

Angus Council Transition to Net Zero Action Plan: 2022 to 2030

Version 1 (September 2022)



Foreword

I am delighted to provide our transition to net zero action plan. The events of recent years have highlighted the extreme events impacting on all populations throughout the world: flooding; drought; wildfires and significant losses in biodiversity. No one can be under any illusion that we must take action now as individuals, groups and institutions to reduce the impact of climate change on our world now and for its future.

Scotland has some of the most ambitious climate change legislation in world and has a national ambition to become Net Zero by 2045. In April 2019, the Scottish Government declared a climate emergency, highlighting the serious changes in society that are needed to address this growing issue. In response, Angus Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019, recognising the impact on life now and for future generations. Angus Council has shown its commitment as a 'major player' in climate change mitigation and adaptation by adopting the Scottish Governments Net Zero by 2045 target.

Significant progress has been made to date in reducing Angus Council's operational emissions. Our Transition to Net Zero Action Plan (2022 to 2030) identifies key areas to impact climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainability to enable the transition to Net Zero by 2045.

I am confident that the actions in this plan will allow us to continue to make progress on tackling climate change locally, while also supporting national and global efforts.

I welcome all contributions to further improving our performance over the life of this plan and look forward to monitoring progress.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Williamson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Margo Williamson
Chief Executive
26 July 2022



Contents

Executive Summary	p4
1 Angus Council – our Climate Change journey...	p4
2 Transition to Net Zero	p5
2.1 Targets	p5
2.2 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report	p6
2.3 Progress to date	p8
2.4 The challenge ahead	p9
2.5 Decarbonisation of the electricity grid	p9
2.6 The Role of Insetting and Offsetting within Net Zero	p10
3 Key Themes	p11
3.1 Leadership, Governance & Procurement	p11
3.2 Buildings, Energy & Infrastructure	p13
3.3 Waste, Recycling & Circular Economy	p14
3.4 Fleet & Business Travel	p15
3.5 Land Use Adaptation	p16
4 Action Plans to 2030	p17
4.1 Leadership, Governance & Procurement	p18
4.2 Buildings, Energy & Infrastructure	p20
4.3 Waste, Recycling & Circular Economy	p21
4.4 Fleet & Business Travel	p21
4.5 Land Use Adaptation	p23
5 Reviewing Our Progress	p24
6 Conclusion	p24
7 Further Reading	p24

Executive Summary

The purpose of this Transition to Net Action Plan (2022 to 2030) is to ensure Angus Council meet the 2030 Scottish Government interim emissions reduction target of a 75% reduction in emission, enroute to the Net Zero target by 2045. From the base year of 2012/13 to the end of the financial year 2020/21, Angus Council reduced its emissions by 52.5%.

Going forward to 2030, Angus Council must reduce its emissions by 5% each year to meet the 75% reduction target. The key themes identified below, will be used drive emission reductions within key operational areas to meet the 2030 interim emissions reduction target:

- **Leadership, Governance & Procurement**
- **Buildings, Energy & Infrastructure**
- **Waste, Recycling & Circular Economy**
- **Fleet & Business Travel**
- **Land Use Adaptation**

Within each of these key themes, Action Plans containing emission reduction projects and initiatives have been developed. The progress of the Action Plans and Angus Councils Transition to Net Zero will be reviewed and reported annually in November (starting from 2023), alongside the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.



1 Angus Council our Climate Change journey...

Climate Change mitigation and adaptation has been part of Angus Council's activities for over 15 years:

- In February 2007, Angus Council signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.
- In September 2019, Angus Council declared a Climate Emergency.
- In March 2020, Angus Council committed to a regional Net Zero carbon status by the year 2045.

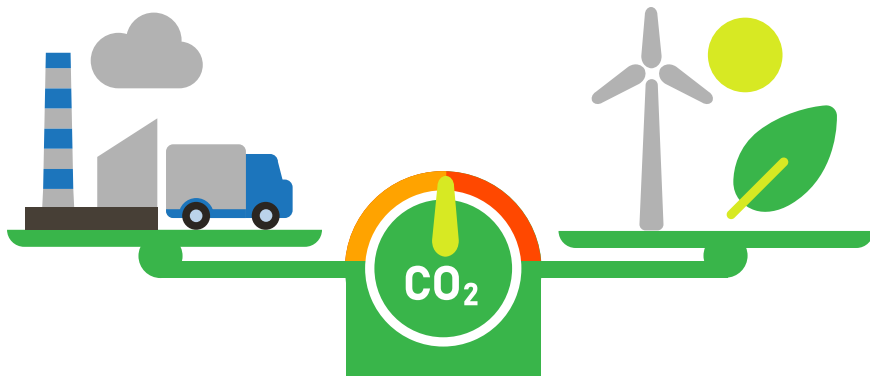
Angus Council has a specific strategic aim of reducing the impact of Climate Change by being a major contributor to achieving Scotland's national Climate Change goals, as leaders in clean growth, environmental stewardship, and sustainability.

Significant reductions have already been achieved to date, from the base year of 2012/13 to the end of the financial year 2020/21, **Angus Council reduced its emissions by 52.5%**. But action is required immediately to ensure Angus Council achieves its Climate Change strategic aim and becomes Net Zero by 2045.

This Action Plan identifies the key areas within Angus Councils operations that will be prioritised up to 2030, within available resources, to reduce its impact on Climate Change by transitioning to Net Zero by 2045. This will be a live document; it will evolve as technologies emerge and mature, and as new techniques and practices develop.

2 Transition to Net Zero

Net Zero refers to achieving an overall balance between emissions put into the atmosphere and the emissions taken out of the atmosphere (e.g., by tree planting (reforestation), peatland restoration and by carbon capture and storage technologies).



Angus Councils emissions are reported in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), this is a metric measure that is used to compare emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of their global warming potential by converting amounts of other gases to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide.

For the purpose of this report the term '**emissions**' will be used.

