Glasgow City Council welcomes the publication of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan. The Council works closely with the Scottish Government and other partners through the Sustainable Glasgow Board to progress our shared aims for a low carbon and climate ready future.

Glasgow has a target for a 30% reduction in its carbon dioxide emissions, based on a 2006 baseline (which is equivalent to the Scottish Government’s 42% target, based on an earlier baseline). Latest data from the UK department BEIS shows that Glasgow had made a 27% reduction in its emissions by the end of the 2014 calendar year. This means that the city is 90% of its way towards the 2020 target and, whilst there is no room for complacency, this is relatively good news.

These reductions have been driven by less energy use in the domestic and industrial/commercial sectors. It is expected that these trends should continue, particularly with the reducing carbon intensity of electricity. Where it is acknowledged that there is room for further progress is in the transport sector. This has made relatively small improvements in its emissions and it will therefore increase its comparative share of total emissions as other sectors reduce more rapidly.

Glasgow’s key road map to a low carbon future is set out in its Energy & Carbon Masterplan, which states 33 actions to support this journey. The city is also mindful of the need to address the local impacts of global climate change and has worked with local partners and the Scottish Government to establish the Climate Ready Clyde adaptation partnership.

The Council welcomes the discussion in the Climate Change Plan on future reduction targets for Scotland’s emissions. Further consideration will be made in Glasgow about setting city reduction targets that align with national ambitions and which in turn can contribute to their delivery. The current trends for local and national emissions are cause for qualified optimism that the traditional trajectory of economic growth and increased carbon emissions can be de-coupled and that sustainable, low carbon growth can be a significant feature of Glasgow’s and Scotland’s future development.

Land and Environmental Services