

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 November 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Statutory Climate Change Duties Report 2020/2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ present the Council's annual Climate Change Duties report for 2020/2021, as legally required under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Climate Change and Sustainability Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): -

- (1) that the Council's statutory Climate Change Duties report for 2020/2021 be approved for submission to the Scottish Government.

3. Background

3.1. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 commits the government to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions and develop long-term measures to adapt to changes in the climate. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 commits Scotland to meet or exceed a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2045.

3.2. The legislation place duties on all public bodies in Scotland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and act sustainably. Public bodies are required to prepare annual reports on their compliance with these duties and publish and submit these reports to Scottish Government.

3.3. The Council has complied with the statutory reporting requirement every year since its introduction in 2015 but, as a signatory of Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, has also been reporting climate change action on a voluntary basis since 2007.

4 Climate change duties report 2020/2021

4.1. This report requests the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee's approval to publish the Climate change duties report on the Council's website and submission to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2021.

4.2. The report follows the same format as previous years and is based on a template issued by Scottish Government. It contains six sections:-

1	Organisational Profile	Provides an understanding of the scale of activity of the body in addressing climate change in relation to its size
2	Governance and Management	Seeks to establish how governance of climate change is recognised within the organisation. Also, the reporting and review structure and the level of engagement between leaders, department managers, practitioners and staff generally
3	Corporate Emissions	Provides data on corporate emissions relating directly to the organisation's assets and activities
4	Adaptation	Seeks to establish if the body has assessed the risks that both current and future climate change presents to its assets, infrastructure, service provision and business continuity. Also, to identify actions that will reduce risk both now and in the future
5	Procurement	Clarify how sustainable procurement policy has had an impact on climate change reduction, reporting and compliance issues
6	Validation	It is expected that validation of quantitative and qualitative information is regarded as good business practice and risk management of any inaccuracies or inconsistencies that could result in legal challenge or reputational damage

- 4.3. The draft Climate Change Duties report for 2020/2021 is attached as appendix 1.
- 4.4. Given the lengthy and detailed format of the Scottish Government template for the Climate Change Duties report, a summary video/animation is also currently being prepared by the Graphics Team. The film will last around 5 minutes and will contain a summary of how the Council is complying with the climate change duties. It is hoped that this format will be more suited to a wider audience.
- 4.5. South Lanarkshire Council is unaware of any other public sector organisations who have produced a summary version of the Climate Change Duties report, but it has been noted by various public sector organisations, and indeed by the Council's own elected members and officers, that the current report format is a difficult read. It is therefore planned to share the 5-minute film with Scottish Government and other public sector bodies.

4.6. Some highlights from the 2020/2021 report include:-

- ◆ Carbon reductions of 65% have been reported in 2020/2021 compared to the baseline year of 2005/2006
- ◆ Significant levels of renewable energy are being generated and consumed in our buildings from solar PV and biomass
- ◆ The new long-term residual waste contract has enabled a large proportion of our non-recyclable waste to be sent to the Energy from Waste plant in Dunbar, not only reducing landfilled waste but creating electricity
- ◆ We have a robust climate change and sustainability governance structure led by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee and supported by the Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group
- ◆ We have a robust Strategic Environmental Assessment process that ensures that all plans, policies and strategies undergo an environment assessment which includes considering climatic factors
- ◆ The report details a wealth of Council plans, policies and strategies which demonstrate our commitment to meeting our climate change duties
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council's participation in the Climate Ready Clyde partnership which is a collaborative initiative with an adaptation strategy and action plan for the Glasgow City Region (which includes all of South Lanarkshire, both rural and urban areas)

4.7. The information contained in section 3 of the draft Climate Change Duties report details the Council's own carbon footprint which is measured from five sources: energy consumption from buildings, household waste, energy consumption from street lighting, fleet and staff travel. The Council, however, also has a role in influencing the reduction of South Lanarkshire's area wide carbon emissions.

4.8. The UK's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) publishes carbon emission statistics for all local authority areas. The Council reports this information within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and the Annual Performance Report. The most recent figures for 2019 were published in June 2021 (two-year lag on data). The emissions identified as under the scope of the Council's influence are Domestic, Industry and Commercial, and Transport (excludes large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land-use). The statistics have shown that South Lanarkshire's emissions have reduced by 4.0% when compared to the previous year. This compares similarly with Scotland's overall reduction of 3.9% for the same sources.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. The Council's Sustainable Development and Carbon Management officers prepare the annual climate change report in conjunction with relevant Council Resources. The statutory reporting regime has elevated the importance and accountability of climate change reporting within the Council.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. Collection of climate change information is a core management task and therefore is absorbed into the daily business operations.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1 The Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy outlines the action to meet our climate change duties and has undergone a full strategic environmental assessment (SEA). This can be found on the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway database.

8. Other Implications

8.1. The annual statutory reporting requirements have implications for all Resources. However, the following services will have more involvement: –

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources - Sustainable Development and Carbon Management, Fleet Services, Environmental Services, Roads and Transportation, Flood Risk Management, Street Lighting, Waste Services, Resilience Support, Countryside and Greenspace, Planning and Building Standards.
- ◆ Finance and Corporate Resources – Procurement, Finance (Capital Investment), Risk Management
- ◆ Housing and Technical Resources - Energy Management, Asset Management and Property Services.

8.2. Climate Change and carbon reduction targets are included in the Council's top risks.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. An equality impact assessment was carried out on the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017 to 2022.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

13 October 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

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

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Contact for Further Information

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

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