

CLIMATE CHANGE

Public Bodies Duty Report 2019/20



For over a decade Angus Council has considered climate change in service delivery and in partnership working. Each of Scotland's 32 local authorities signed **Scotland's Climate Change Declaration** in early 2007. The Declaration was a public statement wherein local authorities acknowledged the reality and implications of climate change and their responsibility to respond effectively. Angus Council voluntarily provided a report to the Scottish Government after signing until mandatory annual reporting came into force through the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) Scotland) Order 2015.

Public Bodies Duty Report

Angus Council has duties under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to contribute to reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions; to contribute to helping Scotland adapt to a changing climate; and to act in the way that it considers most sustainable.

Annually, Angus Council submits a statutory report to the Scottish Government on the authority's progress in contributing to Scotland's ambitious climate change targets – a reduction in emissions by 70% by 2030, 90% by 2040 and a net-zero target for 2045. The report gives information on targets set, actions taken, and outcomes achieved, and further actions required.



Climate Change Member Officer Group

Monitoring of our climate change activity and scrutiny of our annual reporting to the Scottish Government is carried out by the Climate Change Member Officer Group which meets four times per year. In addition, three focused groups lead on greenhouse gas reduction, adaptation, and sustainability reporting to the Member Officer Group meeting every three months.

In order to monitor the links to the Community Plan, updates on activity and performance are tabled at the Community Planning Partnership board annually.





Key achievements 2019/20

Carbon

Since the baseline year of 2010/11, Angus Council's carbon emissions from electricity, gas, oil, LPG and biomass use in buildings has decreased by 44%. Since the previous report on period 2018/19, there was a further 5% reduction in carbon emissions from buildings. Street lighting continues to make significant strides with carbon emissions now down by 78% since 2010/11.

The reconfiguration of recycling centres during 2019/20 saw the tonnage of recyclate collected increase by 9.41% and general waste reduced by 34.12% over the period.

A review of recycling centre provision in Angus and the resultant removal of general waste skips from four out of seven recycling centres in February 2019 resulted in a significant increase in the recycling rate achieved, from 52.79% for the year March '18 February '19 to 65.12% for the year March '19 February '20.

In 2019/20 there was investment in LED lighting projects. The projects are due to payback in 5 years and will reduce the lighting electricity consumption by approx. 38% across the sites. The councils SALIX Recycling Fund was used to fund the projects.

From the baseline year of 2010/11, this reporting year of 2019/20 has seen the Council's overall CO² emissions decrease by 27%. A truer reflection of change comes from year 2012/13 when the full CO² emissions data set became available. It can be seen as the first year of good quality data and realises a 50% decrease in the Council's overall CO² emissions.

Adaptation

Adaptation seeks to lower the risks posed by the consequences of climatic changes. Action in 2019/20 included ongoing policy delivery such as the Local Development Plan's policies on managing flood risk, water quality and greenspace enhancement.

Montrose Bay is one of seven Super Sites under the Scottish Government's Dynamic Coast project. The project uses innovative mapping and modelling tools to establish the effects of climate change on our coastline. Work is ongoing to develop Adaptation & Resilience Plans for each site, based on detailed assessments.

Large scale nature-based solutions continue to be delivered including woodland expansion and natural flood management. Delivered in partnership by agencies and landowners this work aims to reduce peak flows and increase upland water storage. In Glens Clova and Doll, a 165 Ha (£3.2million) contour tree planting project is in progress. In November 2019 additional funds for montane planning and river



enhancement at five sites in Glens Clova and Doll was secured through the Biodiversity Challenge Fund adding value to ongoing work.

Sustainability

Angus Council's Electric Vehicle (EV) fleet now comprises 8 pool cars available at Angus House which are being used extensively. All journeys are being recorded for analysis purposes.

A regional EV Strategy has recently been published with a series of actions identified both locally and regionally. Angus Council are in the process of organising a steering group to deliver on the local actions. A regional forum will also be set up to deliver on regional actions.

Planning has been undertaken during 2019/20 for an Active Travel Hub-Site at Orchardbank Business Park in Forfar adjacent the A90 linking the central belt to the North East. The creation of this hub will create nine chargers catering for all speeds of charge encouraging Angus Council staff, business, locals and commuters to transfer away from fossil fuel cars.

Sustainable procurement is recognised by both the Council and the Procurement Team as an important issue and has been included in procurement documents where practicable. A Sustainable Procurement Working Group was established in 2016.



Future Action

Angus Council controls only a small percentage of greenhouse gas emissions across the whole of the Council area, however, it can indirectly support and encourage change by working with Communities, Industry and Community Planning Partners. Delivery focuses on circular economy, fuel poverty, the Smarter Choices Smarter Places active travel programme and nature-based solutions to adaptation.

SECAP

Angus Council, with a range of stakeholders, is currently writing a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan. The plan will consider greenhouse gas reduction, adaptation and wider sustainability issues and will be published in late 2020.

The Mercury Programme

The Mercury Programme is a £1bn partnership between government, public, private and community sectors which aims to increase productivity through clean growth, protecting places for future generations to live, work and visit. The work seeks to secure sustainable, low carbon development and implementation of innovative clean technologies, in line with our Climate Change responsibilities and aspirations.

Further Information

A full version of the 2019/20 Angus Council Public Bodies Duty Report can be found on the Angus Council climate change and sustainability pages

www.angus.gov.uk/the_environment/sustainable_angus