is a commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 5%, which we are on course to achieve by the end of the year.

“We fully recognise the risk of climate change and the potential impact on our communities and operations. Along with our targets to reduce our emissions, we are in the process of developing a climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan. This is to enhance our understanding of the potential impacts of climate change. We want to ensure that as a company we are more resilient and able to make informed decisions for future operations.”

For further background here’s a link to the Environmental Strategy launch news release:

<https://www.calmac.co.uk/CalMac-cutting-carbon-as-part-of-new-eco-actions>

Highlands and Islands Airports

A spokesperson for Highlands and Islands Airports said: “Airport operations and expansion of infrastructure have associated environmental impacts and the public are increasingly interested in what is being done to mitigate these impacts. Our environmental and sustainability performance aligns closely with Scottish Government targets and policies, but we are striving to do more and aim to exceed government targets.

“We are developing an ambitious environmental strategy to cover the period 2020-2030 and have published our Statement of Strategic Intentions and Targets via our website so that everyone understands the importance of what we are doing.

“HIAL is committed to continually improving our airports’ environmental and sustainability performance, that is why we are developing an Environmental Strategy for 2020-2030. We are very aware of our responsibilities to address environmental issues. The full strategy will develop through an initial four-year programme beginning in 2019 that includes baseline measurement and implementation phases. We will develop and progress our ambitions through engagement with our staff, stakeholders and regulators.

“Air links allow us to connect to the rest of the world and help ensure the more remote parts of the Highlands and Islands retain sustainable and vibrant communities. We are supporting a project that aims to launch the world’s first electric air transport routes. Our aim is to be at the forefront of transitioning to a low carbon future and will work with Government and others to achieve this. As technology advances cleaner air travel is likely to become more viable and our airports and infrastructure will be required to maximise the opportunities presented as the aviation industry adapts to the urgent environmental challenges we all face.”

Glasgow Prestwick Airport

A Glasgow Prestwick Airport spokesperson said: “We are continually looking for ways to improve our environmental credentials and we have implemented a number of initiatives to help us achieve this.

“With regard to communication from Scottish Ministers, you would need to direct that to the Scottish Government for a response.”

Education Scotland

A spokesperson of Education Scotland said: “Education Scotland works collaboratively with the Scottish Government and other partners to promote understanding of global issues, such as climate change.

“Education Scotland updated its Climate Change Briefing in June 2019 to summarise how the theme of climate change is currently being addressed in:

- National education policy
- Professional learning and leadership
- The management of schools: school buildings, grounds and policies
- Curriculum provision (curriculum content, learning and teaching, qualifications).

“The full briefing can be read at <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/ClimateChangeinScottishEducation.pdf>

“Also in June 2019, the Scottish Government launched the Learning for Sustainability – Vision 2030+ Action Plan to support the implementation of the recommendations in the Vision 2030+ Report. Education Scotland was instrumental in developing this plan, and has been tasked with a number of actions to progress, in conjunction with its partners, including:

- Ensuring that quality improvement frameworks continue to support improvement and self-evaluation in relation to Learning for Sustainability.
- Ensuring that Learning for Sustainability-relevant senior phase and career pathways are promoted and disseminated within the education sector.

The full action plan can be read at <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/LearningforSustainability-Vision2030ActionPlan.pdf>

“In addition, Education Scotland hosts a range of online materials to provide schools with access to high quality curriculum resources and information relating to climate change on Education Scotland’s Improvement Hub.”

Background information

Learning for Sustainability is an entitlement for learners within Curriculum for Excellence and enables learners to:

- to help build a socially-just, sustainable and equitable society
- develop the four capacities of becoming successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

The Learning for Sustainability - Vision 2030+ Action Plan sets out how the Scottish Government and partners, including Education Scotland, will implement the recommendations from the Vision 2030+ Report.

Vision 2030+ is the final report of the Learning for Sustainability Implementation Group, which provided 31 recommendations to Scottish Ministers on how Learning for Sustainability could be best promoted within Scottish education. This action plan gives effect to those recommendations.

Skills Development Scotland

A spokesperson for Skills Development Scotland said: “I can confirm we have received direction and guidance from Scottish Government on the Climate Change Emergency. It is prominent within our [Letter of Guidance](#) from Scottish Government which was published on our website on 7 July. You will see that it is set out as a priority in the opening paragraph and then referenced throughout.

“In response, our new 3-year [Strategic Plan](#), published last month, sets out our intent to work more collaboratively with the other Skills and Enterprise agencies – Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. We will share resources to help decarbonise Scotland’s economy at pace, both at an

organisational level and in the products and services we provide at sector and regional level.

