

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10am, Tuesday, 26 November 2019

## Edinburgh Climate Commission and Council Engagement Update

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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This committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 consider and endorse the draft terms of reference for the Edinburgh Climate Commission
- 1.2 to note the first phase of engagement which is underway with the launch of a consultation into citizen behaviour and attitudes on the 15 November.
- 1.3 To note that some of the programme of events planned as part of the sustainability programme have been pushed into early next year because of the impact of the national election but that planning for these events is underway
- 1.4 To agree to receive a report assessing the options for formal processes for citizen engagement such as the citizens assembly and the citizens jury in the Spring.

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## Edinburgh Climate Commission

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 The report provides a draft outline for the Climate Commission's terms of reference for consideration by committee
- 2.2 This report also outlines the Council's approach to engaging citizens (principally) and other stakeholders in discussions about how the Council and the wider city can meaningfully act and support behavioural changes necessary to address climate change. This includes an update on changes to the planned programme of events that have occurred because of capacity and scheduling challenges associated with the national election. The events will be reprioritised for early 2020 with planning work underway.

### 3. Background

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#### The Climate Commission

- 3.1 The Policy and Sustainability Committee agreed on 25 October to co-sponsor an Edinburgh Climate Commission with the Edinburgh Centre for Climate Innovation. This report brings back a more detailed outline of the Commission terms of reference for consideration by committee members.

#### Council Engagement

- 3.2 Climate change is an issue around which there is very high public awareness. [Polling in 2019 by market research agency Ipsos Mori](#) identified that 85% of British adults were concerned about climate change, with 52% saying they were 'very concerned'. In the same survey, 73% felt Britain was already feeling the effects of climate change and 55% felt the UK should bring all emissions to net zero before the UK government's 2050 target.
- 3.3 However, despite significant awareness and support for some action, there remain barriers to substantive behaviour change by citizens as a scale necessary to meaningfully tackle the climate emergency. This may be down to awareness and an understanding or appreciation for the way in which individual small actions

undertaken by significant numbers of people can have a meaningful impact on the planet's climate.

- 3.4 Therefore, the Council has two broad areas of interest in relation to engagement – how it best approaches changing its own activity in the context of growing support for action; and how it motivates action from citizens and other stakeholders to change behaviour.
- 3.5 The creation of an Edinburgh Climate Commission offers a further opportunity to encourage, promote and pressure for action across different sectors. Alignment of Council engagement activity with the Commission will be essential; particularly around the consideration of future structures such as a citizen assembly or citizen jury. The Poverty Commission is having a similar discussion in respect of 'lived experience' and a Poverty Commission legacy. The Poverty Commission will publish their final recommendations in the spring when the Climate Commission will be embedded. It is recommended that following debate at the 25 October meeting Cllrs agree to a review of engagement options being brought forward in the spring. This will also allow the Council to take stock of the Scottish Government and other cities experience of these processes as a meaningful way of engaging around climate action.

## 4. Main report

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### The Climate Commission

- 4.1 The annex to this report provides a full draft terms of reference for consideration by the Committee. The terms of reference cover the scope of the Commission activity, its operating principles, role of the chair, membership and governance. They have been drawn up jointly by officers from ECCI and from the Council with input from the All Party Oversight Group on Sustainability and Climate Emergency.

### Climate Engagement

- 4.2 This report sets out two phases of engagement on sustainability, which are:
- **Phase one:** scoping, awareness raising, and development of a multi-year engagement programme. This phase to run until the end of the financial year 2019/20.
  - **Phase two:** delivery of the multi-year engagement programme, with the balance of engagement activity agreed with the Climate Commission. This phase to run from April 2020, with continuation and adaptation of successful project elements used in phase one.

