

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 3 August 2021

2030 Climate Strategy – consultation and engagement update

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

Executive

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Sustainability Committee:
- 1.2 Note the actions in the draft 2030 Climate Strategy reflect involvement and commitment from key city partners and that the consultation period is being used to broaden and deepen this commitment in the development of an implementation plan, and to understand the role city partners can play in supporting a just transition to net zero.
- 1.3 Note the early headline findings from the public consultation on the draft 2030 Climate Strategy and that a full report on consultation findings will be presented with the final strategy in October 2021.
- 1.4 Note the programme of events being delivered during the public consultation period, and that they will help gather intelligence to inform our approach to a just transition within the final 2030 Climate Strategy and implementation plan.
- 1.5 Note the contribution the headline messages from the Climate Commission on the draft 2030 Climate Strategy and agree to address these within the final document.
- 1.6 Note that the Council will continue to work closely with the Climate Commission, taking account of the Commission's more detailed consultation response in the final 2030 Climate Strategy and implementation plan.

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2030 Climate Strategy – consultation and engagement update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 [Public Consultation](#) on the draft 2030 Climate Strategy commenced on Monday 14 June and will run until 12 September 2021. It is aligned with activity in the lead up to, and following on from, COP26.
- 2.2 Engagement and consultation on the draft 2030 Climate Strategy are being centred around how the Council and the wider city can meaningfully act and support individual, community and organisational behavioural changes necessary to address climate change and support a just transition to net zero.
- 2.3 The draft 2030 Climate Strategy has been developed with close engagement with key city partners' – public, private and third sector organisations across all sectors who can have an impact on the city's emissions by reducing their own footprints or collaborating to unlock change. It includes actions and commitments from city partners that contribute to delivering the draft 2030 Climate Strategy.
- 2.4 In addition to gathering views through the online public consultation on the draft strategy, consultation over the summer is focussed on engaging city partners. Engagement is to strengthen the strategy's actions and commitments to develop an implementation plan to be co-delivered across the city partners. As such, successful consultation on the draft 2030 Climate Strategy will be measured by the range and depth of interaction with partners through engagement events, as well as responses to the online public consultation.
- 2.5 As part of this engagement, the Edinburgh Climate Commission is appearing at Committee to provide an update on its activity and to provide early comment and high-level views on the draft 2030 Climate Strategy.
- 2.6 The Climate Commission has been supportive and engaged with the Council as the draft 2030 Climate Strategy was developed. The Council will continue to draw on the Commission's independent expertise and skills as it finalises the 2030 Climate Strategy and implementation plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The [June 2021 Policy and Sustainability Committee](#) agreed to the publication of a draft 2030 Climate Strategy for public consultation. Consultation commenced on Monday 14 June 2021 and is running for 12 weeks until Monday 12 September 2021.
- 3.2 A substantial programme of engagement was undertaken as part of the development of the draft 2030 Climate Strategy. Appendix B provides more detail with relevant aspects highlighted below.
- 3.3 Prior to public consultation, public engagement took place through a number of channels under the label 'Edinburgh Talks Climate'. This engagement programme aligned itself to the Council's key projects including poverty, wellbeing, City Centre Transformation and City Vision 2050. Engagement was undertaken through a range of methods, including surveys, online engagement, events and workshops.
- 3.4 Sessions were held with city partners (public, private and third sector organisations who can have an impact on the city's emissions by reducing their own footprints or collaborating to unlock change) and key stakeholders. Discussions focussed on the key action areas outlined in the draft 2030 Climate Strategy including net zero development and growth, low carbon economy, transport, city energy and adaptation. Engagement with city partners is continuing throughout the public consultation period to inform the final 2030 Climate Strategy and implementation plan.
- 3.5 In addition, early drafts of the strategy were shared with the Edinburgh Climate Commission who provided initial feedback. Edinburgh Climate Commission has a remit to provide independent constructive challenge and expertise to influence and support city climate action to help accelerate the city's progress towards net zero.

4. Main Report

- 4.1 While the Council has led the development of draft 2030 Climate Strategy, it is a strategy for the city, requiring action by key city partners. The draft 2030 Climate Strategy includes commitments from many city partners as a result of a comprehensive programme of pre-engagement undertaken during the draft 2030 Climate Strategy's development. During the consultation period, these commitments are being more fully scoped to inform the final 2030 Climate Strategy and implementation plan.
- 4.2 [Public consultation](#) on the draft 2030 Climate Strategy (via the Consultation Hub online survey) opened on Monday 14th June 2021 and will run for 12 weeks until Monday 12 September 2021. Consultation is informing revisions to the 2030 Climate Strategy as well as an implementation plan, all of which will be reported to Committee in October 2021.

