



Scottish Perspectives

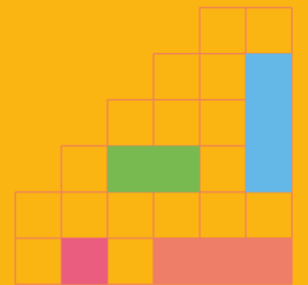
Johanna Boyd, Chief Executive

*Cornerstone Barristers Planning Day 2023
6 November 2023*





**Celebrating
30 Years**



What We Do: Planning Advice



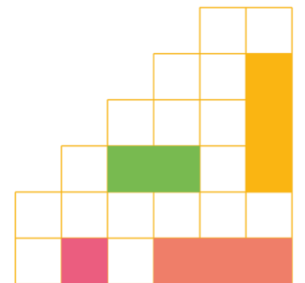
Our original and flagship service

- Free advice on any planning matter
 - Used by Community Councils, community groups, business start-ups and individuals
-
- ✓ **Independent & impartial**
 - ✓ **Confidential**
 - ✓ **Advice from chartered planners**
 - ✓ **Volunteer-led**
 - ✓ **Facilitating approach**

I am so glad I contacted you and did not expect such a personal service

You are running a wonderful and much needed service – thank you

For more info [click here](#)



What We Do: Training



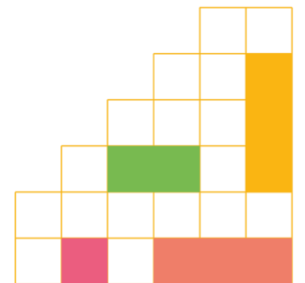
For: Community Councils, Elected Members, stakeholder groups, planners, & our Volunteers

Focusing on:

- Understanding planning & how to get involved
- Community engagement & facilitation skills, & much more
- Bespoke approach
- Delivered by chartered planners

Totally brilliant - I had been worried I would find it a snooze-fest – however, the absolute opposite! ... interesting, invigorating & instilled confidence in tackling planning matters as a Community Councillor

For more info [click here](#)



What We Do: Community Led Plans



Community-led plans

Spatial focus



Local Place Plans

Wider
placemaking focus



Community Action
Plans

For more info [click here](#)



What We Do: Policy



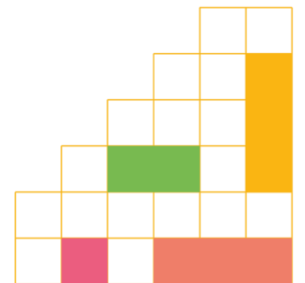
Responding to Scottish Government consultations with a focus on effective engagement & user experience



Publication - Consultation paper

Planning system - mandatory training for elected members: consultation

As a key provider of elected members' training on planning, we responded to this recent consultation



Scottish Planning System

Key Features & Developments from the 2019 Act



Planning: Origins & Evolution

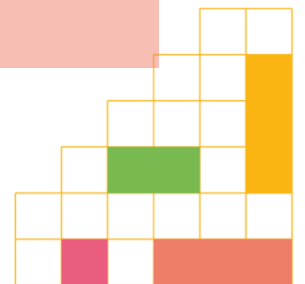


1900 –	Early housing & town planning Acts
1947	Establishment: public interest; health inequality; forward planning; regulatory
1950-70s	Mass home-building; new towns
1970s	Public consultation agenda
1990s	Sustainability agenda
2006	Planning (Scotland) Act: introduced National Planning Framework
2019	Planning (Scotland) Act: focus on climate change; role of NPF4 role; new homes; collaboration

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, Section 1 defines the purpose of the planning system for the first time and as the follows:

“The purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest*.”

*anything which “contributes to sustainable development or achieves the National Outcomes”.



