



Scottish Parliamentary  
Corporate Body

# Sustainable Development Annual Report 2023 | 2024

Buidheann Chorporra  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Aithisg Àrainneachdail  
is Seasmhachd 2023 | 2024



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# Contents

## Clàr-innse



<b>Foreword</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Duty 1 / Dleastanas 1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Part 4 / Pàirt 4</b>	<b>61</b>
by Sustainable Development Board Chair		Climate Change Mitigation Lasachadh Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde		Environment Management System Sìostam Riaghlaidh na h-Àrainneachd	
<b>Facal toisich</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Duty 2 / Dleastanas 2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>Part 5 / Pàirt 5</b>	<b>64</b>
Ie Cathraiche Bòrd an Leasachaidh Sheasmhaich		Climate Change Adaptation Freagarrachadh mu choinneamh Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde		Validation A' Coimhead air Adhart	
<b>Part 1 / Pàirt 1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Duty 3 / Dleastanas 3</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Part 6 / Pàirt 6</b>	<b>66</b>
Background and Sustainable Development Duties Cùl-fhiosrachadh agus Leasachadh Seasmhach		Sustainability: Responsible Consumption of Goods and Services, Scrutiny, Biodiversity Seasmhachd: Caitheamh Stuth is Sheirbheisean gu ciallach, Sgrùdadh, Bith-iomadachd		Looking Forward A' Coimhead air Adhart	
<b>Part 2 / Pàirt 2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Part 3 / Pàirt 3</b>	<b>56</b>		
Meeting the Public Sector Sustainable Development Duties A' Coileanadh Dleastanasan Leasachadh Seasmhach na Roinne Poblach		Engagement and Embedding Sustainability Com-pàirteachadh agus a' Leabachadh Seasmhachd			



# Foreword

by Sustainable Development Board Chair



This year’s annual reporting period 2023-2024, sees the organisation pass the half-way mark of our sixth Parliamentary Session (2021-2026), commemorate the 25th year anniversary of the Scottish Parliament and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Scottish Parliament building.

This is an opportunity for us to pause and reflect on how far we have come over the years in terms of our environmental performance and embedding sustainable development across the organisation, whilst still recognising and respecting the challenges that still lie ahead. This report provides an outline of where we have progressed during 2023/2024 and includes the data to showing where our performance currently sits against our targets.

Considered within this report are the 3 public sector duties that are required under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. These duties are to reduce carbon emissions, to act sustainably and to adapt to a changing climate. This report outlines how we are meeting them.

For our reduction in emissions, we have achieved 67.5% reduction from 2005/06 baseline which means we are on track to meet our target of 66% by 2026, end of Session 6.

To ensure we expand our work to act sustainably, we continue to develop our processes around sustainability within our supply chain and management of goods and services as well as biodiversity and Sustainable Development Scrutiny.

A key part of our Sustainable Development Programme is to embed sustainable development thinking across the organisation which also aids in the support of the 3 duties. We have continued to promote training around Sustainable Development and have been actively engaging with our teams across the organisation, invigorating them to develop their own knowledge and behaviours in relation to acting more sustainably.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all those who have participated in the creation of this report covering 2023/2024. I hope you find our annual report both informative and interesting.



**Lynsey Hamill**  
Head of Sustainability  
and Resilience

# Facal toisich

le Cathraiche Bòrd an Leasachaidh Sheasmhaich



Tha àm aithris 2023-24 letheach slighe tron t-Seisean Pàrlamaid seo (2021-2026), agus sinn cuideachd a’ comharrachadh 25mh ceann-bliadhna na Phàrlamaid agus 20mh ceann-bliadhna togalach Pàrlamaid na h-Alba.

Seo cothrom dhuinn meòrachadh air cho mòr 's a bha an t-adhartas a rinn sinn thar nam bliadhnaichean a thaobh Leasachadh Seasmhach a stèidheachadh air feadh na buidhne, ach le sùil air na dùbhlain a tha fhathast romhainn. Tha an aithisg seo a’ mìneachadh na thachair ann an 2023-2024, a’ toirt a-steach an dàta a sheallas ar coileanadh aig an àm seo.

Beachdachaidh an aithisg air na 3 dleastanasan roinne phoblaich a tha gam mìneachadh ann an Achd Atharrachadh na Gnàth-shìde (Alba) 2009, sin, lùghdachadh eimiseanan carboin, obair gu seasmhach, agus freagradh ri atharrachadh gnàth-thìde, agus mar a tha sinn gan coileanadh.

A thaobh lùghdachadh eimiseanan, tha sinn air isleachadh 67.5% a choileanadh bho bhun-loidhne 2005/06 a tha a’ ciallachadh gu bheil sinn an dùil ar targaid de 66% airson deireadh Seisein 6 ann an 2026 a choileanadh.

Tha e na phrìomh phàirt den Phrògram Leasachadh Seasmhach againn a bhith a’ leabachadh leasachadh seasmhach air feadh na buidhne a tha cuideachd a’ cumail taic ris na trì dleastanasan. Tha sinn air cumail oirnn a bhith a’ brosnachadh trèanadh a thaobh Leasachadh Seasmhach agus tha sin air a bhith a’ conaltradh gu gnìomhach leis na sgiobaidhean againn air feadh na buidhne, gam brosnachadh gus eòlas agus dòighean-giùlain a thogail dhaibh fhèin gus a bhith nas seasmhaiche.

Tha sinn an-còmhnaidh a’ cur ri ar n-oidhirp a dh’ionnsaigh seasmhachd, a’ toirt a-steach beachdachadh air seasmhachd san t-sèine solair againn nar ceannach agus riaghladh bathar is sheirbheisean, Sgrùdadh Leasachadh Seasmhach agus bith-iomadachd.

Tha mi a’ toirt mo thaing don a h-uile duine a chuir ri cruthachadh na h-aithisge seo airson 2023/2024, agus tha mi an dòchas gum bi i inntinneach agus fiosrachail dhuibh.

**Lynsey Hamill**  
Ceannard Seasmhachd agus  
Foghainteachd

# Performance Overview

## Gèarr-chunntas air Dèanadas

(Financial Year 2023/24)



### Carbon Footprint

Target against 2005/06	Actual performance
62% reduction	67.5% reduction <b>1,424.52 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>



### Gas

Target against 2005/06	Actual performance
15% reduction	27.5% reduction 444.15 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e <b>2,427,984.14 kWh</b>



### Electricity

Target against 2005/06	Actual performance
40% reduction	42.8% reduction 782.13 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e <b>3,777,039.50 kWh</b>



### Business Travel

2016/17	Actual performance
276 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	28.8% reduction (from 2016/17) <b>187.54 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b> <b>1,287,899.79 km</b>

# Performance Overview

## Gèarr-chunntas air Dèanadas

(Financial Year 2023/24)



### Total Waste Arising

Target	Actual performance
Reduce by 15% from 2011 (as per Scottish Government Target)	81.3% reduction 1.3445 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e <b>74196.27 kg</b>



### Recycled and Composted Waste

Target	Actual performance
70% recycle rate	65% recycle rate 0.79 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e <b>48212.70 kg</b>



### General Waste

Target	Actual performance
Send no more than 5% of waste for incineration	30.37% sent for incineration 0.55 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e <b>25983.58 kg</b>



### Water

Target	Actual performance
14% from 2011/12	8.6% reduction 23,005 m <sup>3</sup> <b>8.46 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>



# Part 1

## Background and Sustainable Development Plan

A brief background to Sustainable Development, and what the Parliament’s role is in relation to it.

# Pàirt 1



## Cùl-fhiosrachadh agus Plana Leasachadh Seasmhach

Beagan fiosrachaidh mu Leasachadh Seasmhach, agus dleastanas na Pàrlamaid a thaobh sin.



**Living within environmental limits**

Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity - to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.



**Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society**

Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunity.

**Achieving a sustainable economy**

Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivized.

**Using sound science responsibly**

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

**Promoting good governance**

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy and diversity.



# Background and Sustainable Development Plan



Sustainable development (SD) is about how humanity can survive and thrive in the very long term. The most frequently quoted definition is from Our Common Future, also known as the Brundtland Report:

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The UK Shared Framework for Sustainable Development, shown on previous page, sets out five principles or conditions that must be followed and met for societal development to be sustainable.

The two principles on the top line; living within environmental limits and ensuring a strong, healthy, and just society, sets out the aims of sustainable development - a fair society living within environmental limits.

The three principles underneath are the necessary supporting conditions needed to develop fair and just societies.

The term ‘environmental limits’ refers to the extent to which Earth’s ecological systems can be disrupted before this becomes dangerous for humanity.

Inequality in society means that some people are not able to thrive, with strong evidence that more equal societies do better as a whole, and are more stable.

A sustainable economy would be an economic system which helps us all to meet our needs without breaching environmental limits. The sound science principle is about decision- and policy-making that are based on evidence. Good governance is about decision-making that is participatory, taking into account environmental limits, seeking to ensure that outcomes and impacts are fairly distributed.



