

**Angus Council
Transition to Net Zero
Action Plan: 2022 to 2030
Annual Progress Update 2022/23**



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1 Background

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.

Since the Council signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in 2007, Climate Change mitigation and adaptation has been an integral part of the Council's activities. In September 2022 Council approved its Transition to Net Action Plan (2022 to 2030), **with the aim to ensure that the Council meets the 2030 Scottish Government interim emissions reduction target of a 75% reduction in emission, enroute to the Net Zero target by 2045.** As a result, the Action Plan identifies the key areas within the Council's 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.

The key themes identified on the next column, will be used drive emission reductions within key operational areas to meet the 2030 interim emissions reduction target. Within each of these key themes, the Action Plan contains emission reduction projects and initiatives in each of the following areas:



LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & PROCUREMENT

Embedding climate as a priority across all Angus Council operations.



BUILDINGS, ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Reduce emissions from Angus Council buildings utilities, street furniture, capital projects and IT infrastructure.



WASTE, RECYCLING & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Reduce emissions from waste to landfill and incineration. Increase recycling and enable a circular economy.



FLEET & BUSINESS TRAVEL

Reduce emissions from Angus Council fleet vehicles and employee business travel.



LAND USE ADAPTATION

Supporting resilient land management on the Angus Council Estate.

The progress of the Action Plans and the Council's Transition to Net Zero will be reviewed and reported annually in November, alongside the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report by the Planning and Sustainable Growth Service and the Transition to Net Zero working group.

2 Progress to 2030 Target

During 2022/23, 15,378 tonnes of CO₂e were emitted and reported via the Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report. As highlighted in figure 1, most of the Council's emissions were generated from direct fuel combustion via boilers for heating buildings, grid electricity consumption and direct fuel combustion via fleet vehicles.

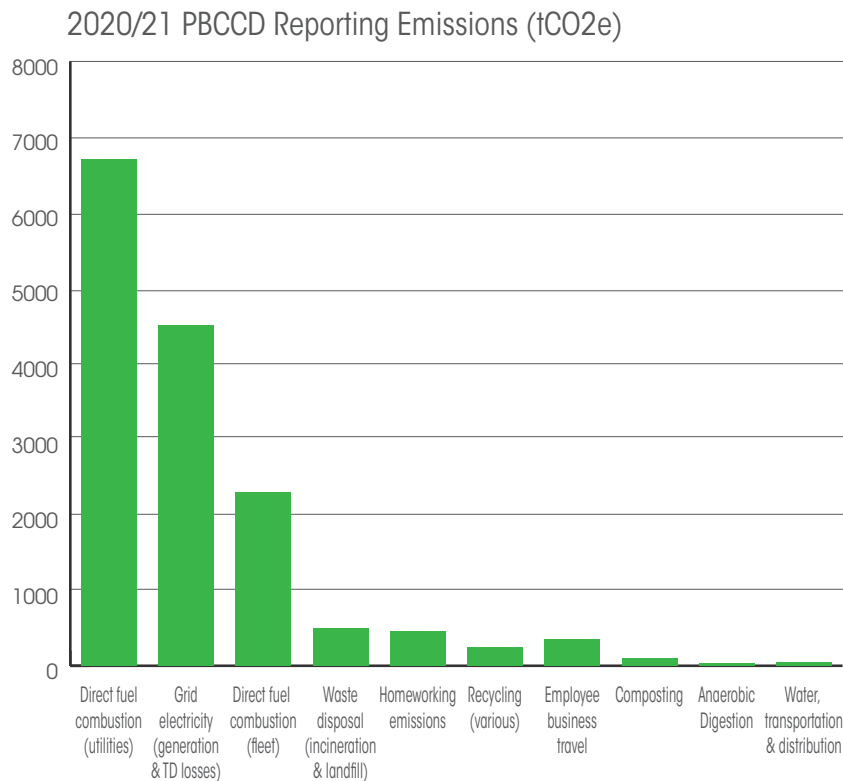


Figure 1 – breakdown of Emissions scopes (tonnes CO₂e) from the 2022/23 Angus Council Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report submission.

From the base year of 2012/13 to the end of the financial year 2022/23, the Council reduced its emissions by 58%. The Council also achieved an impressive year on year emissions reduction of 11.4%.



Comparing 2021/22 emissions to 2022/23 emissions: **Energy and water emissions within Angus Council buildings and operations reduced by 14%**

Effective energy and water management has reduced consumption. By looking at average temperatures, it shows that 2022/23 was warmer than 2021/22 (and the 20 year average) which resulted in lower heat demand. The UK electricity grid was further decarbonised during 2022/23 as more renewable electricity came online; this has reduced the Council's emissions from electricity consumed via the UK electricity grid.