Scottish Planning Context



National Performance Framework

OUR PURPOSE
To focus on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased wellbeing, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth

OUR VALUES
We are a society which treats all our people with kindness, dignity and compassion, respects the rule of law, and acts in an open and transparent way

National Outcome: Human Rights

National Indicators

- Public services treat people with dignity and respect
- Quality of public services
- Influence over local decisions
- Access to justice

Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG 5: Gender equality
- SDG 10: Reduced inequalities
- SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

National Outcome: Culture

National Indicators

- Attendance at cultural events or places of culture
- Participation in a cultural activity
- Growth in cultural economy
- People working in arts and culture

Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG 5: Gender equality
- SDG 10: Reduced inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

National Outcome: Environment

National Indicators

- Visits to the outdoors
- State of historic sites
- Condition of protected nature sites
- Energy from renewable sources
- Waste generated
- Sustainability of fish stocks
- Biodiversity
- Marine environment

Prepared by Scottish Government & COSLA. [Click here](#) for more.

Place Principle

What is the Place Principle in 30 seconds?
Architecture and Design Scotland

What is the Place Principle in 30 seconds

The Place Principle is the overarching context for place-based working in Scotland.

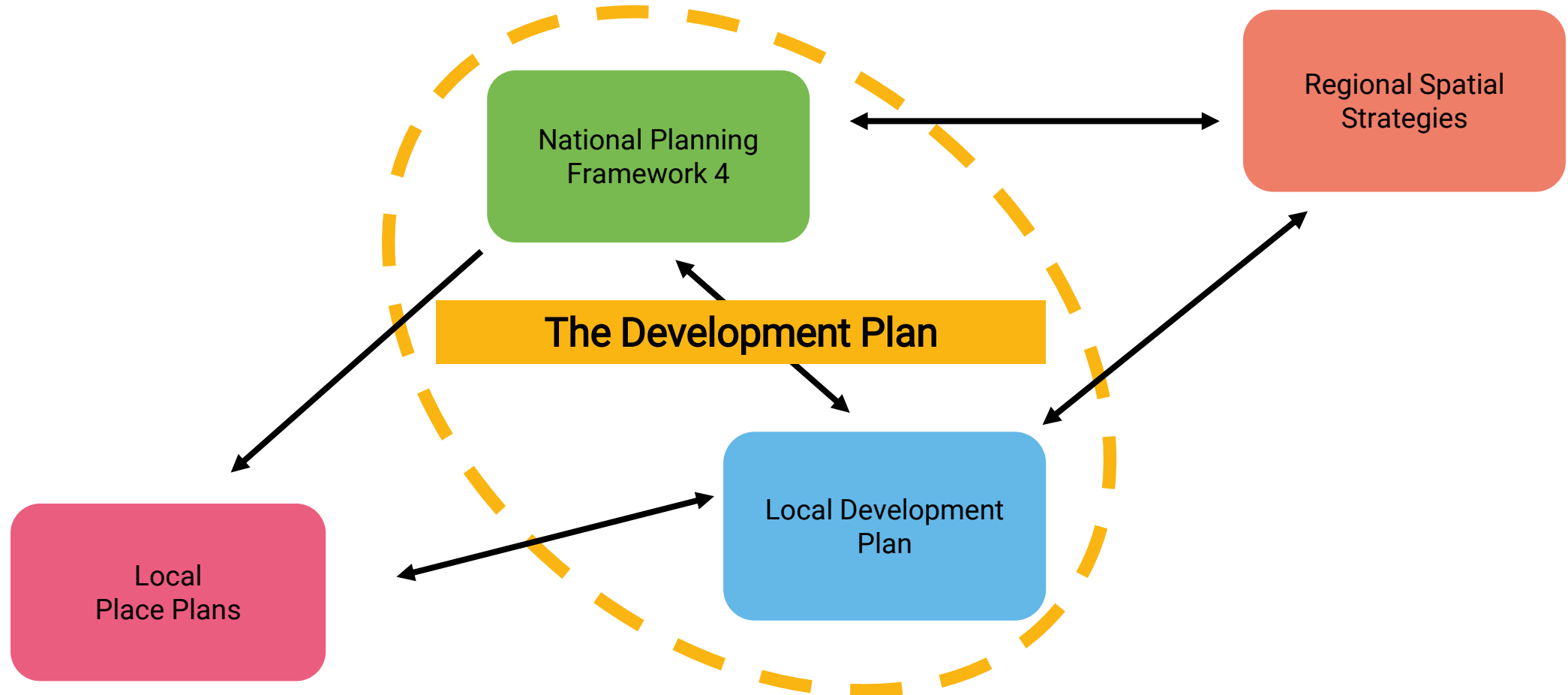
Place Standard

Developed by the Scottish Government with Public Health Scotland and others. [Click here](#) for more.

