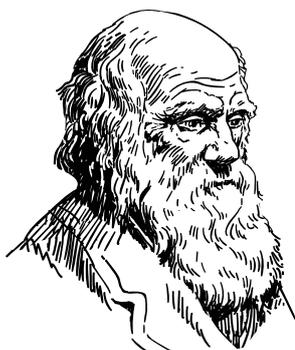


# DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2020-2030



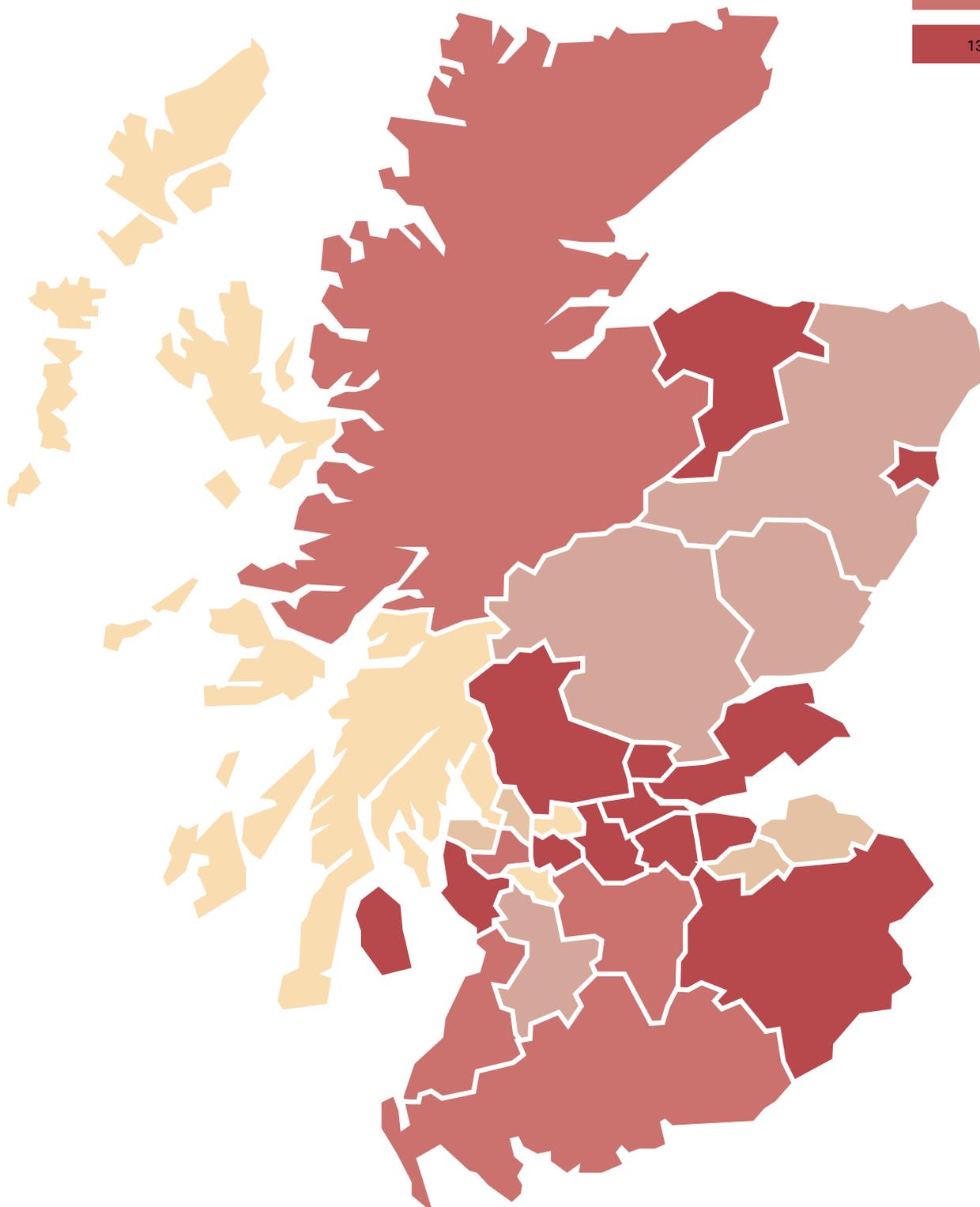
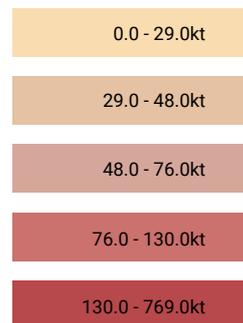
**DRAFT**



*"Only those who adapt to change survive"*

– Charles Darwin

Local authority areas with colours indicating levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emission (kt).



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# FOREWORD

Moray Council is committed to improving the quality of life for people in Moray, and making this the best possible place to live, work and do business. Climate change presents a major challenge to deliver this commitment. Already local impacts are already being felt with water shortages, wildfires and rising sea levels all occurring in recent times. Climate change impacts are predicted to increase in magnitude under all forecast scenarios and this will affect Moray. The Council has already been active in responding to this task with over £200 million invested in flood protection measures, however we recognise that more needs to be done.

Our response to this evolving challenge is the introduction of this *Climate Change Strategy* which, together with our *Local Development Plan*, is designed to provide a co-ordinated and appropriate response to help all within Moray to deal with the challenges that climate change is expected to bring.

On the 27 June 2019, Moray Council declared a **Climate Change Emergency**. It was agreed that a *Climate Change Strategy* and action plan would be prepared and adopted with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Climate change is the biggest challenge we face in our lifetime and for future generations. There is clear scientific evidence that indicates that it is accelerating quicker than expected and action needs to be taken now. Not just to combat the direct and current impact, but we also need to use common sense and follow a clear vision to create a sustainable future.

The *Climate Change Strategy* marks our commitment to take action on climate change locally. It provides a framework for our actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions and preparing for the unavoidable impacts of changing weather patterns through the period 2020-2030 and beyond.

Efforts to lessen the impact of climate change can also bring opportunities, such as cost savings from reduced energy bills and making better use of our resources. New business and employment opportunities. Supporting healthier, more sustainable lifestyles and making our communities more resilient. The strategy aims to make sure Moray is well placed to benefit from these opportunities.

No single person or organisation can tackle climate change alone, so we are asking partners, businesses, community groups and individuals to embrace the changes that must take place. There are many small changes we can all make that, together, will help secure a better future for everyone in Moray.

Cllr Louise Nicol

Chair of Climate Change Working Group

Roddy Burns

Chief Executive  
Climate Change Corporate Champion

# Introduction

There are a growing number of people and organisations in Moray taking action on climate change. We already know many of the things we need to do to tackle climate change; but we need to do them more widely and faster. Many of these actions will make Moray a better place: healthier, less polluted, more accessible and self-reliant. Whilst climate change is a global problem, it is in local communities – our workplaces, our early years settings & schools, our families – where the impacts are felt. It is here on the ‘front-line’ where many solutions lie.

This *Climate Change Strategy* identifies the key areas that the Council will prioritise within available resources to not only help reduce its own impact on the environment, but how it will seek to influence and encourage the wider community. To ensure it is appropriate and suitable for Moray a public consultation will be undertaken during 2020/21 to make sure residents and businesses of Moray have a voice in shaping the Strategy.

The strategy, and its associated action plan, detail a range of measures that will contribute directly to achieving key outcomes. Details of how the key actions will be delivered, along with timescales, targets and resource requirements, will be further developed and defined, and be subject to regular review.

This *Climate Change Strategy* comprises the council’s response to the national and international priority of tackling climate change and shall be taken account of in all future planning and policy work undertaken by Moray Council.

# BACKGROUND

**There is a global climate emergency.  
The evidence is irrefutable.  
The science is clear.**

Climate change is defined as a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide, together with other greenhouse gases such as methane and nitrous oxide, stop heat escaping from the Earth into space. An increased greenhouse effect can lead to global warming and climate change.