Fleet fuel consumption emissions reduced by 6%

During 2022/23 diesel consumption was reduced by 72,000 litres. This is due to service efficiencies and the replacement of small diesel vehicles with electric vehicles.

3 Transition to Net Zero Action Plan: 2022 to 2032 - Update 2022/23

The following action tables 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**. Updates have been provided for each action by members of the Transition to Net Zero Working Group.

3.1 LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & PROCUREMENT

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Discuss how Net Zero / carbon impacts can be included within the Angus Council Project Management documentation.	Change	
Add Net Zero implications / carbon impacts guidance to the update of the Project Lead Manual.	Change	The Council's approach to Programme / Project Management is currently under review. New guidance documents are to be developed - the Environment & Climate Change Team will liaise with the Change Team to ensure Net Zero implications / carbon impacts are added, where applicable. Due 2024/25.
Add Net Zero implications / carbon impacts to Angus Councils Options Appraisal template.	Change	Completed - section on net zero/carbon impact is included in the Options Appraisal template and the Idea Summary Project Brief template.
Set up a Transition to Net Zero working group.	Environment & Climate Change	Completed July 2022 - regular meetings are taking place.

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Angus Council – Transition to Net Zero, Action Plan: 2022 to 2030.	Environment & Climate Change	Completed - approved by Angus Council Committee on 8th September 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. Report due at Angus Council Committee on 2nd November 2023.
Annual review of Angus Councils Transition to Net Zero progress.	Environment & Climate Change	Due annually each November. Report due at Angus Council Committee on 2nd November 2023.
Embed Climate Change impacts into all decisions, via Climate Change Impact Assessments within all Committee Reports.	Environment & Climate Change	Awaiting release of CoSLA and Sustainable Scotland Network guidance / template. Due 2023/24.
Create a mandatory Climate Change / Net Zero eLearning package for staff.	Environment & Climate Change	On track. 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	Future action. 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	Meeting/s to be arranged. Due 2023/24.
Update Local Code of Corporate Governance – embed the requirement to address Climate Change and Net Zero 2045 within the code.	Governance	Completed.
Add a Climate Change and Net Zero 2045 section to the Annual Governance Reminder eLearning.	Governance	Completed. Content to be reviewed annually.

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Internal Audit of Net Zero progress.	Internal Audit	To be arranged. 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	Work ongoing to 2030.
Annually update Climate Change Risk Register.	Risk	Ongoing to 2030 - last update August 2023.
Climate Change to be cited across all directorate and service level risk registers.	Risk	Ongoing to 2030 - being considered as part of the development of the directorate and service level risk registers.
Add Angus Councils Net Zero ambition to the new 5 year Council Plan (2023-2028).	Policy, Planning & Performance	Completed - T2NZ Action Plan and Net Zero target added.
Annually update Angus Council's Annual Performance Report with Net Zero progress.	Policy, Planning & Performance	Ongoing to 2030. Update within the Annual Performance Plan 2022/23 was completed.
Update Angus Councils Net Zero ambition within the new 5 year Council Plan (2028-2033).	Policy, Planning & Performance	Future action. Due 2027/28.
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 & Commissioning	Had successfully recruited into this post but due to tragic circumstances will be commencing recruitment again soon.

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
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 & Commissioning	Support being strengthened as part of new Procurement Standing Orders forming part of internal governance. This will be backed up with appropriate templates and training.
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 & Commissioning	Corporate Procurement Group has been restarted and meet as needed.
Ensure call offs from external frameworks are in line with Angus Councils Corporate Procurement agenda.	Procurement & Commissioning	Support being strengthened as part of new Procurement Standing Orders forming part of internal governance. This will be backed up with appropriate templates and training.

3.2


**BUILDINGS, ENERGY
& INFRASTRUCTURE**

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Complete the rationalisation of buildings as per the Agile Programme.	Agile Team	Continuing, due for completion 2023/24
Complete Depot Review (Roads, Parks and Tayside Contracts depots)	Agile Team Roads	A review has been completed and the Roads depot in Montrose was made surplus and Roads maintenance operations were transferred to the existing Waste and Parks Depot in Montrose.
Complete EnerPHit studies for Inverbrothock Primary School and Forfar Community Campus (Passivhaus refurbishment / retrofit standard).	Capital Projects	Due 2022/23. Actual desktop studies completed. No progress with Inverbrothock due to other priorities in the capital plan. Further investigations by contract operator in relation to opportunities at Forfar Community Campus. Will rely on funding not currently identified to progress.

