

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## Public Bodies Duty Report 2021/22



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

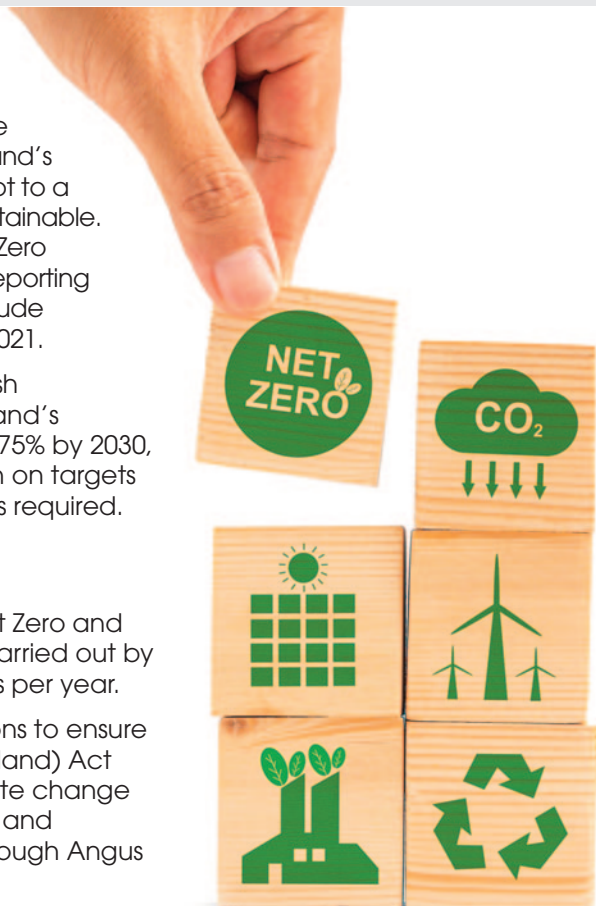
Angus Council has statutory duties under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and to contribute to reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions; to contribute to helping Scotland adapt to a changing climate; and to act in the way that it considers most sustainable. In response to the global climate emergency and Scotland's Net Zero ambition by 2045, the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) Scotland) Order 2015 was amended in 2020 to include additional annual reporting requirements with effect from 1 April 2021.

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 -75% by 2030, -90% by 2040 and Net Zero by 2045. The report gives information on targets set, actions taken, and outcomes achieved, and further actions required.

### Progress Monitoring

Monitoring of our climate change activity, progress towards Net Zero and scrutiny of our annual reporting to the Scottish Government is carried out by the Transition to Net Zero Working Group which meets four times per year.

The Angus Council Climate Change Risk Register contains actions to ensure we comply with the requirements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, to achieve net zero emissions by 2045 and manage climate change adaptation to ensure the resilience of communities, businesses, and ecosystems within Angus. The actions are updated annually through Angus Council's performance management system Pentana.



# Key achievements 2021/22



Image showing electric vehicle charging points at Orchardbank in Forfar.



Image showing Montrose Bay, a 'Dynamic Coast' coastal erosion study site.



Image showing recycling collection containers.

## Carbon

Since the baseline year of 2012/13 to this current reporting year 2021/22, Angus Councils carbon emissions have reduced by -52.5%. The baseline year was originally 2010/11, but 2012/13, when the full CO<sub>2</sub> emissions data set became available, is the most accurate baseline to measure against.

### Scope 1 emissions



These are direct fuel combustion emissions from sources Angus Council own or control – emissions from buildings (gas, oil, LPG, and biomass) and diesel for fleet vehicles. Since 2012/13 scope 1 emissions have reduced by -12.5%.

### Scope 2 emissions



These are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity that is consumed in Angus Council owned or controlled operations – emissions from buildings, streetlighting and other infrastructure. Since 2012/13 scope 2 emissions have reduced by -65.4%.

### Scope 3 emissions



These are indirect emissions from the value chain, upstream and downstream activities – emissions from business travel, homeworking, waste disposal, recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion and emissions resulting from the transportation and distribution of electricity and water. Since 2012/13 scope 3 emissions have reduced by -79%.

Operational emission reduction targets were added to the report submission as per the recently approved Angus Council - Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 to 2030. The Angus Council operational emission reduction targets are a -75% reduction by 2030, a -90% reduction by 2040 and Net Zero by 2045. The targets are in line with the Scottish Government national targets.

