

CLIMATE CHANGE

Public Bodies Duty Report 2020/21



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 2020/21



Image showing native tree planting by the river in Glen Doll.



Image showing electric vehicle charging points at Orchardbank in Forfar.



Image showing recycling collection containers.

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 49%. Since the previous report on period 2019/20, there was a further 8.8% reduction in carbon emissions from buildings. Street lighting continues to make significant strides with carbon emissions now down by 82% since 2010/11.

During 2020/21, Covid-19 affected planned building related energy efficiency projects. However, some internal LED lighting projects were completed. Projects were funded from a capital budget bid and are due to payback in 5½ years

From the baseline year of 2010/11, this reporting year of 2020/21 has seen the Council's overall CO₂ emissions decrease by 34%. A truer reflection of change comes from year 2012/13 when the full CO₂ emissions data set became available. It is the first year of good quality data and realises a 55% decrease in the Council's overall CO₂ emissions.

In 2019 Angus Council had the second highest household recycling rate in Scotland at 59.1% and sent the second lowest amount of waste to landfill of any Scottish authority at only 5.1 tonnes. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) calculated the carbon Impact (TCO₂e) at 100,813. 2020 waste data cannot be verified by SEPA until December 2021 thus cannot be confirmed for the 2020/21 reporting 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 2018 - February 2019 to 60.54% for the year March 2020 - February 2021.

Adaptation

Adaptation seeks to lower the risks posed by the consequences of climatic changes. Action in 2020/21 included ongoing policy delivery such as the Local Development Plan's policies on managing flood risk, water quality and greenspace enhancement. Partnership work to mitigate against urban, coastal, river and estuary flood management continues. 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 developed and delivered including woodland expansion and natural flood management. Delivered in partnership by agencies and landowners including Forestry Scotland this work aims to reduce peak flows and increase upland water storage. In 2020/21 riparian planting and river enhancement at five sites in Glens Clova and Doll was delivered via the Biodiversity Challenge Fund. The River South Esk Catchment Partnership are joining the Cairngorms National Park Authority and partners in a Heritage Lottery Fund project to deliver the £50 million project 'People and Nature Thriving Together'. In 202/21 the initial phase of nature-based climate focussed projects on the Rivers South Esk, North Esk and Kinnordy Loch catchment, totalling £530,000 were developed. If the final project bid is successful, in 18 months the project will run to 2028.

Sustainability

The new electric vehicle charging hub was completed at Orchardbank in Forfar in March 2021. The "Angus on the Go" Project has seen the development of a charging hub comprising of a mix of charging types. The hub has rapid, fast and slow chargers which allow anything from 80% charging within 30 minutes to two to three and seven hour charge times. Since opening initial data suggests this facility is being well used by both locals and vehicles travelling along the A90 corridor.

The Angus Food Growing Strategy and action plan was published in March 2021. The strategy reflects local conditions and priorities. Improving health and wellbeing and addressing food poverty are established council priorities and this strategy is an opportunity to work across the council and with communities to support community growing, increasing pride of place to live. Producing more food locally will play an important role in supporting our effort to reduce our carbon footprint of our food system, while providing fresh and nutritious produce for the citizens of Angus.

Angus Council Strategic Policy and Projects team have supported communities, businesses and individuals providing funding advice and support, throughout 20/21 the main focus being on the response to the Covid -19 pandemic and recovery phases.



Image showing site monitoring at the Rottal Burn in Glen Clova.

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 2021.

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 2020/21 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