### Phase One

- 4.3 Scottish Government's 2018 [Climate Change Plan](#) identified ten key behaviour change areas for individuals which address most of the carbon emissions that are within the ability of individuals to control. Those ten areas are:

- Keep heat in, by minimising heat loss with insulation, etc.
- Better heating management
- Reduce electricity use
- Install more efficient heating systems or generating heat locally through biomass, heat pumps, solar, etc.
- Become less reliant on private cars through active travel or taking buses
- Drive more efficiently by swapping to electric or hybrid vehicles
- Use alternatives to flying where possible
- Avoid food waste
- Eat a healthy and sustainable diet
- Reduce and reuse in addition to current recycling efforts

4.4 The Council's phase one engagement will concentrate on discussion relevant to the Climate Change Plan's behaviour change areas to:

- Contribute to raise awareness of these activities and promote understanding of their relative importance and impact
- Determine the level of support for each of these activities in Edinburgh today;
- Encourage citizens to discuss these areas and take independent action; and
- Socialise these issues through communications which emphasise: ordinary people who have successfully made changes to their lives for a range of benefits, including sustainability; and individuals who are considering making a change in relation to one of the ten behaviours but are unsure how to begin.

4.5 These objectives will be delivered through the use of four main approaches: an online discussion forum; a video, podcast and social media campaign; an online survey and preparation and engagement activity to support a youth summit and a city conference on sustainability and climate change.

4.6 In addition to these activities aimed at citizens in general, a series of six stakeholder workshops will be conducted by the end of the year.

#### **City Climate Conference and Youth Summit**

4.7 We will be hosting an Edinburgh Climate Conference and separate Youth Summit to bring key partners and stakeholders together to consider the challenges of climate change facing the city of Edinburgh. These events were originally planned for the middle of December but with an election taking place on the 12 December it was decided to move these events to the New Year.

4.8 The Youth Summit will aim to engage with and hear from young people across the city about what matters to them in addressing climate change for the future. Internal planning has begun and communication with schools has already gone out.

- 4.9 The City Climate Conference, as well as being an opportunity to engage with the city on climate action will also act as a platform for the launch of the Edinburgh Climate Commission and can be helpfully linked to the year of COP26 in Scotland.
- 4.10 These events will be run in partnership with Edinburgh Carbon Centre for Innovation, Climate-KIC, Edinburgh Science Festival, Youth Scotland, Society of Sustainable Development and DemSoc. Officers will also explore collaboration with Scottish Government.

#### **Online discussion forum**

- 4.11 In a marketing climate that relies on social media to gain recognition, online discussion forums have proven to be an effective method for businesses and groups. Since the dawn of the Internet, forums have been an incredible social channel that has had a tremendous effect on online society and has become commonplace. The popularity of online forums engages communities in specific topics that is open for discussion. (The Social Media Monthly, 2016)
- 4.12 Through the use of 'Dialogue', we will host an online discussion forum enabling citizens to have a conversation about climate change, allowing us to determine the level of support for ideas and activities and encouraging citizens to take independent action. We will use the ten behaviours as initial topic points to facilitate discussion. This will also promote and respond to agency and activism amongst individuals and organisations.
- 4.13 Dialogue, provided by Delib, gives public bodies a transparent and engaging way to involve citizens and stakeholders in their decisions, through:
- Constructive conversations with citizens.
  - Generates ideas which are valuable and actionable.
  - Easy and rewarding for participants to use.
- 4.14 We will launch Dialogue by the start of December 2019 and continue to host discussions going forward.

#### **Video, podcast and social media campaign**

- 4.15 Two of the main obstacles to behaviour change are habit and social expectation. Behaviours are entrenched through repeated daily activity, and are strengthened by what individuals see others doing – in their family, in their community, on television, etc. Changing behaviours in the long term requires old habits to be broken and new habits to be formed in their place. Rather than impose a top-down pressure, the Council is proposing to co-opt citizens to convey friendly and supportive messages that people can change and that change has many benefits.
- 4.16 Using the ten behaviours as a guide, the Council will create a series of short, shareable videos and longer form podcasts in which ordinary Edinburgh residents demonstrate how they have made simple changes to their lives which deliver a range of benefits, including contributing to sustainability. Through these examples, the Council will attempt to socialise and normalise sustainable behaviour, allowing

other residents to more easily see themselves making changes to their own lifestyle in a way that is approved and expected by other Edinburgh residents – providing both the permission to change and pressure to change.