The Development Plan

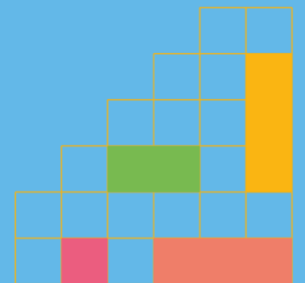


The key planning concept to know:



National Planning Framework 4

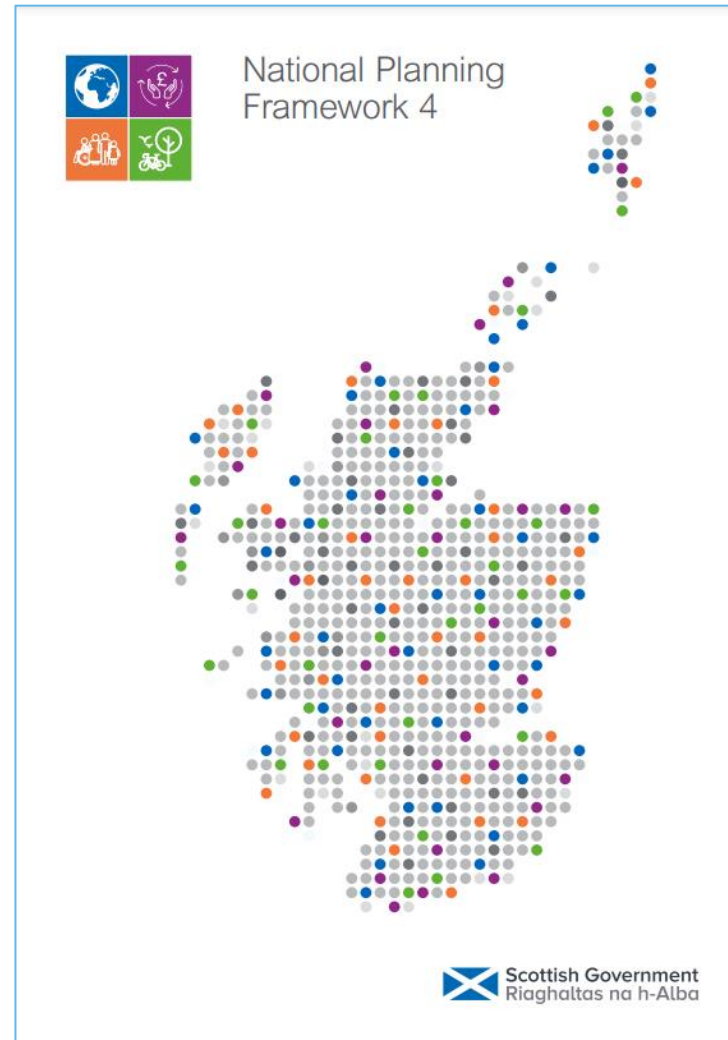
Focus on Climate Change and Net Zero



National Planning Framework 4



- Significantly strengthened by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, including setting policy nationally
- Adopted by Scottish Ministers February 2023
- [Click here](#) to view.