2.1 Targets

In November 2021, the Glasgow COP26 conference ended in success. Nearly 200 countries agreed the Glasgow Climate Pact to keep 1.5oC alive and finalised the outstanding elements of the Paris Agreement.

For the target to be achieved global greenhouse gas emissions must decline significantly by 2030 and become net zero by 2050.

In response, the Scottish Government have set an ambitious, legally binding target for Scotland to become net zero by 2045, with interim emissions targets of a 56% reduction by 2020, a 75% reduction by 2030 and a 90% reduction by 2040.

Angus Council has adopted the Scottish Governments emissions target reductions set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019. The Angus Council emissions data is collated and reported in financial years, rather than calendar years, so the revised target dates are:

56% reduction by 2019/20
75% reduction by 2029/30
90% reduction by 2039/40
Net Zero by 2044/45

The purpose of this Transition to Net Action Plan is to ensure Angus Council meet the 2029/30 interim emissions reduction target of a 75% reduction, enroute to Net Zero.

2.2 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report

The Climate Change Duties of Public Bodies Reporting Requirements (Scotland) Order 2015 places a legal requirement on Local Authorities to submit an annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCD) Report detailing their compliance with Climate Change duties set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. All Public Sector Bodies have been named 'major players' and must submit the annual statutory report by the end of November each year. The PBCCD Reporting improves the quality of climate change data, standardises reporting methodology across the public sector, encourages transparency, guides future Scottish Government strategic reports, support and policymaking, and improves engagement with leadership.

The PBCCD Reporting requires the following information:

- Profile of the body – e.g. budget and staff numbers
- Climate change governance, management and strategy
- Corporate emissions, projects and targets
- Adaptation – including risk assessments and management
- Procurement – how goods and services are managed to help meet targets and minimise impacts from climate risks.
- Validation of report data and information

As highlighted in bullet point 3 above, Angus Council must report its corporate emissions; the emissions are split into three categories:



Direct emissions from sources Angus Council own or control (all must be reported).



Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity that is consumed in its owned or controlled operations (all must be reported).



Indirect emissions from the value chain, upstream and downstream activities (All relevant and significant areas of the organisation's indirect emissions should be reported).

Figure 1 shows the emissions within Angus Council that have been identified as being in each scope, and are reported on annually:

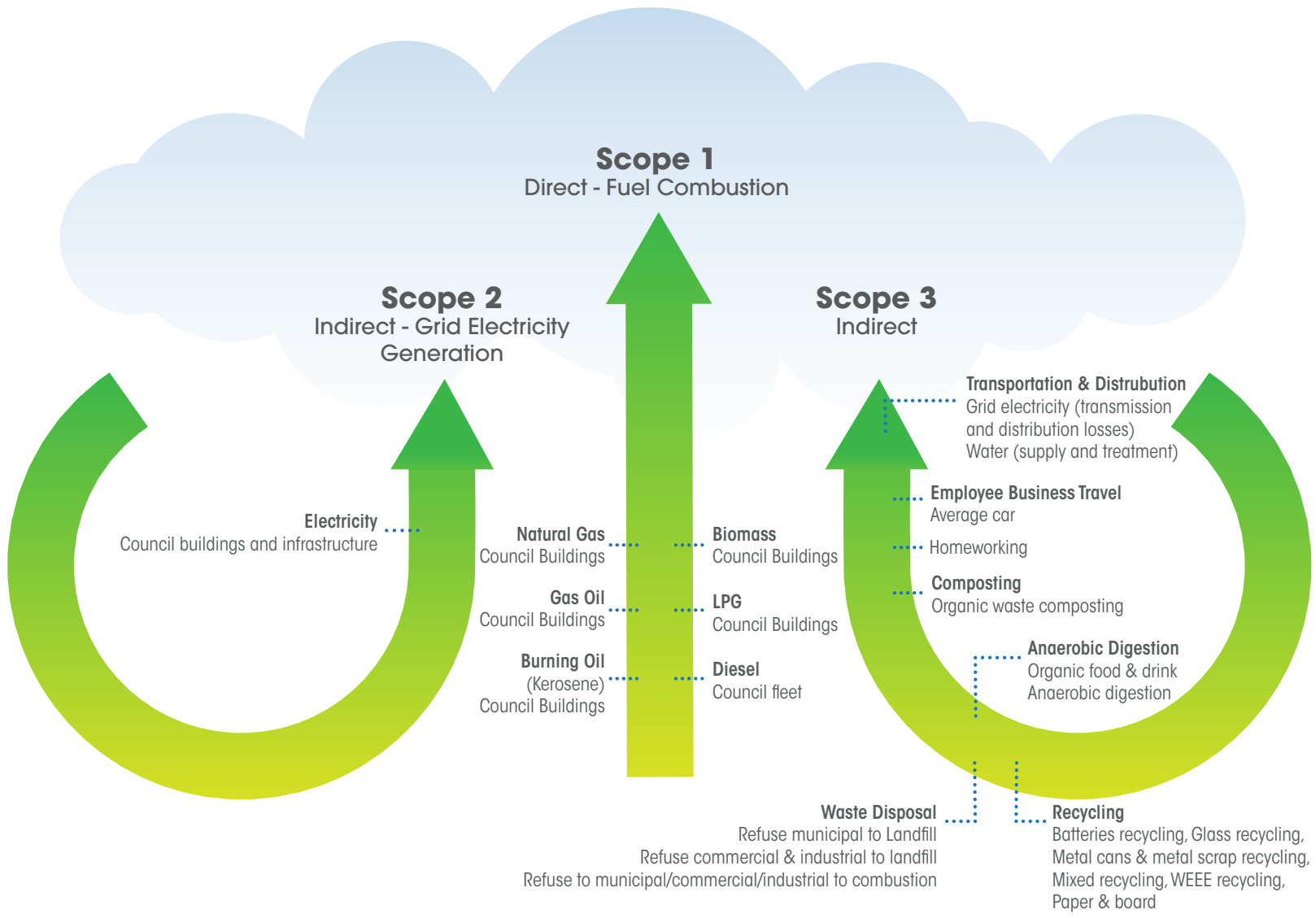


Figure 1: Annual Angus Council corporate emission sources reported via the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.