# Our Sustainable Development Duties



The Scottish Parliament has statutory duties in relation to sustainable development. In 2009, the Scottish Parliament passed the Climate Change (Scotland) Act. This conferred 3 statutory duties on sustainable development upon all Scottish public bodies. These are:

*“44 (1) A public body must, in exercising its functions, act*

- 1. in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the [emissions reduction] targets set in or under Part 1 of this Act*
- 2. in the way best calculated to help deliver any [climate adaptation] programme laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 53*
- 3. in a way that it considers is most sustainable.”*

These duties were expanded by the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 which sets out that public bodies will be required to provide more information in their annual reports on targets to Net Zero and targets for reducing indirect emissions.



# Our Climate Change and Sustainable Development Plan

Our Climate Change and Sustainable Development Plan and vision is set out below.

**The Sustainable Development Programme supports staff in all roles across the Scottish Parliament to be empowered and enabled to respond effectively to the climate and nature emergencies. The Programme underpins delivery of the Parliament’s statutory duties on sustainable development.**

- The programme has 3 interrelated workstreams:
- Sustainable Operations
  - Sustainable Development Scrutiny
  - Embedding Sustainable Development





# Our Climate Change and Sustainable Development Plan



## Sustainable Operations

---

This workstream is all about reducing our environmental impact, carbon footprint and adapting to climate change. The objectives are:

- reduce our Carbon Emissions by 66% (based on 2005/06 levels) by the end of Session 6
- identify and explore SD opportunities and challenges presented by the upcoming election – look at the election through a Sustainable Development lens
- implement the climate change adaptation action plan
- oversee the Net Zero Programme (removing gas from the building)
- set a target and plan to reduce business travel emissions
- set an approach to circular economy or the Parliament’s operations
- to incorporate appropriate climate change mitigation, adaptation, and justice requirements into every stage of the procurement cycle

## Sustainable Development Scrutiny

---

This workstream considers how to support Members to adopt a sustainable development scrutiny lens when scrutinising policy and legislation as it passes through the Parliament. The objectives are:

- Deliver the 7 actions agreed by the Conveners Group Session 6 strategic priority on Net Zero to strengthen cross-cutting scrutiny of climate change and net zero.
- Undertake activities to support the development and delivery of a wider model for parliamentary scrutiny of climate change.

# Our Climate Change and Sustainable Development Plan



## Embedding Sustainable Development

This workstream looks at how we engage with internal and external stakeholders to embed sustainable thinking within the organisation, seek best practice from elsewhere and showcase our work on Sustainable Development. The objectives are:

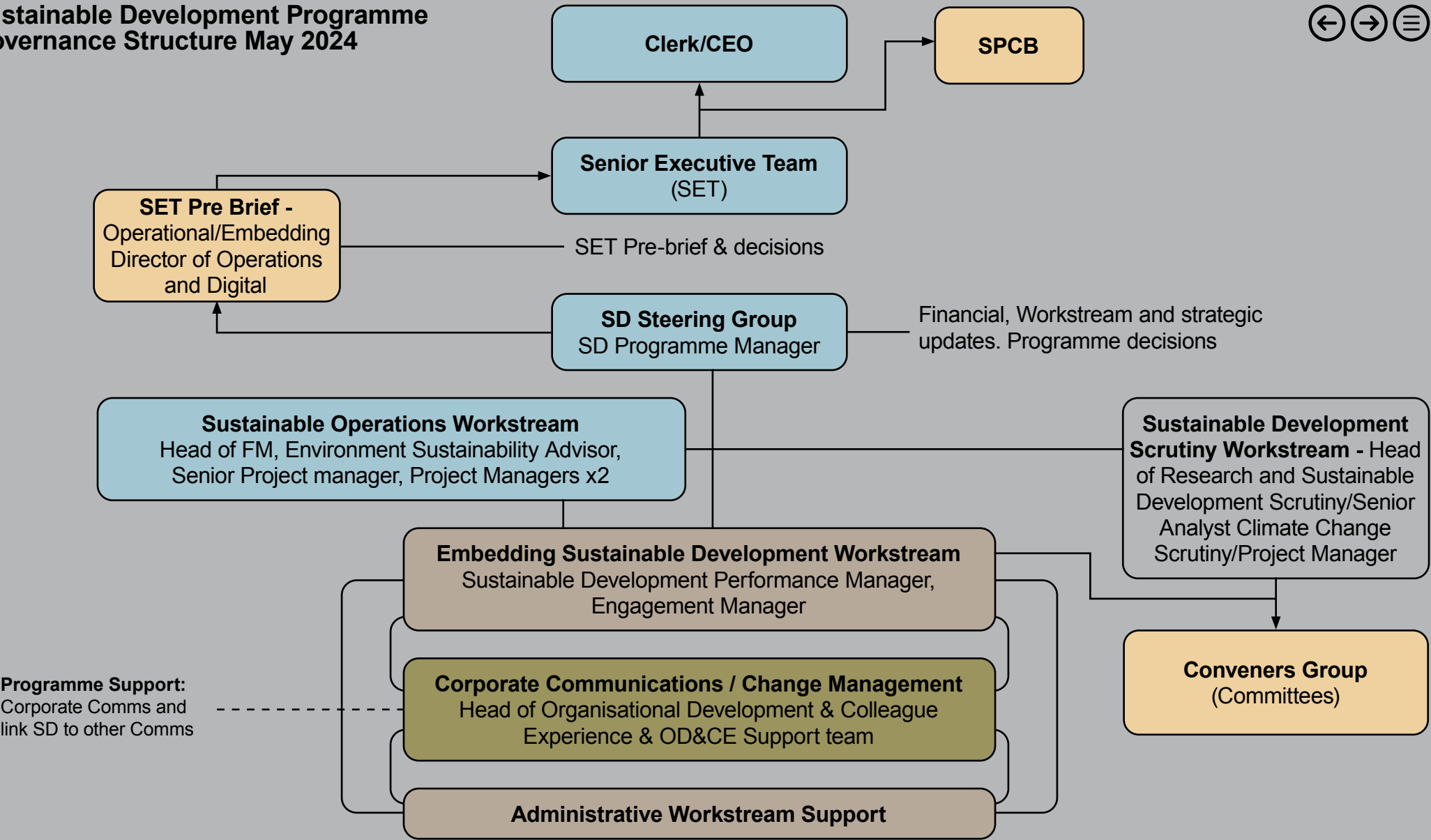
- maximise existing business activities (Festival of Politics, SPICe Seminar Series, Scotland's Futures Forum, Education programme) to drive influence, learning and understanding.
- build relationships with other Parliaments and public sector bodies to share approach and best practice.

- map Parliament's strategic goals to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), identifying the top priorities and ambition to embed SDG's into the organisation.
- develop a change management programme to engage and embed the targets and ambitions on climate change, scrutiny, engagement, and sustainable development within the organisation.
- develop a training programme to embed SD thinking into decision making.
- agree accountability, governance, reporting arrangements and resourcing options for this strategy and its delivery.

A programme structure has been introduced to deliver the objective and aims of the Sustainable Development Programme, headed by Lynsey Hamill as Senior Responsible Officer. A Programme Steering Group has been established to oversee the direction and key decisions of the programme, with the SRO as the Chair. Programme Manager, John Paterson, supports the Steering Group, working with workstream Project Managers, in the delivery of the programme's work.

The programme will provide the Parliament's senior executive team (SET) with regular programme updates against the agreed programme deliverables. Where required, the programme will seek key gateway decisions from the SPCB. This approach is in line with agreed corporate governance structures.

On the next page is a diagram showing the programme structure.



# Part 2

## Meeting the Public Sector Sustainable Development Duties

Public Sector Bodies must meet 3 duties outlined in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The next three sections outline what the Parliament is doing to achieve these Duties.

# Pàirt 2



## A’ Coileanadh Dleastanasan Leasachadh Seasmhach na Roinne Poblach

Feumaidh Buidhnean san Roinn Phoblach 3 dleastanasan a choileanadh a tha air am mìneachadh ann an Achd Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde (Alba) 2009. Tha na trì earrannan a leanas a’ mìneachadh na tha a’ Phàrlamaid a’ dèanamh gus na Dleastanasan seo a choileanadh.



# Duty 1 Dleastanas 1

## Climate Change Mitigation

This section explains what the Parliament has done to reduce emissions from its operations and how it is performing against its targets.

## Lasachadh Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde

Tha an earrann seo a’ mìneachadh na tha a’ Phàrlamaid air dèanamh gus sgaoilidhean bho a h-obair a lùghdachadh agus mar a tha i a’ coileanadh a rèir nan targaidean aice.



### Vision

---

The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body is striving to become a net zero emissions organisation, on the journey to this, during Session 6 the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body aims to become 'Net Zero Ready'.

**We will reduce  
carbon emissions  
from our 2005/06  
level by 66%  
by 2025/26**

# Climate Change Mitigation

## Lasachadh Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde



The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body is striving to become a leader as a zero emissions organisation. During Session 6, the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body aims to become 'Net Zero Ready' by fulfilling the following objectives set out within its Carbon Management Plan Session 6 Carbon Management Plan: Net Zero Ready:

- Set out the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body's carbon target for Session 6.
- Highlight projects and interventions that will be undertaken over Session 6 to reach these targets.