Relevant impacts of climate change for Moray include:

- Changes in rainfall patterns – Moray has suffered serious flooding in recent years.
- Increase in sea levels – Moray includes coastal towns and villages. Coastal flooding continues to have a negative impact in some of these communities.
- Pollution from burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) is a contributory factor for asthma and other respiratory diseases – based on the 2011 census, Moray has a population of 93,295 and the council and other public bodies have a duty to protect their health and wellbeing.

Due to the delay in cause and effect of carbon emissions, it is predicted<sup>2</sup> that even if carbon emissions were brought to zero tomorrow, the earth will still increase in temperature for the next 40 years.

If greenhouse gas emissions are reduced early and rapidly, the extent and impact of climate change can be mitigated to an extent. However, if emissions continue unabated, the implications grow more severe, posing even greater risks. In view of the threat and risks of inaction, it is essential that public bodies put climate change strategies in place and act sustainably to address climate change in Scotland.

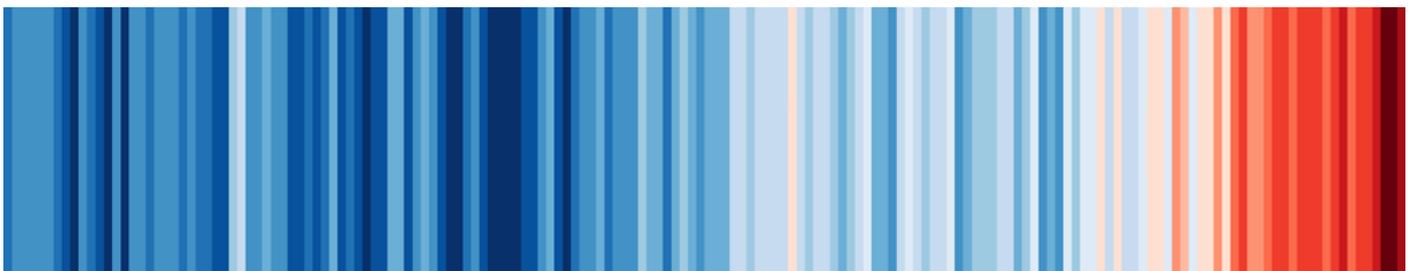


Figure 1 – Annual global temperatures from 1850-2017

Climate change is a complex global issue; however, the following graphic<sup>1</sup> highlights in clear terms how annual global temperatures have changed since 1850. The colour of each stripe represents the temperature of a single year, ordered from the earliest available data to 2017. The colour scale represents the change in global temperatures covering 1.35°C

1 [www.climate-lab-book.ac.uk/2018/warming-stripes/](http://www.climate-lab-book.ac.uk/2018/warming-stripes/)

2 [climate.nasa.gov/faq/16/is-it-too-late-to-prevent-climate-change/](https://climate.nasa.gov/faq/16/is-it-too-late-to-prevent-climate-change/)

# VISION

This Strategy aims to achieve the following:

- Supporting a just transition to a low carbon economy
- A carbon neutral Council by 2030 with an on-going reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the Council area as a whole (from homes and business)
- Ensure the Council, and its partners, are better prepared to deal with the current and future impacts/consequences of climate change
- Work to retain, protect and enhance biodiversity across Moray
- Identify on-going activity that contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation and develop new policy and actions to address any gaps in our approach
- Embed climate change mitigation and adaptation action throughout the organisation to ensure it becomes integral to the operation of the Council
- Ensure the climate change agenda is acknowledged in departmental service planning and integrated into Council decision-making processes
- Seek to have the strategy endorsed by the community partners with commitments to joint action where possible

# VISION STATEMENT

The council's vision for tackling climate change is summarised as:

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

This strategy is hoped to be an inspiration to our community planning partners, businesses and everyone who lives or works in the area. We all have an important part to play in ensuring the Moray area is a safer, wealthier, fairer, healthier and greener place for the generations to come.



# Strategy Development

## CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION

In June 2019, Moray Council's Elected Members unanimously agreed to declare a **Climate Change Emergency**. Following consideration, we:

- I. recognised that climate change is an ecological emergency and needs to be serious about taking necessary actions to protect our area, country and planet;
- II. agreed to form a Climate Change Group made up of officers and elected members, to direct and scrutinise the climate change strategy currently being prepared and the need for increasing biodiversity;
- III. agreed to appoint an Elected Member to be a Climate Change Champion;
- IV. agreed to consider and approve a final climate change strategy and action plan and ensure it is adopted and informs policy for all departments; and
- V. agreed that the strategy will set a goal of being carbon neutral by 2030 and that the Council, it's officers and members will work with others across Moray to deliver that goal.

HUMAN  
CHANGE  
NOT  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE

# CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

A working group with cross-party member and key service representation was initiated and has co-ordinated the development of this *Climate Change Strategy* and associated action plan.

The strategy has been developed with consideration to the environmental, economic and social aspects of climate change and sustainability. The key actions identified have been arrived at by thinking of the council as:

**Carbon Emitter:** consumption of energy in council properties, schools, management of council fleet vehicles, waste management etc.

**Developer:** design of new council properties such as affordable housing, installation of renewable energy generation.

**Customer:** sustainable procurement and whole lifecycle costing.

**Enabler:** leadership, education, advice and guidance, land use policy, business support.

**Protector:** to our community, landscape and biodiversity.

The strategy has been designed to mainstream climate change action within our organisation and make it a natural part of decision-making processes, with the aim of keeping associated potential costs as low as possible.

It is expected that this strategy will evolve over time: through engagement with the people of Moray, as new opportunities are discovered, as new initiatives come forward, and as understanding and technology advances. The strategy is therefore a starting point, rather than an exhaustive list of opportunities.

The *Climate Change Strategy* will be used to promote conversation on sustainability, both internally and externally. Some of the key objectives will only be effectively achieved by a range of partners, such as the Community Planning Partnership and Highlands & Islands Enterprise, working together with a common understanding of what sustainability looks like and what we are aiming to achieve. It is also recognised that the realisation of carbon reduction for some actions will be in part dependent upon external factors, e.g. the generation of all electricity requirements from renewable sources and the provision of external funding to support projects and initiatives. The council can lead on this in a variety of different ways, including making the issue locally relevant, and also through the specific actions outlined within the strategy.



# CONTEXT

## MORAY COUNCIL

The council sets out its purpose in strategies, policies and action plans. As the council has a legal obligation to build climate change and sustainable development into all of its work, it is important that these are considered in a full, transparent and auditable manner. Policies, developments and decisions must be prepared and considered with due regard to their environmental impacts.

Activities identified within the strategy will drive change in areas such as procurement, waste production/disposal, travel & transport, and asset management. The council continues to operate in a sustained period of fiscal constraint, combined with increasing energy costs and environmental levies.

Projects and initiatives with a capital expenditure or resource requirement will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and business cases developed. Available resources shall be prioritised following assessment against factors relevant to the project mandating process.

Although it is a time of intense pressure on resources, it is recognised that the expanding green economy also presents an opportunity to set a positive agenda. For example, the use of renewable and low carbon technologies can stimulate jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels with associated harmful carbon emissions, reduce energy costs, and create an income to the council through government initiatives such as the Renewable Heat Incentive.



## COUNCIL PLANS

### LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN (LOIP)

The overarching aim and purpose of the Moray 10 Year Plan is Raising Aspirations through expanded choices, improved livelihoods and well-being, with the four priorities identified within the plan being:

1. **Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray**
2. **Empowering and connecting communities**
3. **Developing a diverse, inclusive and sustainable economy**
4. **Improving the wellbeing of our population**

### CORPORATE PLAN

Moray Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024 sets out the council's priorities, including how we will meet the priorities areas set out in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The priorities of the Corporate Plan are as set out below.