- 4.17 The Council will commission a production company using an existing council procurement framework and will source participants for video and podcast formats from stakeholder networks – seeking to balance participants who are “advanced” and “beginner” on their sustainability journey.
- 4.18 We plan to promote our videos and podcasts through Council social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. These campaigns will direct citizens to our online survey and discussion forum where they will be able to take part in Edinburgh Talks Climate Change. We will also make use of these audio clips on our online discussion forum, Dialogue, to facilitate conversation around climate change.

### Online survey

- 4.19 The Council will run a public online survey which aims to understand citizens knowledge of climate change and their attitudes towards climate action.
- 4.20 Results will help shape the focus of the Phase two engagement programme and ultimately feed into a citywide plan with the Climate Commission to tackle climate change and understand the views of the public.
- 4.21 The survey was launched on 19 November 2019 and will run into the new year as a tool for city discussion. However, a report will be produced of emerging findings at the end of December. The survey will be conducted in-house.

### Stakeholder workshops

- 4.22 The below table provides a summary of planned workshops. Please note, dates might be subject to change.

Event	Date	Description	Stakeholder group	Responsible Partner
Festival Venues Workshop	Dec	To bring together Edinburgh festival communities and identify key areas for reducing their carbon impact with their key venue partners to identify opportunities for improvement.	Key stakeholders from festivals and venues	Festivals Edinburgh, CEC, University of Edinburgh.
Carbon modelling Workshop	29 Nov	To bring together data experts to stress test the carbon modelling research	Academic Scottish Government Council	ECCI
Housing Workshop	Q1 2020	To bring together key stakeholders and partners to consider how Edinburgh’s affordable accommodation	Construction industry; supply chain; housing	ECCI, Construction Scotland, Innovation Centre

		commitments and the LDP can be delivered in a low carbon and low cost framework.	associations and investors	Institute for Sustainable Construction.
Adaptation Workshop	Q1 2020	To bring key stakeholders together to explore what it would take in practical terms and by way of innovation to protect the historic aspects of the city of Edinburgh from climate change.	City stakeholders and partners	ECCI, Edinburgh World Heritage, Adaptation Scotland.
Circular Economy Workshop	28 November 2019	To bring key stakeholders together to focus on the opportunities in Edinburgh to radically enhance the city approach to reduce and reuse waste so that Edinburgh becomes a leading circular economy in Europe	City stakeholders and partners	CEC, Zero Waste and Chamber of Commerce Resource Futures.
City Energy Workshop	Q1	To bring key stakeholders and partners together to explore the Challenge of progressing with significant levels of retrofit in a historic, tenemental, mixed tenure landscape. Seeking out technical challenges and innovations that would help and the financial and investment opportunities that would support change.  Opportunities for shared community investment, in particular, around PV.	City stakeholders and partners.  Targeting finance, commercial, construction and supply chain partners.	ECCI / CEC, Climate KIC, Sustainable supply chain, University of Edinburgh, Construction Scotland, Innovation Centre.
Transport Workshop	Q1	To bring key transport partners and investors together to consider ways in which the CCT Plan could be delivered faster and where it might be possible to go further in terms of city mobility. Also bring in health perspective, both air pollution and active travel.	City stakeholders. Targeting transport stakeholders, finance and investors	CCT team at CEC Transport Research Institute
Elected Members workshop	27 November And in Q1	To bring together key partners who led the city workshops to engage with Elected Members about the output and learning from the sessions. Hear views from Elected Members and consider how this intelligence can be best-used to support citywide collaboration.	Workshop leaders / Elected Members  Targeting: To be promoted to all Councillors	CEC / workshop partners organisations

## Phase Two

- 4.23 Evidence collected from phase one engagement activities will be used to inform phase two engagement programme. The online survey results will be used to prioritise actions and outputs from Dialogue discussions will identify projects which can be developed and taken forward into phase two.