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Deliver Monifieth Learning Campus to achieve Passivhaus design standard.	Capital Projects	Project started on site May 2023. Design has been developed to Passivhaus standard. Completion of Phase 1 (new building) programmed for end of July 2025.
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	Due December 2023. Consultants were appointed in January 2023 (funded by the Scottish Government) and work on the strategy and delivery plan are progressing well.
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	Throughout 2022/23 Digital Enablement and IT procured services and planned a project with suppliers to establish a cloud presence with Amazon AWS and local partner Brightsolid. Connectivity to AWS was established and application/server audits done to determine which of our on-premise servers could be migrated to run on AWS. No servers were actually migrated into Amazon AWS in year 2022/23 but many have throughout 2023/24 and this project continues. Ongoing to 2030.

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Formulise Angus Councils Net Zero mechanical and electrical services proposals for non-domestic buildings.	Property Assets	Due 2022/23. Reports received from APSE on three Council Corporate buildings. Delayed due to staffing and recruitment issues. Anticipated delay until 2025.
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. No action due to staffing and recruitment issues.
Tannadice PS Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) Project.	Property Assets	No current action due to staffing and recruitment issues. Expected 2023/24.
PV systems with consideration of battery storage will be ongoing to selected sites.	Property Assets	The PV installations at Brechin Community Campus and Webster High School are partially completed due to contractor insolvency, works are to commence soon to complete the installations. Ongoing to 2030.
Monitoring to verify that Energy and emissions targets and expectations are being met.	Property Assets	Ongoing monitoring, information reports produced annually next due November 2023. 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	No current action.
Implementing as required any beneficial DSR and/or FFR contracts with the electrical utilities companies.	Property Assets	No current action.
Convert remaining Streetlighting (approx. 3%) to LED.	Streetlighting Partnership	Ongoing as per programme of works. Ongoing to 2030.

3.3


**WASTE, RECYCLING
& CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Review of kerbside recycling service.	Waste Management (Change Programme)	Deposit Return Scheme delayed to October 2025 at the earliest. Review of kerbside recycling service progressing to meet targets in Change Plan and to increase quality and meet national policy objectives. Proposals for reviewed kerbside recycling service to be considered by Communities Committee September 2023.
Decarbonise waste and recycling fleet vehicles.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	Funding from Transport Scotland in principle has been awarded to procure up to 5 hydrogen powered refuse collection vehicles. Vehicle specifications have been finalised a tendering exercise due to commence soon. Ongoing to 2030.
Solar PV farm & battery storage project at Restenneth Landfill Site.	Waste Management	The project is now at the final stages where it is a matter of agreeing the legal terms. The installation is expected to be constructed and operational circa 2025.

3.4



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.
Continue to reduce business travel to meetings via digital tools, e.g., Microsoft Teams, Hybrid meetings.	Agile Team	The council chamber was equipped with hybrid meeting capabilities for committees which also allows hybrid meeting for other large internal or inter-agency meetings. Digital Enablement and IT continue to support the council's agile working practices for remote working by providing necessary equipment to ensure that employees could perform their duties through home working where practical. Ongoing to 2030.
Carry out a Fleet Management review.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group A review of our fleet management agreement with Tayside Contracts is currently ongoing.	Review of our approach and policy towards transition to zero emission cars and small vehicles is also ongoing. A Motor Fleet Assessment is planned to be carried out in conjunction with our motor insurer, Zurich Municipal before the end of financial year 2023/24.
Contribute to the Tayside Test of Change Strategy.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	A Tayside group is due to be established that will consider opportunities for sharing best practice and collaboration.

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Continue to utilise the 'Switched on Fleets' funding.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	All charging points using the 2022/23 funding award have now been installed and application for 2023/24 has been submitted for additional charging points at Councils sites that will provide capacity for more EVs on the council fleet in the future. Ongoing as long as fund available.
Investigate opportunities to fund the demonstration and trial of larger vehicles, e.g. hydrogen refuse collection trucks.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	Funding from Transport Scotland in principle has been awarded to procure up to 5 hydrogen powered refuse collection vehicles. Vehicle specifications have been finalised a tendering exercise due to commence soon.
Identify 'heavy' employee business mileage users and identify ways to reduce their mileage.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group Individual Services	To be explored during 2024/25.
Continue the roll out of the corporate electric vehicle fleet.	Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group	Discussions need to be had on how to formalise the roll out. 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	Ruled out by the Fleet Management and Driver Safety Group - action to be deleted.
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	Ongoing - to be considered as part of a wider corporate risk register review.