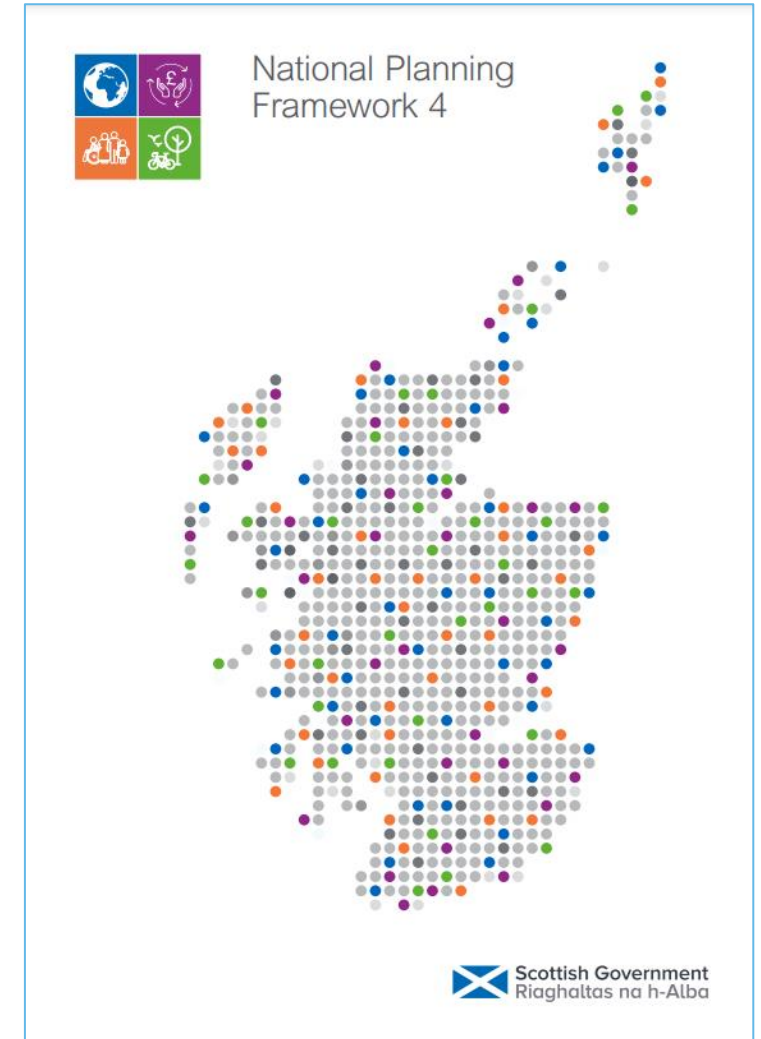
- National Spatial Strategy for Scotland to 2045
- 18 National Developments
- 33 National Planning Policies – these policies must be used by planning authorities in determining planning applications

National Planning Framework 4: Outcomes



NPF4 is required by law to contribute to 6 outcomes:

- Meeting the **housing needs** of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs for older people and disabled people,
- Improving the **health and wellbeing** of people living in Scotland,
- Increasing the **population of rural areas** of Scotland,
- Improving **equality** and eliminating discrimination,
- Meeting any targets relating to the **reduction of emissions** of greenhouse gases, and
- Securing positive effects for **biodiversity**.



National Planning Framework 4: Spatial Strategy



Policies & National Developments are grouped by 3 themes:



- These three themes are overarching across the whole framework
- It is not by accident that the first theme focuses on climate change and sustainability

National spatial strategy

Scotland's future places will be net zero, nature-positive places that are designed to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, whilst protecting, recovering and restoring our environment.

Meeting our climate ambition will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens.

The world is facing unprecedented challenges. The global climate emergency means that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. We will need to respond to a growing nature crisis, and to work together to enable development that addresses the social and economic legacy of the coronavirus pandemic, the cost crisis and longstanding inequality.

Our places will also need to evolve to help us cope with changing temperatures.

National Planning Framework 4: Spatial Strategy



Cross-cutting Outcome & Policy Links on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emission:

“The global climate emergency and nature crisis have formed the foundations for the spatial strategy as a whole.”

Tackling climate change is embedded across NPF4, it is deliberately not relegated to one policy

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The global climate emergency and the nature crisis have formed the foundations for the spatial strategy as a whole. The regional priorities share opportunities and challenges for reducing emissions and adapting to the long-term impacts of climate change, in a way which protects and enhances our natural environment.

[Policy 1](#) gives significant weight to the global climate emergency in order to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. [Policy 2](#) will ensure that emissions from new development are minimised as far as possible.

