

2030 CLIMATE STRATEGY

*Delivering a Net Zero,
Climate Ready Edinburgh*

Draft: June 2021





Engaging and empowering citizens to help tackle climate change

Citizen action is essential to Edinburgh becoming a net zero city

This strategy calls on private, public and community and voluntary sector organisations to sign up to the Edinburgh Climate Compact and pledge to reduce their emissions.

It also sets out the action city partners will take to create the conditions for achieving net zero. But Edinburgh's residents have an equally important role to play.

Individual actions by Edinburgh's citizens are an essential and necessary part of reducing the city's emissions and securing a sustainable city for our young people and for future generations.

At present, over half the city's total emissions come from its residents.

Of this, 32 percent comes from car use, and 61 percent from heating and powering our homes.

We recognise that making the changes needed to address our collective emissions will be easier for some than others.

We believe the Council has an important role in supporting all citizens to be able to make changes and ensure no one is left behind: delivering a **fair and just** transition. Young

people and community groups across the city are already taking action on climate change and the Council is committed to supporting all its citizens to realise the **significant power** they have over the future of their city.

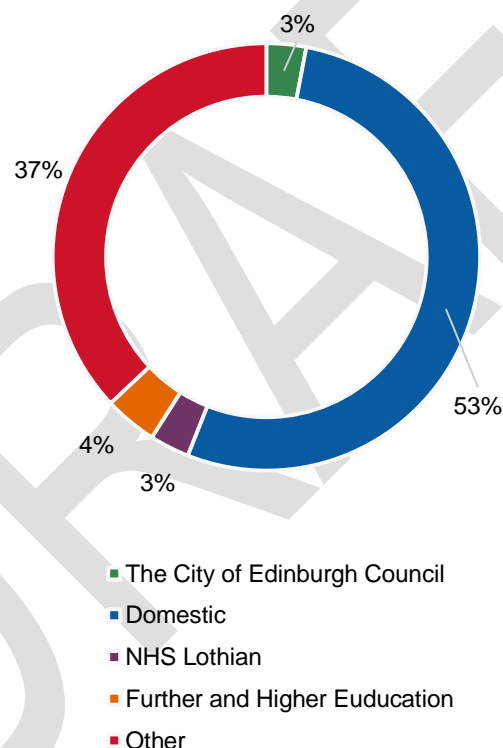


Figure 23: Edinburgh emissions by key organisations 2017/18

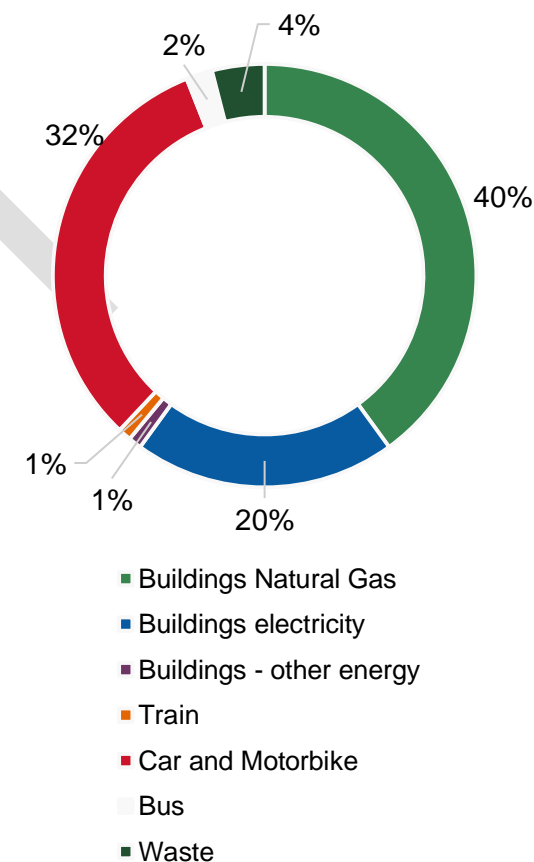


Figure 24: Breakdown of domestic emissions in Edinburgh 2017/18

The Council will encourage and collaborate with citizens to:

- **Demand** change using your power and influence.

