

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 3 November 2015

Sustainable Energy Action Plan

Item number	7.6
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

The Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) was approved by Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee in February 2015 and has been submitted to the Covenant of Mayors for approval. This plan set out the proposed actions and initiatives to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2020 across the city. Committee requested that further engagement takes place with organisations and the gap between projected and target emissions reduced.

The target of a 42% reduction in carbon emission by 2020 is challenging, however the SEAP can currently approximate over 80% of the CO2 reduction required to meet the 42% target. Work is continuing to develop further actions with key stakeholders across the city to further close the gap and build on the momentum that has been created.

Links

Coalition pledges	P50
Council outcomes	CO18
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4

Sustainable Energy Action Plan

Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to note that an annual performance report on the SEAP will be presented in March 2016.

Background

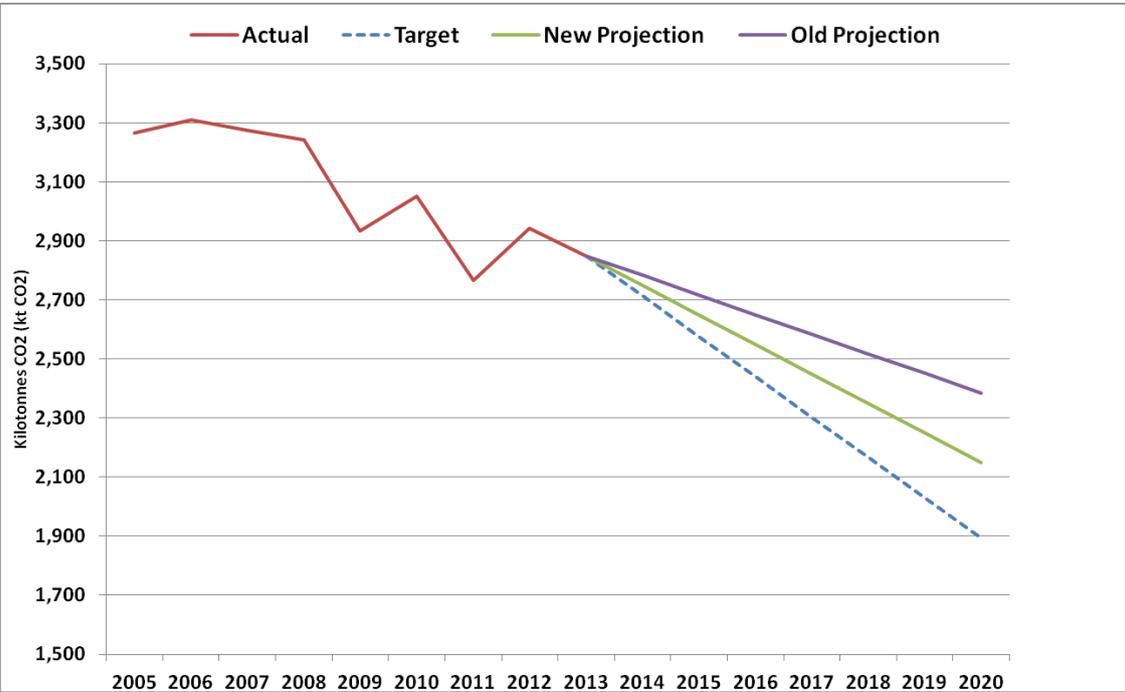
- 2.1 The SEAP was approved by Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee in February 2015. This plan set out the proposed actions and initiatives to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2020 across the city.
- 2.2 The delivery of the SEAP is through five proposed work programmes which combine to form a single integrated energy plan. These work programmes reflect the priorities of the SEAP and are:
 - **energy efficiency:** aiming to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and infrastructure such as street lighting;
 - **renewables:** increasing the percentage of renewables used for both power and heat across the city;
 - **resource efficiency:** encouraging the more sustainable use of resources and waste by businesses and consumers;
 - **district heating:** aiming to increase the use of heat networks across the city and create new networks; and
 - **sustainable transport:** supporting more sustainable transport and cleaner, greener fuels.
- 2.2.1 This report provides an update on both these issues.
 - any other carbon projects that can contribute towards the target; and
 - the contributions from partners.

Main report

Progress on the Target

- 3.1 The actions articulated in the SEAP can currently approximate over 80% of the CO₂ reduction required to meet the 42% target, with work continuing to develop further actions with key stakeholders across the city to further close the gap.

