

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## Public Bodies Duty Report 2023/24



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. Angus 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

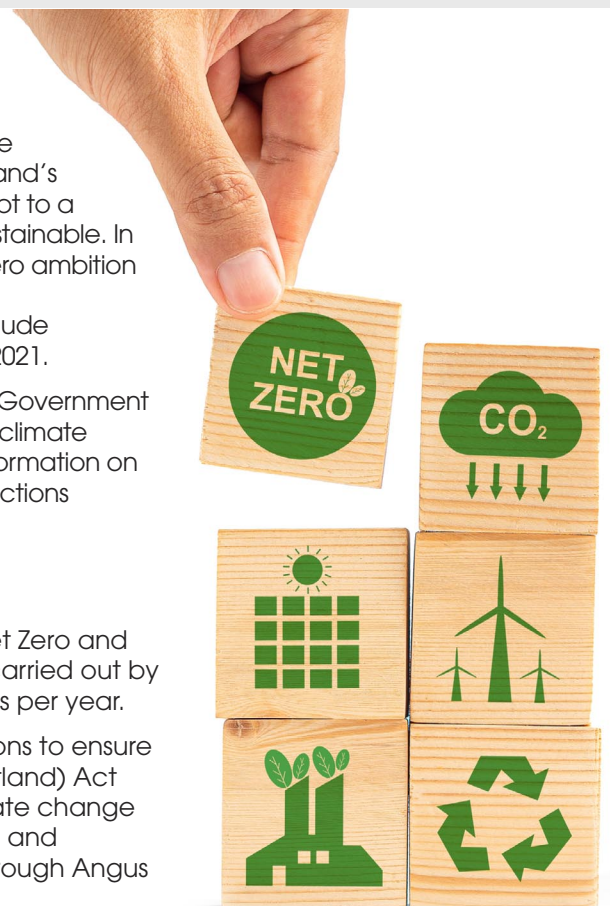
Angus Council has statutory duties under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and to contribute to reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions; to contribute to helping Scotland adapt to a changing climate; and to act in the way that it considers most sustainable. In response to the 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, Angus Council submits a statutory report to the Scottish Government on the authority's progress in contributing to Scotland's ambitious climate change target of achieving 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 Angus Council 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 Angus Council's performance management system Pentana.



# Key achievements 2023/24



Electric vehicle charging points at Orchardbank in Forfar



Recycling collection containers

## Carbon

During 2023/24 the Council reduced its carbon emissions by 4.6%. Since the baseline year of 2012/13 to this current reporting year 2023/24, the Council's carbon emissions have reduced by 60%. The baseline year was originally 2010/11, but 2012/13 was when the full CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions data set became available and 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. During 2023/24 scope 1 emissions reduced by 8.1%. Since 2012/13 scope 1 emissions have reduced by 29.7%.



### Scope 2 emissions

These are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity that is consumed in Council owned or controlled operations – emissions from buildings, streetlighting and other infrastructure. During 2023/24 scope 2 emissions increased by 3.3%. This was due to the increase in carbon emissions from the electricity grid; the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy stated that this was 'due to an increase in natural gas use in electricity generation and a decrease in renewable generation'. Since 2012/13 scope 2 emissions have reduced by 68.8%.



### 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. During 2023/24 Scope 3 emissions reduced by 5.4%. Since 2012/13 scope 3 emissions have reduced by 80.9%.

Operational emission reduction targets were added to the report submission in line with the Council's - Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 to 2030. The Council's operational emission reduction targets were set inline within the Scottish Government targets of a 75% reduction by 2030, a 90% reduction by 2040 and Net Zero by 2045. During April 2024 the Scottish Government conceded its 2030 target of a 75% reduction in emissions as it was deemed 'out of reach'. This was in reaction to the Climate Change Committee stating that 'Scotland's 2030 climate goals are no longer credible' due to the lack of a comprehensive strategy for Scotland to decarbonise towards Net Zero. For the time being, the Council will still strive to meet a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030, enroute to Net Zero by 2045, to maintain ambition and drive progress. This will be reviewed when the Scottish Government determine how the proposed replacement of the interim targets with carbon budget are to be implemented.

During 2023/24, LED lighting upgrades were completed at Arbroath Sports Centre and a number of Sheltered Housing complexes. Two large Solar Photovoltaic (PV) installations at Websters High School and Brechin Community Campus were completed and became operational.