“A practical example is partnership work we have undertaken with Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland to create a Circular Economy Skills Report which will be published in the coming weeks. This report identifies the level of understanding business have around the circular economy, the skills and training requirements within the business manufacturing sector, and offers recommendations on how to the uptake and adoption of circular economy practices.”

As background information, we already have a company Carbon Management strategy in place. Over the last four years we have:

- achieved a 25% total carbon footprint reduction
- 40% reduction in carbon footprint of energy
- 6% reduction in carbon footprint of business travel through regular “limited travel months”
- Landfill diversion rate improved from 84% to 89%
- improved our Carbon Trust Standard Certification score from 83% in 2015 to 87% in 2017.”

Scottish Qualifications Authority

A Scottish Qualifications Authority spokesperson said: “SQA is very aware of the need to cut carbon pollution and fully supports the Scottish Government’s objective to achieve net zero emissions by 2045, as laid out in May by the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change.

“SQA already has a large number of initiatives and processes in place to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment, with a focus on reducing emissions, cutting waste, and making green business decisions. We work in partnership with bodies such as the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN), and since 2014, have submitted an annual Climate Change report to Scottish Government to monitor progress against climate change targets.

“In SQA’s Carbon Management Plan, 2015-2019, a baseline on which to compare carbon emissions was set as the emissions from 2013/14, which equated to 1,643 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e). In the first three years there was an overall reduction of 12% on the baseline figure. During the report year of 2017/18 there was a further 12% reduction on the baseline figure and we are currently on track to achieve our emissions targets for 2018/19.

“However, we understand more needs to be done, and are currently developing a new carbon management strategy which will set emissions targets for the next three years. This strategy will reflect the Scottish Government’s overall target of becoming carbon neutral by 2045.”

Scottish Enterprise

Please find attached some background information on the specific measures we have put in place to respond to the climate emergency.

A few points to highlight:

- We are in constant discussion with Scottish Government colleagues regarding tackling climate change. The measures outlined in the attached reflect the recent developments, including the climate emergency focus. It is important to note that these measures are an evolution of our long standing focus on the low carbon agenda.
- Our new strategic framework is more ambitious and progressive in its approach and focuses on a more collaborative way of working to create economic social and environmental success for Scotland.
- A demonstration of this commitment is that we have seconded Dr Martin Valenti, an award winning climate change expert, from SEPA to support our approach and to develop nature based opportunities to create the right environment for businesses to go beyond compliance and identify opportunities for net-zero initiatives.

Dr Martin Valenti, head of climate enterprise at Scottish Enterprise said: “Tackling climate change has long been a priority for Scottish Enterprise. We will continue to work with partners, including Government and businesses to shape and deliver Scotland’s response to this fast-changing environment.”

Background information from Scottish Enterprise

Scottish Enterprise has worked closely with public sector, industrial and academic partners to develop a broad, co-ordinated programme of actions supporting the Scottish Government climate change targets and ambitions. Most recently these have reflected the response to the Committee on Climate Change report, the adoption of Net Zero targets and the response to the government’s recognition of a global climate emergency.

Climate change is one of the biggest risks to the future resilience of the global economy. A move to a low carbon world economy could deliver huge economic growth and job-creating benefits for innovative businesses. We recognise that the threat of climate change cannot be mitigated by the efforts of a handful of business, agencies and governments, though. It will take a concentrated, coordinated and cohesive effort on a global scale.

Scottish Enterprise has a critical role in shaping and delivering Scotland's response to this fast-changing environment. As outlined in our new strategic framework, we must build resilience and ensure we realise new opportunities as they arrive. We need to innovate our way into new economic territory.

We are focused on delivering a broad, co-ordinated programme of actions that will help Scotland achieve net zero emissions by 2045. This includes:

Engagement and alignment of partners around the most significant economic opportunities for Scotland

Facilitating development of innovative solutions and the clusters that build Scotland's capabilities

Utilising the skills, expertise and assets of all of Scotland and its regions

Leveraging investment into innovative solutions

Taking innovative solutions to Scottish and international markets

Scottish Enterprise continues to closely support the energy sector as it draws upon its company base and innovation ecosystem to reduce costs of offshore wind, tidal and wave energy. We have key strengths in offshore and underwater engineering, and the energy sector overall is rapidly developing transformational technologies based on digital and data based technologies.

Most recently we have prioritised three significant programmes:

Decarbonisation of the transport sector, focusing on smart mobility and on the potential for hydrogen fuel for heavy-duty commercial vehicles.