A healthy natural environment is key to reducing emissions. [Policies 3](#) and [4](#) protect biodiversity and natural assets, which in turn play a crucial role in carbon reduction. [Policy 5](#) provides significant protection for peatland and carbon rich soils and [Policy 6](#) aims to protect and expand forests, woodland and trees. Blue and green infrastructure is supported by [Policy 20](#). [Policy 10](#) encourages the use of natural solutions to coastal protection. [Policy 7](#) protects the embodied carbon in the historic built environment, and [Policy 9](#) makes better use of previously used land and buildings, helping to lock in carbon.

By supporting the transition of key emissions generating activities, [Policy 11](#) supports renewable energy development, [Policy 19](#) helps to decarbonise heat, alongside [Policy 18](#) and its encouragement of an infrastructure first approach. [Policy 12](#) encourages sustainable waste management, and [Policy 13](#) will facilitate a transition towards more sustainable, lower emissions travel including active travel and public transport.

Several policies support more local living and limit the use of additional land for development. This includes [Policy 8](#) which manages development in the greenbelt, [Policy 15](#) which promotes local living, including where feasible 20 minute neighbourhoods, and [Policy 16](#) which focuses on delivering new homes that are designed to a high standard and located in sustainable places. Minimising and reducing emissions is also integral to the six qualities of successful places, as set out in [Policy 14](#). [Policies 17](#) and [29](#) support rural development which is compatible with climate change targets. [Policy 24](#) facilitates the roll out of digital infrastructure, helping to reduce the need to travel. [Policy 27](#) promotes a town centre first approach to development and [Policy 28](#) restricts additional out of town retail development.

Policies relating to productive places are consistent with our ambition for green growth in the futures. More specifically, [Policy 33](#) is clear that fossil fuel exploration, development and production (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances, and that the Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland.



National Planning Framework 4: National Policies



The new format of NPF, as introduced by the 2019 Act, sees policy now being set at the national level

The 33 national policies will be used ...

- in determining planning applications
- by developers promoting development proposals
- in representations to planning applications
- in determining planning appeals

Policy control moves from planning authorities to the Scottish Government



National Planning Framework 4: National Policies



Sustainable Places

1. Tackling the climate and nature crises
2. Climate mitigation and adaptation
3. Biodiversity
4. Natural places
5. Soils
6. Forestry, woodland and trees
7. Historic assets and places
8. Green belts
9. Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings
10. Coastal development
11. Energy
12. Zero waste
13. Sustainable transport

Liveable Places

14. Design, quality and place
15. Local living & 20-minute neighbourhoods
16. Rural homes
17. Infrastructure first
18. Heat and cooling
19. Blue and green infrastructure
20. Play, recreation and sport
21. Flood risk & water management
22. Health and safety
23. Digital infrastructure

Productive Places

25. Community wealth building
26. Business and industry
27. City, town and local centres
28. Retail
29. Rural development
30. Tourism
31. Culture and creativity
32. Aquaculture
33. Minerals

Policy 1: Tackling the climate & nature crises



Tackling the climate and nature crises

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that addresses the global climate emergency and nature crisis.

Policy Outcomes:

- Zero carbon, nature positive places.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.

Policy 1

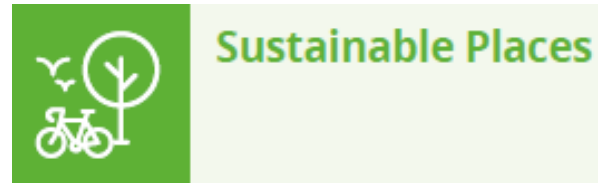
When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

All other policies.



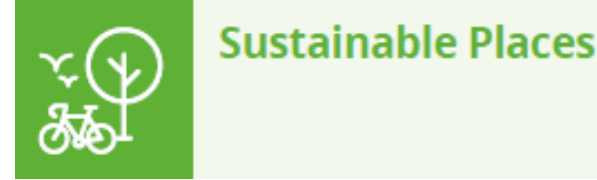
Policy 2: Climate mitigation and adaptation



a) Development proposals will be sited and designed to **minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions** as far as possible.

b) Development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to **current and future risks** from climate change.

c) Development proposals to **retrofit measures to existing developments** that reduce emissions or support adaptation to climate change will be supported.