- 4.24 The balance of engagement activity will be agreed and responsibilities shared with the Edinburgh Climate Commission, whilst information being shared with the ECCI.
- 4.25 The engagement programme will align to the Council's key projects in terms of public engagement, consultation and delivery. This includes poverty, wellbeing, city centre transformation and city vision 2050.
- 4.26 This phase will run from Jan 2020, with continuation and adaptation of successful project elements used in phase one. For instance, continuing our videos and podcasts through council social media channels and the discussion forum through Dialogue will be key in phase two. Campaigns will continue to encourage discussion, raise awareness, educate and inform citizens, and promote and respond to activism.
- 4.27 Phase two will also be used as a space to develop on ideas for innovation and actively educate and encourage carbon reduction and long-term behaviour change.
- 4.28 Additional engagement activities will also be considered.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The Committee is asked to consider and endorse the terms of reference.
- 5.2 Continue to implement phase one engagement activity which aims to positively feed into the Edinburgh Climate Commission and the Council's future engagement programme.
- 5.3 Decisions regarding phase two engagement programme will be agreed with the Edinburgh Climate Commission which will be launched in the New Year at the City Climate Conference.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There is no financial impact for the Council in respect of the Commission.
- 6.2 The costs of the climate engagement plan in 2019 are being met out of the deep demonstrator programme and strategy and communications staff resources.
- 6.3 Costs related to 2020 need to be considered in light of the outcome of future funding decisions to be taken by Climate KIC and dependent upon Brexit.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 The Chair of the Commission will be supported to conduct an IIA before appointing any members. Specific consideration will be given to appropriate and inclusive means of engaging with communities and civil society.



- 7.2 The council is exploring ways to maximise community engagement opportunities with the support of Dem Soc and the deep demonstrator programme and discussions are underway to deliver a joint poverty and climate commission session to give particular focus to just transitions.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 [Achieving Net-Zero in the City of Edinburgh](#) to Policy and Sustainability Committee on 25 October 2019.
- 8.2 [Climate Commission](#) to Policy and Sustainability Committee on 25 October 2019.

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Edinburgh Climate Commission

# Edinburgh Climate Commission

## Terms of Reference

### 1. Background and Context

As the effects of climate change become increasingly apparent in places across the world, governments at all levels are developing plans to reduce emissions. The Scottish Government Committee on Climate Change has set a national target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, in line with the IPCC recommendation that warming does not exceed 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

In addition to this national target, The City of Edinburgh Council has set its own ambition for the city to be net zero by 2030. This ambitious target is both a challenge and an opportunity. Significant challenges will need to be tackled including the decarbonisation of key sectors such as energy, transport and construction at the same time as stimulating action towards improving the overall health, wellbeing and prosperity of the City and its citizens.

It is clear from the scale of change required, that a carbon neutral city cannot be delivered by the local authority alone. With this in mind, the Edinburgh Climate Commission will provide independent active leadership and support for cross-sector collaboration and action on climate change. This Commission will leverage expertise from across the Edinburgh in order to engage and inspire the city into collective ownership and a shared commitment to becoming carbon neutral.

The Edinburgh Climate Commission is being established by the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI) which is part of the University of Edinburgh, in collaboration with the City of Edinburgh Council.

### 2. Vision

The Commission will support and encourage the City of Edinburgh in achieving the transformative change needed to ensure the 2030 carbon target is realised, engaging and collaborating with citizens as well as the private and public sectors to take climate action.

The Commission will work within the strategic vision of the city to:

- Be a place where citizens live in fair and sustainable communities and feel empowered to be at the heart of decision making.
- Be a place with resilient and empowered communities, reducing poverty and inequality in all its forms

- Be clean, connected and healthy, promoting active travel and a socially inclusive transport network
- Develop a low carbon, circular economy
- Be resilient to climate change
- Increase sustainable energy production
- Support fair and responsible business practices
- Protect and improve the City biodiversity and network of parks and greenspaces.