Supporting CCUS with a focus on industrial decarbonisation in energy intensive industries and the repurposing of oil and gas infrastructure for carbon storage.

Local Energy Systems in Island, Rural, Industrial and Urban locations.

We are also providing support for the food and drink industry, supporting the low carbon transition for the oil & gas industry and Scotland's international opportunities in clean water and renewables

High-level examples of our initiatives that support the transition to a low carbon economy include:

The funding of demonstration projects and R&D programmes
Investment in manufacturing sites
The commissioning of research
The provision of business advice and support to companies
Forging connections within and outwith the renewable & low carbon sector

We recently submitted evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Environment Climate Change and Land Reform Committee, you can read it in full at the following link: https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Environment/Inquiries/028_Scottish_Enterprise.pdf.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Audrey MacIver, director of energy and low carbon at Highland and Islands Enterprise, said: "Our strategy and operating plan was developed in conjunction with the Scottish Government and the other enterprise and skills agencies. It recognises that the climate emergency is one of the biggest risks to the future resilience of the global economy and takes account of the Ministerial ambitions to address this. We recognise that the transition to 'Net Zero' presents the region with particular economic opportunities as well as challenges across all sectors and will have far reaching impacts on consumers and communities.

"In conducting an orderly response to the climate emergency, we will support businesses and communities in the drive towards being a carbon neutral country by 2040, including prioritising investments that achieve the longer-term impacts required. Our region has an exceptionally high renewable energy resource and, with our strong support, the sector will continue to contribute substantially to the country's climate change ambitions, whilst generating new jobs and sustaining communities. More broadly, we consider the low carbon impact in all our interventions and will continue to review and refine our approach in the context of the Scottish Government's heightened commitments."

Scottish Water

A spokesperson for Scottish Water said: "We welcome the Scottish Government's ambitious net zero goal in response to the evidence presented by the UK Climate Change Committee. We recognise the scale of change across the economy that net zero demands, and are working to understand the challenge this presents to us, and the plans and strategies we will need to help Scotland achieve these goals.

"Scottish Water takes its responsibility to protect the environment and the challenges we face around the impacts of climate change extremely seriously and

we are working to reduce our Greenhouse Gas Emissions across our activities, whilst ensuring our services remain resilient.

“We have undertaken a number of activities and made good progress in reducing our carbon footprint and impact.

“Activities across our organisation include investment in energy efficiency, renewable power from hydro, solar and wind, peatland restoration and sustainable land management, developing low carbon treatment solutions, and piloting energy efficient vehicles in our fleet.

“Already more than 70 of Scottish Water’s water and waste water treatment works are now either fully or partly self-sufficient in their power requirements, leading to lower operating costs, smaller carbon footprint, and a more sustainable business.

“We have met our current business plan objectives on renewables and energy efficiency target two years early, but recognise there is even more to do and we will work with the Scottish Government and stakeholders to develop the business plans that will support Scotland’s net zero carbon milestones over the next 25 years.”

Additional/background information

Scottish Water’s carbon footprint has fallen by 41% since we first reported it in 2006/7.

We are working with our capital investment delivery partners to reduce carbon footprint in the delivery of our £3 billion investment programme to deliver resilient and robust water and waste water networks and services.

Scottish Forestry

A spokesperson for Scottish Forestry said: “As part of Scottish Government, Scottish Forestry is working with its partners within Scottish Government and beyond to develop Scotland’s response and approach to tackling the global climate emergency.

“Tree planting is a crucial element in tackling the global climate emergency and removing carbon from the atmosphere, and Scotland is playing its part, creating 84% of all new woodland in the UK in 2018-19.

“The Scottish Government has committed to ambitious increases in planting targets over the next few years. Scottish Forestry is increasing its focus and drive on further supporting the national endeavour to increase rates of tree planting, after seeing the 2018-19 target smashed with 11,200 hectares of woodland created, including 1000

hectares created by Forestry and Land Scotland on Scotland's national forests and land."

Scottish Natural Heritage

A spokesperson for Scottish Natural Heritage said: "The Cabinet Secretary has made clear it is the responsibility of all organisations to step up to the challenges posed by the climate emergency. As the lead agency for the Scottish Government in sustaining biodiversity, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is at the forefront of that response.

"The UKCCC (UK Committee on Climate Change) Report and the IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) Report together position nature as a key part of the solution to the Climate Emergency. In May our Chief Executive Francesca Osowska delivered a speech at the Royal Society of Edinburgh highlighting how enhancing our nature is part of the solution to the climate emergency.