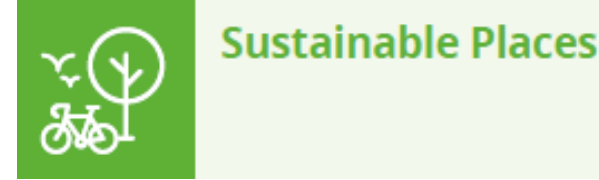
Policy 11: Energy



Policy Intent:

- To encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development onshore and offshore.

This includes energy generation, storage, new and replacement transmission and distribution infrastructure and emerging low-carbon and zero emissions technologies including hydrogen and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS).



Policy Outcomes:

- Expansion of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies.

What are our climate ambitions for Scotland?



- 70% waste recycled / end to landfill of bio waste by 2025
- 20% reduction in car km by 2030
- 50% buildings with zero emissions heating by 2030
- 20GW renewable electricity by 2030
 - 8-11GW offshore wind
 - Further 12GW onshore wind
 - 2GW community owned energy
- 5GW hydrogen production capacity by 2045
- Carbon capture and storage
- Peatland restoration at scale
- Woodland expansion at scale

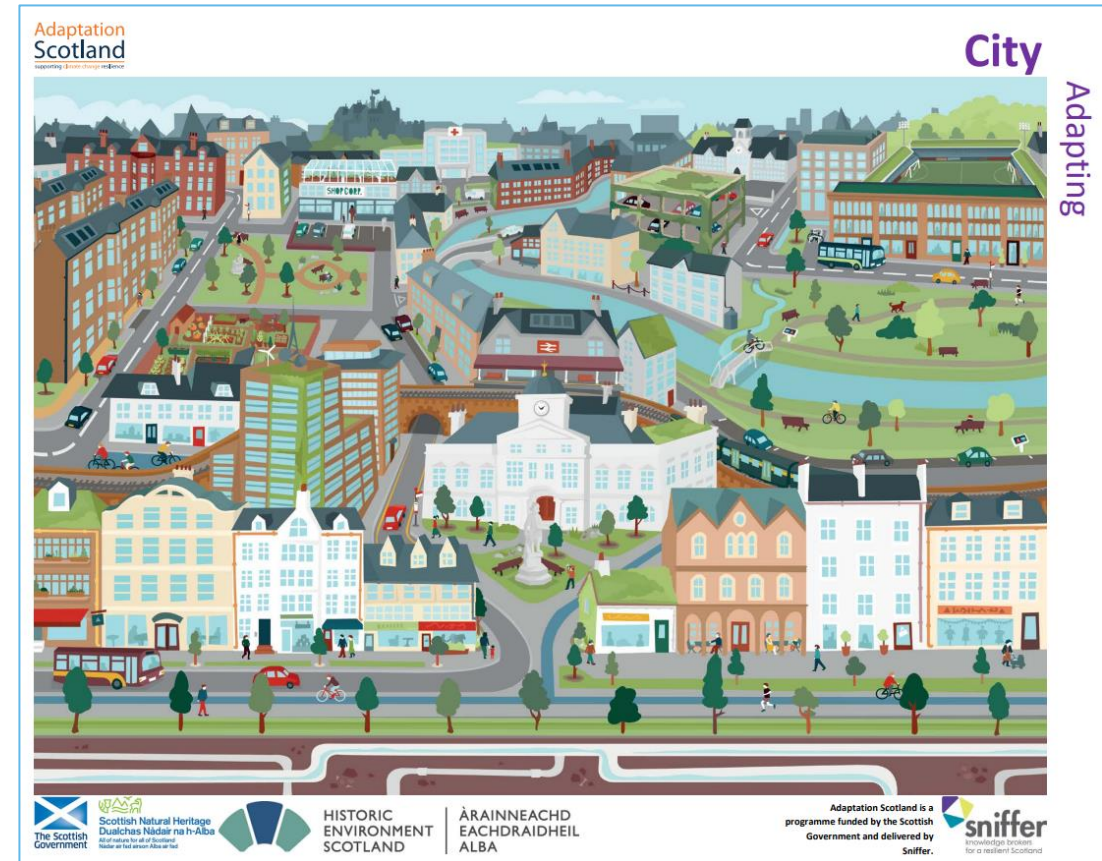


Image courtesy of [Climate Ready Places](#), Adaptation Scotland

Governance & Monitoring



Approaches to Achieving Net Zero Across the UK – a recent publication by the Audit offices across the four nations.

























