

Report

To:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date:	28 April 2021
Prepared by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration
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1. Purpose of the report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- Set out the background to the “Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration” and recommend that the Council signs the declaration.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation:

- (1) Agree to sign the “Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration”.

3. Background

- 3.1. The [Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration](#) is a pledge and call to action by sub-national, local and national governments from all over the world to accelerate the development of integrated food policies as a key tool in the fight against climate change with co-benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem regeneration, circularity, access to sustainable and healthy diets for all, and the creation of resilient livelihoods for farm and food workers. The declaration is available in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The declaration commits subnational governments to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from urban and regional food systems in order to fulfil the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. This relates to GHG emissions from food in the sub-national government area including those emitted by the institution.
- 3.3 The declaration was launched in December 2020. It was developed in preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) that will take place in Glasgow in November 2021. It is for this reason, it is called the “Glasgow Food and Climate declaration” and, therefore, it is not a Glasgow City Council led initiative albeit GCC has signed the declaration. COP26 is seen as an opportunity to place food and local actions at the heart of the global climate response.
- 3.4 The declaration has been prepared in partnership between international networks of sub-national governments, UN agencies and non-governmental agencies working with food systems and in consultation with sub-national, city and region governments. This includes national organisations such as Nourish Scotland and the Soil Association.
- 3.5 For now, the following UK local authorities have signed the declaration: Brighton and Hove, Glasgow and Leeds, however, officers expect that a number of Scottish local authorities will sign as we lead up to COP26.

4. **Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration Rationale and Benefits**

Rationale

- 4.1 Role of food system in carbon emissions: in Scotland, agriculture accounts for 26% of total GHG emissions and emissions related to food and outside the farm gate represents a further 5% to 10%. At global level, food systems account for 21-37% of total GHGs.
- 4.2 Role of sub-national governments: they are pioneering integrated food policies with actions in a number of domains: e.g. food waste reduction scheme, healthy and sustainable procurement in public canteens, public campaign to encourage behavioural change towards sustainable diets, provision of food growing opportunities, support to short supply chain, integrated urban food planning.
- 4.3 Role of integrated policies and food system approach: to achieve sustainable food system transformation, actions must be aligned horizontally across policy areas and vertically between different levels of governance. Food touches many different policy areas and a food system approach facilitates the development of coherent policies.

Benefits

- 4.4 Reputation: this is an opportunity for the council to renew its commitment to tackle climate change and develop a Good Food Council. The pledge is aligned with the objectives and approach of the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and the Good Food Strategy. Reputational benefits would be at local (South Lanarkshire employees and residents), national and international levels.
- 4.5 Raising awareness: the signature could also be an opportunity to share information with employees and residents about the impact of food systems on climate change and encourage positive behavioural changes in food consumption.
- 4.6 Peer learning: a platform for signatories will be provided to share best practices and encourage collaboration with the organisation of events

5 Proposal and Next Steps

- 5.1 The declaration could be signed online on the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration webpage by the chair of the Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Committee. After submitting the form, signatories receive a confirmation of the signature from the secretariat.
- 5.2 The declaration is already open for signature.
- 5.3 By signing the declaration, sub-national governments commit to:
 - Commitment 1, Developing and implementing integrated food policies and strategies;
 - Commitment 2, Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from urban and regional food systems;
 - Commitment 3, Calling on national governments to establish supportive and enabling policy frameworks and multi-level and multi-actor governance mechanisms.
- 5.4 The council already fulfils or is working to fulfil these commitments with the development and implementation of the Good Food Strategy (commitment 1). In particular, the Objective 10 of the strategy aims at "reducing the impact of the food system on the environment and its contribution to climate change" (commitment 2).

Several actions to progress this objective are included in the action plan for the implementation of the strategy. With regards to commitment 3, it is about adding the council's voice to the movement calling for actions at national level and sending a united message to COP26 participants.

