



Community Planning Improvement Board

Climate Change and Sustainability — Key Messages

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented global crisis which has fundamentally changed every aspect of our lives. It has seen us all adapt to new ways of living, working and being. While there are many challenges there are also important opportunities in this time of change. In our recovery from COVID-19, we can rebuild our society and economy in a greener, fairer and more sustainable way.

Green recovery, and net zero ambitions, are increasingly being placed at the core of local and national policy making. The next decade is critical to reversing global emissions trends, “...*despite a brief dip in carbon dioxide emissions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is still heading for a temperature rise in excess of 3°C this century – far beyond the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C*”. The Scottish Government has set ambitious targets of net zero by 2045 and the principle of delivering a just transition must be central in our approach.

The [Just Transition Commission: A National Mission for a fairer, greener Scotland](#) (March 2021) highlights 4 key messages:



1. Pursue an orderly, managed transition to net-zero that creates benefits and opportunities for people across Scotland



2. Equip people with the skills and education they need to benefit from our transition to net-zero



3. Empower and invigorate our communities and strengthen local economies



4. Share the benefits of climate action widely; ensure costs are distributed on the basis of ability to pay.

Community planning partners are well placed to champion the transformative change that is necessary, playing a vital leadership role in driving the critical ambition and collaboration at a local level to integrate net zero and the green recovery into planning and investment decisions.

The Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) recently brought together key community planning partners to gain a deeper shared understanding of the scale of the climate change challenge, and to identify the opportunities where community planning can play a defining role



in galvanising the collective change we need to see. The global United Nations COP26 summit taking place in Glasgow during November 2021 provides an opportunity to highlight the important contribution community planning can make to progressing this agenda, and to consider what more individual partners and partnerships can do to deliver on net zero ambitions.

The following themes were identified by the CPIB which will be essential as we work together to embed green recovery and achieve net zero ambitions.



1. DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP



2. WORK COLLABORATIVELY



3. ADOPT AND PROMOTE A PLACE-BASED APPROACH



4. EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES



5. DEVELOP OUR UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGEMENT WITH DATA



6. SUPPORT SKILLS AND TRAINING



7. AVAILABLE SUPPORT & RESOURCES



1. DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP

Building leadership confidence and commitment to climate action across all community planning partners is essential if we are to embed the sense of 'urgency' necessary to drive the pace and scale of transformation required. This requires a commitment from all leaders to take ownership of the agenda and drive change across their organisation and in collaboration with other CP partners, including:

- a. Leading by example and modelling the behaviour they want their organisation to have.
- b. Increase awareness of the challenges of the green recovery/net zero agenda, and the opportunities and multiple co-benefits of climate action including the potential gains for wider public health, economic, and inequalities agendas.
- c. Ensure a coherent and strategic focus on climate action within their own organisations, embedding within all strategic, business, resource planning and training to ensure it is a core commitment and driver for decision making.



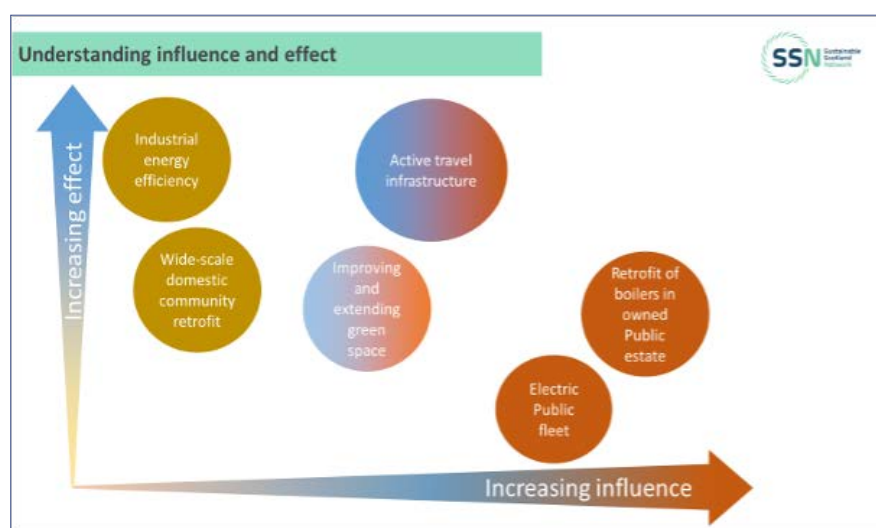
- d. Utilising existing leadership networks (e.g. Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) Climate Emergency Action Group) to share learning and insights and support a co-ordinated approach.

There is a real opportunity to ensure climate change and green jobs are at heart of local and national recovery plans. The current shift in macro-economics provides an opportunity to position climate change high on the agenda, and to create increasing dynamism behind this agenda to support and shape recovery. We must ensure we do not lose the gains achieved during the Covid period. As we re-open, there is an opportunity to learn from the emerging evidence base and collectively promote the gains achieved, including those from the shift to new ways of working, e.g. Climate Exchange research, [COVID-19, travel behaviours and business recovery in Scotland](#).