- **Our people:** Provide opportunities for people to be the best they can be throughout their lives with a strong and sustained focus on those individuals and groups in our society who experience the most disadvantage and discrimination
- **Our place:** Empower and support communities to build capacity
- **Our future:** Drive economic development to create a vibrant economy for the future

Linked to these priorities are key actions that are reflected in the aspirations of the *Climate Change Strategy*.

- Improve health and well-being for the people of Moray.
- Work to preserve, protect and enhance our environment, creating a more resilient and sustainable future.

## MORAY'S CHANGING CLIMATE

An independent assessment<sup>3</sup> in 2016 by the Adaptation Sub-Committee of the UK Committee on Climate Change of Scotland's Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) highlighted that Scotland's unique geography creates both resilience and vulnerabilities to the impacts of extreme weather and climate change. Scotland's iconic industries, including forestry, fisheries and whisky, rely on climate-sensitive natural resources. Changes in weather patterns and sea level rise will test our transport, communication, fuel, and energy networks and challenge the delivery of health and social care services.

The effects of a changing climate are already beginning to be seen in Moray with increasingly frequent severe weather events requiring responses from the council, the emergency services and our Community Planning Partners. Even if all greenhouse gas emissions were stopped now, past and current global emissions mean that some level of climate change will still occur.

Relevant impacts of climate change for Moray include:

- Food supply security
  - Warmer temperatures might mean that Moray could grow more food. However, the threat of pests, diseases and invasive non-native species could result in damage to some food production
- Increased risk of droughts
  - Summer droughts may occur more often, causing water quality and supply issues - as suffered during a prolonged period in 2018 in Moray
  - Reduced rainfall increases the risk of wildfires, as experienced recently with numerous gorse fires and a very large heather fire near Knockando
  - Competition for water may increase to meet domestic, agricultural and industrial demands, as our climate warms and rainfall patterns change

<sup>3</sup> [www.theccc.org.uk/publication/scottish-climate-change-adaptation-programme-an-independent-assessment-for-the-scottish-parliament/](http://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/scottish-climate-change-adaptation-programme-an-independent-assessment-for-the-scottish-parliament/)

- Increased risk of flooding
  - Climate change is likely to alter rainfall patterns and bring more heavy downpours, causing more flooding in the future. Moray has suffered serious river flooding in recent years which caused serious problems for people, businesses, communities and our heritage
- Rising sea levels
  - Coastal habitats can help to protect us from rising sea levels, storm surges and associated flooding events. Moray contains many towns and villages and coastal flooding continues to have a negative impact in some of these communities

Details of recent past changes in climate and projected changes in climate for Moray over the next 100 years are shown below. The main changes of importance to Moray include an overall rise in temperature, a decrease in summer rainfall and an increase in winter rainfall. There will also be an increased likelihood of experiencing extreme weather events.

**Climate projections – projected changes in climate**

Moray’s climate is projected to change significantly over this century. Table 2 describes projected changes in Scotland’s temperature and rainfall.

The graphics overpage are based upon UKCP18 climate projections for Scotland showing change in mean temperature and precipitation from 1961 – 2100 under a high emission scenario. These are probabilistic projections: the dashed line is 50% central estimate; inner shading 25-75%; middle shading 10-90%; outer shading 5-95%. All values are compared to a 1981-2000 baseline average.

UKCP18 by Met Office Hadley Centre:  
[ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk](http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk)