- 3.2 Since approval of the SEAP in February, figures have been released from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). These figures are available at the local authority every year with a two year lag. They provide a robust assessment of carbon emissions. The figures for Edinburgh show a further decrease in carbon from 2,941 kt CO₂ in 2012 to 2,849 kt CO₂ in 2013. This is a 3.2% reduction on the previous year.
- 3.3 In the original modelling of the SEAP action plan there were 898.2 kt CO₂ savings identified from the plans. This accounted for 65.1% of the carbon emissions savings required to achieve the target. The rest of the savings (480.7 kt CO₂) would come from developing further projects and accounting for projects that weren't able to be quantified in robust carbon accounting terms.
- 3.4 In addition, an extensive low carbon audit of activity has been carried out. This has involved contacting a wide range of stakeholders across the city, including engaging with service areas within the Council and seeking feedback on any further low carbon activities or projects they may be engaged with.
- 3.5 Through this detailed audit and from building on the initial partnership work, there has been an additional 218.4 kt of CO₂ reductions included in the plan. This is an increase of 16.2% and means that the new savings accounted for in the plan are 1,116.6 kt CO₂, which represents 81.3% of the target required. Work is continually underway to develop further projects throughout the duration of the SEAP.
- 3.6 An adjustment of the target can now be seen in Figure 1 below. This shows that the gap has now narrowed.



- 3.8 There are further additional actions that can be added to the wider SEAP programme. These will now be reported on as part of the annual performance report.
- 3.9 Some examples of these additional actions that the low carbon audit has revealed include the ECOStars project, the Edinburgh Community Solar Cooperative, an increase in the number of electric vehicles in the City Car Club fleet, and the work of Resource Efficient Scotland working with 122 of Edinburgh's businesses since mid 2013 on lowering carbon emissions.

Engaging Partners

- 3.10 The Committee requested that contributions from partners be identified. The Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP) has been contacted to identify their contributions to the SEAP. This is the key sustainability partnership for the city. The ESDP is currently collating information on actions that partners are carrying out. These actions will be reported to the Edinburgh Partnership Board in December 2015 as part of a six monthly progress report and will be included in the SEAP.
- 3.11 There are also a specific number of large employers and organisations in the city where collectively the numbers of employees and the wider sphere of influence of these organisations can affect a large number of the city's population whether residents, students, employees or visitors, patients and suppliers. The Committee agreed that a letter would be sent to each Chief Executive from the Council Leader and Chief Executive. These included:
- NHS Lothian;
 - Standard Life;
 - University of Edinburgh;
 - Edinburgh College;
 - Edinburgh Napier University;
 - BT;
 - Heriot Watt University;
 - Royal Bank of Scotland; and
 - Lloyds Banking Group.
- 3.12 All of the organisations have responded positively to collaborating with the Council on future energy projects. All have an interest in the energy and low carbon agendas. Collaboration is looking at a wide range of energy and low carbon issues.
- 3.13 Some specific examples of carbon reduction measures include:
- Heriot Watt University: looking to collaborate with their Energy Academy. They have around 2,000 masters students who can carry out specific research;

- Standard Life and the Banks: looking to explore opportunities on district cooling and energy from waste for their data centres. In addition, the Royal Bank run innovation hubs and will consider low carbon as a theme;
 - BT: looking at awareness raising programmes for staff.
 - Edinburgh College and Edinburgh Napier: looking to collaborate on energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable transport initiatives; and
 - University of Edinburgh and Lothian Health: looking at collaboration on district heating and renewables.
- 3.14 All of these organisations have agreed to provide data and information on their carbon footprints to the Council.
- 3.15 The SEAP report has been submitted to the Covenant of Mayors office and is awaiting assessment and approval. This process can take up to six months. It is anticipated that the SEAP will be formally approved by the end of 2015. A more detailed report on performance of the SEAP programme will be submitted to Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee in March 2016. This will form the annual report on performance. Information from the service areas particularly the contributions from housing and transport will form key elements of the report.

Measures of success

- 4.1 The key measure of success for the SEAP is a reduction in carbon emissions across the city. Other measures however will include a reduction in the number of households in fuel poverty, the amount of renewable energy generated across the city and the number of local energy projects initiated.
- 4.2 For the Council a measure of success will be the potential savings in energy consumption thus complying with Council targets. The SEAP will also be the main initiative in meeting the Capital Coalition Pledge 50 to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2020.

Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no financial impacts for the Council associated with the activities outlined in this report.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 By implementing a SEAP, the Council is mitigating any risks of non compliance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. In addition, mandatory reporting of carbon will become a requirement for local authorities from October 2016. The SEAP will be an important element of that report.

- 6.2 The SEAP will also complement a number of other policy areas, including: the City Housing Strategy; the Community Plan, the Edinburgh Local Plan, the Local Transport Strategy, Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 and the Transport Vision 2030.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no adverse impacts associated with this report.
- 7.2 By delivering affordable energy and reducing fuel poverty, the SEAP will contribute positively to key equalities outcomes of reducing inequality, poverty and deprivation.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The proposals in this report will have a positive impact on sustainability through actions specifically designed to lower carbon emissions through energy efficiency, encouraging sustainable travel, resource efficiency and encouraging low and zero carbon energy generation. This will increase the city's resilience to climate change impacts.
- 8.2 The proposals will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh by helping alleviate fuel poverty in communities and by improving both quality of life and the environment. It will assist in making local businesses more resilient, provide business opportunities for local suppliers, and provide local people with more disposable income, providing a boost to the local economy and a knock on effect in terms of employment opportunities

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Formal consultation has been carried out on the SEAP with a range of organisations including community councils, academia, voluntary and community groups and businesses. Presentations were made to business groups, community planning partners, voluntary organisations, student groups and others.
- 9.2 A SEAP working group has been set up within the Council to ensure continual monitoring of initiatives and projects.
- 9.3

Background reading / external references

Sustainable Energy Action Plan www.edinburgh.gov.uk/sustainableeconomy

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Links

Coalition pledges	P50 Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020
Council outcomes	CO18 Green - We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
Appendices	Appendix 1: Update on SEAP work since February 2015

Appendix 1: Summary Update on SEAP work since February 2015

There have been a number of areas progressed since February 2015. The table below provides a brief update on these areas of work. A more detailed annual report in March 2016 will provide more details on performance.

Action	Comment	Next steps
Wider partnership engagement.	Meetings have taken place with eight of Edinburgh's largest organisations. We have engaged with key contacts in these organisations to discuss the SEAP and explore actions that they are taking to reduce carbon emissions, and in particular key areas of mutual interest. Each organisation expressed a very positive response to collaborating with the Council on future energy projects and the initial meetings were extremely encouraging and really highlighted a shared interest in the energy and low carbon agendas.	An event is currently being planned for December which will involve the formal launch of the SEAP. Each of the largest organisations will also formally endorse the SEAP at the event.
Engagement with Housing and Regeneration regarding District Heating.	To contribute to SEAP objectives on district heating the ESCO project team is in discussion with the Council's housing service about exploring district heating networks that could include Council housing and other partners where feasible.	Further discussions to take place with the ESCO project team and housing colleagues regarding potential district heating networks.
Development of Projects	A number of specific projects from the five SEAP themes are being taken forward. This includes district heating initiatives at a number of sites across the city, solar and renewables projects,	Work continues to progress specific projects.

	transport projects and energy efficiency in buildings.	
SEAP Energy Audit.	An energy audit has taken place to consult more widely on the SEAP and account for more carbon reductions towards the 42% target. The energy audit has currently uncovered 35 new actions and has found an additional 218.4 kt of CO2 reductions to be included in the SEAP. This allows the SEAP to account for 81.3% of the 42% CO2 reduction target, up from 65.1% in February 2015.	The energy audit will be used as a working document to add further actions and CO2 figures. This will allow us to measure progress year on year.
Engagement with further initiatives and organisations.	Through the detailed energy audit and from building on the initial partnership work, we have engaged with a number of new organisations and initiatives who are actively contributing to reducing emissions in the city. Some of these organisations include Resource Efficient Scotland, the ECOSTars programme and REMADE in Edinburgh.	We will continue to work closely with these organisations and find ways of helping them to reach a wider audience. We will also be able to get accurate yearly progress reports for them and CO2 reduction figures. We will also continue to identify new initiatives and organisations active in this sector by using the energy audit as an annual engagement and communication tool to get updates from existing actions and to encourage others to contribute their own initiatives to be recorded within the SEAP.