Citizens are able to influence an additional 47 percent of the city's emissions coming from the public and private sector.

- **Support** city climate action.

The scale of work to create a resilient and net zero city is significant and will necessitate temporary disruption. This work needs citizen input and support to be delivered successfully and become a reality.

- **Act now** and plan for the future.

Tackling climate change relies on citizens and communities making many everyday choices differently.¹

Our shared vision for 2030

Our vision is to deliver a city where all citizens are empowered, engaged and able to influence for change across the public and private sector. A city where sustainable choices are easier to make, and a city where a just transition to a net zero future is delivering social and economic benefits for all our communities.

¹ The Committee on Climate Change estimated that, of the overall reductions needed to achieve net zero, 16 percent rely on behaviour change, such as flying or



Highlights from engagement

Awareness of the global effects of climate change is very high. Edinburgh residents are very aware of the impact on biodiversity and habitats but only recently has understanding grown of the impact on people.



73 percent of respondents to the 2018 Scottish Household Survey, believe climate change is an immediate and urgent problem.

70 percent of participants from Scotland's Climate Assembly said it was a priority that recommendations on tackling the climate emergency needed to...



Take into account the needs of different communities across Scotland, recognising that there is not a 'one size fits all' solution.



Target the highest emitters so that organisations and individuals with the highest carbon footprint must make the biggest changes.

driving less, and a further 43 percent relying on a combination of technology and behaviour change, such as fitting and effective use of more energy-

Our strategic approach

We'll focus on creating an **environment** that makes acting sustainably easier and ask citizens to support us in making those changes.

We'll work to **raise awareness** and **accelerate action**, asking people to make more sustainable choices and use their influence to demand change from others.

We'll maintain an ongoing open and frank **dialogue with citizens and communities**, with the aim of designing solutions together and maintaining high levels of support for net zero action.

The ask of citizens

Your choices can achieve big emissions reductions, and you have the power to influence others, from big business to public policy.



Plan for a low carbon future

Some of the changes we need to make will require forward planning. We ask citizens to consider if these options are available to you:

- Residents can make a big difference by investing home energy efficiency

efficient heating systems. [Reaching Net Zero in the UK, Climate Change Committee, accessed June 2021](#)

measures such as insulation, secondary glazing or clean energy heating systems. These will save you money in the long run, but may have upfront costs. Look out for Government schemes offering financial and other support which can help make these changes easier.

- Look for the energy efficiency rating when replacing household appliances and buy the most efficient products.
- Consider replacing petrol or diesel cars with electric vehicles and making greater use of public transport, car-share schemes or bikes.
- Find out more. Use online resources to find out more about climate change and other ways you can help tackle it.



Start acting now, use your power and influence

Edinburgh's citizens have huge influence over the city's emissions through their power to collectively demand change from national and local government, the private and public sector, local businesses and each other. Use your democratic voice and purchasing power to be heard on climate issues.

Community groups and voluntary sector organisations are often closest to local issues and opportunities. They will continue to play a vital role advocating for action on climate change and challenging government and public and private sector organisations. Civil society also has a key role to play in

stimulating citizen action at the individual and collective level.

Supporting the scale of action needed

Actions set out in this strategy at a city level are significant and will affect the Edinburgh's built environment, transport systems and infrastructure.

To make these changes possible we need the input and **support** of residents so they can be delivered successfully when upgrades cause temporary disruption.

For example, while work is underway to make our public buildings such as schools and medical centres more energy efficient, we will need to make temporary changes to how we access and use these buildings.

Support for citizens



Empower young people

Young people have been at the forefront of raising awareness on climate change and demanding change from those in power.

We will ensure young people are at the centre of decisions that will determine the kind of city they inherit. We will work with children and young people – through schools and in communities – to listen to their views, to ensure young people from all backgrounds are informed and able to have their voice heard.