- 4.3 The draft 2030 Climate Strategy is a 10 year strategic approach for how the city will collaborate at scale to deliver our net zero target. While it is being promoted to all residents and partners in the city, its main focus is on those partners who will contribute or be directly impacted by the plan's 52 actions. Although a number of recent consultations by the Council have had responses in the thousands, we would expect the nature and audience for this strategy to be much smaller. By way of comparison, consultations of similar scope and focus held by Scottish Government generated an average of around 260 public responses, including a mix of individual responses from members of the public but often largely from groups and organisations.¹
- 4.4 All practicable steps have been taken to promote the consultation survey and ensure the strategy is drafted in an accessible style. This is being augmented by open public engagement sessions and targeted roundtables. Officers are also engaging with key delivery partners on a 1:1 basis, with a particular focus on developing actions for joint partnership delivery.
- 4.5 The 2030 Climate Strategy engagement analysis will measure the range and depth of interaction with partners through these engagement events and bi-lateral discussions, as well as responses to the online public consultation survey.
- 4.6 The comprehensive range of activities being used to raise awareness of the draft 2030 Climate Strategy and encourage citizens and partners to have their say in how we secure a just transition to net zero is highlighted below.
- 4.3.1 **Launch of the consultation** survey on the Consultation Hub.
- 4.3.2 **Publicity to raise awareness of the consultation**, including press releases, briefings to local and national media, social media promotion through Council and supportive partner social media channels.
- 4.3.3 **Notification to third sector, community and city partner groups and individuals** informing them of the consultation and encouraging promotion through their networks.
- 4.3.4 **Online public events for third sector, community, and community council partners** giving the opportunity to find out more about the consultation proposals. Due to Covid-19 restrictions in place engagement activities such as drop in sessions and staffed exhibitions in public places such as libraries and shopping centres are not being undertaken, and online drop-in events are being used instead.
- 4.3.5 **Online public drop in events**: providing an opportunity for attendees to speak directly to members of the team about the draft 2030 Climate Strategy.

¹ Average response numbers based on consultation analysis from Scottish Government. Including; National Planning framework (NPF4) (2020) - 251 responses with a mix of individuals and organisations; Just Transition consultation (2020): 274 responses (no breakdown given); Cleaner air for Scotland review (2020) – 87 non-campaign (i.e. individual responses) and 907 campaign. Climate Change Bill (2018) - 273 individual responses and 19,092 campaign. Campaign responses are standard pro-forma submissions drafted and funded by (often national) organisations as part of a campaign.

- 4.3.6 **Supportive events through the Edinburgh Climate Commission** raising awareness of the draft 2030 Climate Strategy and to elicit constructive feedback and responses
- 4.3.7 **Supportive events through the Chamber of Commerce:** The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce will run a series of events over the summer for their members on key areas of the draft 2030 Climate Strategy, aimed at raising awareness and eliciting feedback from members of the business community.
- 4.3.8 **A series of targeted workshops key city partners** to discuss and strengthen shared action and implementation of them (including health and social care, schools and colleges, academics, skills and finance sectors).
- 4.3.9 **Internal engagement with** Council colleagues through the Wider Leadership Team, managers networks, colleague networks, climate lunch and learns and newsletters.
- 4.7 The emphasis of the consultation on the draft 2030 Climate Strategy is on setting out the proposals and actions for how the city will prepare for the effects of climate change and lay out a path for how Edinburgh will meet its target of net zero emissions by 2030.
- 4.8 The consultation process aims to both strengthen commitments from city partners and give the public an opportunity to provide its views on how the city meets its 2030 target and secures a just transition to net zero.
- 4.9 The following table sets out summary issues from the consultation (primarily from online survey feedback). It should be noted that these are initial responses to give a sense of the type of feedback received and is not comprehensive analysis. Full analysis of responses received through the consultation process is ongoing and will be fully reported to committee in October 2021.

Strategy area	Summary issues
Engaging and empowering citizens to tackle climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about impact on people’s way of life and choices and concerns about inequality, especially in relation to who is responsible for greatest of emissions and who has the powers to create change. - Asks for information, education and guidance to be available to help people make the right choices and access support. - Calls for greater enforcement to support net zero change, alongside enabling measures (i.e. joined- up infrastructure, congestion charge, travel subsidies) - Citizen representation sought. Including enhancing residents’ influence in decision making, empowerment of local communities especially in deprived areas, and working with local volunteers with relevant skills and experiences.