"Our work is informed by the findings of the IPBES Report, which identified five main drivers of biodiversity loss:

- Changing use of the land and sea, especially for agriculture, forestry and coastal infrastructure;
- Direct exploitation of organisms via harvesting, logging, hunting and fishing;
- Climate change;
- Pollution; and
- Invasive non-native species

"Climate change is especially problematic because as well as a driver in its own right, it intensifies all of the other drivers. SNH is working in partnership to tackle each of these main drivers.

"Since early 2019, we have been updating our Climate Change Action Plan, making our climate change work more proactive and better integrated across our remit. We aim to publish our new high-level climate change strategy this autumn, and later in 2019 will issue a detailed action plan which will be regularly updated.

"We know we have a big task before us but we have been working for years with our partners to meet international nature targets. We are ready to deliver the transformational change needed to bring a nature rich future for Scotland.

“Globally, we have been given deadlines to act before it’s too late. We will be at the forefront of pioneering work to restore our habitats, protect our species and promote nature.”

Examples of SNH actions taken over recent months to address the key, five areas:

- Peatland restoration – We are building on robust work already completed by our Peatland Action project with an additional £11 million of funding announced by the Scottish Government in June. The restoration work we are taking forward includes improving areas of wetlands by reducing drainage and slowing water flow on peatland, as well as covering areas of peat exposed to the elements, helping to lock in carbon and reduce potentially harmful CO2 emissions.
- Biodiversity Challenge Fund – In June we confirmed funding of £1.8 million over a two-year period through our Biodiversity Challenge Fund for projects that will take practical steps to improve natural habitats, safeguard plant and animal species and improve biodiversity. One of the funding priorities was habitats affected by climate change.
- Green Infrastructure Fund - We will shortly be announcing further investment to make our urban environments more nature friendly, particularly within our more underprivileged communities, through our Green Infrastructure Fund. Between now and 2023 we will be working in around 30 underprivileged areas to deliver projects which improve their greenspace and encourage all sectors of the community to make best use of it and connect with nature.
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA) consultation – Over the summer we are leading on a series of consultation events around the country in the next step for plans for four possible Marine Protected Areas for Scotland's seas. Understanding ‘blue carbon’ - the carbon captured by the world's coastal ocean ecosystems - is vital for our efforts to combat climate change.
- Non-native invasive species – Climate change increases the ability of non-native invasive species to spread, and take a hold, in Scotland. In May, our partnership Scottish Invasive Species Initiative ran a series of events during National Invasive Species Week to raise awareness of invasive non-native species such as Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and American mink and the threat they pose to local nature as well as encourage community and volunteer involvement in their control. Last year 342 volunteers undertook invasive plant control as part of the project, with 736km of giant hogweed treated, while 195 volunteers helped to monitor mink rafts. We are also working closely with partners, farmers and landowners to help them to

manage sites in a way that tackles invasive species and overgrazing on protected areas.

- Nature conference - In May we hosted more than 35 agencies, NGOs, research bodies, local authorities and communities for a conference to address the state of nature in Scotland and agree the next steps needed to tackle biodiversity loss. In relation to emissions reduction, SNH is working towards running its pool car fleet without fossil-based fuels by 2026, and has expanded its network of EV charging points at its offices across Scotland. We have installed 22kw rapid public charging points at Dingwall, Inverness, Battleby and SNH use points at Aviemore and Dingwall. This adds to our existing SNH use charging points at Golspie, Inverness, Battleby, Edinburgh and Kinross. Our Senior Leadership Team have been reporting (through internal blogs) on their use of electric vehicles for travel to locations not served by public transport, demonstrating and leading behaviour change.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

A spokesperson for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency said: “For nearly three years, under the direction of Scottish Government, SEPA has driven its pioneering regulatory strategy – One Planet Prosperity. The ambitious and progressive strategy, recognises that whilst environmental compliance is non-negotiable, climate change, environmental, social and economic success will require systemic rather than incremental change from Scottish business.

“Reflecting the scale of the environmental challenge facing humanity and the urgency to act, utilising the Regulatory Reform Act, SEPA is changing today, creating a world-class environment protection agency fit for the challenges of tomorrow. Working with Scottish Government and reflecting the ambition of the Cabinet Secretary, we’re accelerating how we’re transforming our approach to regulation.

“We’ve introduced or consulting on sixteen ‘sector plans’ for Scottish industries which will drive compliance and ‘beyond compliance’ systemic change and innovation from Scottish business, including a focus on reducing energy, material and water resources. We’ve signed seven ‘Sustainable Growth Agreements’ with partner organisations that reflect a shared ambition for practical action to deliver environmental outcomes. One agreement alone with leading Scottish insulation specialist Superglass is saving circa 47.5 million kWh of energy per year, and environmental compliance of Scottish business more broadly has exceeded over 90% for the third year in a row.