- Fulfil compliance to government legislation in setting targets and demonstrating how the SPCB is contributing to Scotland achieving its emissions reduction targets.
- Be in line with the Scottish Government's Climate Change reporting amendments, with this document providing information on how the SPCB will align its spending plans and use of resources in order to contribute to delivering its emissions reduction targets.
- Be a public document open to public scrutiny on our actions to reduce carbon.

**The Carbon Management Plan includes all scope 1 and 2 emissions, plus several scope 3 emissions - emissions from water, waste, and business travel.**

Most of the Parliament's carbon emissions result from the use of electricity and gas. As a result of this, The Carbon Management Plan 'Net Zero Ready' focuses heavily on reducing use of electricity and gas by improving control of equipment in the building, making heating and ventilation systems more responsive to our requirements, and investing in more energy efficient equipment.



# Carbon Footprint Measurement and Targets

## Tomhas agus targaidhean lorg carboin



We have seen a partial return to the building after several years of predominant working from home due to the Covid -19 pandemic. Emissions have risen as more energy in the building is now being used, but not the return to pre pandemic levels.

We have seen a return to business travel which impacts our overall carbon footprint, more on this on the business travel section.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely- used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scopes 1 and 2 cover direct emissions sources (e.g. fuel used in company vehicles and purchased electricity), whilst scope 3 emissions cover all indirect emissions due to the activities of an organisation. These include emissions from both suppliers and consumers.

Currently we only include scope 3 emissions from waste, water, and business travel in our carbon footprint target.

A breakdown of our carbon footprint emissions which are included in our target is shown in the diagram on page 20.



# 67.5%

**Total reduction achieved**

**Target:** To reduce our carbon footprint by 66% from the 2005/06 total by end of March 2026.

The Parliament's carbon footprint has reduced by 67.5% between 2005/06 and 2023/24.



# Carbon Footprint Measurement and Targets

## Tomhas agus targaidhean lorg carboin



### Scope 1

(direct emissions from owned or operated assets)

Fleet Vehicle	Gas	Diesel from Genetator	F-Gas
0.89 tonnes	444.15 tonnes	0 tonnes	0 tonnes

### Scope 2

(direct emissions from owned or operated assets)

Electricity
782.13 tonnes

### Scope 3

(all other indirect emissions)

Waste	Recycling	Water
0.55 tonnes	0.79 tonnes	8.40 tonnes

### Business travel total 187.54 tonnes

Air	Car	Taxi
99.41 tonnes	70.06 tonnes	0.91 tonnes
Rail	Bus	Ferry
15.65 tonnes	0.58 tonnes	0.92 tonnes

Details of how we are reducing emissions from different parts of the carbon footprint follow.

# Carbon Footprint Measurement and Targets

## Tomhas agus targaidhean lorg carboin



Details of how we are reducing emissions from different parts of the carbon footprint follow.

During 2023/24 we have delivered a number of projects aimed at reducing our energy consumption, including;

- Installed LED lighting in multiple areas around the building. It is estimated that the LED Lighting will reduce energy consumption by 50.4% compared to like for like replacement fittings. As well as this LED lighting has a longer life expectancy and is more ecologically friendly.

- Fitted two Reillo Gulliver Burners to the MSP and Assembly hot water boilers in the Assembly Building. The current boilers are at end of their lifespan, requiring significant maintenance repairs. As part of our strategy to remove gas use from the building and rather than purchase new boilers we replaced key parts which is more efficient. This has prolonged the life of the heating system and is economically efficient.
- Upgraded heat meters to new, more efficient, Heat Meter for - Chilled Water Circuit than older model.
- Window Refurbishment project has successfully delivered better heat retention throughout the building and reduced our energy bills.

Consultancy and research works conducted included;

- Strategic Investment Plan study looking at how to get to Net Zero ready.
- Energy Saving Scenarios modelling on digital twin model.
- BEMS - Consultancy Support
- Engaged in consultancy to consider replacing current van to an electric van in the future.





# Electricity Dealan



We came very close to meeting our target of consuming no more than 3963894 kwh of electricity in 2023/24. It is hard to pin point exactly where the extra 34089 kwh were used however this is less than 1% of target consumption.

During 2023/24 we have delivered a number of projects aimed at reducing our energy consumption, including:

- Air handling unit fan upgrades and refurbishments
- Chiller Pump Replacement & Optimisation
- Window Refurbishments
- BEMS Cabling - running cables site wide
- Zip Taps Installation
- Removal & disposal of chiller 2 and positioning works needed for chiller 3 installation
- Catering Equipment Replacement.

### Consultancy and research works conducted included:

- Strategic Investment Plan study looking at how to get to Net Zero ready
- Energy Saving Scenarios modelling on digital twin model
- Thermal Drone Survey
- Uninterrupted Power Supply Replacement study
- External Lighting study
- BEMS - Consultancy Support
- Design of replacement chiller
- Thermographic survey of electrical distribution boards
- Queensberry House Insulation.



43%

**Total reduction achieved:**  
3,777,039 kwh – 3% better than target

**Target:** Maintain electricity consumption at 40% of 2005/06 levels = 3,963,894 kwh for April 2022 - March 2023



# Electricity

% reduction from 2005/06 baseline



# Gas

# Gas

The Scottish Parliament has reduced gas use in 2023/24 by 26% compared to 2005/06.

Regular monitoring of gas consumption when the building was used less frequently has helped us to identify areas of inefficiency and better understand the performance of the building in terms of gas consumption.

This knowledge will be put to good use, helping us to maintain a reduction in consumption similar to this level as we use the building differently after the pandemic.



28%

Total reduction achieved

**Target:** Reduce consumption from 14-18% over session 6. 2023/24 target of 16% reduction compared to 2005/06 consumption levels.

# Gas

% reduction from 2005/06 baseline



# Water Uisge

The Scottish Parliament uses both mains water and water from two onsite boreholes.

Borehole water is used to fill the ornamental ponds at the front of the building and to flush some of the toilets. The use of borehole water for flushing toilets has a lower environmental impact than mains water as it is not chemically treated.

The borehole water used for the ponds is chemically treated to control algae growth and to ensure a safe environment for the public.

Mains water is used for all remaining purposes such as hand washing, drinking, and for the onsite café and restaurants.



9%

**Total reduction achieved**

**Target:** Maintain 21,648.78 m3 of water for the year 2023-2024

Reduce water consumption from the 2011/12 total by 14% by March 2023.

# Water

% reduction from 2011/12 baseline



	2011/12	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	—	-37%	-23%	-13%	-9%
Boreholes	18,258 <sub>m³</sub>	12,778 <sub>m³</sub>	13,614 <sub>m³</sub>	16,315 <sub>m³</sub>	16,935 <sub>m³</sub>
Mains	6,915 <sub>m³</sub>	3,063 <sub>m³</sub>	3,615 <sub>m³</sub>	5,626 <sub>m³</sub>	6,070 <sub>m³</sub>
Total	25,173 <sub>m³</sub>	15,841 <sub>m³</sub>	17,229 <sub>m³</sub>	21,941 <sub>m³</sub>	23,005 <sub>m³</sub>

# Waste and recycling

## Sgudal agus Ath-chuairteachadh



During 2023/24 we had some incidences of contaminated recycling which has resulted in a drop in our recycling/composting performance. We are working to identify why this contamination occurred and finding ways to minimise it going forward.

We have extensive bin recycling provision to drive separate collection and treatment in order to maximise reuse and recycling value, as per the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

### Ad Hoc Waste

The waste included in our targets only covers general waste arising from the organisation’s operations, including office paper, sundries, and food. However, there are other areas of waste generated, including items which are discarded by building users, items which have broken down, and construction waste. This is listed on the following page for 2023/24.









Some of the increase is due to enhanced driver training by our contractor on identifying contaminated waste - we are working with the contractor to offer a webinar tailored to SPCB and have introduced new bins and signage within the MSP block.



# Waste and recycling

## Sgudal agus Ath-chuairteachadh



Ad Hoc Waste Items		Quantity
Electrical goods (fridge, fans, heaters, microwave, shredders, uplighters, TVs etc)		54
Furniture, desk equipment and coat stands		14
WEEE Waste		2 uplifts
Confidential waste (banners and signage)		18
Trolleys, cages and metal stands		6
Materials (broken furniture, wood, metal pieces, prints and frames etc)		80
Bins		134 (u-bins)
Batteries		1 (12volt)





# Waste and recycling levels

% reduction from 2005/06 baseline



	2005/06	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	-	-96%	-95%	-88%	-72%
Total waste arising (tonnes)	263 tonnes	35.06 tonnes	39.37 tonnes	72 tonnes	74.2 tonnes
Incinerated waste (tonnes)	154 tonnes	5.56 tonnes	7.59 tonnes	18.4 tonnes	26 tonnes
Recycling rate	41%	84%	81%	75%	65%
Recycled and composted waste (tonnes)	109 tonnes	29.5 tonnes	31.78 tonnes	53.65 tonnes	48 tonnes

# Travel Emissions and Sustainable Travel

## Sgaoilidhean Siubhail agus Siubhal Seasmhach



The emissions from various modes of travel breakdown can be found on the next page.