During 2021/22, the essential works backlog from covid-19, contractor issues and staffing issues affected planned building related energy efficiency projects. However, some LED lighting projects were completed; these projects are due to payback in 4 years. Property and Capital Projects teams are involved in studies and liaise with consultants to determine 'whole building' approaches that can be used to transition the Council's building stock towards Net Zero.

In 2020 Angus Council had the highest local authority household recycling rate in Scotland at 57.9%. Angus Council had a landfill rate of 5.8% which was the third lowest in Scotland and had the ninth lowest carbon impact in Scotland. Household waste recycling rates are



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

not ratified by SEPA until September 2021 thus we can only report on 2020 data to date.

In 2019 Waste Management removed non-recyclable waste skips from smaller recycling centres which increased the recycling rate across centres in Angus. This initiative continues to provide good results, with a recycling centre recycling rate of 64.27% in 2021.

### Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation seeks to mitigate the negative impacts of global warming and create climate resilient communities and landscapes.

Nature-based solutions, at many scales, continue to be developed and delivered across Angus. In 2021/22, in both rural and urban areas, Angus Council has worked with communities and wider stakeholders to deliver woodland expansion, natural flood management, grassland regeneration, wetland creation and green network connectivity projects.

The River South Esk Catchment Partnership continues to work with 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 three river catchments focussing on Potentially Vulnerable Areas identified in the Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin Local Flood Risk Management Plan.

The Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund has allowed the development of ambitious nature-based carbon sequestration projects from the uplands in the Angus Glens to Angus urban centres. Our 'Strathmore' amenity spaces and wider nature network is being enhanced in partnership with Buglife Scotland as we expand our Space for Nature grassland and pollinator projects.

Action in 2021/22 is linked to ongoing policy delivery, such as the Local Development Plan's policies on managing flood risk, water quality and greenspace enhancement and the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26. Partnership work to mitigate against urban, coastal, river and estuary flood management continues via the Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin Local Flood Risk Management Plan and at Montrose Bay, in the Scottish Government's Dynamic Coast project.

### Sustainability

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.

## Partnership Working

Angus Council leads or supports various key partnerships and strategies relating to climate change resilience, adaptation, and mitigation. Examples include:

- Angus Shoreline Management Plan 2 provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with erosion and flooding at the coast.
- Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 to 2027 sets out how all those with a responsibility for the National Park will coordinate their work to tackle the most important issues.
- Local Flood Risk Management Plans (Tay Estuary & Montrose Basin Local Plan District) has been developed to detail the actions adopted to reduce the devastating and costly impact of flooding in the Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin local plan district.
- River South Esk Catchment Partnership facilitates multi-stakeholder landscape scale nature restoration, natural flood management and socio-economic projects in the River South Esk and wider Angus catchments.
- Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26 facilitates community led nature restoration, citizen science and environmental education. The plan has a key role in driving local authority biodiversity priorities, enables access to funding opportunities and cross boundary collaboration.

## Active & Sustainable Travel

Angus Council were awarded Smarter Choices Smarter Places funds from Paths For All for the delivery of an active travel programme over the financial year 2021/22. Several projects targeting local commuters, residents, students and pupils, as well as visitors, were delivered throughout the year to encourage a change in travel behaviour.

The 'Arbroath A Place for Everyone' project continues to progress with developed design (Stage 3 and Stage 4) and public engagement through our appointed consultant. The project is part-funded by Sustrans and will create an exemplar walking, cycling and wheeling route, accessible for all which will improve accessibility across the town.

A regional Electric Vehicle Strategy has recently been published with a series of actions identified both locally and regionally. Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure continues to be installed throughout Angus via grant funding from Transport Scotland.

## 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.

## Angus Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan

The Angus Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) was approved in November 2021 and supports Angus area-wide in its commitment to sustainable development, environmental management, and the transition to a low-carbon economy. It sets a regional target of Net Zero carbon status by the year 2045.

Following consultation with key stakeholders within Angus Council, community groups, businesses and third sector organisations, a series of deliverable actions have been set.

## 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.

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## Further Information

A full version of the 2021/22 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/climate\\_change](http://www.angus.gov.uk/the_environment/sustainable_angus/climate_change)