During 2020/21, 17,390 tonnes of CO₂e were emitted and reported via Angus Councils Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report. As highlighted in figure 2, most emissions were generated from direct fuel combustion via boilers for heating buildings, grid electricity consumption and direct fuel combustion via fleet vehicles. This shows that the decarbonisation of heat in buildings and transitioning to zero-emissions vehicles (electric, hydrogen and synthetic fuelled vehicles) is key for making large scale emission reductions. The electricity grid is continuing to decarbonise as more renewable generation comes online, but Angus Council still need to ensure electricity is being used efficiently and install their own generation to meet the targets.

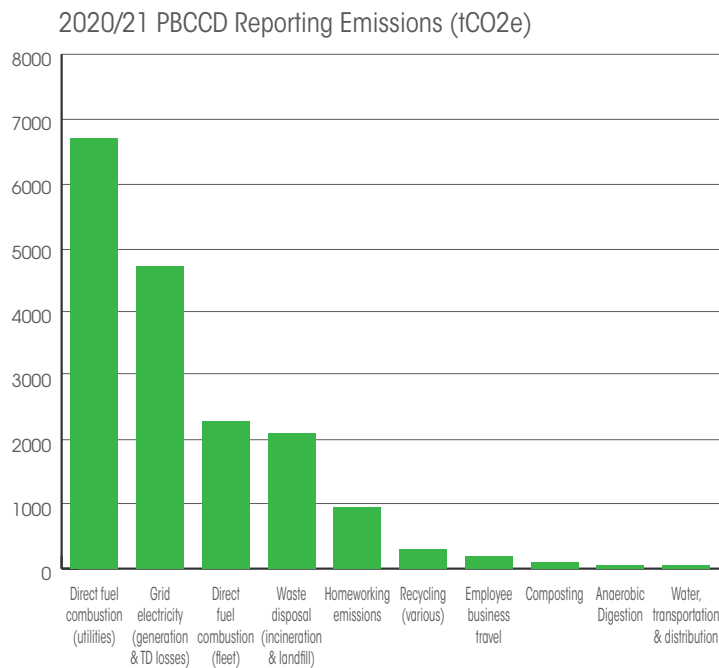


Figure 2 – breakdown of Emissions scopes from the 2020/21 Angus Council Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report submission.

2.3 Progress to date

The Emissions baseline to measure progress against has been set as the financial year 2012/13; this is when a full emissions sources data set, with good quality data became available.

From the base year of 2012/13 to the end of the financial year 2020/21, Angus Council reduced its emissions by 52.5%. This is a significant reduction but fell short of the first interim target of a 56% reduction in emissions by 2019/20 – see figure 3.

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly affected Angus Councils operations and required most staff to work from home during 2020/21. Due to the increase in homeworking amongst Public Bodies, homeworking emissions for full time equivalent staff per annum working at home were included, for the first time, in the 2020/21 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report submission.

Angus Council - Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting Emissions (since 2012/13)

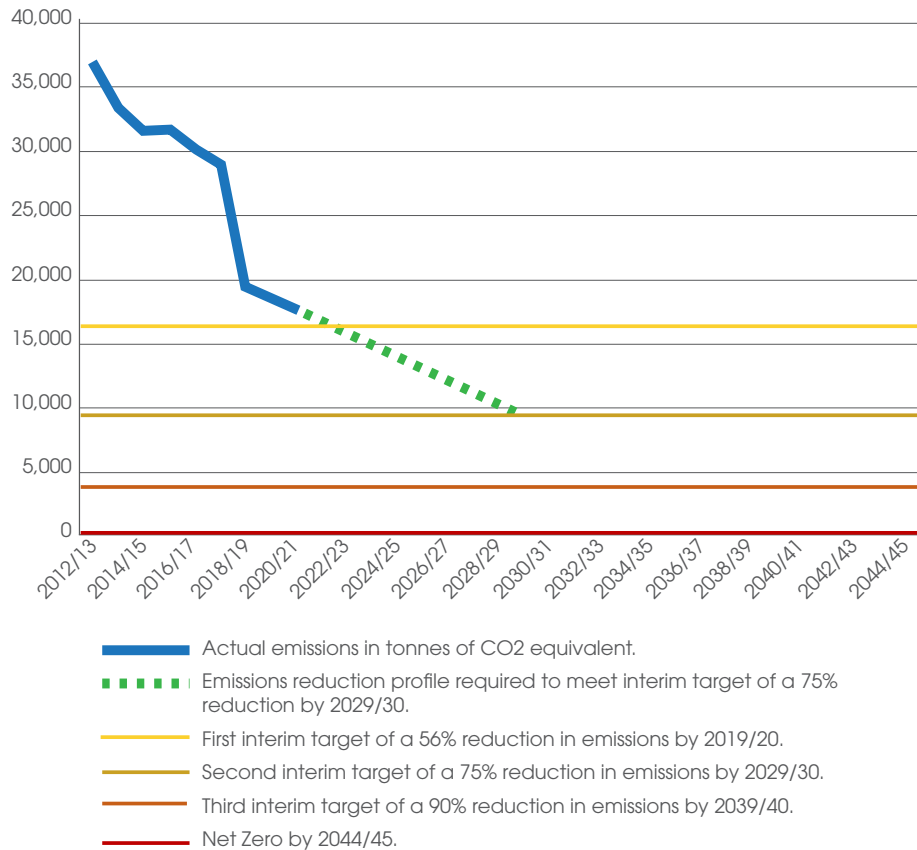
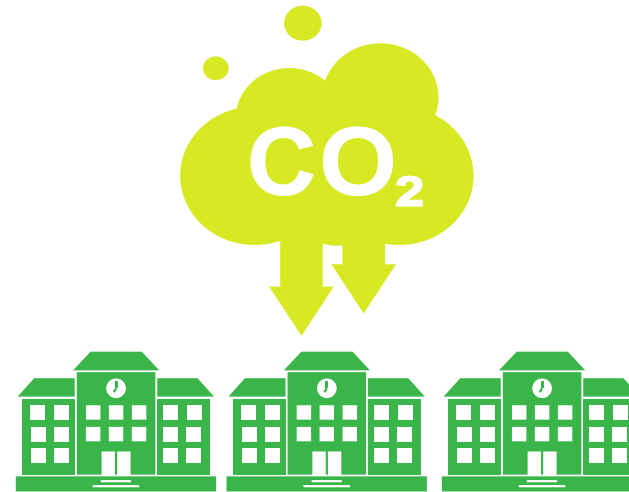


Figure 3: the progress of Angus Council emissions reductions from 2012/13 to 2020/21, and the emissions reduction profile required to meet the interim target of 75% by 2029/30.