Strategy area	Summary issues
Net zero climate resilient development and growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for protection of nature and existing greenspaces (including public parks and residents' gardens), as well as creation of more greenspace across the city. - Challenges identified in meeting future housing demand while ensuring it is net zero and achievable - Identified local community and resident led actions that support sustainable development (e.g. youth activists in wildlife conservation and climate justice). - Pride in Edinburgh's wildlife and greenspaces and strong desire to protect it.
Net zero energy generation and energy efficient buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calls for clear regulation and controls over measures to heat new and existing buildings. Range of feedback demonstrates how complex this task is. - Challenge around solutions for older buildings highlighted. - Cost of actions and how they will be delivered raised. Affordability for individuals raised and queries about what actions homeowners are best to spend money on. - Concerns at the pace of change required to meet net zero and how far the city has to go. - Desire for greater use of solar PV and issues raised about people finding regulation/design constrains limiting in some areas of the City.
Net zero emission transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for reducing car use (including charging, benefits of active travel and the need for high quality cycling infrastructure, and support for improvement to public transport). - Issues raised about the need for EV actions to be integrated with wider transport strategy to manage congestion. Access to EV charging points raised - Concerns about public transport affordability as well as the need to ensure equal access for all residents across the city. - Issues about how well active travel and public transport meets complex trip needs (especially in comparison to private cars).
Business and skills in a net zero Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about impact of net zero economy on access to affordable good services, and impact on Edinburgh's economy if living and business costs increase. - Support for skills, training, green job proposals, as well as working with SMEs to support transition. - Concern at scale of change needed and 2030 being too far away and desire to see faster action.
Investing in change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern about impacts of alternative funding sources (eg. Impact on pension funds) and risks of private partnership models.

Strategy area	Summary issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interest in how models could provide opportunities and benefits for residents as investors - Questions about how new models would work, especially with reliance on city partners and central government.
Offsetting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about how well it really meets net zero ambition, and that it enables avoidance of responsibility for emissions. - Support for regional/national and coordinated models of offsetting. With benefits cited as achieving consistency and encouraging business to think more about emissions impacts. - Support for offsetting to be short/fixed term and to ensure high quality offsetting projects are used. - Issues raised about ensuring any offsetting fund is careful about who benefits, where the funding comes from, and is not at the expense of emission reduction action.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Informed by public consultation and engagement, a final 2030 Climate Strategy and implementation plan will be brought for committee consideration in October 2021.
- 5.2 Officers are continuing with work closely with the commission, taking into account its advice and drawing on expertise for the final 2030 Climate Strategy and implementation plan.
- 5.3 Similarly, city partners are working together throughout the consultation period to further develop the commitments for net zero action and developing more detail to be provided in the implementation plan.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 Funding for engagement has been made available through the May 2021 Council Budget decisions and is supporting the consultation and engagement process for the 2030 Climate Strategy.
- 6.3 An initial cost analysis will be brought to Committee alongside a final 2030 Climate Strategy in October 2021.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The draft 2030 Climate Strategy sets out an approach for engaging and empowering all citizens to help tackle climate change. This will remain a core aspect of the final 2030 Climate Strategy and its implementation.
- 7.2 This report covers stakeholder and public consultation in support of the net zero strategy, with further detail provided in the appendices.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Draft 2030 Climate Strategy, [Consultation details](#)
- 8.2 [2030 Climate Strategy – Draft for Consultation](#), City of Edinburgh Council, 2021

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix A – Engagement activity undertaken as part of draft 2030 Climate Strategy development
- 9.2 Appendix B – Appendix 2 – draft 2030 Climate Strategy Consultation - engagement activity

Appendix A – Engagement activity undertaken as part of draft 2030 Climate Strategy development

1. The Council began its city engagement process on climate change with the Edinburgh Talks Climate survey in November 2019. It was clear that those proactively responding to Edinburgh Talks Climate survey tended to be citizens with good knowledge and a relatively strong commitment to climate action. Therefore, to get a fuller picture of the views of all citizens, a number of additional engagement activities also took place. These focused on a range of strategic actions, across the following priority areas:
 - Engaging and Empowering Citizens to tackle climate change
 - Net Zero, Climate Resilient Development and Growth
 - Net Zero Heat and Energy and Energy Efficient Buildings
 - Net Zero Emissions Transport
 - Business and Skills in a Net Zero Economy
 - Investing in Change
2. Engagement has also included specific focus groups on:
 - A Secondary School Youth Summit in February 2020
 - Tenant engagement survey
 - Edinburgh Talks Climate: Dialogue website
 - Civil society events
 - Topic stakeholder and city partner discussion events
 - Engagement with Community Councils, Edinburgh Climate Commission and Transition Edinburgh
 - Use of social media to build awareness and interest in the project

Early engagement (up to May 2021)

3. Phase 1 of citizen engagement began in November 2019 with **Edinburgh Talks Climate**, a survey of citizens views and attitudes to climate action. This was an online consultation run through the Council's Consultation Hub between November 2019 – April 2020, with the aim of understanding climate change and action.
4. The questionnaire was based on the approach taken by Leeds, developed with input from Leeds University, and feedback from our own partners at Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI). Interest was generated through network communications and targeted social media advertising designed to appeal to a broad set of attitudes.
5. Factors associated with the Coronavirus crisis curtailed the response rate towards the latter stages of the survey. Along with all other consultations run by the Council, the survey was suspended earlier than planned due to accessibility reasons.