The total miles travelled was 1,287,899.79, with the most miles being travelled by train at 445,932.68, this is closely followed by Car at 420,180.41 and then air travel at 401,384.91.

It is clear that from the emissions output of each of the travel options that rail transport is the most efficient for medium to long distance travel. The data demonstrates air travel was our highest emission producer, however this only applies to non-domestic flights, when alternative methods of travel, such as train, are not an option.










# Business Travel Emissions

(tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)



2016 17	2017 18	2018 19	2019 20	2020 21	2021 22	2022 23	2023 24
276	330	415	338	96	71.38	218.85	187.54
tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e

## 2023-24 Business Travel Emissions

							
Air	Car	Taxi	Rail	Bus	Ferry	Tram	Total
99.41	70.60	0.91	15.65	0.58	0.92	0.01	187.54
tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e

# Sustainable Travel Plan

## Plana Siubhail Seasmhach

In 2021, we published our second Sustainable Travel Plan and this continues to be valid during this reporting period. The latest Sustainable Travel Plan, published in 2023, shows how we can travel sustainably and reduce our carbon footprint from our travel activities. The Travel Plan outlines active travel options and includes ways to make car journeys more sustainable. It complements sustainable working practices and emphasises the active travel initiatives that have been implemented across the Parliament.



# Carbon Footprint Measurements












## A’ Tomhas Lorg Carbon



The Scottish Parliament currently measures and includes business travel, waste, and water Scope 3 emissions of its carbon footprint.

### Total Scope 3 targeted

- 2020/21: 4,828 tCO<sub>2</sub>e  
(or total scope 1, 2 and 3 – 6,155 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- 2021/22: 5,200 tCO<sub>2</sub>e  
(or total scope 1, 2 and 3 – 6,500 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- 2022/23: 4,285 tCO<sub>2</sub>e  
(or total scope 1, 2 and 3 – 5,751 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- 2023/24: 3332 tCO<sub>2</sub>e  
(or total scope 1, 2 and 3 - 4559 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

Scope 1 (Direct emissions from owned or operated asset)	Fleet Vehicle		Gas		F-Gas	
	Electricity					
Scope 2 (Indirect emissions from purchased energy)						
Current Scope 3 (All other indirect emissions)	Water		Waste		Business Travel	
Extended Scope 3	Commuter Travel		Energy from MSP local offices			
	Purchased goods and services		Working from home			

The 2023/24 diagram on page 35 shows the categories of emissions calculated in conjunction with the Carbon Trust.

# Carbon Footprint Measurements

## A' Tomhas Lorg Carbon



Suppliers

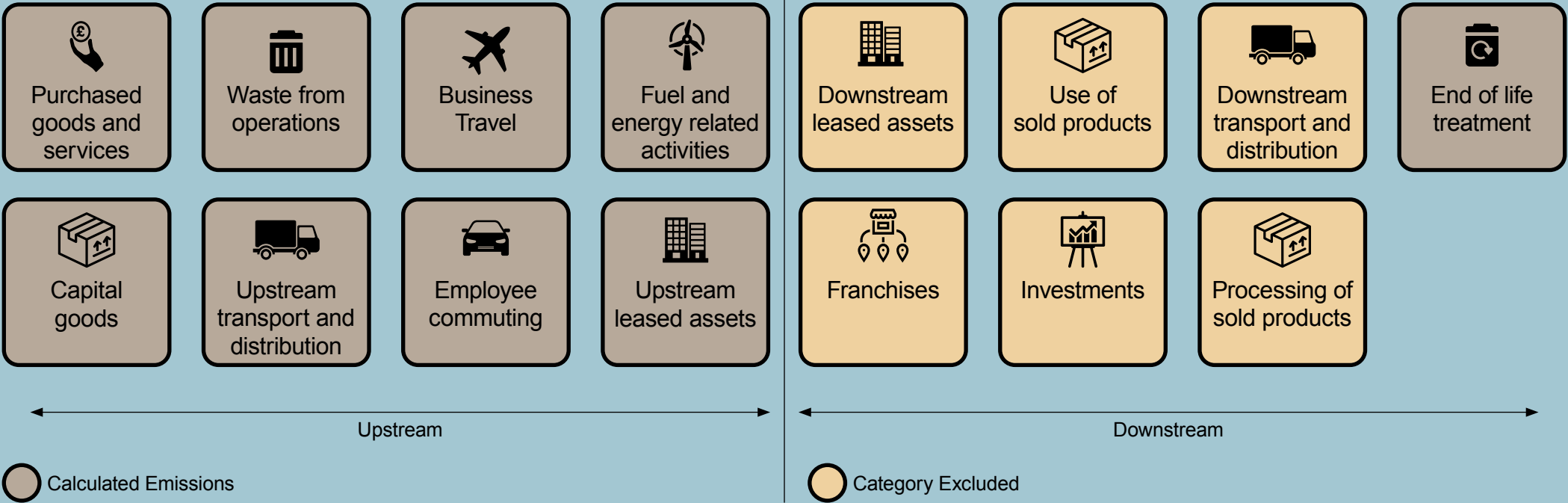


The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Customers

### Scope 3





# Scope 3 Measurement

## Tomhas Sgòp 3



	Category	Calculation summary	Total Emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> e)	% of Scope 3	% of value chain
1a	Purchased goods and services (product)	Calculated from quantities purchased	8.75	0.26	0.2
1b	Purchased goods and services (non-product)	Calculated from financial spend and quantities purchased	2249.92	73.53	53.7
2	Capital goods	Calculated from financial spend and quantities purchased	5.44	0.17	0.1
3	Fuel and energy related activities	Calculated from Scope 1&2 footprint	333.21	10.00	7.3
4	Upstream transportation and distribution	Calculated from financial spend	34.84	1.05	0.7
5	Waste generated in operations	Calculated by the Scottish Parliament	1.34	0.04	0.0
6	Business travel	Calculated by the Scottish Parliament	187.50	5.63	4.1
7	Employee commuting and wfh	Calculated by the Scottish Parliament	310.21	9.31	6.8
8	Upstream leased assets	Calculated by the Scottish Parliament	0.00	0.0	0.0
9	Downstream transportation and distribution	Category excluded	0.00	0.0	0.0
10	Processing of sold products	Category excluded	0.00	0.0	0.0
11b	Use of sold products (Indirect)	Category excluded	0.00	0.0	0.0
12	End-of-life treatment of sold products	Calculated from volume sold	0.70	0.02	0.01
13	Downstream leased assets	Category excluded	0.00	0.0	0.0
14	Franchises	Category excluded	0.00	0.0	0.0
15	Investments	Category excluded	0.00	0.0	0.0



# Commuter Travel

## Siubhal a dh'Obair



Commuter travel is not currently included in our carbon footprint target; however, it is a significant source of emissions in which we do have an element of control over.

During the spring of 2023 we carried out a travel survey to better understand the commuter travel patterns of our building users travelling to and from the Parliament building. The survey results were published in August 2023 and includes the impacts of staff working from home, which is now part of our new ways of working. We have also used this to establish an estimation of carbon emissions in relation to staff commuting. Carbon emissions have been based on data collected from the Staff Travel Survey and extrapolated.

We plan to continue to conduct this survey again next year to further help us better understand commuter travel behaviour and how we can improve our sustainable travel figures.

The Staff Travel Survey provides a broad overview of travel habits, whilst specific details such as engine size, fuel types and emissions from vehicles need to be estimated based on average vehicles. Appropriate emission factors for each mode of transport have been taken from [UK Government GHG Conversion Factors 2022](#). [Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2023](#).

Travel emissions, along with the actions we are taking to reduce emissions from them are discussed in our Sustainable Travel Plan [SPCB Sustainable Travel Plan \(parliament.scot\)](#)

Scottish Parliament Staff Commuting (approx)	168.21 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Average per member of staff	443.82 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e

### Homeworking Emissions

Eco Act Enhanced Methodology emissions per employee 250 kg/year.

Total Annual Carbon Emissions across all SPCB staff (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	142
Average per member of staff	248.41 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e

# Regional Office / Constituency Office Data

## Dàta mu Oifisean Sgìreil / Roinneil



The data in this section is based purely on utility costs charged against the Office Cost Provision for those MSPs that have a constituency or regional office. This data does not contain actual usage e.g. kWh for electricity, but only the financial amount.

### Electricity and Gas

The data in the following section is not definitive but rather an estimation based on financial spend to allow an understanding of the predicted carbon emissions from energy usage in constituency/ regional offices.

### Water

The amount spent on water is not solely for water usage but also includes waste water charges which are calculated on the assumption that 95% of water will drain to the public sewer, and property and roads drainage charges which are calculated based on the rateable value of the property. Due to the complexity of the water charges unfortunately it is not possible to get an estimated usage at this time.