“We’re helping Scotland prepare more powerfully for future increased flooding, using principles set out in the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. Using

the latest Met Office climate predictions, our recently published National Flood Risk Assessment identified 284,000 homes, businesses and services across Scotland at risk from flooding and 235 potentially vulnerable areas where significant flood risk exists now or is likely to occur in the future. In addition to our 375 day a year flood forecasting and warning service, we'll shortly consult on a refreshed One Planet Prosperity : Flood Risk Strategy.

“Our Climate Change Commitment Statement details the twenty-one actions we will achieve to meet our six climate change commitments. Of these five have been completed and the remainder are on-going. Whilst our greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by almost 40% since 2007 we are reviewing our commitments with a view to achieving net zero emissions by 2045.”

Historic Environment Scotland

A spokesperson from Historic Environment Scotland said: “Following the announcement of a Climate Emergency by the First Minister on 28th April 2019, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Climate Change announced on 2nd May new national emissions reduction targets and a major policy review. Proposed new targets are: 70% reduction by 2030; 90% by 2040; and net zero emissions by 2045. These are to be presented in a new Climate Change Bill this year.

“Historic Environment Scotland welcomes the new SG climate change targets.

“The timing provides an opportunity to further align our objectives with the new targets and increase our ambitions accordingly with our new Climate Change and Environmental Action Plan, which we recently put out to a public consultation and we are currently processing responses to.

“Additionally our Carbon Management Plan (CMP) is due for review in 2020, and we are planning to bring this review forward in order to incorporate the new targets.”

This will look at a number of areas including the following:

- Low Emission Vehicles
- Domestic Heating and energy efficiency
- Procurement
- Tourism

Visit Scotland

A spokesman for VisitScotland said: “VisitScotland believes that the success of Scotland’s tourism industry rests on protecting and enhancing the Scottish environment, society and culture, and supports the Scottish Government’s commitment to transition to a low carbon society and its ambitious climate change targets.

“Our own commitment to implement measures within the organisation to mitigate climate change has already seen a 72% reduction in VisitScotland’s CO2 emissions and we will continue to review our activities to identify opportunities to further reduce emissions.

“Our ongoing work with industry partners to measure the environmental and social impacts of tourism ensures that tourism development brings a positive experience for local people, tourism companies and visitors themselves, whilst protecting the environment.”

Background

We recently received strategic guidance from the Scottish Government, which includes the declared climate emergency, which our senior team is working through.

- VisitScotland’s Sustainability Policy outlines the key objectives for the organisation to support Scotland being a sustainable destination, covering aspects such as resource efficiency, low carbon transport, and adaptation, which relate directly to climate change, as well as areas such as inclusive tourism, community engagement, protection of natural and cultural heritage, and quality jobs.
- As at 31 March 2019, VisitScotland had achieved a 72% reduction in CO2 emissions (from 2008/9 baseline), which exceeds the current 2020 target of 42% (the Climate Change Bill currently going through parliament is likely to include revised targets).
- Emission reductions continue to be achieved through an on-going programme of increasing efficiency, driving down resource use (e.g. energy use in buildings, business travel), waste reduction, as well as changes within the VisitScotland estate.
- VisitScotland also supports the work of Zero Waste Scotland and the waste reduction and recycling targets set, which will have an impact on climate change mitigation, and we are working with all our sites to reduce waste and increase recycling.

Examples of some of the actions we have undertaken over the last couple years to reduce our own carbon emissions:

- Almost all of our iCentres and local offices are certified by the Green Tourism, which assesses a wide range of actions, including resource efficiency (energy, water and waste) and promotion of low carbon transport, as well as collecting data on

member's key carbon emission. Currently 39% of certified sites have achieved a Gold award and 61% a Silver award.

- We have capped CO2 emissions of our Lease car fleet to 120g/km and are reviewing opportunities to further reduce this in future.

We also work with our partners and look to influence improvements in the visitor economy across Scotland:

- We work closely with transport partners (e.g. ScotRail, East Coast Rail, Caledonian MacBrayne and NorthLink Ferries) to further develop and promote sustainable transport options across Scotland.

- Since January 2015 we have incorporated minimum sustainability requirements into our Quality Assurance scheme and have increased the minimum requirements for all industry sectors since then to encourage continuous improvement. Advice and support on becoming more sustainable and resource efficient is provided to businesses through the Quality and Tourism Advisors, as well as materials that are available on visitscotland.org.

