

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## Public Bodies Duty Report 2022/23



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. The 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

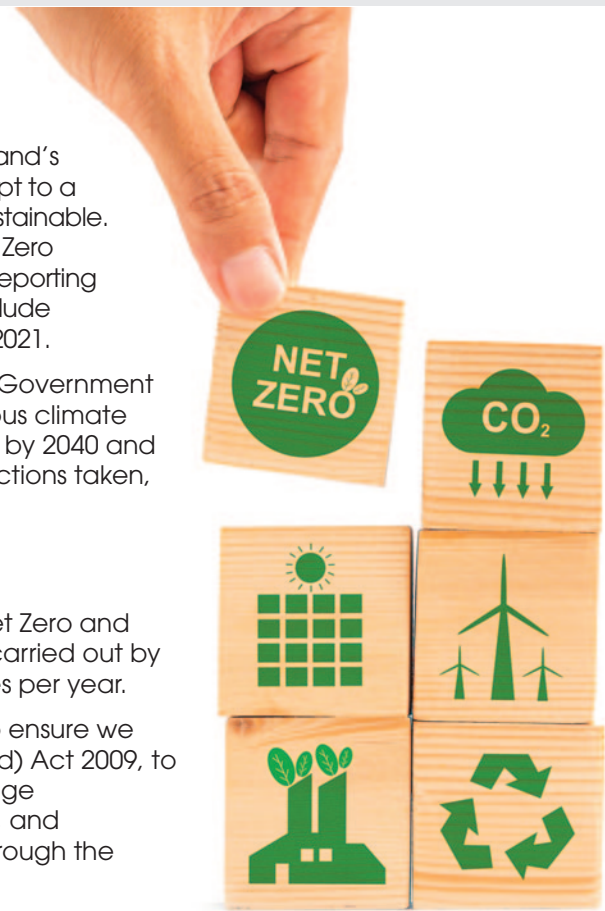
The Council has statutory duties under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and to contribute to reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions; to contribute to helping Scotland adapt to a changing climate; and to act in the way that it considers most sustainable. In response to the global 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, the 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 Council's 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 the Council's performance management system Pentana.



# Key achievements 2022/23



Electric vehicle charging points at Orchardbank in Forfar



Montrose Bay, a 'Dynamic Coast' coastal erosion study site



Recycling collection containers

## Carbon

Since the baseline year of 2012/13 to this current reporting year 2022/23, The Council's carbon emissions have reduced by 58%. 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 the 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 23.5%.

### Scope 2 emissions



These are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity that is consumed in the Council owned or controlled operations – emissions from buildings, streetlighting and other infrastructure. Since 2012/13 scope 2 emissions have reduced by 69.8%.

### 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 79.9%.

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.

The Council's fleet vehicles continue to decarbonise. The Council only has 3 diesel cars and 7 small diesel vans left to convert away from combustion engine by 2025, which is the target year for phasing out petrol and diesel cars and vans in the public sector fleet.

In 2021, the Council had the fifth highest local authority household recycling rate in Scotland at 54.7%. Angus Council had a landfill rate of 3.1% which was the third lowest in Scotland and had the tenth lowest carbon impact in Scotland. The 2022 household waste recycling rate is not ratified by SEPA until October 2023 thus we can only report on 2021 data to date.



Rottal pond

In 2019, Waste Management removed nonrecyclable 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 62.4% in 2022.

### Adaptation

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

Nature-based solutions, addressing both the climate and biodiversity crises, continue to be developed and delivered at all scales across Angus. In 2022/23, in both rural and urban areas, The Council has continued to work 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 the National Lottery Heritage Fund 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. An ambitious project 'The River South Esk: A Climate Resilient & Nature Friendly Catchment' was successful in securing largescale funding for a development phase. River restoration expertise

and innovation in Angus was acknowledged in early 2023 when the 'Rottal Burn Restoration' was awarded the UK River Prize by the River Restoration Centre.

Our amenity spaces and wider nature networks are being enhanced in partnership with Buglife Scotland as we expand our Space for Nature grassland and pollinator projects and continue to be a key partner on the B-Lines project 'Strathmore People and Pollinators'.

Action in 2022/23 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. Work is underway to incorporate National Planning Framework 4 and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy into future policy development and project delivery.

## Partnership Working

The 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

The Council was awarded funds from Paths For All relating to Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) for delivery of an active travel programme over the financial year 2022/23. A number of projects were targeted at local commuters, residents, students and pupils, as well as visitors, are being delivered throughout the year to encourage a change in travel behaviour.

Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes (CWSR) funding has allowed for the development of 12 projects including feasibility, design and construction. Further funding from Tactran has also allowed for the progress of feasibility and design work on 3 other projects.

The design development of the Arbroath A Place for Everyone project has been completed with drawings and specifications issued to contractor for feasibility pricing. Internal round table discussion on landscaping design held with feedback passed onto designer. First visualisations of Brothock Bridge section have been shared with the advisory board and additional visualisations of Guthrie Port have also been produced. An EQIA workshop has been held with construction to start late September 2023 and completed by Summer 2025.

## Future Action

The 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 the 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 2022/23 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)