Fuel	2023/24 FY	kWh	tCO2e
Electricity	£191,849.57	767,398	158.91
Gas	£49,603	826,717	151.44

(Sources: Charging for Businesses - Scottish Water and <https://www.mygov.scot/water-sewerage-business/>)

# Duty 2

## Dleastanas 2



### Climate Change Adaptation

This section explains how the Parliament is meeting the second duty under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which is to develop ways for the Parliament to adapt its operations for the changing climate.

### Freagarrachadh a thaobh Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde

Tha an earrann seo a’ mìneachadh mar a tha a’ Phàrlamaid a’ coileanadh an dàrna dleastanais fon fo Achd Atharrachadh na Gnàth-shìde (Alba) 2009, agus is e sin dòighean a chruthachadh don Phàrlamaid gus a h-obair a dhèanamh freagarrach a thaobh na Gnàth-shìde chaochlaidich.

# Climate Change Adaptation

## Freagarrachadh a thaobh Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde



The Scottish Parliament is subject to report to the Scottish Government on its climate change adaptation practices under the Public Bodies Duties within the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The purpose of this essential duty is to ensure that the Scottish Parliament amongst other public bodies deliver the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the best possible manner.

The Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme vision is to *“to live in a Scotland where our built and natural places, supporting infrastructure, economy and societies are climate ready, adaptable and resilient to climate change.”* The Scottish Government sees public bodies as having an exemplary role to play in delivering the outcomes of this programme by leading by example.

By understanding the predicted climate changes in Scotland, we can act to increase resilience and secure business continuity. Adaptation Scotland’s Adaptation Capability Framework for the Public Sector provides a toolkit to help benchmark adaptation practices which was previously completed by the Scottish Parliament in 2019. This toolkit was refreshed at the beginning of 2022 to evaluate what may have changed since the first completion, especially in a post-covid work environment.

Areas of particular focus for continuing critical functions within the Parliament and championing climate change adaptation are highlighted by the Adaptation Scotland toolkit. They are:

- Ensuring building fabric is safe and fit for function in periods of weather extremes
- Ensure staff, Member, contractor and public wellbeing is at the forefront of considerations
- Keep hybrid working a possibility for those who both can and wish to. This allows for flexibility in the event weather conditions do not allow for safe travel or occupation of the building
- Update public on adaptation activities within the Parliament
- Create a completely inclusive environment for building climate knowledge and ensure information is available to all.

Extreme weather events are already causing damage and disruption. Climate change gives rise to flooding, heatwaves, storms, and high winds. Events such as these are likely to become more frequent and severe as the climate changes. Preparing for climate change today will in many instances reduce the impact of future costs and damages, enabling organisations and individuals to take advantage of any potential opportunities.

# Duty 3

## Dleastanas 3



### Acting Sustainably

The work the Scottish Parliament is doing to meet the third duty under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act is outlined here.

The third duty is about ensuring all of the Scottish Parliament’s operational and scrutiny functions are carried out in a way that it considers most sustainable. The areas considered in this report include work on Sustainable Procurement and Sustainable Development in Scrutiny and Biodiversity.

### Gnìomhachd Sheasmhach

Tha an obair a tha a’ Phàrlamaid a’ dèanamh gus an treas dleastanas a choileanadh fo Achd Atharrachadh na Gnàth-shìde (Alba) air a mhìneachadh an seo.

Tha an treas dleastanas mu bhith a’ dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil gnìomhan obrachaidh is sgrùdaidh na Pàrlamaid air an coileanadh ann an dòigh a tha ga mheas as seasmhaiche. Tha na raointean air a bheilear a’ beachdachadh san aithisg seo a’ toirt a-steach obair air eaconamaidh chearcallach, solarachadh seasmhach agus gu sònraichte adhartas a rèir na targaid airson cleachdadh pàipeir, agus leasachadh seasmhach ann an sgrùdadh agus bith-iomadachd.

# Procurement for Sustainable Development

## Solar airson Leasachadh Seasmhach



The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act conferred on us a ‘sustainable procurement’ duty, which requires us to:

- improve economic, social, and environmental wellbeing.
- facilitate the involvement of small and medium enterprises, third sector bodies and supported businesses.
- promote innovation.

To truly meet our statutory sustainable development (SD) duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, and the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, we must carry out all our functions in a way that supports sustainable development (SD).

### About public procurement

The goods, services, and works that we procure and purchase all have an impact on the ecological processes that keep the Earth system stable enough for the type of human societies that exist today to survive.

Due to the length and complexity of contemporary supply chains, it is not possible to fully assess their impacts. However, the estimation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions alone shows that their climate warming impact is far higher than all other GHG emissions combined (see Fig.1 right).

The Scottish Parliament is required by law to take a number of factors into account in making decisions about the goods, services, and works that we procure, including sustainable development. While ecological and social considerations can not be the sole basis of our decisions, they are key to reducing harms and increasing benefits to the extent that that is feasible. To enhance the way we do this, Procurement Services’ is shifting its approach from adding environmental and social requirements to contracts, to ensuring that these become an integral part of our requirements. This requires incorporating SD considerations into every stage of the procurement cycle.

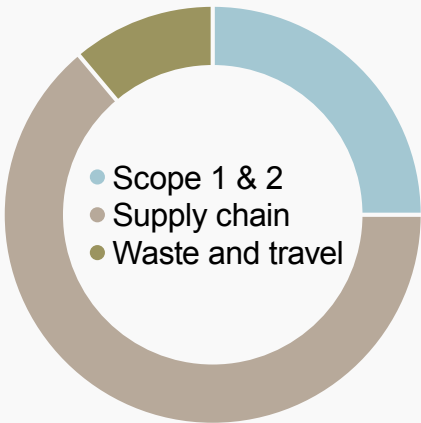


Fig 1: Greenhouse gas emission by greenhouse gas protocol (2023/24)



# Procurement for Sustainable Development

## Solar airson Leasachadh Seasmhach



### Designing sustainability in to contracts

Our approach is set out in Procurement Services’ climate change plan, and outlines how we will:

- consider climate change mitigation, adaptation, and justice, at every stage of the procurement cycle, from questioning and interrogating stated needs, to carrying out market research prior to re-letting.
- understand potential impacts and outcomes in a holistic way, rather than focusing only on greenhouse gas emissions, so that all aspects of sustainable development are taken into account, in order to avoid perverse or unintended consequences.

### Evidence-based decision-making

According to the European Commission, ‘80% of the environmental impact of products is determined at the design stage’ As this figure demonstrates, the nature and qualities of the products that we purchase can have a strong influence on how it affects us and the Earth system. Thus, is it important to apply sustainable development thinking to the development of product specifications from the outset.

SD thinking requires us to look at a problem in a holistic way and from multiple perspectives, in order to understand what an optimal solution could look like, as well as what unintended consequences there may be.

To do this, we carry out an initial impact assessment, in a deliberative setting with stakeholders and experts.

Impact assessment workshops often throw up questions or highlight what we don’t know.

To fill knowledge gaps, expert (desk-based) research is then carried out. For example, published comparative life cycle assessments can be looked at to support better understanding of goods, e.g. battery electric vehicles vs. internal combustion engine vehicles.

Research can also be conducted to elucidate the pros and cons of complex items such as biodiesel, to support more informed decision-making where there is no obvious best practice. Where possible, choice hierarchies or recommendations are included in research notes. This supports better-informed decision-making for sustainable development.

# Procurement for Sustainable Development

## Solar airson Leasachadh Seasmhach



### Describing what a sustainable product looks like in procurement documents

---

Conventionally, an ‘environment’ or ‘sustainability’ section is added to procurement documents, which sets out **what** we expect from our suppliers in addition to the specified product/s. However, we are now working to incorporate these requirements into the main body of the text, so that it sets out **how** product/s should be delivered, i.e., in a way that is more sustainable / less unsustainable.

- For example, in setting out our requirements for planned and preventative building maintenance (PPM), rather than requiring the supplier to develop a PPM schedule, and also require them to comply with all relevant statutory obligations, we would specify that a PPM schedule should be co-developed with us, and:
  - involve an SD / environmental management expert;
  - be evidence-based, with a clear rationale about what work is necessary;
- avoid recommendations that are solely aesthetic;
- ensure staff are trained to assess and monitor maintenance, to make informed recommendations about adjusting the schedule to optimize it, which should also reduce the use of energy, water, materials, etc.



# Procurement for Sustainable Development

## Solar airson Leasachadh Seasmhach



### Summary and next steps

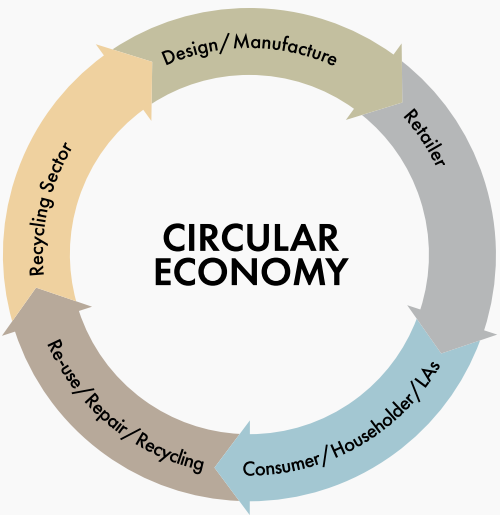
Through the use of a participatory approach, expert input, and supporting tools, we are working to design sustainability into our contracts. We are doing this by gradually incorporating the consideration of social, ecological, and environmental impacts into every stage of the procurement cycle, so that our specifications, contracts, and other documentation provide a framework for products that are as sustainable as possible, given other considerations and statutory requirements.