Audit Scotland

A spokesperson for Audit Scotland said: "We've not had any guidance from Scottish Ministers on how to respond to the climate emergency.

"There's lots going on here but they were in motion before the FM's announcement on 28 April.

"We're currently reviewing our climate change plan, which is due for publication in April 2020. It has a range of projects to help us continue to reduce our climate emissions, including:

Policy development

- Producing a new Climate Change Plan, including resetting our carbon emission targets
- Developing and implementing a biodiversity policy/strategy
- Developing a sustainable travel plan

Behaviours

- Introducing climate change induction training
- Exploring options for staff volunteering, especially those relating to sustainability projects

Projects

- Moving more services to cloud based applications allows us to reduce our use of computer servers through greater use of cloud-based applications.
- Running a cycle-to-work scheme
- Participating in Climate Scotland week to promote awareness of sustainability issues
- Promoting a limited internal travel month to encourage staff to think about how they can reduce their travel

Extra information

- Our (current) [Climate change plan 2015-2020](#) sets our base line year and targets to be achieved by 2019/20.
- We continue to make good progress in reducing our carbon emissions and are ahead of our 2019/20 target to reduce our annual carbon emissions to no more than 292 tCO₂e. So far, we have achieved an overall 32 per cent reduction in our carbon footprint compared to our 2014/15 baseline year, and a 56 per cent reduction against our 2008/09 baseline.
- Sustainability is linked to other corporate publications published on our [website](#) including our Annual Report and Accounts, Public Audit in Scotland, and Corporate Plan 2018-21.
- We are committed to further reducing our carbon emissions and to making how we work more sustainable. We report publicly on sustainability issues through our environmental and sustainability annual report (next due for publication in November 2019) and by supplying relevant information to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN).
- Audit Scotland has a clear structure for managing climate change activity. The Audit Scotland Board, following consideration by Audit Scotland's Management Team, approves our Climate Change Plan and carbon-saving targets. This approach ensures endorsement and clear leadership at the highest level. The Green Future Team, comprising representation from across Audit Scotland, will continue to provide long-term organisational momentum for embedding sustainability across the organisation.

Scottish Funding Council

A spokesperson for the Scottish Funding Council said: "As a public body we receive regular Letters of Guidance from Scottish Ministers. Our latest Letter of Guidance

was received at the beginning of this month and is published on our website(http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/AboutUs/SFC_Letter_of_Guidance_2019-20.pdf).

“Para 31 (copied below) makes specific mention of the climate emergency:

“In light of the global climate emergency and advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change, the Scottish Government has lodged amendments to the Climate Change Bill that will see Scotland’s contribution to climate change end within a generation. We invite the SFC to work with universities and colleges to develop a more ambitious agenda on climate change with increased sector commitments on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, plastic pollution and contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. We will update the Climate Change Plan within 6 months of the Bill receiving Royal Assent and would welcome the SFC’s contribution to that process. With the SFC’s support, Scotland has already almost halved emissions since 1990 while growing the economy, increasing employment and productivity. It is important that we continue in this vein and I expect you to play a central role in achieving that.”

“Last month SFC published its latest strategic framework and operational plan (http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/StrategicFramework/Scottish_Funding_Council_Strategic_Framework_2019-2022.pdf) which has objectives relating to climate change (p28). These are:

- Prioritising and implementing carbon reduction capital investment programmes to meet the Climate Change Act targets and to respond to the Scottish Government’s renewed focus.
- Supporting college and university contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

“In terms of what we are currently doing to address the climate emergency, the following gives an overview of our activities:

- We require (through our Outcome Agreements) all Scottish universities and colleges to demonstrate leadership in embedding sustainability across the whole institution
- We are providing a programme of up to £120m of university capital funding which includes projects aimed at carbon footprint reduction. We estimate that the projects that took place as a result of the first round of this funding will collectively save 8,945 tonnes of carbon per year – see <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/news/2019/news-71861.aspx>
- We fund carbon capture research in Scottish universities including SCCS, the largest research group of its kind in the UK (see <http://www.sccs.org.uk>)

- We fund the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC) which is committed to finding greener ways to build and run our homes. CSIC recently created an online materials library to help building professionals access information about sustainable design, resource efficiency and low carbon building.
- We fund the Scottish Institute for Remanufacturing to help develop the circular economy.
- We fund EAUC Scotland (<https://www.eauc.org.uk/scotland>). EAUC provides sustainability leadership, training, and resources for colleges and universities. EAUC has now invited all institutions to join the declaration of the Climate Emergency, committing to a three-point plan which includes mobilising more resources for action-oriented climate change research and skills creation; committing to going carbon neutral by 2030 or 2050 at the very latest; and increasing the delivery of environmental and sustainability education across curriculum, campus and community outreach programmes.
- We fund Interface, an organisation that connects SMEs to university research departments. This has supported several innovations in the energy sector including an energy storage system (<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/news/2017/interface-awards-2017.aspx>) and a roadside micro wind turbine <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/news/2017/capture-mobility.aspx>
- Finally, we have a carbon management plan for SFC itself. We have been measuring our carbon footprint since 2007-08. By 2014 we had exceeded our original target of a 40% reduction (we achieved 54%). We are currently working towards a target of 30% less than the 2014 position (106 tCO₂).