The principle of delivering a just transition must be central in our approach. We need commitment and understanding to deliver climate change action which closes inequalities and helps those in most disadvantage. Recommendations from the Just Transition Commission will be critical in how we do this.

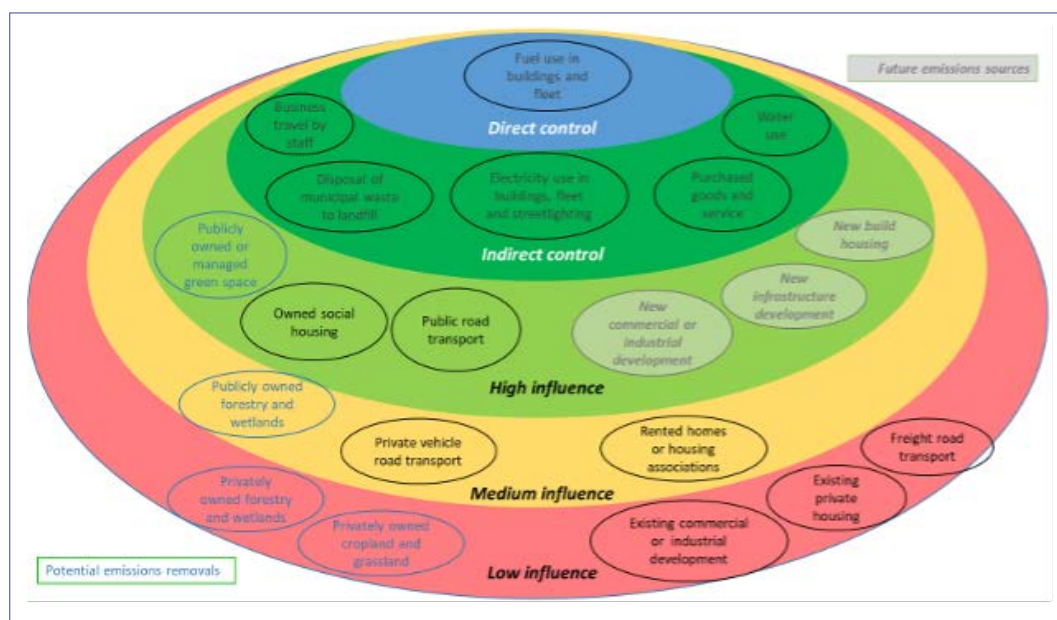
There is clear recognition for the need for urgent action, but it also needs to be the *right* action. It is important to prioritise and focus on the major sources of emissions at a Scottish level (e.g. transport, heat, agriculture) and which requires all parts of government and the public sector to be aligned in their focus. It will be important to join together the many conversations and ensure the pace of action is accelerated. This will require a strong strategic drive and leadership from Scottish Government so that partners at a regional and local level can respond within this national context. This will be key to ensuring that efforts/funding are not spread too thinly, and the required scale of impacts are not limited.

Focus on where we have greatest influence and effect. Climate change is a global, national and local challenge and community planning has a key role to play. Leadership is required to ensure a focus on those areas we can exert greatest impact and influence. Partnerships should commit to adopting and fast-tracking opportunities for short term wins as no/low regrets interventions that offer good returns on investment, particularly in relation to active travel, sustainable transport, green spaces, renewable energy and local procurement opportunities.





There is a critical leadership role for business and industry. CPPs also have a key opportunity to influence business/industry. The private sector is also working to tackle climate change and has the potential to provide a positive role model for other sectors.



The third sector have a key role in mobilising behaviour change on climate action. There is an opportunity for the voluntary sector to support Scotland's just transition to net zero, ensuring that everyone benefits from a greener future and that the disproportionate impact on already disadvantaged groups are mitigated.

Strategic approach to resourcing climate action. There is a need for a more strategic approach to resourcing climate action, recognising that resourcing these challenges now will provide better value in the long term and will be significantly cheaper than trying to retrofit at a later stage. Capital investment programmes have substantive implications for managing area-wide carbon emissions, and there is an opportunity to rethink how we make capital investment decisions, and how we could support a shift away from a focus purely on economic return to provide broader consideration of net zero/wellbeing/health.



2. WORK COLLABORATIVELY

Collaborating and co-ordination in relation to climate action is critical. CPPs have a key role in strengthening coordination to remove/reduce competition and duplication in relation to climate action (e.g. around funding). As a common priority for all, partners should proactively work together to develop 'joined-up' plans for delivering action that takes places on the journey to net zero emissions by 2045. Collaboration to accelerate the scale and pace of change will be vital, especially over the years to 2030, to meet challenging near-term emissions targets. Collaboration is also needed to develop systematic approaches to change, to take account of the systems that



are central to decarbonising communities, especially relating to the decarbonisation of heating and transportation.

