



**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 7 FEBRUARY 2023**

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE CHANGE
REPORTING**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND
FINANCE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the Council's Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2021/22 and updates to the reporting methodology and statutory requirements.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (F) (33) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to providing, developing and monitoring the Council's Economic Development and Infrastructure Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 requires public sector bodies to publish annual climate change reports. This is intended to demonstrate compliance with public sector bodies' climate change duties, to engage leaders and encourage action to be taken to reduce carbon emissions.
- 2.2 Moray Council has a duty under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to contribute to reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to helping Scotland adapt to a changing climate, and to act in a way it considers most sustainable.
- 2.3 Moray Council submitted its first mandatory report on its compliance with climate change duties to the Scottish Government in November 2016, covering the period 2015/16, and has subsequently submitted annual reports each November.

3. PERFORMANCE AND UPDATES

- 3.1 A copy of the Council's Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties as submitted to the Scottish Government on 15 November

2022 has been uploaded to the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) [and is available here](#).

3.2 In 2021/22, the Council's recorded carbon emissions were 24,490 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_{2e}) – an increase of 2,014 tCO_{2e} (9%) compared to reporting year 2020/21. A summary of changes by emissions source between the reporting years is provided in **Appendix 1**.

3.3 The increase in the Council's recorded carbon emissions during 2021/22 is principally the result of services increasingly returning towards 'business as usual' following the operational changes necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic:

- Higher consumption of grid electricity;
- Higher consumption and treatment of water;
- Higher consumption of fuels; and
- Higher consumption of biomass and most heating fuels.

These changes represented a carbon increase of 1,202.9 tCO_{2e}. However a reduction in emissions from the areas waste led to a carbon reduction of 439.2 tCO_{2e}.

3.4 It should be noted that the 2021/22 figures represent a reduction of almost 1,000 tCO_{2e} from the pre-pandemic submission of 2019/20. The increase in emissions this year caused by returning to a 'business as usual' approach after the pandemic was predicted within the Council's Route Map to Net Zero. Decisions to be taken around flexible working, use of buildings and fleet decarbonisation will influence this trajectory in the coming years.

3.5 The highest number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff employed during the 2021-22 financial year was 3,762, an increase of 184 FTE since the previous report. A proportion of this increase in FTE is likely to be associated with factors such as additional staffing relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and expansion of Early Learning and Childcare provision. This figure is used to calculate an estimate of the carbon emissions resulting from the proportion of employees who are homeworking to some degree through hybrid working arrangements, and who would previously have been office based.

3.6 Homeworking emissions continued to represent a significant emission source for the Council. This source represented carbon emissions of 1,073.1 tCO_{2e} (an increase of 55.4 tCO_{2e}). This total is calculated using the Scottish Government's proxy homeworking emissions multiplier of 0.3 tCO_{2e} per FTE. There is presently no system within the Council to distinguish between homeworkers/hybrid/office-based staff. Therefore an assumption of 100% homeworking is made within reporting to avoid understating carbon emissions. When data becomes available via the Council's Smarter Working Project, it may be possible to refine this assumption in future calculations.

3.7 The following emissions sources were not included in the previous reporting submission:

- Grey fleet (average car) mileage;
- Hotel stays – UK;
- Short-haul flights (economy class); and

- Rail mileage (National Rail).

These emissions sources were reported in the 2021/22 submission and represent carbon emissions of 268.3 tCO₂e.

3.8 Several energy saving projects and initiatives were carried out in 2021/22:

- LED lighting replacement;
- Water main replacement;
- Roof insulation;
- Draught proofing; and
- Miscellaneous insulation projects.

These changes represented an estimated carbon saving of 24 tCO₂e.

3.9 The Council's annual procurement report now highlights the number of contracts with environmental/climate change conditions attached. This included 13 contracts in the reporting year, broken down by conditions as follows:

- 5 x energy;
- 3 x greenhouse gases;
- 4 x waste; and
- 1 x sustainable construction.

3.10 All of the data used within the submission was obtained from previous compliance reports and from sections within the Council which collect data as part of their operational functions. In some cases, data used within the submission has been the basis for papers approved by Council committees.

4. FUTURE REPORTING

4.1 The Council will continue to be required to publish annual climate change reports as per the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015.

4.2 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 states that all future reporting must include:

- the Council's target date for achieving zero direct emissions of greenhouse gases, or such other targets that demonstrate how the Council is contributing to Scotland achieving its emissions reduction targets;
- the Council's targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases (where applicable);
- details regarding how the Council will align its spending plans and use of resources to reducing emissions and delivering its emissions reduction targets;
- details regarding how the Council will publish, or otherwise make available, its progress to achieving its emissions reductions targets; and

- details of any contributions made by the Council to helping deliver Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.
- 4.3 Officers working across the Council therefore have a responsibility to provide all necessary information required for submission as part of the statutory annual climate change reporting.
- 4.4 Data collected for the purposes of annual climate change reporting will also be used to inform updates to the Council's Routemap to Net Zero Carbon Emissions.

5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This reporting demonstrates the challenge the Council has in progressing towards its ambitious greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 identifies the environment as a key principle in the delivery of the Council's priorities:

"Environment – look after the world we live in to protect it for our future"

and for Moray Council to be:

"A resource efficient, carbon neutral council that works with partners to mitigate the worst effects of Climate Change, to create a resilient, fair and more sustainable future for everyone within Moray".

(b) Policy and Legal

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places a duty on public bodies to act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of Scotland's climate change targets; in the way best calculated to help deliver any programme for climate change adaptation laid before the Scottish Parliament; in a way it considers most sustainable.

The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 requires that public bodies prepare a report on compliance with climate change duties as set out by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 requires that the body to provide further details within its mandatory reporting on climate change duties.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications. The upcoming revision to the Council's Routemap to Net Zero Carbon Emissions will include updated emissions forecasting and actions, taking account of the data within this report and will highlight any risks to meeting our net zero targets.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications.

(f) Property

There are no property implications.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no equalities/socio economic impact implications.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Implications

There are no climate change or biodiversity implications directly resulting from this report. The upcoming revision to the Council's Routemap to Net Zero Carbon Emissions will include updated emissions forecasting and actions, taking account of the data within this report.

(i) Consultations

Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), the Head of Economic Growth and Development, the Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance, the Head of Housing and Property, the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services, the Head of Education Resources and Communities, the Legal Services Manager, the Energy Officer, the Equal Opportunities Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and Lissa Rowan (Committee Services Officer).

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The submission of the Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2021/22 by the Council to the Scottish Government in November 2022 fulfilled its statutory reporting obligation.

5.2 The Council will continue to be required to submit annual Public Sector Reports on Compliance with Climate Change Duties.

5.3 Data collected for the Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2021/22 will be used within updates to the Council's Routemap to Net Zero Carbon Emissions.

Author of Report: George Gunn, Climate Change Strategy Officer

Background Papers: As referred to in this report.

Ref:

http://spman.moray.gov.uk/MANComRepDraftSite/_layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=SPMAN-813460984-323