



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION – ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council Executive of West Lothian's annual Scottish Climate Change Declaration Report for 2018/19 and seek approval for its submission to the Sustainable Scotland Network and Scottish Government.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Executive:

1. notes the contents of the Declaration at Appendix 1;
2. notes that the council has exceeded the emission reduction target set out in its Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management Plan; and,
3. approves the Declaration for submission to Sustainable Scotland Network and the Scottish Government.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>The council is legally bound to comply with duties for public sector bodies within the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The duties require that the council must, in exercising its functions, act:</p> <p>(a) in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the targets set in or under Part 1 of the Act;</p> <p>(b) in the way best calculated to help deliver any programme laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 53;</p> <p>(c) in a way that it considers is most sustainable.</p> <p>The response does not raise any equality issues. SEA not required</p>
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations	None.

to Officers

IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	There are a number of performance indicators related to the council's carbon emissions and related factors.
V	Relevance to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan	Outcome 7 - We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities, and; Outcome 8 - We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII	Consideration at PDSP	The report was considered at Environment PDSP on 5 November where a question was raised regarding Edinburgh Airport emissions. As these are not in scope, a separate report will be prepared for the panel.
VIII	Other consultations	Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group members. Relevant staff from other services.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The council has a number of obligations under the Public Bodies Duties of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (the Act) and has been reporting on Climate Change since becoming a signatory to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in 2007. Reporting has been mandatory since the 2015/16 reporting year and must be submitted to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) by 30 November each year.

D.2 Summary of the Declaration for West Lothian Council

The Declaration is split into two sections. There is a "Required" section which must be completed and a "Recommended" section which is optional.

The first part of the required section provides key information about the organisation and the reporting year covered.

Part two includes information on how the council provides effective governance, leadership and management of climate change. There is a particular emphasis on the role of senior staff and elected members in climate change initiatives and groups and in promoting awareness and action on climate change.

Part three addresses the council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions including targets, performance and actions to reduce emissions. The council's current target of reducing emissions by 20% from our baseline year of 2013/14 is set out in the Climate Change Strategy (CCS) and Carbon Management Plan (CMP) which were approved in November 2015. The footprint for 2018/19 has been calculated to be 42,442 tCO₂e, a significant decrease of 8,389 tonnes (16.5%) on the 2017/18 footprint and 18,619 tonnes (30.49%) reduction from our baseline year of 2013/14. The council's targets will be reviewed and updated as part of our response to the recently declared Climate Emergency, setting out the path to a net zero carbon council.

Section four relates to the council's approaches to dealing with the already changing climate in Scotland. This includes assessing risks, physical works such as flood prevention and the development of local and national action plans.

Sustainable procurement is covered in section five, with information on how the council's policies and activities contribute to compliance with the climate change duties.

The final section of the required reporting area is for the council to outline how the reporting document and the information contained within it has been validated, and a declaration to confirm that it is correct. The accuracy of the data within the annual return has been verified by Internal Audit.

The "Recommended" section of the report outlines the council's wider impact, including partnership working, awareness raising campaigns and behavioural change programmes. We have also included a wide range of activities related to biodiversity, resource use and local food production.

E. CONCLUSION

The council's Climate Change Declaration Report for 2018/19 highlights the excellent work that has been done to date in reducing our emissions and adapting to Climate Change with the council exceeding its 2020/21 target 2 years ahead of schedule. The Declaration, if approved by Council Executive, will be submitted to the Sustainable Scotland Network and the Scottish Government for publication.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/climatechangeact>

Climate Change Act – Public Bodies Duties

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/climatechange/howyoucanhelp/publicbodies/publicsector>

Climate Change Reporting Information

<https://sustainablesotlandnetwork.org/reports>

Scottish Government's Sustainability Reporting Guidance

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/07/4721

Sustainable Procurement and the Flexible Framework

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/public-sector-procurement/sustainable-procurement-duty/>

Biodiversity Duty

<https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/biodiversity-duty>

Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme *Climate Ready Scotland*

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/05/4669

Public Bodies Climate Change Duties: Putting Them Into Practice

Guidance Required By Part 4 Of The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2011/02/04093254/0

Appendices/Attachments: One

Appendix 1 – Climate Change Report 2018/19

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