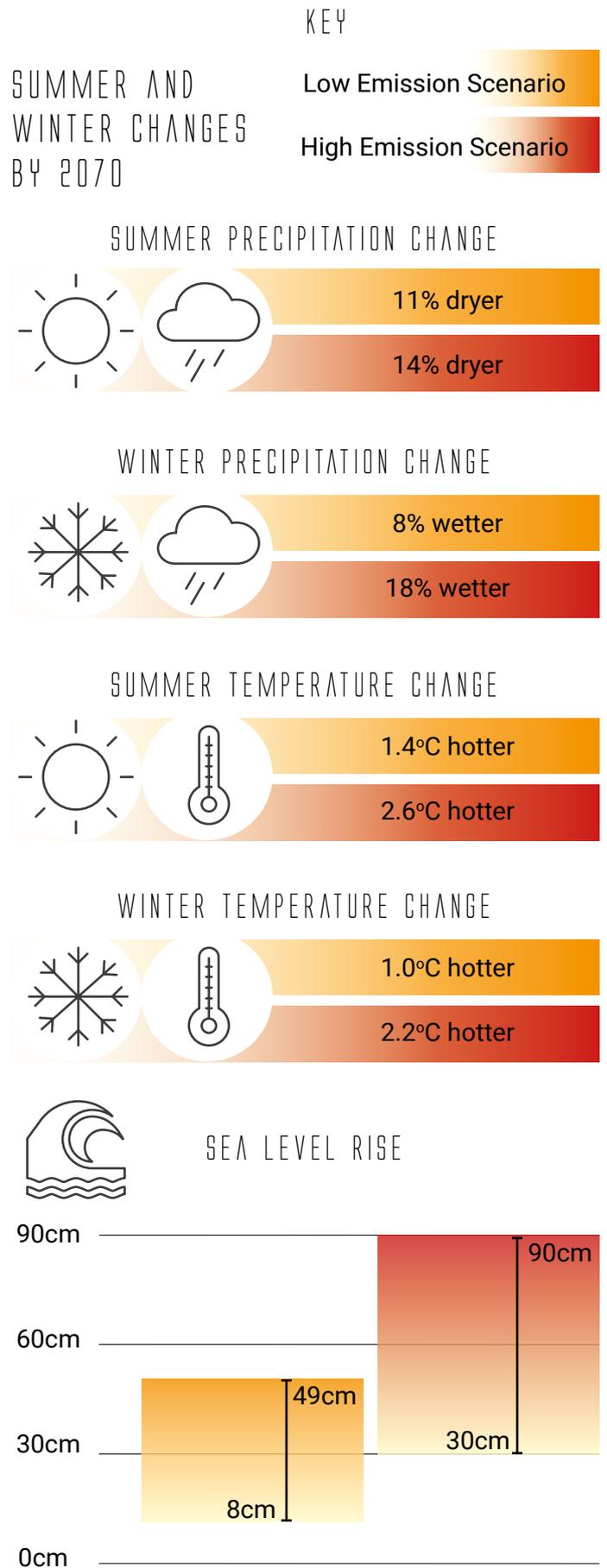
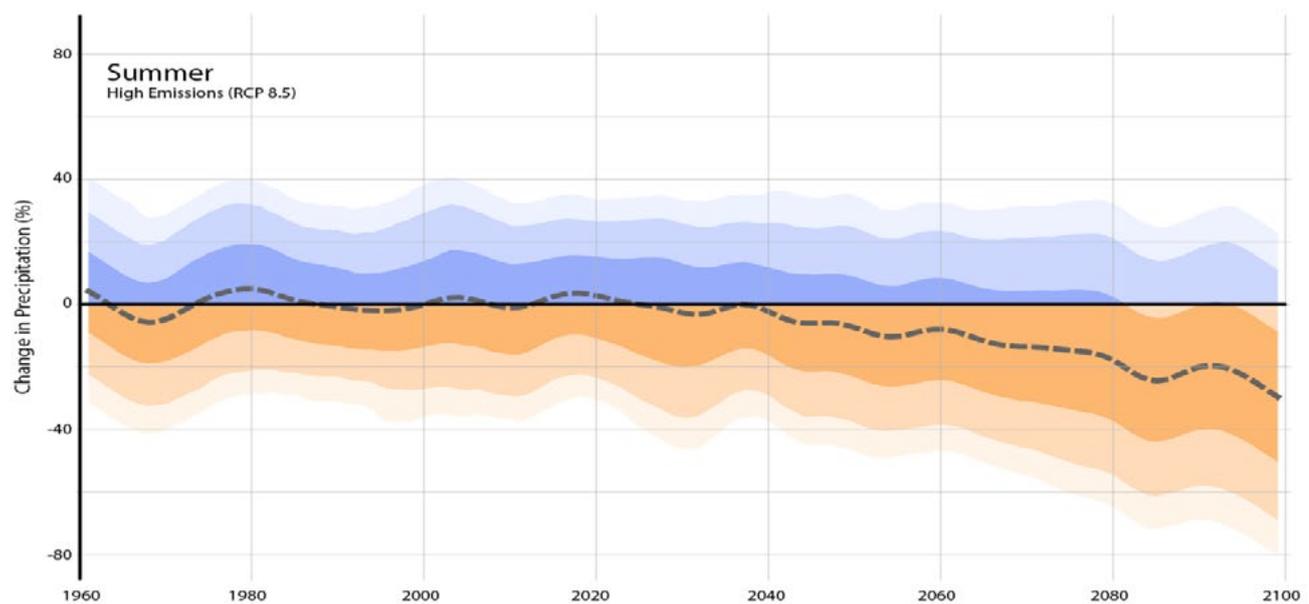
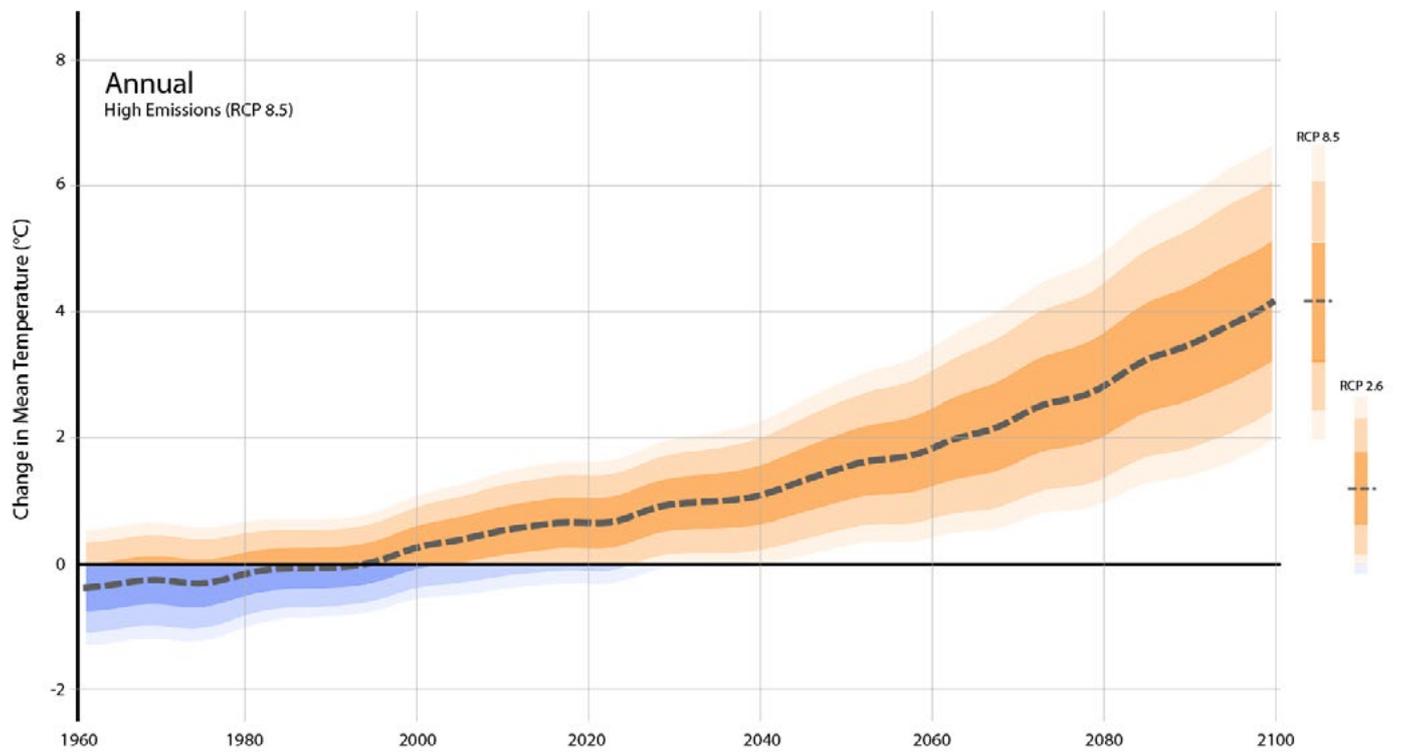
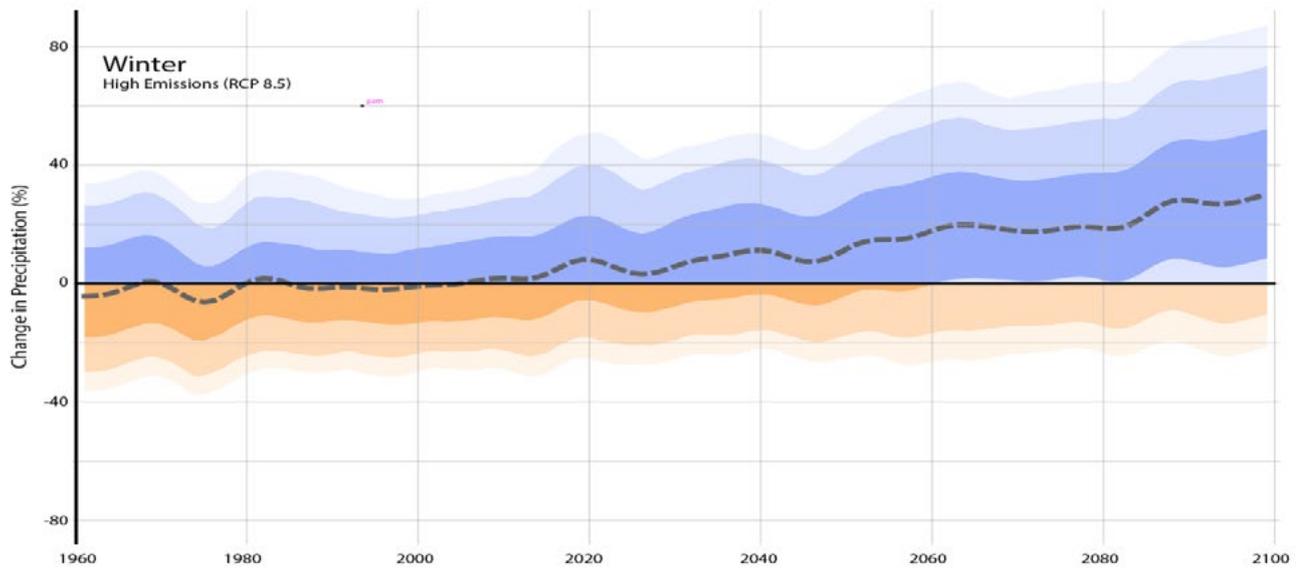


Table2 : Projected changes in temperature and rainfall in Scotland.



# CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 is the centrepiece of the climate change framework and supports the transition to a sustainable low-carbon economy. It requires that actions are taken in relation to both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES

The Act place duties on the Public Sector and requires that a public body must, in exercising its functions, act:

- in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the Act's (national) emissions targets
- in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme
- in a way that it considers the most sustainable

The council acknowledges the targets and duties of the Climate Change Act and aims to:

- Raise awareness of climate change locally
- Share and communicate good practice on carbon reduction measures and ways of adapting to climate change
- Show leadership, by working within the council's sphere of influence and control, to
  - Examine ways to reduce carbon emissions and their impact within Moray
  - Help Moray respond proactively to predicted climate changes

## LOCAL AUTHORITY SPECIFIC

The guidance to the Act recommends public bodies embed climate change action in all core corporate and business planning processes and report on their progress annually. The scope of the duties are summarised in the guidance as:

- All public bodies are required to comply with the climate change duties.
- Public bodies are encouraged to take a broad approach when complying with the duties and include all direct, indirect and influenced emissions.
- Climate change action should address (the three aspects of the duty) "*mitigation, adaptation and acting sustainably*" and be embedded across all departments via corporate planning.
- Public bodies should know the national targets and trajectory and think about how they can assist in meeting these objectives.



## CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

The Plan is designed to set out the path to a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032.

The plan sets out the context for the Scottish Government's climate change proposals and policies. It shows the emissions reductions pathway to 2032 and identifies key roles that will be played by local authorities, the wider public sector (including the planning system), communities and individuals. It also addresses the impacts on the economy of both action and inaction.

Within the plan, the Scottish Government details their expectations with regard to Scotland's public bodies; specifically, to lead by example in combating climate change and make a valuable contribution towards achieving our emissions reduction targets. The public sector is viewed as critical to the successful delivery of the Climate Change Plan: influencing and enabling positive behaviours; driving change; and acting as an exemplar of climate action and low carbon innovation.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

In September 2019, the Scottish Government published the statutory Climate Change Adaptation Programme. Covering a five-year period, it is designed to address climate risks for the country, with actions centred around communities, climate justice, infrastructure and the environment.

## SCOTTISH ENERGY STRATEGY

The Strategy is designed to guide the decisions that the Scottish Government, working with partner organisations, needs to make over the coming decades. It will support work already planned or underway to achieve long-term climate change targets, and to address the impact of poor energy provision.

The strategy sets out the Scottish Government's vision for the future energy system in Scotland, to 2050. It articulates the priorities for an integrated system-wide approach that considers both the use and the supply of energy for heat, power and transport.

The Strategy sets two new targets for the Scottish energy system by 2030:

- The equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied from renewable sources.
- An increase by 30% in the productivity of energy use across the Scottish economy.

Further, as the legislation continues to evolve the council may be required to incorporate changes to existing plans and policies.

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of energy efficiency in achieving climate change and fuel poverty objectives and has accordingly designated it a National Infrastructure Priority. The cornerstone of this is the Scottish Energy Efficiency Plan (SEEP), which, when fully operational, is intended to significantly improve the energy efficiency of domestic and non-domestic buildings, as well as decarbonise the heat supply of buildings.



# TARGETS - INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL

International bodies and national governments have responded to the climate change emergency by setting increasingly ambitious targets. The following summarises the most significant targets arising from international, EU, UK and Scottish sources.

## INTERNATIONAL

The main targets are:

- **Paris Agreement 2015:** sets a target to keep the global temperature rise below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to attempt limiting the overall increase to 1.5°C.
- **United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030:** Goal 13: Climate Action – sets the requirement for nations to ‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’ by 2030.

## UNITED KINGDOM

To deliver its international obligations and comply with EU legislation, the UK Government has set a target to be carbon neutral by 2050, with the introduction of the Climate Change Act 2008. This includes both carbon and other greenhouse gases.

## SCOTTISH

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, which amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, set new targets to reduce Scotland’s emissions:

- Net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045
- New interim targets, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, and 90% by 2040

Scottish Government’s Programme for Scotland 2019-20 confirms the net zero targets for greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and sets ambitious targets, which may be included in future legislation.

The targets for transport are:

- Phasing out new petrol and diesel cars by 2032.
- Creating the conditions to phase out the need for all new petrol and diesel vehicles in Scotland’s public sector fleet by 2030.
- Phasing out the need for all petrol and diesel cars from the public sector fleet by 2025.

The Programme’s targets for the energy sector are:

- Developing regulations so that all new homes from 2024 must use renewable or low carbon heat.
- Phase in renewable and low carbon heating systems for new non-domestic buildings consented from 2024.
- Reaching Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C by 2040 for all Scottish homes.
- Under the new Fuel Poverty Act 2019, no more than 5% of Scottish households will be in fuel poverty, and no more than 1% will be in extreme fuel poverty by 2040.

# OUR EMISSIONS

## MORAY'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

Data published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy provides CO<sub>2</sub> emission estimates at local authority and regional level covering industry, commercial, domestic and road transport emissions. The figures from 2005 to 2017 (Table 1 below) indicate that emissions have generally decreased across Moray.

Table 1: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy – Local Authority CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates 2005-2017 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>).

Year	Industry and Commercial Total	Domestic Total	Transport Total	N.LULUCF Net Emissions	Grand Total	Population ('000s, mid-year estimate)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2006	557	274	160	-271	721	90.8	7.9
2007	548	267	165	-262	718	91.4	7.9
2008	551	269	159	-288	691	92.8	7.4
2009	492	245	155	-296	596	93.2	6.4
2010	524	264	153	-281	660	93.7	7.0
2011	490	228	149	-278	589	93.5	6.3
2012	553	241	148	-206	736	92.9	7.9
2013	571	231	148	-251	700	94.4	7.4
2014	470	200	152	-264	558	94.8	5.9
2015	491	193	155	-269	571	95.5	6.0
2016	475	184	160	-271	549	96.1	5.7
2017	431	167	166	-275	488	95.8	5.1

Since 2015, emissions have decreased in 370 out of the 391 Local Authorities (95 per cent). The main drivers of the decrease in UK emissions has been a change in the fuel mix for electricity generation, with a decrease in the use of coal and more use of gas and renewables.

However, with respect to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities, as defined by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, per capita emissions of Moray are the highest of any Local Authority in Scotland. This is attributable in large part to Industry and Commercial emissions per capita, 7.7t CO<sub>2</sub> per person, compared to the Scottish average of 5.4t CO<sub>2</sub> per person, and more specifically – the consumption of gas. These high relative emissions are assignable to Moray's whisky distilling sector, food producers and two MOD military facilities.

It is also worth noting that Moray is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest local authority carbon sink, primarily through its extensive forestry coverage.

# MORAY COUNCIL'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

## EMISSION SCOPES

Emissions-releasing activities are classified into three groups known as scopes. These are defined in the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard and are described below.

**Scope 1 – Direct** – Emissions that occur directly from sites or assets owned or controlled by the organisation (e.g. gas boilers within buildings, fleet vehicles)