- Using the opportunities afforded at each stage of the procurement cycle to apply SD thinking should engender not only a more holistic understanding of potential impacts, but also stimulate the generation of ideas about:

- how to pre-empt unintended consequences;
- how and where we could apply circular economy principles, especially to reduce primary extraction and its impacts;
- how we might be able to work with suppliers to increase the sustainability of the products they provide us with;
- where we would need more information in order to understand our supply chains.

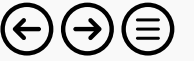
This approach can also feed into whole life costing, which is an estimation of the monetary costs of a product from pre-acquisition to end-of-life. An additional benefit is a clear audit trail of evidence-based decision-making for sustainable procurement, and a bank of ideas that could be applied to other procurements.

We continue to work to refine and embed our approach to sustainable procurement into our processes, so that it becomes a natural and integral element of the procurement cycle. Through it, we will be fulfilling our duties on sustainable procurement, and moving further towards carrying out our procurement functions in the way best calculated to support sustainable development, as required under s.44(1)(c) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.



# Sustainable Development Scrutiny

## Sgrùdadh air Leasachadh Seasmhach



The term ‘scrutiny’ denotes the main functions of the Parliament: to hold the Scottish Government to account, to scrutinise and pass legislation, and to scrutinise public policy. Over the last year, we have continued work to integrate sustainable development into scrutiny.

Climate change is a complex scientific, socio-economic and environmental issue and an amplifier of many of the challenges illustrated by the global Sustainable Development Goals. Research indicates that tackling climate change will require alignment of policy and spend across a vast number of policies to achieve a just transition. This is a significant challenge as most policy areas contribute to greenhouse gas emissions or are impacted by climate change.

The Conveners Group recognised that effective and impactful scrutiny of climate change and net zero would require collaborative and cross-cutting scrutiny across parliamentary committees and agreed a strategic priority on net zero scrutiny for Session 6 to deliver this. In June 2022 the Conveners Group agreed seven initial actions, outlined in the infographic below. These actions were agreed in the context that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee (NZET) plays a leading role, and supports other committees to effectively embed climate scrutiny in their own work.



# Sustainable Development Scrutiny

## Sgrùdadh air Leasachadh Seasmhach



### Conveners Group proposals to strengthen cross-cutting scrutiny of Climate Change and Net Zero



Annual updates to the Conveners Group from the UK Climate Change Committee



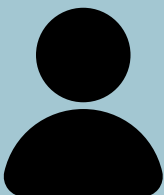
Commission research to illustrate how Climate Change impacts on policy areas across subject committees



Liase with the Scottish Government to access emissions data by committee portfolio



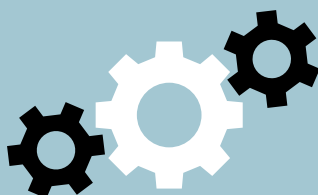
Consider ways to strengthen parliamentary processes and procedure



Recruit a Climate Change / Net-Zero adviser



Continue to rollout the Sustainable Development Impact Assessment tool



Capacity building for MSPs, their staff and staff of the Parliment on sustainable development and Net-Zero

# Sustainable Development Scrutiny

## Sgrùdadh air Leasachadh Seasmhach



Through the Conveners Group strategic priority, the Scottish Parliament has been able to provide bespoke support to MSPs, their staff and SPS staff to support scrutiny of climate change across committee portfolios and enable a step-change in scale of activity.

This work has been rolled out through new resource to develop and deliver a model for parliamentary scrutiny of climate change. This includes more front-line research expertise, a focused project management approach, access across committees to an external climate change / net zero adviser, a secondment from the UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) to aid innovation and delivery and embed monitoring of impact.

It also includes external resource through a partnership with the four universities in Scotland who hold UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Impact Acceleration Account funding, to fund a Knowledge Exchange Manager to extend and diversify use of academic evidence and expertise on climate change. Specific outcomes include:

- Enhanced awareness of the relevance of climate change and engagement with it across parliamentary work. Including through bespoke on-demand tailored support, published research on the relevance of climate change to the policy areas of five subject committees, and activities to integrate climate change and net zero to cross-cutting work by SPICe and Scotland's Futures Forum.

- Strengthened connections between the Scottish Parliament and strategic partners on climate change. Including the UK Climate Change Committee (CCC), who have provided evidence to the Conveners Group on an annual basis and provided regular evidence to the NZET Committee.
- Enhanced capacity of MSPs, MSP staff and parliamentary staff to scrutinise climate change across different areas of work. - delivered bespoke on-demand tailored support, as well as over 30 events, seminars, workshops and structured learning opportunities.
- Improved coordination of cross-cutting scrutiny of climate change – we continue supporting cross-parliament communication on climate change and net zero issues and integrating work with other key priorities and programmes across the Parliament.
- Improved access to diverse academic evidence and expertise on climate change. Including through piloting adaptations to existing knowledge exchange processes to solicit research and expertise for Committee and other parliamentary work and in the production of research on the relevance of climate change to the policy areas across subject committees.



# Sustainable Development Scrutiny

## Sgrùdadh air Leasachadh Seasmhach



- Improved processes for participative engagement on climate change. Including piloting processes to enhance public engagement and participation, through a People’s Panel to support NZET’s post-legislative scrutiny of section 91 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- Climate and environmental “lens” applied to parliamentary oversight across legislative, budget and policy scrutiny. Includes through continued roll out of the Scottish Parliament’s innovative Sustainable Development Impact Assessment (SDIA) Tool in scrutiny, enabling a sustainable development lens to be applied to scrutiny of the draft Land Reform Bill.
- Consideration of how parliamentary processes and procedure enable improved scrutiny coherence on climate change. Including analysis and initial discussion on the quality of information provided by the Scottish Government on sustainable development provided in Policy Memorandums accompanying Scottish Parliament Bills.
- Increased awareness of the model for parliamentary scrutiny of climate change - share learnings and best practice, including events in collaboration with GLOBE International at COP28 and close collaboration with the UK Parliament and other devolved legislatures.

### Forward look

---

- The next 12 months will see continued work to deliver the Conveners Group agreed actions and to build the wider model for parliamentary scrutiny, including:
- Specific support to the NZET committee to undertake scrutiny of the draft Climate Change Bill, announced on 18 April 2024, which seeks to revise the timetable for achieving net zero by 2045 and introduce a new approach, based on 5-yearly carbon budgets.
  - Specific support to the NZET Committee in advance of the draft Climate Change Plan (CCP), to facilitate NZET taking a leading role in coordinating scrutiny across committees. This includes delivering a framework of support available to all committees to support their engagement with the CCP.
  - Continuing to provide support to enable Committees to embed climate change considerations into planned work and to deal with reactive and ad-hoc approaches from MSPs, committee clerks and others to support their approach to climate scrutiny.

# Sustainable Development Scrutiny

## Sgrùdadh air Leasachadh Seasmhach



- Targeted work to embed innovative approaches to expand and diversify engagement with academic research and expertise on climate change, including piloting an Area of Research Interest.
- Supporting the Scottish Parliament to collaborate more strategically with public and charitable sector research funders and Higher Education Institutes in climate change, including working with the SPICe academic engagement team to develop and refine guidance, resources and training for researchers on engaging with the Scottish Parliament and other legislatures.
- Further developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks for knowledge exchange work on climate change in the Scottish Parliament, drawing on best practice.
- Continuing discussions with UKRI-ESRC on options for future collaboration.
- Further activities to raise awareness of relevance of climate change and embed engagement with it across parliamentary work, including SPICe support to the 'Parliament of the Future' Programme across the Scottish Parliament and to the revision of the Clerking Manual.
- Continuing to share learning with other legislatures in the UK and globally on these issues, including continuing collaborations with the UK Parliament Thematic Research Lead on Climate and Environment.
- Climate change and net zero will remain political and societal priority issues, the opportunity will continue to exist for Conveners Group to provide a framework for enhanced scrutiny and understanding across the Scottish Parliament towards and through Session 7.



# Biodiversity Bith-iomadachd

## Landscape Management

All living things create a balance in their own communities, or ecosystems, and it is this diversity of life we call biodiversity. Biodiversity is vital for our survival and a key measure of the health of our planet. It is therefore important that the Scottish Parliament can grow and support biodiversity any way we can. We published a report in April 2022 demonstrating our compliance with the biodiversity duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 which places a statutory duty on all public sector bodies in Scotland to further the conservation of biodiversity.