3.5


**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	Awaiting guidance. Due 2023/24.
Restoring lowland bog habitat at Downie Moor, Crombie.	Environment & Climate Change Parks	The first site was visited with SEPA and Environment & Climate Change staff. Funding for a feasibility study is being explored. Due 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	Land Use Adaptation is a key priority in Angus Council strategies and plans, and is being embedded as new Strategies and Plans are produced - e.g the Angus Local Development Plan, in accordance with National Planning Framework 4. Due 2023/24.
Prepare Woodland Management Plans for Angus Country Parks and Angus Millennium Forests.	Angus Alive Parks	Consultants have recently been appointed to draw up seven Angus Woodland Management Plans. The first meeting took place in September 2023. The work is expected to take a few months. On track to be completed during 2023/24.



Action	Responsible Team	Progress
Create Angus Country Parks Biodiversity Management Plans.	Angus Alive Environment & Climate Change Parks	Angus Alive, Environment & Climate Change staff and Parks have had discussions and site visits. The Biodiversity Management Plans will be developed after the Woodland Management Plans for the Country Parks have been published. Due 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	The 'Space for Nature' Programme continues to be rolled out across Angus Burghs. It is complimented by the 'Buglife' partnership project - Strathmore People and Pollinators, which runs until 2024. Ongoing to 2030.
Support the restoration of habitats, including wetlands at Montrose Basin Local Nature Reserve.	Environment & Climate Change Angus Alive	Saltpan Restoration Project at Montrose Basin LNR completed during December 2022. This was funded by Angus Council Nature Restoration Fund allocation. Work in partership with Scottish Wildlife Trust. Another project at Montrose Basin is planned for 2023/24 - reedbed restoration. Ongoing to 2030.

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
<p>Enhance school grounds through habitat creation, improving biodiversity and contributing to carbon sequestration where possible.</p>	<p>Education</p> <p>Parks</p>	<p>During 2022/23, the Learning for Sustainability Officer (Education) has supported 26/59 schools on Sustainable Development and Outdoor Learning. A few example projects include pond creation, areas for growing flowers, fruit and vegetables, tree planting and an 'urban farm'.</p> <p>Ongoing to 2030.</p>
<p>Ensure that new development, or adaptation of existing sites, includes SuDS, landscaping and active travel networks are nature rich and contribute towards carbon sequestration and resilience.</p>	<p>Planning & Sustainable Growth</p> <p>Housing</p>	<p>The Angus Local Development Plan (2016) and National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) set out a range of policies under which new development sites and adaptations to existing sites and buildings should be considered during the planning application process. The inclusion of SuDS schemes, appropriate landscape and active travel networks whilst ensuring sites are carbon sequestration and resilient are sought through planning conditions attached to the individual planning permission.</p>

Action	Responsible Team	Progress
<p>Develop Strategic Nature Networks that link settlements and the wider countryside contributing to ecological connectivity, ecosystem health, carbon sequestration and climate change adaptation.</p>	<p>Planning & Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>AECOM are developing a national tool in collaboration with NatureScot. This tool will include a Nature Networks Connectivity Map. Angus Council staff have contributed to the development process of this tool. It is recognised more reliable data is needed to map habitats that will form nature networks. Funding is being sought to complete Angus Habitat Mapping project. The tool is expected to be available for use in 2024.</p>
<p>Collate new baseline data, to identify and promote opportunities to support Angus's climate change resilience for the benefit of communities and nature.</p>	<p>Environment & Climate Change Parks</p>	<p>Funding being sought through Angus Council NetZero/Climate Change/Biodiversity Fund with match funding from Angus Council Nature Restoration Fund allocation to undertake Angus Habitat Mapping Project. This will map habitats across Angus and resulting data will be used to inform Nature Networks and as baseline data to focus and prioritise restoration projects.</p> <p>The Parks Open Space Strategy Audit contains a quality assessment of open spaces.</p>

4 Going forward

The Council's Planning and Sustainable Growth Service will continue to drive the delivery of the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan and support the Transition to Net Zero Working Group to deliver on the initiatives and projects with the Action Plan. The Transition to Net Zero Working Group will continue to meet quarterly to drive action and monitor progress.

The Transition to Net Zero Action Plan is a live document and will evolve as new techniques and practices develop, and as funding / budgets become available. A significant number of the actions have been completed or are underway; discussions will shortly commence with the Transition to Net Zero Working Group to identify new initiatives and projects to add into the action plans to ensure we keep pace with the emissions reductions required.

The Planning and Sustainable Growth Service will continue to review and report on the rate of progress annually in November, alongside the PBCCD Reporting; the targets and action plan will be revised, as required.

5 Further reading

The Angus Council Transition to Net Zero Action Plan: 2022 to 2030 and latest Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report can be downloaded from the Sustainable Angus website.