“As per our Letter of Guidance from Ministers we will be working with universities and colleges to develop a more ambitious agenda on climate change and expect the activities outlined above to intensify as a result of the global climate emergency.”

Scottish Futures Trust

A spokesperson for Scottish Futures Trust said: “The delivery of carbon-neutral infrastructure is central to Scottish Government’s National Infrastructure Mission. To that end, SFT is continuing to look for ways to embed low carbon as a core element across our infrastructure investment programmes to support the commitment to net zero carbon by 2045.

“In our current 2019-24 Corporate Plan (published in April 2019), we have set out ten outcomes. Our specific low carbon outcome states ‘Infrastructure-related carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, supporting Scotland’s transition to a low carbon economy.’

“In our 2019/20 Business Plan (published in April 2019) we highlight the following low carbon infrastructure related business objectives:

- Through the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme we will provide financial and commercial input to deliver six investment grade business cases and progress four projects into capital support stage
- We will provide commercial input to the development, delivery and expansion of low carbon heat opportunities; this will include the development and promotion of guidance and a new tariff modelling tool for heat to be launched by September 2019
- We will provide commercial input and develop innovative approaches including a financing pilot for domestic energy efficiency in support of the Energy Efficient Scotland programme
- We will engage with external stakeholders to agree actions required for new public sector buildings across Scotland to be near zero carbon in advance of 2050, assisting at least one procuring authority to define appropriate ambitious operational energy targets for a new build project
- We will develop financing and delivery model options for electric vehicle charging infrastructure to attract the investment and activity required to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032

“Since the climate emergency announcement we have engaged with our stakeholders to affirm how these ambitious objectives are supporting Scottish Government in addressing climate emergency noting, for example, the specific net zero carbon by 2045 target.

“Corporately, we aim to minimise our carbon emissions and publish an annual sustainability report detailing our activities which impact upon carbon emissions and our targets for carbon reduction.

“SFT’s carbon impact primarily relates to the electricity we use (which is 100% renewable) and the travel our staff need to undertake to support our programmes. Our policy is to make use of digital communication technology to reduce the need to travel and when travel is necessary to prioritise the use of public transport.”

Scottish Public Pensions Agency

A spokesperson for the Scottish Public Pensions Agency said: “SPPA is committed to improving environmental performance as part of the wider commitment to sustainable development.

“We will continue to explore new ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions working in collaboration across the Scottish Government to identify new opportunities and share best practice.”

Background

More information on SPPA environmental performance can be found on our [website https://pensions.gov.scot/corporate-publications/environmental-performance-targets](https://pensions.gov.scot/corporate-publications/environmental-performance-targets)

Scottish Court and Tribunals

A spokesperson for the Scottish Courts and Tribunals said: “The Scottish Government has set ambitious sustainability outcomes through its National Performance Framework and challenging targets through its Climate Change Plan – in which the current agenda for both the public sector and Scotland as a whole is set out. As a dedicated public sector “Major Player” on climate change SCTS has taken forward a range of initiatives which have made significant inroads into our carbon output and our approach to sustainability.

“The SCTS has detailed and extensive measures already in place which have led to a more than 50% reduction in carbon emissions in eight years.

“SCTS is one of the very few public sector holders of the prestigious Carbon Trust Triple Standard for successfully cutting carbon emissions, water use and waste.

“The Triple Standard builds on a decade of achievement by SCTS stretching back to 2008 when the service first received the Carbon Standard. SCTS became the first Scottish public sector body to achieve the Water Standard in 2014 and in 2018 gained the Waste Standard to make up the Triple award.

“Since 2011 SCTS’s carbon footprint has fallen by 1670 tonnes of carbon equivalent – the same as the emissions from powering 1620 homes for a whole year or driving an average car to the Moon and back 77 times. This has been achieved through a variety of initiatives:

- Boiler upgrades and heating controls improvements;
- Introduction of solar photo voltaic PV panels;
- Window replacement and secondary glazing;
- Waste management surveys and the introduction of more recycling bins;
- Energy and water efficient appliances;
- Water recycling.