2.4 The challenge ahead

As shown in figure 3, Angus Council is behind target; from now until the next interim target of a 75% reduction due in 2029/30, **Angus Council must reduce its emissions by 5% each year**, which equates to 916 tonnes of CO₂e each year (not including insets/offsets or future electricity grid decarbonisation).



A reduction of **916** tonnes of CO₂e per year equates to the energy use of **3** Angus Council secondary schools.

Angus Council must take action via large scale projects and initiatives to keep as close to the 2029/30 reduction profile line as possible to ensure the interim 2029/30 target of a 75% reduction is met. Section 4 sets out a Transition to Net Zero Action Plan on how Angus Council can achieve this.

2.5 Decarbonisation of the electricity grid

Angus Council (and the UK as a whole) have benefited over the years from the national electricity grid becoming decarbonised; emissions associated with electricity use within Angus Council buildings from 2012/13 to 2020/21 have reduced by 55%. Within this reduction, the electricity grid emissions factor has reduced by 49% as more renewable electricity generation has come online over the years.

According to electricity grid decarbonisation data tables released by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), **from the years 2021 to 2030 the electricity grid is set to further decarbonise, on average, 6% each year.** Estimated calculations show that over the period 2021 to 2030, Angus Council could save approx. 200-250 tonnes of CO₂e each year, which will help towards achieving the 2030 interim target.

Angus Council should still strive to use electricity as efficiently as possible and continue to install renewable energy where feasible. The estimated rate of decarbonisation should not be relied upon as an 'easy' reduction measure but be treated as a 'buffer' to account for project slippages and bad winters. Therefore, the decarbonisation of the electricity grid hasn't been included in the yearly emissions reduction figures, and Angus Council still aims for a 5% annual reduction in emissions.

2.6 The Role of Insetting and Offsetting within Net Zero

“Public bodies are required to do all they can to reduce emissions as much as possible, and absolute carbon reduction must be achieved.

However, there will be some residual emissions remaining and therefore some organisations will need to invest in carbon removals or offsets to meet net zero, adapt to a changing climate and enhance the state of nature” (SSN - Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, October 2021).

The common term we hear about is carbon offsetting. The definition from the UK Government is: 'carbon offsetting can help organisations to compensate for any emissions they cannot avoid or reduce by paying for an equivalent amount of emissions to be reduced or removed elsewhere', via the Carbon Credit Market.

Carbon insetting follows the same principal in terms of helping organisations to compensate for any emissions they cannot avoid or reduce, but insets are 'activities within the organisations operational boundary - their own land holdings, or by agreement, public land' (SSN - Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, October 2021).

Angus Council can inset (or offset) emissions as part of the Net Zero balance. Angus Council has buildings that are hard to treat and operations that are difficult to decarbonise, so inseting (and potentially offsetting) are crucial for achieving a Net Zero balance of operational emissions.

3 Key Themes

The scope of emissions reported, and the information provided by Angus Council via the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report can be divided into 5 key themes:



**LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE
& PROCUREMENT**



**BUILDINGS, ENERGY
& INFRASTRUCTURE**



**WASTE, RECYCLING
& CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



**FLEET &
BUSINESS TRAVEL**



**LAND USE
ADAPTATION**

The key themes will be used to drive emission reductions in these key areas. Angus Council has a duty to review all Council operations to ensure they are directly or indirectly contributing to Net Zero; initially Angus Council will focus on these 5 key themes to make the required impact on emissions, then focus in on the other 'lower impact' Council operations. This is a live document; it will evolve as new techniques and practices develop, and with the rate of progress.

3.1



LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & PROCUREMENT

The emissions associated with Leadership, Governance & Procurement currently aren't quantifiable though the PBCCD Reporting, but Angus Council must strive for improvements in these areas to enable the successful transition to Net Zero. For over 15 years Angus Council has demonstrated commitment and leadership towards tackling climate change by signing the Climate Change Declaration in 2007 and declaring a Climate Emergency in September 2019. Angus Council recognise their critical strategic leadership role to tackle Climate Change and seek to strengthen the theme of climate change within Council priorities by ensuring that all future and ongoing policy and practice development across the council directorates and departments identify ways in which Angus Council can move further and faster on reducing emissions.

As per the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, sustainability is a 'fundamental part of Best Value. It should be reflected in a local authority's vision and strategic

priorities, highlighted in all plans at corporate and service level, and a guiding principle for all of its activities. Every aspect of activity in a local authority, from planning to delivery and review, should contribute to achieving sustainable development'. In order to meet this Statutory requirement and to deliver good Governance, it is crucial that the Transition to Net Zero and Climate Change impacts are embedded within Angus Councils Core Principals. All decisions, policies and plans must be aligned, the risks identified and controlled, progress closely monitored and reported, and all staff understand their role in the transition to Net Zero.