- Useful overview of UK Net Zero performance as a whole
- Sets out monitoring and governance arrangements in each nation
- Provides data to contrast and compare performance between nations
- [Link](#) to document



Governance & Monitoring

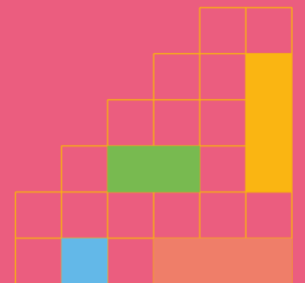


A look at how each nation is performing:

	Net zero emissions target	Public sector net zero target	Total emissions for 2021	Highest-emitting sectors 2021 ¹	Progress	Emissions reduction against 1990 baseline	
			MtCO ₂ e				
 <p>England</p>	See above – There are no distinguishable interim targets for England, as its progress is considered through UK-wide interim targets.	See above – There are no distinguishable interim targets for England, as its progress is considered through UK-wide interim targets.	333.6 MtCO ₂ e	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Transport (26.7%)  Energy supply (17.3%)  Residential (17.0%)  Business (16.7%)  Agriculture (8.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89.3 57.8 56.6 55.6 28.1 	England's emissions have fallen by 48.8% against a 1990 baseline. There are no distinguishable interim targets for England, as its progress is considered through UK-wide interim targets.	48.8% ↓
 <p>Northern Ireland</p>	2050, with an interim target of at least a 48% reduction by 2030. An interim target for 2040 is to be established. These are against baselines of 1990 or 1995 (depending on the greenhouse gas) as set out in the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 .	No specific target for the public sector. Bodies are working towards the legislative interim and net zero target dates.	22.5 MtCO ₂ e	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Agriculture (27.6%)  Transport (16.7%)  Business (14.0%)  Energy supply (13.7%)  Residential (12.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.2 3.8 3.2 3.1 2.8 	Northern Ireland's emissions have fallen by 23.2% against a 1990 baseline. However, emissions increased slightly between 2020 and 2021. The carbon budgets for Northern Ireland have not yet been set.	23.2% ↓
 <p>Scotland</p>	2045, with interim targets of a 75% reduction by 2030 and 90% by 2040. These are against a 1990 baseline and set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 .	No specific target for the public sector. Bodies are working towards the legislative interim and net zero target dates.	41.6 MtCO ₂ e	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Transport (26.3%)  Agriculture (18.8%)  Business (18.6%)  Residential (15.1%)  Energy supply (11.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.0 7.8 7.7 6.3 4.9 	Scotland's emissions fell by 49.9% between a 1990 baseline and 2021. This fell just short of the interim target of a 51.1% reduction over the same period. ³	49.9% ↓
 <p>Wales</p>	2050, with interim targets for a 63% carbon reduction by 2030, 89% by 2040 as set out in The Climate Change (Interim Emissions Targets) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 . These are against baselines in 1990 and 1995 (depending on the greenhouse gas) as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 .	A collective ambition by the Welsh Government for the public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030 (July 2017). ¹ This is in addition to the 2050 net zero emissions target.	36.3 MtCO ₂ e	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Energy supply (25.5%)  Business (24.2%)  Agriculture (15.7%)  Transport (14.8%)  Residential (10.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.3 8.8 5.7 5.4 3.7 	At the end of its first carbon budget period 2016 to 2020, Wales's emissions have fallen by 27.8% against a 1990 baseline (as reported in the Final Statement for the First Carbon Budget and the 2020 interim target). ² This exceeded the 23% target reduction set out in The Climate Change (Interim Emissions Targets) (Wales) Regulations 2018 .	27.8% ↓

