

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)

Supplementary submission to Criminal Justice Committee (Pre Budget Scrutiny 2026-27) on SFRS carbon reductions.

November 2025

It is the aspiration of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to deliver a sustainable organisation that is fit for the future.

Over the past five years, the Service has been working to reduce emissions, which mainly come from its fleet of vehicles and heating buildings.

SFRS has been working through its Carbon Management Plan (CMP) for 2020-2025, which focused on three key areas; reducing energy waste, the installation of renewable energy generation and the removal of small-scale gas fuelled heating systems.

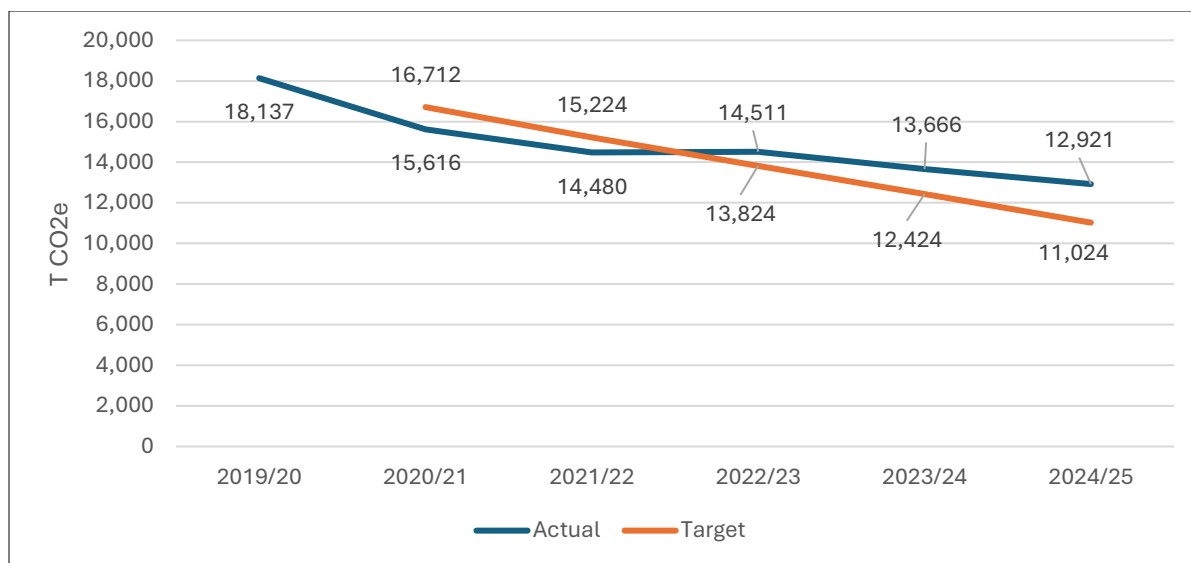
SFRS invested over £12 million in carbon reduction measures across our estate during the five-year period.

The CMP saw more than 400 projects delivered to make fire stations, office buildings and our workshops more energy efficient.

The completed work includes the installation of systems that control heating and solar panels, as well as upgrades to buildings including insulation and EV chargers.

The Carbon Management Plan 2020-25 was successful in reducing carbon by 4,784 TCO₂e during the 5-year period, a significant achievement but only 68% of our original reduction target of 7,000 tonnes.

Significant gains were made during years 1-3 when external funding was available, however the reductions slowed in years 4-5 as reduced grant funding, internal budgetary pressures and resourcing impacted the progress.



Future goals

SFRS is currently drafting the Carbon Management Plan for 2026-31.

This includes over 120 projects that will require an investment of more than £4.6 million to deliver.

Notably, the Service is exploring the possibility of installing a large-scale solar panel field at its Cambuslang site – a planning application will be required.

SFRS has one remaining oil boiler at its Invergordon Community Fire Station and Training Centre. This is to be replaced with electric heating.

Multiple sites will benefit from smart heating controls, new windows and doors, insulation, LED lighting and small-scale air sourced heat pumps.

SFRS will also continue to monitor, quantify and track the carbon footprint of purchased goods to record the impact of and align procurement decisions with the Service's net zero targets.

Fleet

SFRS currently has EV chargers in more than 140 sites to power more than 260 electric vehicles – the majority of which are pool cars.

Around a fifth of SFRS' light fleet are Ultra Low Emission Vehicles.

The SFRS Annual Performance Review Report for 2024/25 highlights that £1.4m was invested during the period to reduce emission output of 24 Light Weight Rescue Pumps.

Additionally, the light fleet was expanded with 11 Ford Ranger pick-ups / 9 Kia Niro EVs / 16 eVito panel vans / 4 eCitan small panel vans.

SFRS also acquired twenty electric cars to replace returned leased electric vehicles. Purchasing these vehicles outright represents best value as it eliminates ongoing leasing costs and allows for greater long-term savings and operational flexibility.

Response to climate related events

The Service has a dual commitment to reducing its own environmental footprint and protecting communities from the impacts of climate change, such as wildfires and flooding.

SFRS has enhanced its wildfire preparedness through expanded training, deployment of specialised equipment and the appointment of 14 Wildfire Tactical Advisors. £397,735 was invested during 2024/25 into delivering the Wildfire Strategy (PPE, equipment and vehicles) as part of a £1.725m investment commencing in 2022/23.

The Annual Performance Review Report for 2024/25 highlights that £35,000 has been invested in PPE for Flood First Responder Stations. This includes helmets and personal flotation devices to improve firefighter safety. An additional £30,000 was spent on the procurement of 200 life jackets to support water rescue operations.

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