The sustainable procurement duty, as outlined in Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, aligns with the Scottish Government's purpose to create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. This Act places a duty on Angus Council, as the contracting authority, to consider how it can support the following endeavours via its procurement activities:

- Improve the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the authority's area,
- Facilitate the involvement of small and medium enterprises, third sector bodies and supported businesses in the process, and
- Promote innovation

Whilst this Act is only applicable for regulated procurements (Goods / Services >£50k and Works >£2m) – as best practice we should consider these at every point of third-party expenditure. In alignment with this, Angus Council must start taking steps to decarbonise its supply chain (scope 3 emissions (see Figure 1)) via robust sustainable procurement practices to not only reduce Angus Councils supply chain and embodied carbon emissions, but to help drive external service providers and suppliers to decarbonise their activities too. As a Public Body, Angus Council not only has a responsibility to incorporate the Sustainable Procurement Duty within its own expenditure but it also has a responsibility to demonstrate best practice to the wider community by encouraging and supporting similar practices in others.

The following teams contributed to this action plan and have important roles to play in Angus Councils transition to Net Zero:

- **Change**
- **Governance**
- **Internal Audit**
- **Procurement**
- **Resilience**
- **Risk**
- **Strategic Policy and Planning**

3.2



BUILDINGS, ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Buildings, Energy & Infrastructure account for 71% of Angus Councils emissions reported via the 2020/21 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report. The majority of the emissions are attributable to the utilities consumed by Angus Councils operational buildings.

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party Shared Policy Programme published in August 2021 commits to:

- **Developing a series of phased targets for the decarbonisation of public sector buildings starting in 2024.**
- **All publicly owned buildings to meet zero emission heating requirements by 2038, at the latest.**
- **Developing new regulations to ensure that new buildings are fit for the future and do not require retrofitting to achieve zero emissions.**

The decarbonisation of heat to achieve zero emission heating is currently Angus Council's biggest challenge and is where efforts must be focused. Figure 4 shows that heating related emissions have remained static over the years, whereas emissions associated with grid electricity have reduced significantly due to efficiency measures and projects undertaken by Angus Council and the national decarbonisation of the electricity grid.

Angus Council - Heating vs Electricity Emissions

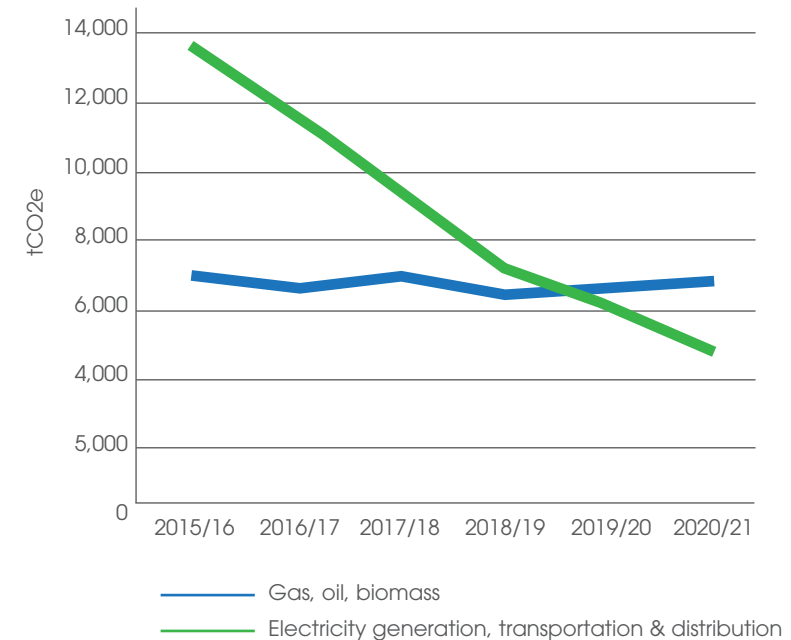


Figure 4: the progress of Angus Council heating related emissions (gas, oil, LPG & biomass) versus electricity grid emissions.

Due to the requirement for extra ventilation in buildings to try and limit the spread of covid-19, ventilation systems are running harder and longer to provide fresh air and heating systems, in turn, are working harder and longer to heat the spaces that the fresh air is being supplied too. Going forward, this will have to be carefully monitored as Angus Council may need to complete additional emission reductions measures to compensate for this extra energy use.

Angus Council must continue to review and rationalise its estate via the Agile Programme, upgrade and decarbonise its assets to Net Zero, take long term 'whole life' views for new builds and refurbishments, and ensure its assets are operating as efficiently as possible.

The following teams contributed to this action plan and have important roles to play in Angus Councils transition to Net Zero:

- **Agile**
- **Capital Projects**
- **Housing Assets**
- **IT (Digital and Innovation & Development)**
- **Property Assets**
- **Streetlighting Partnership**

3.3



WASTE, RECYCLING & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Waste disposal and recycling accounts for 15% of Angus Councils emissions reported via the 2020/21 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.

The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan 2018 to 2032 (updated 2020) aims to:

- **End landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste by 2025, reduce the percentage of all waste sent to landfill to 5% by 2025 and recycle 70% of all waste by 2025.**
- **Reduce food waste by 33% from the 2013 baseline by 2025.**

- **Implement the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for single use drinks containers.**
- **Be well on the way towards a fully circular economy by 2032.**

Angus Council has already met the Scottish Government's target of ending the landfilling of municipal waste by 2025, by closing Restenneth Landfill in April 2018. From November 2017 Angus Council has disposed all its residual waste (wastes not recovered for recycling or composting) to an energy from waste incineration plant in Dundee. The shift away from landfilling waste to incinerating waste has also resulted in a huge reduction in landfill associated emissions which has led to a reduction in Angus Councils overall emissions; this reduction is clearly visible in figure 3.

Angus Council is currently the number one local authority in Scotland for recycling household waste. In 2020 Angus Council recycled 57.9% of household waste and won a 2020 National Recycling Award for the redesign of its recycling centres and the positive impact it's made on recycling rates. Angus Council will continue to contribute towards the Scottish Government's target of recycling 70% of all waste (household, commercial and industrial) by 2025.

The implementation of the Deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers is due in August 2023; this will reduce the amount of drinks related packaging items in the mixed recycling bin and also in the general waste bin as residents seek to recover their deposits. A review of Angus Council's kerbside recycling service will take place to ensure collection routes are efficient post-DRS.