6. In total, 1,834 people responded to the survey, with 81% of respondents, concerned about the effects of climate change on them personally and 95% were concerned about the effects of climate change on future generations.
7. It was clear that those proactively responding to Edinburgh Talks Climate survey tended to be citizens with good knowledge and a relatively strong commitment to climate action. Therefore, to get a fuller picture of the views of all citizens, a number of additional engagement activities also took place.

Tenant Climate Survey

8. 1,000 randomly selected Council tenants to state how much they agreed with four key statements which were also asked in the Edinburgh Talks Climate Survey.
9. While no more representative of Edinburgh as a whole than the Edinburgh Talks Climate public consultation, the tenant survey was carried out to provide the best sample of views from people from across the city, including those who are less engaged with sustainability and climate change issues, are less likely to hold activist views and more likely to be on low incomes.

Focus Groups

10. Attendees were recruited from across the social and demographic makeup of the city between December 2019 and January 2020. These sessions had a more widespread debate and discussion about climate change and climate action.
11. Respondents felt that climate change is a serious issue, however the question of whether and why to make the effort was raised, reflecting a perceived futility in individual action, which may be negated by a neighbour's unwillingness adopt similar actions or behaviours.

Secondary School Youth Summit

12. This was held in February 2020 and run in partnership with Scottish Youth Climate Strike and Scottish Youth Parliament. It was an opportunity for young people to share their concerns, issues and priorities on climate change.
13. The event was attended by 117 pupils from 8 secondary schools and focussed on areas where carbon emissions could be impacted: transport, housing, biodiversity, food and consumerism.

Edinburgh Talks Climate: Dialogue website

14. Launched in July 2020, the website aims to enable citizens to have a conversation about climate change, giving the council the chance to determine the level of support for ideas and activities and encouraging citizens to take independent action.
15. To date, the site has run seven debate topics, including: Public use of parks and greenspaces, sustainable food choices, home energy savings, cycling, ways of cutting

travel related carbon, climate change and young people in Edinburgh and the impact of climate change in the city.

Civil society events

16. Two events have been held with third sector communities and civil society groups, one in August 2020 and the second Jan 2021. The two events had around 90 participants in total, who highlighted some of the key challenges in faced by the city in transitioning to net zero and aimed at raising awareness of council action and areas of focus.

Topic stakeholder and city partner discussion events

17. Run in February and March 2021, these focussed on key action areas outlined in the draft 2030 Climate Strategy including net zero development and growth, low carbon economy, EV and transport, City energy and adaptation. These were attended by around 124 city partners representatives in total from a wide range of sectors and supported strategic discussions which enabled the inclusion of partner actions in the draft strategy.

Additional Engagement

18. Engagement with community councils, the Edinburgh Climate Commission and Transition Edinburgh has also been undertaken to support the development of the draft 2030 Climate Strategy.

Appendix B – draft 2030 Climate Strategy Consultation – engagement activity

1. The consultation process seeks to engage stakeholders and residents of the City of Edinburgh and the surrounding areas on the proposals to deliver a net zero, climate ready city by 2030.
2. A wide range of communication channels are being used to raise awareness of the consultation and inform consultees of the latest proposals. These include:
 - Completing the online questionnaire on the Council’s Consultation Hub
 - Attending one of the public drop-in events
 - Hard copy and translated copies of the consultation questionnaire available on request
 - Council internal systems such as the Orb and newsletters
 - Social media interaction via the Council’s Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Nextdoor accounts

June:

- Internal engagement with Council colleagues:
 - Wider Leadership Team presentation
 - Climate lunch and learn
- Session with Edinburgh Partnership Board
- Third sector roundtable
- Public drop in session
- Engagement with the Governance Hub

July:

- Internal engagement with Council colleagues:
 - Talk With Andrew
- Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce:
 - Roundtable Discussion: A path to returning to normal – opportunities and challenges for Edinburgh’s businesses
 - Roundtable event: The Circular Economy – a place for business to reduce, reuse and recycle in Edinburgh’s recovery
- Further public drop in session
- Workshop with Equality and Rights Network

August:

- Workshop with Public Health/ NHS/ IJB Partners
- Workshop with Registered Social Landlords
- Input to IJB Board
- Input to NHS Lothian Board
- Input to Edinburgh Climate Commission
- Further public drop in session

- Workshop with Community Councils
- Workshop with Scottish Enterprise
- Workshop with Council Trade Unions
- Workshop with Edinburgh Access Panel

September:

- Final public drop in session
- Edinburgh Partnership Board

In addition, the team is in discussion with internal and external partners to agree additional engagement activity with school management and head teachers, school pupils and academic partners. This will be planned in detail once the academic year begins at the end of August.