Sharing learning/practice on local approaches (across partnerships/between partners). There are opportunities for CP partners to work with and learn from ECCI, SSN and the Place-based Climate Action Network to share knowledge and practice. For example, learning in relation to food cities/ places and co-benefits in relation to tackling poverty provides a strong engagement topic which links to other priorities and resilience.



3. ADOPT AND PROMOTE A PLACE-BASED APPROACH

LOIP/Locality Plans provide an opportunity to focus and co-ordinate partnership action. As many CPPs review their LOIPs and Locality Plans in light of the pandemic, there is an opportunity to ensure to align with the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan and that action to tackle climate change and Covid recovery build on each other.

There should be a focus on how we ensure green recovery economic opportunities prioritise positive place-based impacts. CPPs should consider what influence they could make here to ensure decision making (for people/business/investment) make an impact for the communities in which they sit.

Anchor Institutions can be leaders and exemplars in driving climate action. As important anchor institutions in local areas, CP partners can use their procurement, employment and asset management to improve outcomes for local communities as well as reducing carbon emissions.

Place initiatives should be supported to provide a stronger 'climate lens'. Community planning could link into support from SNS/Sniffer to consider how to adapt the Place Standard tool for climate change, (and the new Youth Place Standard Tool which will bring in influence from young people who are key for the future on this). There will also be key learning emerging from work underway between Scottish Government and Architecture and Design Scotland to build climate action plans with six towns newly engaging with climate change before.



4. EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES

A more collaborative approach to community engagement and empowerment is needed in relation to climate change. There is an opportunity to review existing engagement approaches to ensure a collaborative focus on climate change which build on the co-benefits and link in with the younger generation. There is much that we could do together that could be influential such as developing shared community engagement plans shaped through joint data gathering/sharing, stakeholder mapping, targeted messaging and sharing of best practice etc. The third sector has a crucial role to play in mobilising and bringing together different voices.



Behaviour change is complex, and it will be important for partners to work together and with communities to understand and influence change. The ISM framework was developed by the Scottish Government to help us ‘moving beyond the individual’ to consider all of the contexts that shape people’s behaviours - the individual, the social and the material. By understanding these different contexts and the multiple factors within them that influence the way people act every day, more effective policies and interventions can be developed. Support is available from organisations such as SSN to help community planning partners to make use of the ISM framework.



5. DEVELOP OUR UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGEMENT WITH DATA

We need to understand our data needs in this area and strengthen our access to and use of data to support climate change action. There is a lot of data available that would be useful to share with CPPs to prompt discussions, including in relation to the areas where we need to influence. The CPIB and ECCI will work together to consider data needs and what data could be made available to help support greater understanding and awareness of the climate change challenges and opportunities, including evidence impact tracking and how it is being used to support climate change.



6. SUPPORT SKILLS AND TRAINING

Community planning has a key role in ensuring we have the workforce and skills to develop and implement climate action, including the opportunity this provides for making a just transition. Community planning brings together key partners in this space – education, enterprise, universities/colleges who will be instrumental in identifying and nurturing required skills – including in sustainable procurement, community engagement, carbon finance and accounting. Potential alignment with Workforce for the Future and No One Left Behind.



7. AVAILABLE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Sustainable Scotland Network is Scotland’s public sector network on sustainability and climate change. In addition to providing regular monthly forums for partners, SSN provides a range of planning and project tools which will be helpful for partners.

Edinburgh Climate Change Institute is a centre for excellence in this field and a leading climate change hub for Scotland delivering ground-breaking projects and kick-starting new ideas.



[Adaptation Scotland](#) provides information on how to prepare for the effects of climate change, and can support partners to gain skills, develop networks and make progress with adaptation planning and action.

[Improvement Service](#) – The IS can support policy and project development in relation to climate action, help to review strategies and business cases, offer guidance in relation to embedding place-based approaches, and promote opportunities to share practice and learning.

CLIMATE ACTION TOOLS

Adaptation Capability Framework

Capability Framework for Climate Ready Public Sector

Climate Ready Places

Climate Trend Tool

Climate Change Assessment Tool

Carbon Footprint and Project Register Tool

Individual, Social and Material (ISM) Framework



Local
Authority



NHS



Police



Fire



Enterprise
Agency



Third
Sector



Colleges/
Universities



Integrated
Joint Board



National
Park
Authority

More Information

Visit www.improvementservice.org.uk/cpiib for information about the Community Planning Improvement Board

For information on and support for community planning, visit the Community Planning Network in Scotland at <https://khub.net/group/communityplanningnetworkinscotland>