We will maximise opportunities to focus on climate change across our whole education system, delivering opportunities for community learning and development and working with schools, including Edinburgh's independent schools, to embed a legacy of change from COP26 coming to Scotland.

We will strengthen the focus on climate change within our curriculum and co-design innovative projects and programmes with young people, beginning with piloting a carbon footprinting app and delivering a Hydrogen Education Programme and challenge competition to engage young people in innovating for a net zero future.



Ensure a fair transition to net zero

Vulnerable groups and people with poor health will be more affected by poor air quality, increased damp, and severe fluctuations in weather such as heatwaves. Those on lower-incomes may also find addressing the impacts of climate change harder – for example the costs associated with flood damage to property; or the costs of switching from gas to sustainable heating systems.

We are committed to working with national and local government, public bodies, trades unions, the private sector and citizens and communities to ensure that climate change does not disproportionately impact anyone in our society.



Access to opportunities

It is estimated that Scotland's transition to a low-carbon economy could create up to 367,000 jobs, with Edinburgh being well-placed to secure a substantial share of these. With city partners we will work to align skills development programmes to support Edinburgh residents to access new green jobs.²

We will ensure access for people from all backgrounds to employment opportunities created to deliver a net zero city.



Making sustainable choices easier

We know from consultation and engagement that many Edinburgh citizens are not fully aware of their carbon footprint, or all the actions they could take to reduce it.

We will deliver awareness raising campaigns to ensure people have access to information about climate change, how to measure their carbon footprint, and where to access support to reduce their emissions. This will include information about where people can get financial and other help to make changes.

We will call on Scottish Government to improve existing support schemes and develop new approaches to incentivise change – especially in decarbonising homes



Creating net zero communities

Our vision is for all of Edinburgh's neighbourhoods and communities to be net zero.

We will work with Community Councils, Edinburgh's Universities and at least two neighbourhoods to scope and develop funding bids for 2 local pilots to understand what it would take for them to become net zero. The pilot scope will include at least one community with high levels of deprivation and one with high emissions and will link to Local Place Plans.



Building and maintaining consent for change

The change needed to create a sustainable city for present and future generations is likely to cause short term disruption.

We will involve citizens in decisions about the targeting, scope and speed of large-scale change and ask for citizen support on changes which protect the city for future generations.

As the scale and complexity of actions increase, we will facilitate more in-depth engagement approaches, such as citizen juries or similar models, to ensure citizens views are central in decision-making.

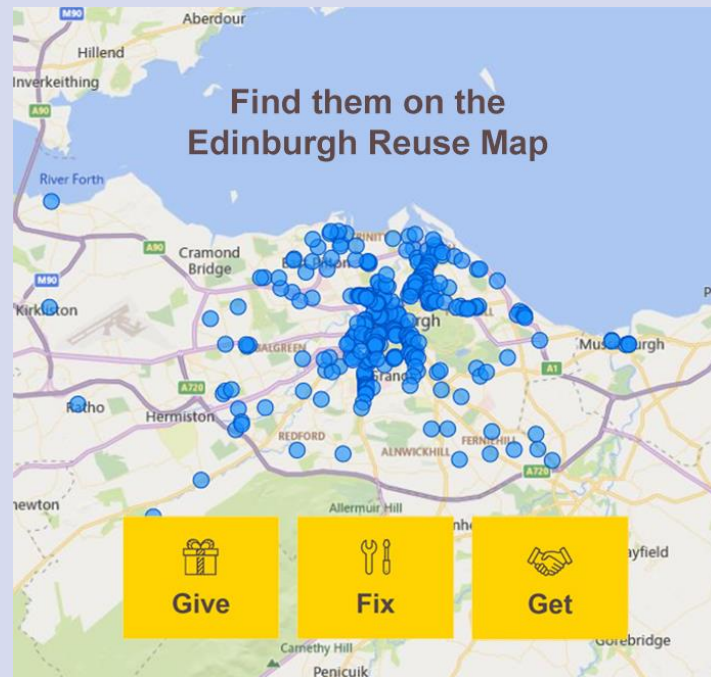
² [Green Jobs in Scotland, STUC, accessed June 2021](#)

Case Study: Changeworks' Edinburgh reuse map.