5.5 By signing the declaration, the council would commit to take action but there is no compliance mechanism attached to the declaration and no selected indicators or metrics connected to the commitment.

5.6 If the recommendation is approved and the council becomes part of the signatories, officers will work with the corporate communication team to promote it (e.g social media, articles, events). In doing this, officers will seek to make it clear that this is South Lanarkshire Council's commitment to the declaration to avoid any potential confusion that may arise with the use of Glasgow in its title. As part of this, officers would also take the opportunity to share information about the impact of food systems on climate change and inform residents and employees about council initiatives in this area.

6. Strategic Environmental Assessment

6.1 As no Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was required for the Good Food Strategy and given the fact that the commitments of the Declaration are aligned with this strategy, it is assumed that no SEA will be required.

7 Employee Implications

7.1 There is no additional employee implications except actions to communicate on the signature.

8 Financial implications

8.1 There are no additional financial implications as the reduction of GHG emissions from the food system is already part of the objectives of the Good Food Strategy. The food action plan 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 already include actions to progress this objective.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

9.1 Given the nature of the declaration, there are direct implications in terms of Climate Change, Sustainability and Environment. Signing the declaration will help to raise awareness about the impact of food systems on climate change and encourage behavioural changes in food consumption for employees and residents. It will also encourage the development of actions at different levels from local to international level. It is also an opportunity to learn from other sub-national governments and potentially develop further actions in the council area.

10. Other implications

10.1 No other implications are expected.

11 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

11.1 Since the Equalities Impact Assessment of the Good Food Strategy has been approved and given the fact that the commitments of the Declaration are aligned with this strategy, it is assumed that no additional assessment should be conducted.

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Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

28 April 2021

Link(s) to council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities.

Previous References

- Internal discussion paper “Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration” presented at the Climate Change and Sustainability steering group meeting on 19 February 2021
- CMT report, March 2021 - “Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration”

List of Background Papers

- None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Appendix 1

Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration

A commitment by subnational governments to tackle the climate emergency through integrated food policies and a call on national governments to act

This Declaration brings together all types and sizes of local authorities – from small and medium sized towns to mega-cities, districts and regions, territories, federal states and provinces – to speak with a unified voice in renewing their commitments to develop sustainable food policies, promote mechanisms for joined-up action and call on national governments to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency.

1. *Concerned* that the COVID-19 crisis has exposed the fragility of our food systems, the vulnerabilities of large parts of urban and rural populations and the critical need for preparedness and resilience in the face of shocks;
2. *Acknowledging* that food systems currently account for 21-37%^[1] of total GHGs, and are at the heart of many of the world's major challenges today including biodiversity loss, enduring hunger and malnutrition, and an escalating public health crisis;
3. *Recognizing* that unsustainable dynamics are locked in along the whole food chain, primarily stemming from industrial food and farming systems;
4. *Recognizing* that extreme inequalities are pervasive throughout the food system, and are disproportionately affecting communities including people living in poverty, people experiencing racism, people displaced due to climate change or conflict, people with precarious legal status, and many others; and furthermore that many of these same groups are exploited for their labour globally;
5. *Convinced*, therefore, that only a food systems approach targeting all the Sustainable Development Goals can identify effective intervention points to accelerate climate action while delivering many co-benefits, including the promotion of biodiversity, ecosystem regeneration and resilience, circularity, equity, access to healthy and sustainable diets for all, and the creation of resilient livelihoods for farm and food workers;
6. *Recognizing* the need to involve all food system stakeholders in decision-making for a sustainable and just transition – including food and farm workers, civil society groups, researchers, indigenous communities, women, and especially youth whose future are the most at risk from the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss;
7. *Recalling* that cities and regions are leading the way in pioneering integrated food policies and strategies at the local level to reduce their environmental footprint, drive positive food system change and ensure greater resilience to shocks;

[1] IPCC (2019). Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.- O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.)].