In a circular economy as many objects as possible are repaired and reused, and when this isn't possible, they are recycled over and over again, meaning less waste and less emissions. Reusing and recycling will help us move towards a circular economy where materials are continually reused locally. The commercial sector needs to be engaged to establish local, reliable, and stable supply chains for Angus Council to utilise to ensure as many objects as possible enter the circular economy.

The following teams contributed to this action plan and have important roles to play in Angus Councils transition to Net Zero:

- **Waste Management**

3.4



FLEET & BUSINESS TRAVEL

Fleet fuel consumption and employee business travel accounts for 14% of the Angus Councils emissions reported via the 2020/21 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.

The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan 2018 to 2032 (updated 2020) sets out a target to reduce transport sector emissions by 37% over the period of the plan. Alongside this, the Scottish Government are committed to phasing out new petrol and diesel cars by 2032. The latest Programme for Government commits the public sector to lead the way in decarbonising transport by:

- **Phasing out of all petrol and diesel cars by 2025.**

- **Phasing out the need for petrol and diesel vans from 2025.**
- **Phasing out the need for petrol and diesel versions of all other vehicles from 2030.**

The procurement and management of fleet currently lies with individual services. In order to decarbonise Angus Councils fleet and meet the Scottish Government's targets a corporate fleet strategy must be developed to align specifications and coordinate vehicle replacements to zero-emission vehicles, and to manage fleet in a consistent way (e.g. via telematics which are onboard tracking systems that allow the operation, performance and utilisation of vehicles to be monitored and managed).

The 'Switched on Fleet' funding has been successfully utilised for several years, enabling Angus Council to lease electric vehicles and install fleet charging points. The funding stream is still in place, but the focus is moving away from electric vehicles; a longer-term plan to replace these permanently when the leases expire is required.

Employee business travel emissions have achieved notable year on year reductions since the year 2016/17; the increasing number of corporate electric vehicles available to employees for business travel and the ability for employees to work remotely via the Agile Programme have been the main contributors. In 2020/21, due to the restrictions surrounding covid-19, the employee business travel emissions significantly dropped to less than half the value of 2019/20. The updated Business Travel Policy and Guidelines should help to maintain the reduction in emissions, but the following years will need to be closely monitored.

The following teams contributed to this action plan and have important roles to play in Angus Councils transition to Net Zero:

- Agile
- Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group

3.5



LAND USE ADAPTATION

The emissions associated with Land Use currently aren't quantifiable, but the Scottish Government have stated that 'accounting for offsetting/insetting is likely to evolve over the coming years and as more international and national guidance is developed'. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol are currently developing guidance which is due to be published early 2023. Until this guidance is available, it is advisable that Angus Council retains any land suitable for carbon sequestration and renewable energy projects.

It is clear that the climate and nature crises are intrinsically linked. Climate change is a key driver of biodiversity loss. Conversely, healthy natural habitats play a vital role in removing carbon from the atmosphere. Both crises arise from stretching the Earth's systems beyond their sustainable limits.

The vision for land use in the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan 2018 to 2032 (updated 2020) is: "by 2032, land use will have already changed significantly. Since trees need to become established before they begin to sequester carbon significantly, we need to plant in this decade to deliver to 2045 targets. Increased forestry cover

along with the restoration of degraded peatland and changes in the management practices of other land-based industries will have begun to ensure that our land is used and managed more sustainably". **The following key documents set out long-term ambitions for Scotland's natural environment, our role in tackling the global climate change and nature crises, and the kind of changes that will be required to achieve sustainable land use:**

- **Climate Ready Scotland: climate change adaptation programme 2019-2024**
- **Land use - getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 to 2026**
- **National Planning Framework 4 (Draft)**

Angus Council is an 'Edinburgh Declaration' signatory and is a member of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership. Angus Council is committed to restoring and protecting Angus flora and fauna and enabling the function of healthy, resilient ecosystems, led by actions in the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026. When land-based insetting opportunities are being considered, careful consideration of the wider landscape must be taken to avoid conflict and maximise nature restoration and climate adaptation opportunities.

Nature based solutions particularly reforestation and peatland restoration are commonly associated with carbon insetting / offsetting. Planting 'the right tree in the right place' and the restoration of other habitats that sequester large amounts of carbon including species rich grasslands and coastal saltmarsh areas are a priority. Angus Councils main woodlands are located at the three

Country Parks (Crombie, Forfar Loch and Monikie), the 'Angus Millennium Forests', Emmock Wood, Crombie annexed woods and across various park lands. At the turn of the Millennium, Angus Council planted 'Millennium Forests' on suitable Angus Council land. In total, 77 Hectares of varying tree species were planted; there is now no remaining suitable land to plant new woodlands. The woodlands at Emmock Wood and the Crombie annexed woods are demonstrating the consequences of reduced management as well as storm damage. When we can calculate the inseting potential of these woodlands, it will determine whether Angus Council should invest in these woodlands to maintain current carbon sequestration rates, and potentially increase carbon sequestration rates via planting.

Generating new renewable energy capacity that will displace existing fossil fuel capacity, e.g. a Solar PV farm, can also be included as an inset. But, before considering land use in setting opportunities, reducing emissions must always be the priority and insets must have wider benefits beyond carbon, such as nature restoration and positive landscape and social impacts.

The following teams contributed to this action plan and have important roles to play in Angus Councils transition to Net Zero:

- **Environment & Climate Change**
- **Environmental Management - Parks**
- **Angus Alive**

4 Action Plans to 2030

Angus Council must reduce its emissions by 5% each year, which equates to 916 tonnes of CO₂e each year (not including insets or future electricity grid decarbonisation), to meet the interim target of a 75% emissions reduction by 2029/30.