Created by Changeworks, in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, this online map details facilities for donations of surplus household goods to new homes, as well as eco-friendly recycling and repair services, all contributing to Edinburgh's circular economy.

Citizens can select the type of good they want to give, fix or get, and can search by postcode to find locations in their area that can help.

Source: Changeworks



Engaging and empowering citizens to help tackle climate change

Outcomes

- Citizens are engaged and empowered to respond to the climate emergency.
- Edinburgh is a city where sustainable choices are cheaper and easier to make, and people are taking action to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Citizens are empowered, engaged and acting to influence the public and private sector to go further on tackling climate change.

Action	Next steps and Indicative delivery timeframe	Partners
1. Information about climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver awareness-raising campaigns. <i>2021 onwards</i> • Support citizens to measure their carbon footprint. <i>2021 onwards</i> 	The Scottish Government, The City of Edinburgh Council
2. Citizen engagement and dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an ongoing open dialogue with citizens about the transformation that needs to happen in the city and how we can collaborate to take decisions and deliver change together. <i>2021 onwards</i> • Call on the Scottish Government to work with Edinburgh on awareness raising campaigns to support a frank discussion on climate change action. <i>2021</i> 	<p>The City of Edinburgh Council, community councils, community and civil society groups</p> <p>The City of Edinburgh Council, The Scottish Government</p>
3. Supporting and engaging young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise opportunities to focus on climate change across our whole education system, including independent schools. <i>2021 onwards</i> • Work with young people in schools and in communities, to embed a legacy of change, drawing on COP26 coming to Scotland. <i>2021 onwards</i> • Strengthen climate change within our curriculum. <i>2021 onwards</i> • Pilot a carbon footprinting app within at least two schools. <i>2021 onwards</i> • Deliver a Hydrogen Education Programme and schools challenge. <i>2021- 2022</i> 	<p>The City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh schools, youth and community groups</p> <p>The City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Cities Alliance</p>
4. Net Zero Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposals and seek funding for creating '<i>net zero communities</i>' in at least two neighbourhoods within the city. <i>2021-2023</i> 	The City of Edinburgh Council, higher education partners, community councils

Creating a city where sustainable choices are easier

Action	Summary of supporting actions within main strategy and Indicative delivery timeframe	Chapter
5. Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the city's public transport system. 2024–2027 • Prioritise investment in active travel routes to make it easier for people to get around the city without needing a car. 2024–2027 	<i>Net Zero Transport</i>
6. 20-minute neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-design services and amenities to deliver sustainable 20-minute neighbourhoods across hub locations. 2021 – onwards 	<i>Net Zero Transport; Net Zero Development and Growth</i>
7. Homes and energy systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop heat networks and local energy generation solutions to provide clean heat and energy. • Deliver energy efficient affordable housing. • Call on Scottish Government to improve the support available to private owners for switching to low carbon heating solutions. <p>Timescales for all actions: beginning 2022; accelerating from 2024</p>	<i>Net Zero Energy Generation and Energy Efficient Buildings</i>
8. Fair work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure city action on climate change creates new green jobs and fair work. • Develop skills development programmes to support citizens' access to opportunities. 	<i>All chapters</i>
9. Waste and a net zero economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local businesses to learn about and implement more sustainable business practices. • Ensure citizens have opportunities to reduce, re-use and recycle to help reduce consumer waste. <p>Timescales: various – see individual chapter</p>	<i>Net Zero Economy</i>
10. Embed net zero requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call on Scottish Government to ensure Scotland's statutory framework supports whole-system change at the speed and scale needed to tackle the climate emergency. 2021–2025 	<i>Scottish Government</i>