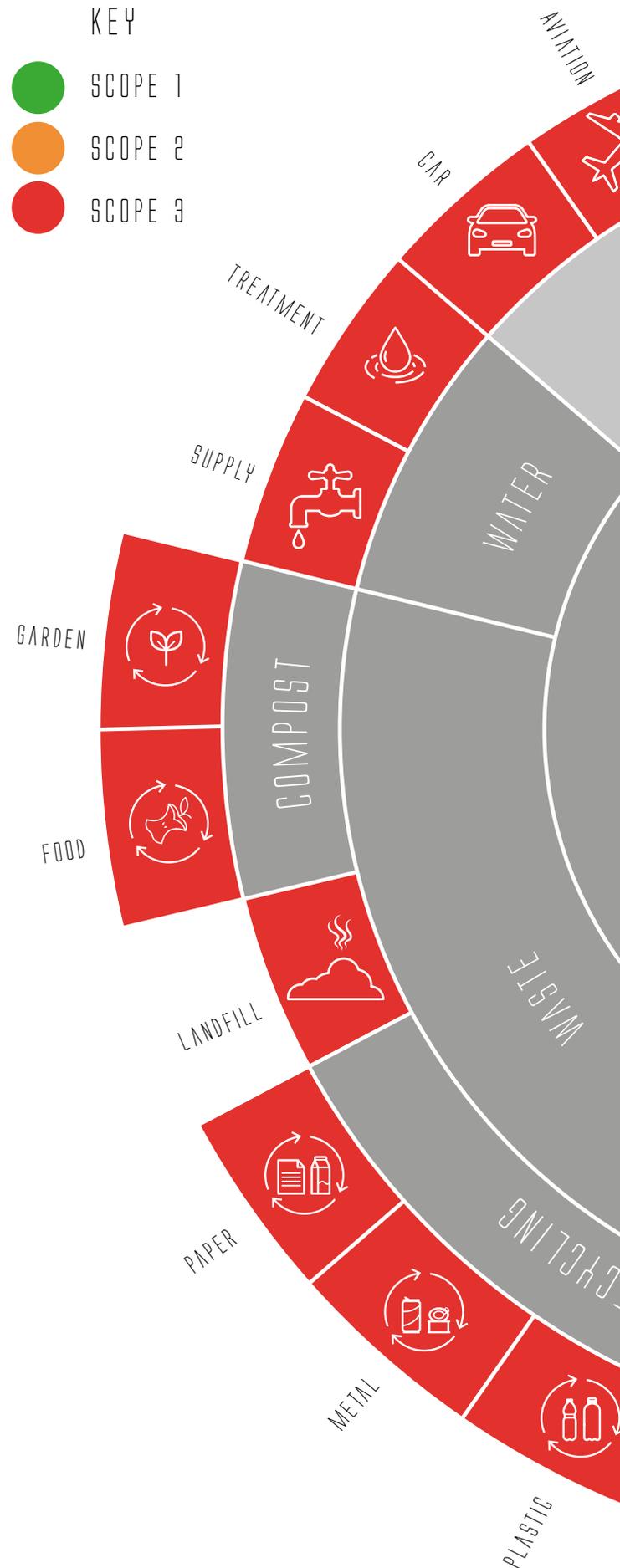
**Scope 2 – Indirect** – Emissions from purchased electricity, heat or steam.

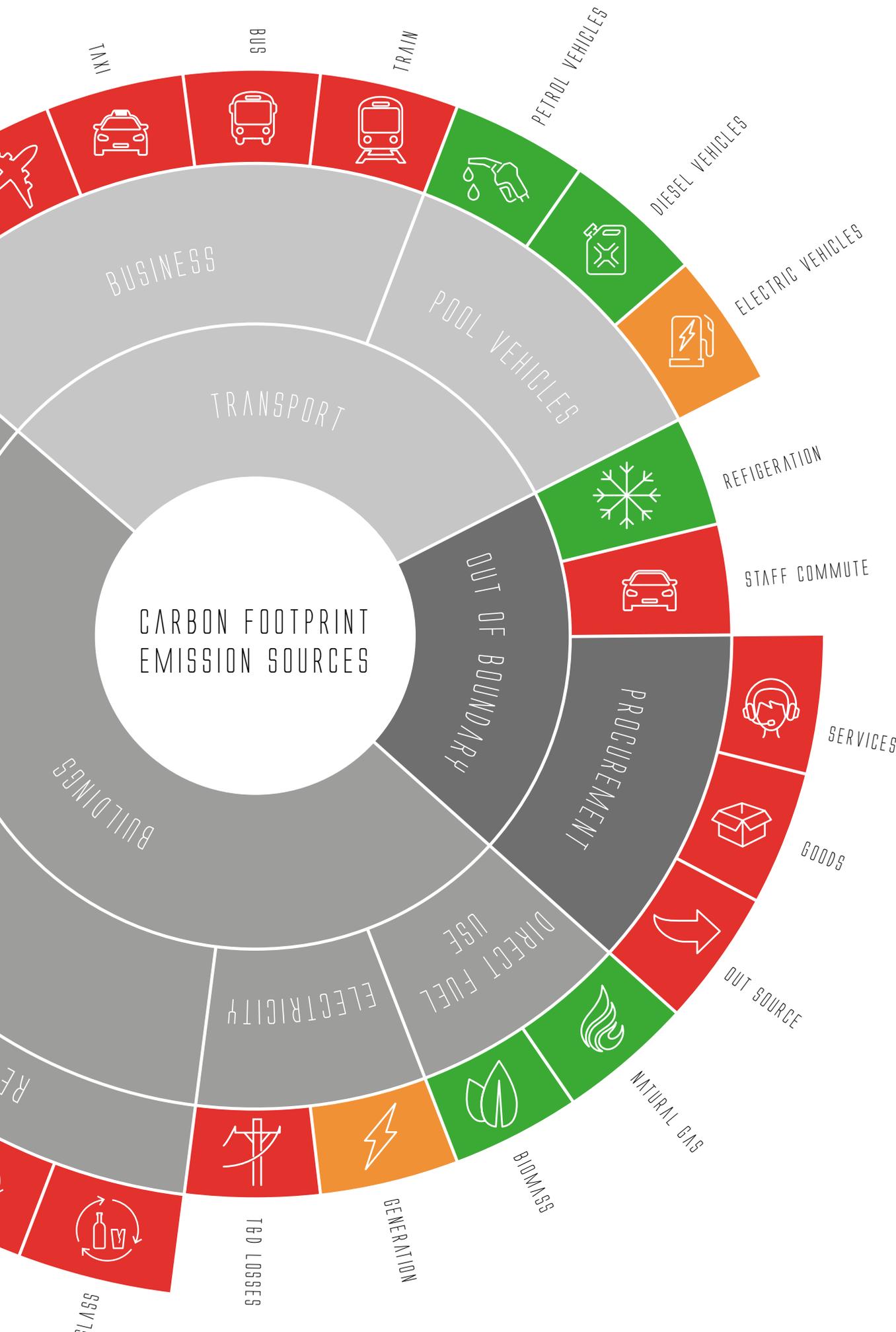
**Scope 3 – Indirect other** – Emissions that occur due to the organisation’s activities / products / services, but at assets not owned or controlled by us (e.g. travel in employee-owned vehicles or public transport, purchased goods and services)

The following figure graphically depicts the key sources of carbon emissions from council activities and identifies their associated scope.

Scope 3 emissions are typically more complex and fragmented to account for, and additionally the required data often lies with other organisations. As a result, there is a higher degree of estimation for scope 3 categories. With respect to emissions associated with Procurement, it is the intention to incorporate these into the council’s reporting footprint when availability and consistency of information permits.

Figure 3 – Moray Council Carbon Footprint





# Strategy Themes

This strategy provides the strategic direction that our climate change and environmental initiatives will be aligned to over the next 10 years. The strategy has been developed taking in to account the important role the council plays in protecting and improving the lives and livelihoods of its residents, communities and businesses.

The strategy is also intended as a foundation for considering how council policies, programmes, plans and strategies can contribute to the delivery of the council's main climate change themes, as set out below:

- Leadership, Governance & Policy
- Communication, Training & Awareness
- Energy, Buildings & Digital Connectivity
- Transport
- Waste
- Land Use, Biodiversity & Adaptation

## JUST TRANSITION

Common throughout all themes is the recognition that our work and activities are undertaken in such a way as to ensure the benefits of climate change action are shared widely, while the costs do not unfairly burden those least able to pay, or whose livelihoods are directly or indirectly at risk as the economy shifts and changes.

Actions to support these themes are contained within the accompanying Action Plan, which details measures to deliver on these aspirations. Prioritisation of actions will be based on factors and contexts including:

- inequality and poverty
- return on investment
- on-going service delivery
- organisational priorities

## LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & POLICY

Through the strategy, the council will work to pursue equality of opportunity in ways that also promote environmental benefits, including reducing fuel poverty and stimulating green jobs and skill development. Global equalities will also be considered, recognising the impact that we have on the wider world, especially the poorest countries, and ensuring that those we depend on are given a fair deal in return for the goods and services they provide us with.