More information is available in our [2021 Biodiversity Statement](#). A BSL 2021 Biodiversity Statement is also available. You can watch this Biodiversity video and learn more about how The Scottish Parliament supports biodiversity across its parliamentary estate.



# Biodiversity

## Bith-iomadachd



Since opening in 2004, the landscape gardens are largely unchanged, they comprise mown and long grass habitats, tree planting of various species and ages, a series of water features, and hard landscaped plaza. The Parliament is striving to ensure that the grounds and the way they are managed and used, have a positive impact in supporting and encouraging the biodiversity of the local area. The Scottish Parliament works hard to maintain and improve the green space through a biodiversity planting strategy for the gardens to cultivate the plants and flowers and diversify what we grow to provide a greater variety of habitat types. We also have other initiatives in place to support the importance of biodiversity in the area:

- Landscaping- the incorporation of native species of trees, shrubs, native meadow grass. The landscape plays a vital role in reducing carbon footprints, mitigating groundwater movements, encouraging biodiversity (bees, butterflies, insects and birds).
- Management practices - a pesticide and peat free maintenance regime.
- The Butterfly project/ Square Metre for Butterflies- Recovery of the Northern Brown Argus butterfly, at Holyrood.
- Conducting a survey of the biodiversity in the Parliament's grounds, review of the bird and bat boxes.
- Beehives -The Scottish Parliament became the first legislature in the UK to have beehives.
- Waste and Recycling - with the aim to be a Zero Waste Parliament.
- Sustainable Procurement with consideration to minimising negative ecological impacts.

We are committed to tackling climate change and reducing our impact on the environment through continuing to improve environmental management across our estate.

A notable project we recently completed, involved the planting of fifteen new trees around the Parliament perimeter. Soft landscaping, such as by means of trees, performs a valuable function at many levels - it supports biodiversity, especially if it is local species that are planted. Grasses and shrubs are as effective at converting carbon dioxide as are trees. Soft landscaping has the added advantage of reducing the movement of groundwater to minimise erosion. No pesticides, fertilisers, or peat are used onsite by our contractors.

# Biodiversity

## Bith-iomadachd



### Case study

TRAC HLM Ltd in partnership with the Scottish Parliament, recently completed work on a timber replacement project. The original uniquely designed European Oak ‘Bamboo’ style poles fitted to the front canopy of the Parliament building, have lasted a long time however, the decision was made to move to a more sustainable timber which has become available on the market.

The 209 poles, each measuring 9 metres in length had endured the Scottish climate for 24 years, and although they had been cared for and varnished many times, it was time for them to be renewed to prevent further damage, which can lead to them becoming unsafe. We worked with our supply partner Haldanes to source a more sustainable alternative.

We selected Accoya wood which was then machined to shape at Haldanes specialist facility in Fife, before being transported the short distance to site to be hand fitted by our highly qualified Rope Access Technicians. The front canopy is now back to its former glory and will be for many years as the new Accoya timber will be more resilient to the climatic conditions we expect to see over the coming decades.





# Biodiversity

## Bith-iomadachd

### Scottish Parliament Bees and Beehives

Did you know there are over a million bees living in the Scottish Parliament grounds. As the world's most important pollinator of food crops, bees are vitally important. It is estimated that one third of the food that we consume each day relies on pollination mainly by bees, but also by other insects, birds, and bats. In 2014 the Scottish Parliament became the first legislature in the UK to have beehives. We now have 15 beehives onsite. The bees have good access to all the foliage across Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat, as well as the plants and flowers within the Parliament's Gardens and wildflower meadows.

Here at the Scottish Parliament, we are conscious of our place in the landscape and do our best to contribute to a thriving ecology across Scotland.

Honeybees are responsible for more than 50 per cent of the annual pollination of all crops, produce, fruits, flowers, shrubs, and trees in Scotland. Scotland's honeybee has been in decline in recent years. The main causes of this are the loss of suitable habitat, climate change and disease. Leading by example, the Scottish Parliament decided to introduce the bees on-site in 2014. The benefits are twofold; stemming the decline of honeybees in Scotland and boosting our commitment to biodiversity.





# Biodiversity

## Bith-iomadachd



The Scottish Parliament’s bees and beehives are managed by Hood’s Honey which is an award-winning, local, family business who have been in beekeeping since 1950. Our beekeeper, Stuart Hood, tends to our bees with occasional help from his daughter Eilidh. The bees have access to an abundance of foliage nearby, at Arthur’s Sear and Holyrood Park. Our own bees are said to visit tens of thousands of plants daily. On a recent visit, our beekeeper commented that our bees are very strong, are thriving and free from disease or issues. You can also get to know our beekeeper where he talks about his passion for beekeeping.

The bees produce honey each autumn which is used to feed the bees during winter, and this benefit negates the need to rely on artificial feeding methods. This year (April 23 - March 24) the bees have produced enough honey to be sold at the Parliament gift shop and 99 jars in total were sold.

The beeswax from Hood’s Honeybees has been used to fill the Great Seal of Scotland and seal every Act of Scotland since its inception – with over 200 in total. To learn more about our bees and beehives [click here](#) to listen to the Bee Podcast.



# Part 3

## Engagement and Embedding Sustainability

A key part of our Sustainable Development plan is how we communicate externally and internally on our performance and how we engage with colleagues and stakeholders across the Parliament. This includes rolling out activities that raise awareness and understanding by seeking to engage, develop and empower stakeholders and staff to support the behaviour change needed to deliver environmental performance and sustainable development integration.

# Pàirt 3



## Conaltraidh is Com-pàirteachadh

Feumaidh Buidhnean san Roinn Phoblaich 3 dleastanasan a choileanadh a tha air am mìneachadh ann an Achd Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde (Alba) 2009. Tha na trì earrannan a leanas a’ mìneachadh na tha a’ Phàrlamaid a’ dèanamh gus na Dleastanasan seo a choileanadh.

# Engagement and Embedding Sustainability

## Conaltraidh is Com-pàirteachadh



### Best Practice Sharing

We participate in various groups to share best practice, keep up to date with what other organisations and groups are doing and learn about how others are implementing Sustainability. These groups include;

- The Scottish Public Sector Environment Managers Group
- The UK legislatures Environment Performance Group
- Sustainable Scotland Network
- Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network
- The Edinburgh Climate Commission

We aim to expand our networking opportunities over the next Parliamentary session as Sustainable Development becomes more embedded within other organisations and in the public interest.

### Embedding SD Thinking

Embedding sustainable development thinking across the organisation requires a clear focus on changing our culture and with that evolving our values and behaviours in a way that embraces the changes needed to realise our ambitions. During 2023/24 we focused on the following activities;

1. **Subject specific training** – in house e- learning modules available via the intranet, Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) training covering climate solutions, available for MSPs and all staff.
2. **Sustainable Development Impact Assessment tool** – roll out of this tool to support project development, ensuring considerations are identified and embedded at the earliest possible stage in both operations and scrutiny.
3. **Supporting leaders across the organisation to demonstrate leadership in SD** – knowledge building or providing the opportunities to discuss SD.



# Engagement and Embedding Sustainability

## Conaltraidh is Com-pàirteachadh



### Royal Scottish Geographical Society Climate Solutions Qualification

The Royal Scottish Geographical Society has developed a Climate Solutions qualification in 2020 to help organisations embed climate change action at the level where it can achieve the most significant impact. The focus is on identifying and delivering on specific actions and commitments, both organisational and personal, to reduce carbon emissions.

The Scottish Parliament has continued to offer this training to senior managers and leaders within the Scottish Parliamentary Service. We have also rolled out this training to MSPs and MSP staff. The aim is that all those involved in the Sustainable Development Programme complete this training.

**“This is such essential knowledge for how business and society needs to move forwards if Scotland is going to be robust, healthy and globally competitive. The more aware we all are, the more prepared we can be and the more we can understand where the real opportunities for investment and opportunity lie. It’s a journey the whole world is on and legislation is building globally every year, so it is fantastic and very fitting that the Scottish Parliament have taken the lead and committed to this climate solutions course.”**

**Dr Mike Robinson CEO**  
Royal Scottish Geographical Society





# Engagement and Embedding Sustainability

## Conaltraidh is Com-pàirteachadh



### Sustain Network

The Sustain Network is a forum for staff across the Parliament to explore positive action in reducing our personal and collective environmental impact. The Sustain Network, helps to educate staff on sustainable development issues by:

- hosting educational and informative volunteer events with specialist guest speakers.
- Supporting staff to use sustainable travel methods such as cycling and offering free bike repair service throughout the year, in partnership with Dr.Bike.
- re-use and donate old building timber in collaboration with a variety of social enterprises, charitable organisations, and educational establishments.

- Planting wildflower seeds annually - staff volunteers and Members join us every year and help plant seeds for our wildflower meadow in the green landscaped areas near the public entrance. This is a collaborative effort between the Mental Health Network, Sustain Network and Facilities Management teams to support biodiversity improvement volunteer projects.

Earlier in the report we referenced how we replaced the timber poles from the front canopy, the story does not end there for the original oak though.