The 3 key themes where emissions must reduce by 5% each year are:

- **Buildings, Energy & Infrastructure - Angus Council buildings utilities, street furniture, capital projects and IT.**
- **Waste, Recycling & Circular Economy - refuse to landfill, refuse to incineration and recycling.**
- **Fleet & Business Travel - Angus Council fleet and employee business travel.**

The remaining 2 key themes currently have no quantifiable annual emissions reduction targets but still require improvement actions to enable the Transition to Net Zero:

- **Leadership, Governance & Procurement**
- **Land Use Adaptation**

The following action tables will detail how each of the key themes will contribute to achieving the **second Net Zero interim target of a 75% emissions reduction by 2029/30:**

4.1


**LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE
& PROCUREMENT**

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Discussions ongoing on how Net Zero / carbon impacts can be included within the Angus Council Project Management documentation.	Change	Due 2022/23
Add Net Zero implications / carbon impacts guidance to the update of the Project Lead Manual.	Change	
Add Net Zero implications / carbon impacts to Angus Councils Options Appraisal template.	Change	
Set up a Transition to Net Zero working group.	Environment & Climate Change	Completed July 2022
Angus Council – Transition to Net Zero, Action Plan: 2022 to 2030.	Environment & Climate Change	Completed August 2022
Submit Angus Councils Statutory annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report detailing compliance with Climate Change duties set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.	Environment & Climate Change	Due annually each November.
Annual review of Angus Councils Transition to Net Zero progress.	Environment & Climate Change	Due annually each November.
Embed Climate Change impacts into all decisions, via Climate Change Impact Assessments within all Committee Reports.	Environment & Climate Change	Due 2023/24 - awaiting release of SSN guidance / template
Create a mandatory Climate Change / Net Zero eLearning package for staff.	Environment & Climate Change	Due 2023/24
Write new Angus Council Transition to Net Zero Action Plan to meet next interim target of a 90% reduction by 2040.	Environment & Climate Change	Due 2029/30
Determine how Angus Council will align its spending plans to contribute to reducing emissions and deliver its emissions reduction targets.	Finance Environment & Climate Change	Due 2023/24
Update Local Code of Corporate Governance – embed the requirement to address Climate Change and Net Zero 2045 within the code.	Governance	Due 2023/24

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Add a Climate Change and Net Zero 2045 section to the Annual Governance Reminder eLearning.	Governance	Due 2023/24
Internal Audit of Net Zero progress.	Internal Audit	Due 2023/24
Continue to work closely with community resilience groups to consider Climate Change, its impacts and what can be done to mitigate it.	Resilience Environment & Climate Change	Ongoing to 2030
Annually update Climate Change Risk Register.	Risk	Ongoing to 2030
Climate Change to be cited across all directorate and service level risk registers.	Risk	Ongoing to 2030
Add Angus Councils Net Zero ambition to the new 3 year Council Plan (2023-2026).	Strategic Policy & Planning	Due February 2023
Annually update Angus Council's Annual Performance Report with Net Zero progress.	Strategic Policy & Planning	Ongoing to 2030
Update Angus Councils Net Zero ambition within the new 3 year Council Plan (2027-2030).	Strategic Policy & Planning	Due 2025/26
Recruit a Community Benefits & Sustainability Officer to support the individual Services with the incorporation of Angus Council's corporate objectives re these areas within their procurement activities.	Procurement	2022/23 and 2023/24
Reinforce the Sustainable Procurement Duty (outlined in the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014) via amending supporting documentation and educating Angus Council services when undertaking their own procurement.	Procurement	Ongoing – new template pack 31/03/2023
Restart the Corporate Procurement Group. Amongst other things, this platform can be used to agree how best to incorporate Angus Council's corporate objectives in relation to The Sustainability Duty and, more specifically, investigating supply chain (scope 3) emissions.	Procurement	Ongoing – GPC to restart by 30/09/2022
Ensure call offs from external frameworks are in line with Angus Councils Corporate Procurement agenda.	Procurement	Appropriate guidance will form part of the refreshed templates due by 31/03/2023

4.2


**BUILDINGS, ENERGY
& INFRASTRUCTURE**

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Complete the rationalisation of buildings as per the Agile Programme.	Agile Team	Ongoing to 2030
Complete Depot Review (Roads, Parks and Tayside Contracts depots)	Agile Team Roads	
Complete EnerPHit studies for Inverbrothock Primary School and Forfar Community Campus (Passivhaus refurbishment / retrofit standard).	Capital Projects	Due 2022/23
Deliver Monifieth Learning Campus to achieve Passivhaus design standard.	Capital Projects	Due 2025/26
Prepare and publish a local heat and energy efficiency strategy and a local heat and energy efficiency delivery plan, as per the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022.	Environment & Climate Change	By 31st December 2023, funding from Scottish Government.
Reduce the number of servers operated and maintained by Angus Council by outsourcing to external cloud providers. This will enable servers to be sized and managed more efficiently.	IT	Ongoing to 2030
Formulise Angus Councils Net Zero mechanical and electrical services proposals for non-domestic buildings.	Property Assets	Due 2022/23
Consideration of Electricity Utility Demand Side Response (DSR) and Firm Frequency Response (FFR) contracts both of which can provide a revenue for Angus Council.	Property Assets	Due 2022/23
Tannadice PS Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) Project.	Property Assets	Expected 2023/24
PV systems with consideration of battery storage will be ongoing to selected sites.	Property Assets	Ongoing to 2030
Monitoring to verify that Energy and emissions targets and expectations are being met.	Property Assets	Ongoing to 2030
Implementing the Net Zero measures decided upon in Angus Councils Net Zero mechanical and electrical services proposals for non-domestic buildings.	Property Assets	2023/24 to 2030
Implementing as required any beneficial DSR and/or FFR contracts with the electrical utilities companies.	Property Assets	2023/24 to 2030
Convert remaining Streetlighting (approx. 3%) to LED.	Streetlighting Partnership	Ongoing to 2030

4.3


**WASTE, RECYCLING
& CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Review of kerbside recycling service.	Waste Management (Change Programme)	Partly due to Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme, starting summer 2023
Decarbonise waste and recycling fleet vehicles.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	Ongoing to 2030