Achieving Net Zero with Communities

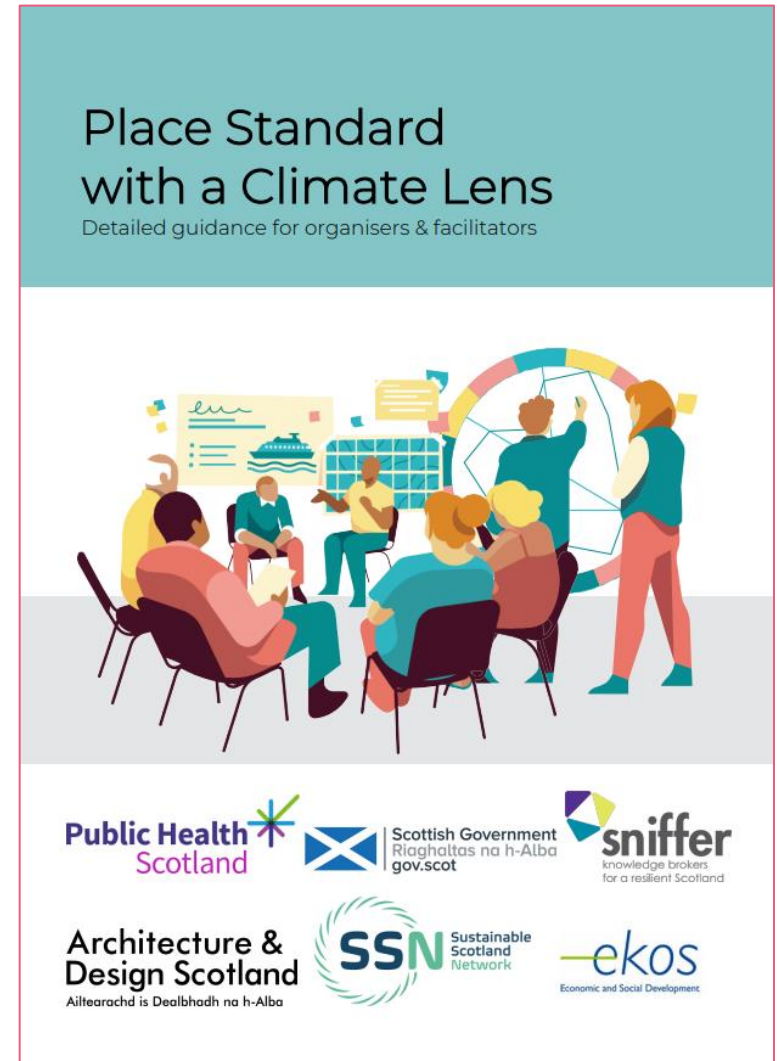
Working in partnership with communities



Achieving Net Zero with Communities



- The Place Standard with a Climate Lens was developed to help people understand how climate change might play out in a local area and support them to design their future place with climate in mind.
- Planning Aid Scotland worked with Sniffer and the Place and Wellbeing Alliance to test-run the Climate Lens tool in the context of a rural community taking forward an action planning process.
- Morvern climate-focused community-led plan



To Find Out More



- [Planning Aid Scotland](#)
- [Planning Aid Scotland: Advice Service](#)
- [Planning Aid Scotland: Training](#)
- [Planning Aid Scotland: Community-led plans](#)
- [Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019, Summary by Brodies LLP](#)
- [Scottish Government: National Performance Framework](#)
- [Scottish Government/COSLA: Place Principle](#)
- [Place Standard tool](#)
- [Scottish Government: National Planning Framework 4](#)
- [Scottish Government: Climate Change Plan / targets](#)
- [Audit Scotland: Approaches to achieving net zero across the UK](#)
- [Scottish Government: Leadership in the public sector on climate change](#)
- [UK Government: Interministerial Group for Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change](#)
- [UK Government: Communiqués from the Interministerial Group for Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change](#)
- [Scottish Parliament: Legislative Consent Memorandum - Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill](#)
- [Video - Planning Aid Scotland & Morvern Community – climate focused community-led plan - Submission to Scottish Quality in Planning Awards 2023](#)



**Planning
Aid Scotland**

Thank you!

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