The council, together with partners who hold shared agendas (such as Highlands and Islands Enterprise), will look to continue to encourage the start-up and retention of successful local businesses through supportive policies, provision of infrastructure and sound purchasing decisions. As part of the common commitment to economic development, various services are provided to support new and existing local businesses. There is scope to further improve these services to better link them to environmental and social goals; to encourage socially responsible business models and adoption of circular economy principles across the business community and will lead by example by demonstrating efficiency in its day-to-day operations.

Approach:

**Integrate and mainstream climate change considerations into day-to-day council business.**

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, TRAINING & AWARENESS

The council will continue to promote health and wellbeing within the workforce and in the wider community and will do this in a way that is joined-up with environmental objectives including active travel and provision of high-quality greenspace that protects and enhances the environment.

Engaging with young people is recognised as vital. Many schools have developed eco-councils. Working with children and young people through eco-councils, managers from early years settings, and head teachers from schools, we will look to develop the idea of school climate change and environment strategies and link these to future skills provision, improving careers advice and guidance and building behavioural change.

Creating a sustainable future and quality of life for young people must involve the voices of, and engagement with young people. Current and future generations are inheriting a changing climate as a result of fossil fuel combustion worldwide and will experience even greater impacts of more extreme weather in their everyday lives, to that which we are experiencing today. The infrastructure developed now: housing, transport, energy and digital, will shape the way young people live their lives.

Education, from early years provision through to schools, colleges and universities, is working hard to equip young people with the knowledge and skills on climate change impacts and preparing them for their future responsibilities. Tomorrow's decision makers, engineers and technologists already exist and it will be important to bring their new ideas and ambitions into the infrastructure we are designing and decisions we are taking now. Planning the transition from today's workforce to the future workforce needs development, ensuring the skills and knowledge are in place to make a successful and happy succession.

Approach:

**Educate, train, inform and communicate with pupils, staff, people, businesses and organisations across Moray.**

# ENERGY, BUILDINGS & DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

To mitigate climate change, carbon reduction will be pursued by applying the energy hierarchy, (see below) particularly in relation to the built environment. This will include identifying and implementing opportunities to reduce carbon emissions, increasing renewable energy generation, specifying appropriate low carbon design in future work and encouragement of similar measures in the wider community through partners such as the CPP and HIE.

The council will seek to use materials that minimise environmental harm, including consideration of embodied energy<sup>4</sup> and chemicals known to be harmful, particularly in the construction and refurbishment of buildings.

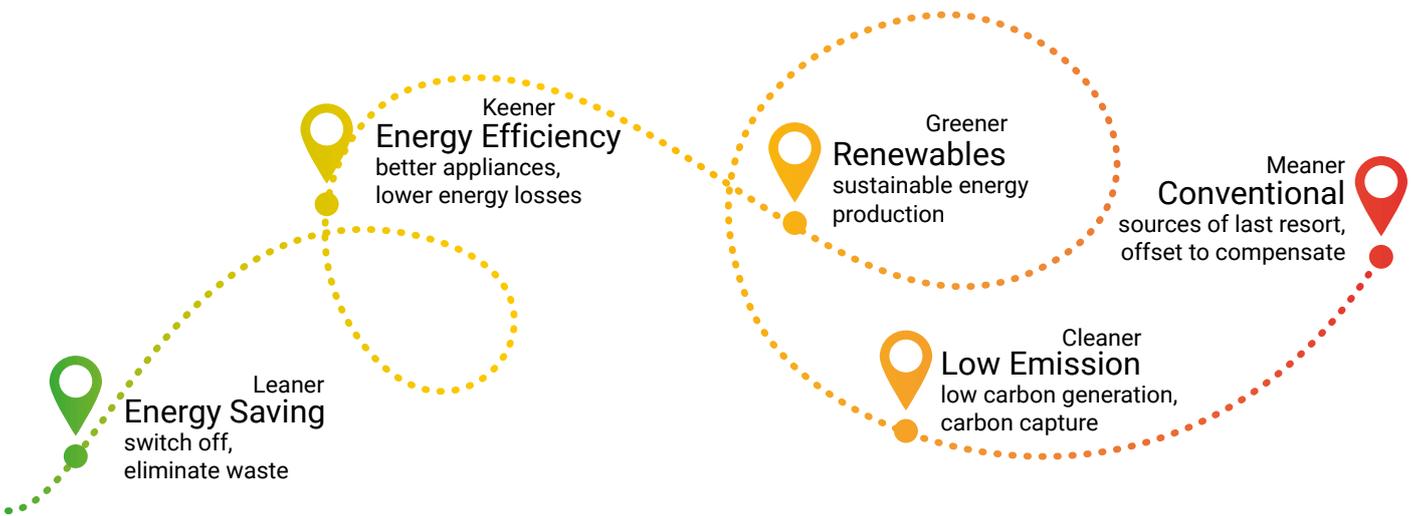
For capital investment decisions the consideration of whole life costing will be evaluated as the standard metric to encourage that low initial capital costs are not favoured at the expense of higher on-going carbon emission and running costs.

The council will seek to reduce the carbon footprint of its information and communications technology infrastructure through increased use of the virtual environment and associated ways of working. A council wide digital approach to communication and business interaction will be supported by enhanced flexible and mobile working opportunities which will continue to be developed and expanded in line with advancing technology.

Approach:

**Raise the standards of the built environment and associated infrastructure to net zero carbon.**

Figure 4 – The Energy (inc Water) Hierarchy with the most favoured options at the top



<sup>4</sup> Embodied energy is the amount of energy consumed to extract, refine, process, transport and fabricate a material or product (including buildings). Similarly, embodied carbon is the amount of carbon emitted to produce a material.

# LAND USE, BIODIVERSITY AND ADAPTATION

From dramatic mountain scenery, to fertile agricultural land, to a world-famous and award-winning coastline, Moray has a rich and varied biodiversity. The council, in conjunction with its delivery of statutory duties, will protect and enhance the local natural environment to help to maximise the variety of native species and habitats.

Through the *Local Development Plan*, supported by supplementary guidance prepared on Sustainable Design and Construction, we will protect and enhance the environment and improve resilience of the natural and built environment to climate change. For example, a greater priority being placed upon the re-use of brownfield land over greenfield and town centre masterplanning to promote behavioural change. Work will be undertaken to better understand the likely impacts, on service providers and users and on the wider community, arising from changes in weather patterns, and action will be taken to reduce risk and increase resilience to the anticipated future effects of climate change.

A strategic level spatial framework considering opportunities for woodland expansion, onshore wind and food production will be incorporated into the Regional Spatial Strategy which will be included in the National Planning Framework (NPF4).

Land management practices which mitigate the impacts of drought and flooding would be encouraged, such as the restoration of natural wetland features, which act as barriers to wild fires and reduce the flow of flood water.

Approach:

**Protect and enhance the environment.  
Improve the resilience of the natural and  
built environment to climate change.**

# WASTE

Reduction of landfill and protection of the natural environment will also be recognised for their role in reducing carbon emissions. The Council will stimulate a reduction in the amount of materials being used and disposed of by supporting the 'zero waste Scotland' vision, which describes a Scotland where all waste is seen as a resource; Waste is minimised; valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills, and most waste is sorted, leaving only limited amounts to be treated.

Approach:

**Encourage the reduction of waste and increase recycling rates.**

# TRANSPORT

Transport is the fastest-growing contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Moving away from carbon-intensive, private transport towards decarbonised, more efficient, more active forms of travel offers a wide variety of benefits environmentally, socially and economically. Shift of focus.

Approach:

**Transition to non-fossil fuel transport system. Promote, develop and encourage active travel.**





# Delivering the Strategy

## ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan contained in Appendix 1 details the significant changes and challenges required to achieve a net zero carbon council by 2030. It demonstrates the scope and extent of the direction the council needs to take to realise its stated targets and deliver upon the aspirations contained within this Strategy.