4.4


**FLEET &
BUSINESS TRAVEL**

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Update Business Travel Policy and Guidelines - addition of Climate / Environmental considerations, use of corporate electric vehicles and use of 'Forward Plan my Journey' tool.	Agile Team	Completed May 2022
Continue to reduce business travel to meetings via digital tools, e.g., Microsoft Teams, Hybrid meetings.	Agile Team	Ongoing
Carry out a Fleet Management review.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	
Contribute to the Tayside Test of Change Strategy.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	
Continue to utilise the 'Switched on Fleets' funding.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	Ongoing
Investigate opportunities to fund the demonstration and trial of larger vehicles, e.g. hydrogen refuse collection trucks.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Continue the roll out of the corporate electric vehicle fleet.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	Ongoing to 2030
Investigate the addition of electric bikes to the corporate vehicle fleet as a mode of active travel for shorter business-related journeys.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	
Add the decarbonisation of Angus Councils fleet, in line with Scottish Government Policy, to the Climate Change Risk Register.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth	Due 2023/24

4.5


**LAND USE
ADAPTATION**

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Calculate and quantify the carbon sequestration of Angus Councils own land holdings, across habitat types for 'insetting' purposes.	Environment & Climate Change	2023/24 - awaiting guidance
Revisit Solar PV farm project at Restenneth Landfill Site.	Environment & Climate Change Waste Management	2023/24
Restoring lowland bog habitat at Downie Moor, Crombie.	Environment & Climate Change Parks	2023/24
Embed Land Use Adaptation into the appropriate Angus Council land use documents, e.g., Local Housing Strategy, Local Development Plan.	Environment & Climate Change	2023/24
Prepare Woodland Management Plans for Angus Country Parks and Angus Millennium Forests.	Angus Alive Parks	2023/24
Create Angus Country Parks Biodiversity Management Plans.	Angus Alive Environment & Climate Change Parks	2023/24
Restore and expand grassland habitats via the 'Angus Space for Nature' scheme supporting habitat and species resilience and carbon sequestration.	Environment & Climate Change Parks	Ongoing
Support the restoration of habitats, including wetlands at Montrose Basin Local Nature Reserve.	Environment & Climate Change Angus Alive	Begin 2022
Enhance school grounds through habitat creation, improving biodiversity and contributing to carbon sequestration where possible.	Education Parks	
Ensure that new development, or adaptation of existing sites, includes SuDS, landscaping and active travel networks that are nature rich and contribute towards carbon sequestration and resilience.	Planning & Sustainable Growth Housing	
Develop Strategic Nature Networks that link settlements and the wider countryside contributing to ecological connectivity, ecosystem health, carbon sequestration and climate change adaptation.	Planning & Sustainable Growth	Underway

5 Reviewing Our Progress

The Transition to Net Zero Action Plan will evolve as new techniques and practices develop, and as funding / budgets become available. The rate of progress will be reviewed and reported annual in November, alongside the PBCCD Reporting; the targets and action plan will be revised, as required.

A 'Transition to Net Zero' working group has been set up to monitor the progress of the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan. The working group consists of representatives from the teams who have contributed to the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan and elected members. The working group will seek to: recruit 'Climate Champions' within services and/or teams, keep up to date with Angus Council and Scottish Government developments, and highlight good practice / lessons learnt from similar projects other Local. The Environment & Climate Change Team will lead the working group and support the working group to complete the actions / projects within the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan, and update through Angus Council's performance management system Pentana.

6 Conclusion

The impact of Covid-19 during 2020/21 and the following recovery could affect the level of reductions required to the 2030 interim target of a 75% reduction. Angus Council's emissions may take time to stabilise as Council operations begin to return to pre-covid levels, buildings become more accessible to the public and staff, and how long and to

what effect the increased ventilation requirements within buildings will remain. Until more data becomes available in future years, the annual reduction target of 5% has been set.

With this Transition to Net Zero Action Plan, Angus Council has the opportunity to become a major contributor in achieving Scotland's national Climate Change and Net Zero goals, as well as lead and inspire Angus area-wide on its Transition to Net Zero. Perhaps one positive from the pandemic is that it has shown that culture changes and collaborative rapid responses are possible; this momentum should be taken forward in achieving Net Zero, and the interim targets.

7 Further Reading

Key pieces of legislation, policy and plans to note are:

- [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) – the underpinning legislation to tackle Climate Change.
- [The Climate Change Duties of Public Bodies Reporting Requirements \(Scotland\) Order 2015](#) – sets out the reporting compliance with the Climate Change duties set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- [Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) – sets Scotland's emissions reduction targets to net zero by 2045, and interim emissions reduction targets.
- [Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018 – 2032: Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero](#) - sets out the Scottish Government's pathway to the ambitious targets set by the Climate Change Act 2019.

- [Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party Shared Policy Programme](#), published August 2021.
- [Climate Ready Scotland: climate change adaptation programme 2019-2024](#) – a five year programme to prepare Scotland for the challenges we will face as our climate continues to change
- [Land use - getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 to 2026](#) - sets out the Scottish Governments vision, objectives and policies to achieve sustainable land use.
- [Scotland 2045 – fourth National Planning Framework \(draft\)](#) - once approved by the Scottish Parliament and adopted by the Scottish Ministers (expected during 2022), this plan will become part of the statutory development plan and will directly influence planning decisions.
- [Sustainable Procurement Duty](#) – section 9 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.
- [Local Government in Scotland Act 2003](#) – Best Value Statutory Guidance 2020

Angus Councils 2020/21 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting submission:

- [Committee Report no. 336/21](#)
- [Appendix 1](#)
- [Appendix 2](#)

Angus Council sustainability and Climate Change information:

- [Sustainable Angus](#) website
- Climate Change Activity [committee report 118/20](#)
- [Angus Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan \(SECAP\)](#)

COP 26 - [Glasgow Climate Pact to keep 1.5°C alive](#)

Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) - [Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, October 2021](#)