Following the success of the installation of Solar PV & Battery storage within two Sheltered Housing Complexes in 2022/23, a further 4 sheltered complexes benefitted from similar works in 2023/24. These projects help provide some of our most vulnerable tenants with a significant percentage of their domestic electricity needs free-of-charge, helping to alleviate fuel poverty. Also associated with this work was the installation of efficient electric Quantum storage heating.



The Property Assets and Capital Projects teams are involved in studies and are liaising with consultants to determine 'whole building' approaches that can be used to transition the Council's building stock towards Net Zero.

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 2022, Angus Council had a household recycling rate of 51.7%, which was the tenth lowest carbon impact in Scotland. We had a landfill rate of 1.9% which was the third lowest in Scotland. In 2023 we recycled 61.2% of waste accepted at our recycling centres which was slightly down on the 2021 rate of 62.41%.

## Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation seeks to deliver actions that protect people and nature from the impacts of climate change. Considering adaptation across all sectors will help create climate resilient communities and ecosystems.

Nature-based solutions, that address both the climate and biodiversity crises, continue to be developed and delivered at all scales across Angus. In 2023/24, in both rural and urban areas, the Council has continued to work with communities and wider stakeholders to deliver innovative approaches to nature and land management. Woodland expansion, natural flood management, grassland regeneration, wetland creation and green network connectivity projects have all contributed to action across the area. 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 example of one of these projects is 'The River South Esk: A Climate Resilient & Nature Friendly Catchment' which was successful in securing largescale funding for its delivery phase in early 2024.

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Action in 2023/24 continues to support ongoing policy delivery associated with climate change, such as the Local Development Plan's policies on managing flood risk, water quality and greenspace enhancement. Currently work is underway to incorporate National Planning Framework 4 and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

into future policy development and project delivery, including the development of the next Local Development Plan for Angus.

Partnership work to mitigate against urban, coastal, river and estuary flood management also continues via the Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin Local Flood Risk Management Plan and at Montrose Bay, via the Scottish Government's Dynamic Coast project

In 2023 a review of action progress in Angus in the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26 was carried out. The monitoring undertaken for actions delivered between 2016 and 2023 illustrates that 75% of actions in the plan relevant to Angus, or 116 out of 155 actions, are in delivery or complete. Action led by over 90 stakeholders identified in Angus supports climate resilience in the natural world and in our rural and urban environments.



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

## Partnership Working

Angus Council leads or supports various key partnerships and strategies relating to climate change resilience, adaptation, and mitigation. Examples include:

- The Angus Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) steering group was established in 2023 and has been a successful model for encouraging cross sector communication and knowledge share on area wide climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Angus Council, Dundee City Council, Perth & Kinross Council and Adaptation Scotland have been working together to set up a Tayside Adaption Partnership. The partnership will support a regional approach to identifying and adapting to risk whilst supporting behaviour change and communications across the wider Tayside region.
- 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 for people and nature.

- 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

Angus Council was awarded funds from Smarter Choices Smarter Places which enabled the council to continue supporting the Angus Cycle Hub. The Bike Recycling Support and Regional Community Cycling Engagement Programme delivered a range of schemes to support Active Travel, behaviour change, modal shift from car use and promotion of sustainable transport in the Angus area.

Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes (CWSR) funding has allowed for the development of seven projects including feasibility, design and construction.

Improvements to the National Cycle Network Route 1 were carried out at Elliot Links, Barry Station, Monifieth and Carnoustie to enhancing safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. The improvements are supported by funding from the Scottish Government through Sustrans Scotland's Network Development Fund and delivered in Partnership with Angus Council.

The Arbroath A Place for Everyone progressed through detailed design with tender documents being issued followed by construction issue documents. The project was taken to a Special meeting of Angus Council and approved by Elected Members in October 2023. The Delivery Agreement with Balfour Beatty for the scheme was executed in February with site setup commencing in March 2024.

## Future Action

Angus 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 Angus Council, community groups, businesses and third sector organisations, a series of deliverable actions were set.

During 2023/24 a full review of all seventy-one SECAP actions has taken place which found that 73% of actions are in progress or have been completed.

## 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.

## Further Information

A full version of the 2023/24 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)