“SCTS also takes part in a number of other projects to promote sustainability such as the Earth Hour event and the Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge and is presently piloting the JUMP initiative which encourages staff members to participate in a range of activities under the themes of Waste and Recycling, Energy Saving, Water Saving, Health and Wellbeing, Sustainable Travel and Engagement.”

Creative Scotland

A spokesperson for Creative Scotland said: “Creative Scotland, like all Government bodies in Scotland, has a statutory requirement under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, to act:

- In the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Act’s emissions reduction targets; and
- In a way that it considers most sustainable.

“The duties came into force on 1 January 2011.

“The Scottish Government has a target of cutting CO2 emissions by 42% by 2020 and it encourages all public bodies to set their own targets to help achieve this national aim through mitigation, adaptation and acting sustainably.

“As a public body, Creative Scotland is required to develop and implement an environment policy and to report against this annually. This Environment Policy is embedded this into our 10-Year Plan (2014) as one of our four Connecting Themes. To read this policy please visit: <https://www.creativescotland.com/resources/our-publications/policies/environment-policy>

“We also demonstrate how we as an organisation and the organisations we support, contribute to an environmentally aware and sustainable Scotland.

“See our Environment Action Plan for 2018-21, which sets out in detail what Creative Scotland does already to deliver the above and what we intend to do in the future: <https://www.creativescotland.com/resources/our-publications/plans-and-strategy-documents/environment-action-plan>”

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

A Scottish Fire and Rescue Service spokesman said: "We remain committed to working in partnership with the Scottish Government to tackle climate change.

"Our commitment as a Service to minimise our direct impact on the environment is strong, and we will put detailed plans in place on how we will seek to achieve this, as outlined in our draft strategic plan 2019-22.

"Indeed we are currently looking at ways we can reduce the emissions produced by our fleet of emergency vehicles.

"We are also working towards the vision of having an entirely electric fleet of light vehicles."

Police Scotland

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: "We are committed to investing in and building a sustainable service, and while we recognise the challenges ahead this work is well under way.

"Our Estates Strategy, published in May, set out our plans to reduce our carbon footprint by a fifth, we are already introducing electric vehicles into our fleet and will shortly be launching a campaign to reduce electrical and water waste across our buildings."

Scottish Prison Service

A spokesperson for the Scottish Prison Service said: "The SPS has not received any specific direction or guidance in respect of the "climate emergency" from Scottish Ministers. We did however receive a request to provide an update on "high level actions that justice agencies are taking to reduce environmental emissions to tackle climate change". Our response is detailed below.

- The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) developed a Carbon Management Strategy 2015 – 2021 (draft) to guide organisational climate change activities. Implementation of the Strategy is directed and overseen by an organisational Carbon Management Strategy Board which is chaired by the Director of Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement.
- The SPS has just completed a mid-term review of the activities being undertaken in implementation of the strategy which highlighted that there has been a 14.7% reduction in CO2e emissions across the estate since the start of 2015. This surpasses the 10% target in the Strategy. As a result the target has been reset for a 25% reduction from the baseline figure to be achieved by the end of the financial year 2020/21. This reduction can be attributed to:

§ Delivery of carbon reduction projects contributing to a 6.5% drop in grid supplied electricity since 2014/2015;

§ A significant reduction of the carbon conversion factor applied to grid supplied electricity, this is down 28% from 2014/15; and

§ A significant reduction in the use of gas oil within prisons, down 57% since 2014/15.

“The latest SPS Climate Change Duties Report may also provide further information. You can access that at <https://sustainablesotlandnetwork.org/reports/the-scottish-prison-service>”

Crown Estate Scotland

Colin Palmer, Head of Marine at Crown Estate Scotland said: “Our work to reduce climate change emissions includes new seabed leasing for commercial-scale offshore wind projects to help Scotland move towards a net zero economy, and our ongoing support for the Acorn carbon capture and storage project off the north east coast. We’re also exploring how offshore renewables can be used in local energy systems, with some really exciting potential for island and coastal communities.”

National Museums Scotland

A spokesperson for National Museums Scotland said: “National Museums Scotland is not an agency of the Scottish Government. It is a non-departmental public body with a board of trustees.

“National Museums Scotland has not received any guidance from the Scottish Government on the climate emergency.”

NHS National Services Scotland

A spokesperson for NHS National Services Scotland said: “Your request is being treated as a freedom of information request.”

No responses from two public bodies

No responses were received from two bodies: NHS Health Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service.