# Engagement and Embedding Sustainability

## Conaltraidh is Com-pàirteachadh



### Case Study

---

The Sustain Network has been working with colleagues in Facilities Management and our specialist rope access contractors Trac to provide a unique opportunity for staff to repurpose wood being replaced from the front canopy of the Scottish Parliament building.

The larger oak ‘bamboo’ poles on the front canopy have reached the end of their useful life. Sections of the wood had begun to rot due to 20 years of continual weather exposure. However, there was plenty of life left in other parts of the poles.

Staff from different offices across the organisation came together with the network to develop ideas on how best to reuse wood to avoid disposing of it and creating unnecessary waste. So far, we have;

Collaborated with a local social enterprise group called Greater Goodwood and transformed the poles into some lovely looking Christmas decorations to sell in our Parliament shop, they proved to be a great success.

Donated the timber poles to staff members and others to reuse the wood for home projects like planter boxes at their homes. We think this is a great idea because otherwise all of the timber is destined to be incinerated for Biomass heating.

Although biomass is better than landfill or conventional incineration, reuse us a better outcome for the environment. It will ensure the carbon in the wood will continue to be stored in the long-term and can prevent the use of new timber.

### Why reuse?

---

Reuse of materials is a key component of a circular economy and the waste hierarchy. A circular economy is a potential solution to the climate and nature crises. It is an all-encompassing approach to life and business which in simple terms, can be explained as ‘make, use, remake’ rather than ‘make, use, dispose’. Under the waste hierarchy, waste prevention through efficient use and reuse of resources, recycling and recovery of value should be prioritised in that order, with landfill or other disposal a last resort.



# Part 4

## Environmental Management System

Our work on reducing our Environmental Impacts is delivered through our Environmental Management System which is detailed in this section.

# Pàirt 4



## Siostam Rianachd Àrainneachdail

Tha ar cuid obrach gus na Buidhean Àrainneachdail againn a lùghdachadh air a thoirt seachad tron t-Siostam Rianachd Àrainneachdail againn, a tha ga mhìneachadh san earrainn seo.

# Environmental Management System

## Siostam Rianachd Àrainneachdail



The SPCB achieved certification to ISO 14001:2004, the internationally recognised standard for environmental management systems, in January 2007, and transitioned to ISO14001:2015 during 2018. The system is applicable to the Scottish Parliament campus of buildings and facilities. To achieve and maintain the standard, we are required to demonstrate to an external environmental auditor that an environmental management system has been implemented and is thoroughly maintained. The system ensures that environmental considerations are embedded across the organisation and that areas that create an environmental impact or carry an environmental risk are regularly reviewed and controlled.

### What is an environmental management system?

An environmental management system is a way to “*Plan, Do, Check and Review*” in order to improve environmental performance.

The standard assesses the way in which an organisation:

- Integrates environmental considerations into its management structures,
- Handles its environmental impacts and continuously,
- Improves its environmental performance in areas such as waste, energy, and procurement,
- Achieves legal compliance with all relevant environmental legislation.



# Environmental Management System

## Sìostam Rianachd Àrainneachdail

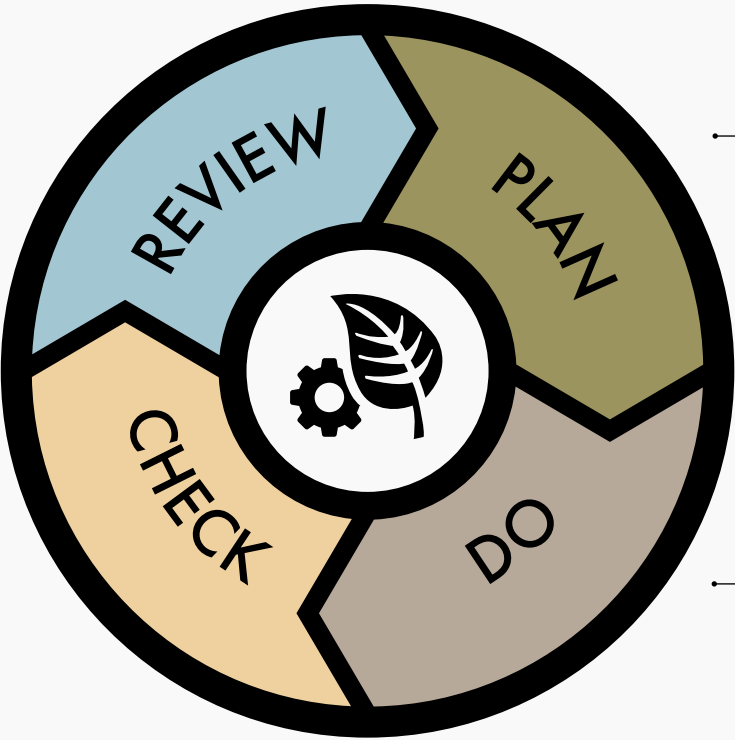


### Review

Management review

### Check

Monitoring  
Measurement  
Auditing



### Plan

Policy  
Significant aspects  
Legislation  
Objectives and targets

### Do

Management plans  
Roles and responsibilities  
Communications and training  
Emergency procedures

# Part 5

## Validation

Our emissions data is validated by an external organisation.

# Pàirt 5



## Dearbhadh

Tha an dàta againn a thaobh eimiseanan air a dhearbhadh le buidheann air an taobh a-muigh.

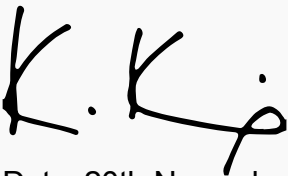
# Validation statement from Aether

## Aithris Dearbhaidh bho Aether

This is to certify that Aether has conducted a validation exercise on the emission estimates provided by Scottish Parliament for the year 2023-24. The following checks were undertaken on the data:

- Appropriate scope of emissions
- Use of appropriate activity data and emission factors applied in emission calculations
- Documentation of data sources, methodology, and assumptions
- Transparency of calculations and dataflows

Signed:



Date: 20th November 2024





# Part 6

## Looking Forward

This section looks forward at the targets for 2025/26, the end of the current Parliamentary session. Including the annual targets for 2024/25 as the next year on the journey to 2025/26.

# Pàirt 6



## A' Coimhead air Adhart

Tha an earrann seo a' coimhead air adhart ris na targaidean airson 2025/26, deireadh an t-seisein phàrlamaidich seo, a' gabhail a-steach nan targaidean bliadhnail airson 2024/25 a bharrachd air an ath bhliadhna, 2025/26.

# Look Forward

## A' Coimhead air Adhart

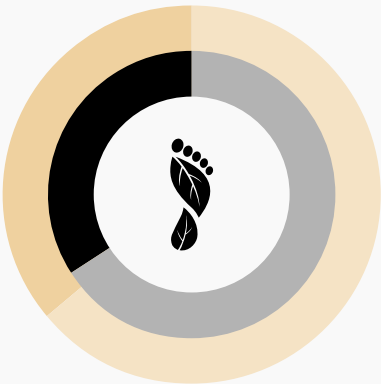


Targets	2024/2025	2025/2026
<b>Carbon Emissions</b> Reduce carbon emissions from the 2005/06 total by:	64%	66% 1488 Total CO <sub>2</sub> e
<b>Business Travel</b> Retain the reduction in business travel levels seen as a result of the pandemic. 80% reduction in business travel emissions since 2018/2019	80%	80%
<b>Waste and Resources:</b>		
• reduce total waste arising in Scotland by 15% against 2011 levels	15%	15%
• reduce food waste by 33% against 2013 levels	33%	33%
• recycle 70% of remaining waste	70%	70%
We also aim to match the EU ambition for all plastic packaging to be economically recyclable or reusable by 2030.		



# Look Forward

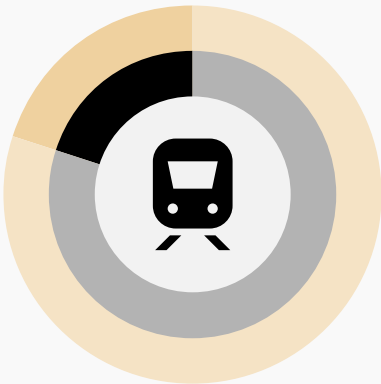
## A' Coimhead air Adhart



### Carbon Emissions

Reduce carbon emissions from the 2005/06 total by:

2024/25	64%
2025/26	66%



### Business Travel

Retain the reduction in business travel levels seen as a result of the pandemic. 80% reduction in business travel emissions since 2018/2019

2024/25	80%
2025/26	80%



Reduce total waste arising in Scotland by **15%** against 2011 levels

Reduce food waste by **33%** against 2013 levels

Recycle **70%** of remaining waste


Send no more than **5%** of remaining waste to incineration.


We also aim to match the EU ambition for all plastic packaging to be economically recyclable or reusable by 2030.

# Public Information

## Fiosrachadh a' Phobaill



 0800 092 7500 or 0131 348 5000  
0131 348 5395 (Gàidhlig)

 [info@parliament.scot](mailto:info@parliament.scot)  
[gaidhlig@parliament.scot](mailto:gaidhlig@parliament.scot)

 [parliament.scot](http://parliament.scot)