### **3. Principles**

The Commission will:

- Be independent in thought and action
- Embed a collaborative approach to problem-solving
- Be open to all best practice, initiatives or proposed solutions that are realistic and deliverable
- Share information and documentation openly, meeting in public where possible
- Look positively at innovative and radical proposals for change in keeping with a climate emergency
- Commit to positively promote, support and encourage city action on climate change especially within Commissioners own organisations
- Be respectful and inclusive

### **4. Scope**

- To promote leadership in the city on climate change, encouraging and supporting stakeholders to take action, while encouraging planning for the long-term.
- To inform and advise on the development of a City Sustainability Strategy to deliver the Carbon Neutral city target by 2030
- To provide independent and expert advice on the most effective steps for meeting reduction targets in order to inform policies and actions of commission members and local stakeholders and decision-makers.
- To monitor and report on progress towards meeting the city's carbon targets and recommend actions to keep city on track.
- To help build and support the economic case for project development and investment in low carbon and climate resilient projects in the city, supporting collaboration and business case development and project implementation

- To embed best practice in public engagement on climate change and its impacts, in order to support robust decision making
- To support the exchange of ideas, research findings, info and best practice on carbon reduction and climate resilience
- To promote exchange of best practice with other cities.

## **5. Membership (Chair and Members)**

### **a) Appointment of the Chair**

The Role of the Chair has been defined as:

- To provide independent leadership of the Climate Commission and champion Climate Action and the views of the Commission to key partners, stakeholders and the media
- To chair meetings of the Commission.
- To ensure development and completion of the Commission's deliverables once agreed
- To take decisions about the work of the Commission between Commission meetings.
- To promote the work of the Commission: in this role the Chair will be supported by and responsible to all Members.
- To sign off all Commission publications

The identification of an appropriate independent chair is delegated to the Council Leader and will be informed by the City of Edinburgh Council's Sustainability and Climate Emergency All Party Oversight Group. The chair's identification and appointment will be undertaken with the support of the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation.

The Council Leader will act as Vice Chair to the Commission, with the Chief Executive of the Council attending as Chair of the CEC Sustainability Programme Board.

The Chair can serve a two year term that can be renewed for a maximum of a further two years. The Chair should give three months' notice before resigning the position, and support succession planning for a new Chair during the final six months in post. At the end of the Chair's term, the Commission will select a new Chair through an appropriate selection process.

### **b) Appointment of members of the Commission**

The identification of Commission members will be delegated to the Chair of the Commission, who will be supported by the Vice Chair and the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation.

Membership of the Commission is open to individuals representing key organisations from public, private and civic sectors. The balance of membership should reflect the need for cross-city representation, from the private, public and third sectors, and community and youth groups and with cognisance to gender balance.

Prior to appointment, members must ensure that:

- If relevant, their participation has been authorised at Chief Executive level by their organisation
- They can demonstrate suitable expertise, knowledge, leadership and skills to contribute meaningfully to the Commission objectives
- They can commit required amount of time and be able to attend necessary meetings.
- Commit to positively promote, support and encourage city action on climate change especially within their own organisations and sector

Membership will be reviewed periodically based on attendance, contributions and ability to secure backing of organisation/sector. Members of the Commission will serve a two year term with the possibility of renewing membership for a further two years.

## **6. Governance**

The Edinburgh Climate Commission will operate as an independent advisory body. The Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation will provide secretariat support, including liaising with committee members, setting the agenda for each meeting, providing content and input, administration support for minute taking and communications.

In order to ensure accountability and scrutiny of the work of the Commission and an opportunity to report the progress that is being made by all sectors and partners towards the city's carbon reduction target, Edinburgh Climate Commission will report progress on an annual basis to the City of Edinburgh Council and other city wide fora, as appropriate.

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