

Our Approach to Net Zero

Climate change is the most significant challenge facing Local Government and has an impact on every community and local authority service area. How to best deliver the necessary transformation is of growing importance in UK and Scottish Government policy, and the Scottish Government and COSLA have committed to a just transition to Net Zero by 2045. This means taking a fair and equitable approach to achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out. Action to deliver this transition also presents an opportunity for councils to deliver positive health outcomes and reduce inequalities as part of the recovery from Covid 19.

As the 'go to' organisation for Local Government improvement, we must lead by example to develop our own response and shape local authority action across Scotland.

Our Strategic Framework identifies climate change as a key driver and our Business Plan commits us to providing practical improvement support to councils, embedding this agenda across all our programmes. This Net Zero Statement develops this commitment, to give direction and focus to our activity, and will enable us to better support Local Government and partners to rebuild effectively post Covid 19. By improving our operations and bringing together socioeconomic, health and climate change priorities in our programmes, we can support councils and communities to maximise benefits and minimise risks. Given the cross-cutting nature of our work, we are also able to support Local Government service delivery against a range of indicators within the National Performance Framework and ensure effective place-based approaches.

We have a unique position through our reach across Local Government and this offers immense potential to make a difference.

There are three interlinking and guiding principles to our approach:



We will review and update this Statement and our operations as appropriate and as a minimum every two years.