Due to the overarching nature of climate change and how it impacts on all aspects of the council's operation, co-operation and input has been sought across all services to discuss and agree key actions. The implementation of the Action Plan will require to be appropriately phased and integrated over the period of the strategy. Consideration to other council priorities and workstreams will be undertaken on an on-going basis to ensure that efficiencies, both financial and operational, are realised wherever possible.

It is acknowledged that there are many variables which have the potential to impact upon the delivery of the Action Plan, including external factors such as funding programme timescales, technology development, service delivery, amongst others. Whilst this makes it difficult to forecast accurately over the life of the strategy, the uncertainty strengthens the need to develop a detailed action plan to ensure that the Council is aware of potential scenarios and can take decisions with long-term consequences with an appreciation of issues which may lie ahead.

It is recognised that close collaboration, particularly with the Community Planning Partnership, is vital to the successful delivery of the strategy, and its associated benefits, throughout the wider community. It is also acknowledged that progression of some actions is reliant upon external funding and/or legislation, and engagement with external bodies will be actively pursued in support of the progression of these actions.

These actions will be developed further with detailed targets, costings, resource requirements, milestones and KPIs.

The Action Plan is intended to be a living evolving document which is able to account for Climate Change related legislative and societal changes expected over the coming years. As such it will be subject to annual reviews to ensure it remains fit for purpose and appropriate.

The overall target and individual target for each action are to provide the performance management framework for the strategy. Progress will be monitored 6-monthly through P&R committee.

# OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE OF THE STRATEGY

The Policy and Resources Committee will have overall ownership of the strategy and will act as the lead committee for co-ordination, monitoring and management. The arrangements will include responsibility for identifying and ensuring delivery of the council's climate change outcomes, and assessing, informing and influencing progress on actions and targets.

The Chief Executive will be the corporate champion and have responsibility to promote the *Climate Change Strategy* at Corporate and Community Planning level.

The Depute Chief Executive (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) will be the lead officer for co-ordination and management of the Strategy internally within the Council supported by the Head of Housing and Property Services.

Due to the wide scope of climate change and climate change related activities, Heads of Service will have responsibility and accountability for climate change actions and targets within their service area, although they may delegate their responsibility to third tier managers to ensure that day to day management responsibilities are clear and that delegated decision making is undertaken at the appropriate level.



# CORPORATE INTEGRATION

The Strategy will support the delivery of the (LOIP) and Moray Council's Corporate Plan 2024, which established the following vision:

**“A life of opportunity for all. Where people can thrive in vibrant communities and we work together to enrich our future.”**

The strategy is aligned to deliver the priorities:

- Ensuring a just transition for all in the shift to a low carbon economy
- Addressing inequalities of fuel poverty
- Empowering individuals and communities through education and information provision to make informed choices with respect to climate change
- Protecting and enhancing the world we live in to protect it for the future
- Being innovative in identifying solutions for cost reduction and income generation opportunities

The *Climate Change Strategy* does not seek to replicate work already being undertaken, but rather draw together and focus attention on the key areas where the council needs to do more, to achieve an enhanced cross-service response and to maximise best value.

It is recognised that successful delivery will also depend on integration with other council and partner strategies, management and action plans. The key linkages within the council are:

- Corporate Plan
- LOIP – Poverty Priority
- Property Asset Management Strategy
- Local Development Plan and associated Supplementary Guidance
- Local Flood Risk Management Plans
- Moray Economic Strategy
- Open Space Strategy
- Procurement Strategy
- Local Housing Strategy
- Moray Food Growing Strategy
- Moray Woodlands Strategy
- Draft School Estate Strategy
- Service Plans
- Active Travel Strategy
- Vehicle Asset Management Plan

Each key service area will have a lead officer with the following areas of responsibility:

- Setting, monitoring and reviewing the actions and interim targets for mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.
- Disseminating Climate Change activities and initiatives to service areas including through management and team meetings.
- Ensuring that climate change and sustainability understanding, and action, is embedded in all core corporate and business planning processes across the council.
- Promoting the implementation of climate change actions and projects and removing obstacles to successful implementation.
- Reviewing and championing plans for the financial provision of climate change projects.
- Promoting a culture of low carbon and sustainable behaviour within the council as a whole and amongst staff at all levels.
- Supporting the council's budget strategy through reducing the cost and impact of the council's use of resources, including water, energy, and transport fuel.

All members, managers and staff will be responsible for implementing the strategy through relevant actions within the Action Plan and ensuring that Council policies, decisions, projects and procurement are delivered in line with the priorities in the Strategy.

For elements of the strategy and action plan which relate to activity outwith the direct control of the council, these will be undertaken in conjunction with partners such as the Community Planning Partnership and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

# PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW

Outcome measures have been identified for all actions which are proposed to be the primary method for monitoring progress on climate change objectives and targets. These indicators will be reviewed annually to ensure they are fit for purpose to monitor progress on actions for the life span of the strategy. Progress will be reported to and monitored by the Policy and Resources Committee.

Possible key CCS KPIs:

- Progression to Net Zero Carbon Emissions for Council Activities
- Moray wide Carbon emissions
- Biodiversity/Ecology Performance?

Statutory reporting under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 on Public Bodies Climate Change Duties commenced in 2015/16. Annual progress reports require to be submitted by the following November of each financial year.

New developments and solutions in monitoring and reporting carbon emissions will also be explored, including modelling forecast tools, to permit monitoring of actions for progress and evaluate the quantifiable reductions in carbon emissions where possible.

# NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

The National Performance Framework provides a vision for Scotland with measures of national wellbeing covering a range of economic, health, social and environmental indicators and targets. Of the eleven national outcomes, the *Climate Change Strategy* is expected to contribute positively to five of the outcomes.

National Outcome	Detail	Link to Climate Change Strategy
Children and Young People	We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential	
Communities	We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.	Yes
Culture	We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.	
Economy	We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.	
Education	We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.	Yes
Environment	We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.	Yes
Fair Work and Business	We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.	
International	We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.	
Health	We are healthy and active.	Yes
Human Rights	We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.	
Poverty	We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.	Yes

# STRATEGY BENEFITS

Beyond the direct reduction in carbon emissions, it is recognised that delivering the outcomes of the Moray's *Climate Change Strategy* can also bring a range of benefits for the council, partners and the wider community.

## WIDER BENEFITS

### For the council and partners

- Financial and non-financial savings (RES estimate savings of £2.9 billion in Scotland alone from making more efficient use of our resources)
- Supports informed decision and policymaking
- Compliance with legal requirements
- More efficient working, making best use of resources
- Recycling and preparing waste for re-use reduces costs for the council, generates an income and stimulates business
- External funding opportunities for climate change related projects
- Large scale projects have potential to reduce costs significantly (e.g. district heating in council buildings)
- Income generated from renewables such as solar PV and cost savings from reduced grid electricity consumption

### For householders

- Financial savings (reduced energy bills and more affordable heating)
- Supports healthier lifestyles
- Helping to reduce risk to well-being and home security – reduces fuel poverty

### For businesses

- Financial savings (reduced energy bills)
- Increased efficiency /productivity
- Economic opportunities in sectors such as low carbon technology, renewables and the rural economy, tourism and recreation
- New market opportunities and increased sales (e.g. waste by-products – linked to the circular economy)
- Competitive advantage and reduced risk

### For council taxpayers

- Improved value for money
- Reliable council services which are resilient to changes in climate
- Infrastructure improvements (e.g. sustainable transport options to reduce congestion and improve access to jobs and services)

### For the local environment

- Healthier ecosystems and cleaner air
- Species and habitats resilient to the changing climate
- Promotes the redevelopment of brownfield land providing opportunities in close proximity to goods and services
- Encourages the sustainable design of new buildings

### For future generations

- A stable and secure future less exposed to risk



NET

ZERO

