



Scottish Parliamentary
Corporate Body

Sustainable Development Annual Report 2024 | 2025

Buidheann Chorporra
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Aithisg Àrainneachdail
is Seasmhachd 2024 | 2025



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Foreword

by Sustainable Development Board Chair

As we approach the final year of the sixth Parliamentary Session (2021–2026), the 2024–2025 reporting period marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards embedding sustainable development at the heart of the Scottish Parliament’s operations.

We are proud of the progress we’ve made. From reducing our environmental impact to strengthening our organisational culture around sustainability, we continue to build momentum and remain on track to meet our end-of-session targets for the Sustainable Development Programme.

This year’s report highlights key achievements and provides transparent data on our performance against targets.

It also outlines how we are fulfilling the three public sector climate change duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009: reducing carbon emissions, acting sustainably, and adapting to a changing climate.

We are pleased to report a 66% reduction in emissions from our 2005/06 baseline – meeting our 2026 target ahead of schedule. This milestone reflects the dedication and collective effort across the organisation.

Beyond emissions, we’ve deepened our commitment to acting sustainably by enhancing our supply chain practices, improving biodiversity management, and strengthening our approach to Sustainable Development Scrutiny. We’ve also engaged with the draft

statutory guidance on climate change duties, ensuring we are well-positioned to implement future requirements.

A cornerstone of our programme is embedding sustainable development thinking across the organisation. Through training, collaboration, and active engagement, we’ve empowered teams to build knowledge, shift behaviours, and take ownership of sustainability in their day-to-day work.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this report and to the wider programme. Your commitment and enthusiasm continue to drive meaningful change. I hope you find this year’s report both informative and inspiring.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynsey Hamill".

Lynsey Hamill
Director of Operations
and Digital

Facal toisich

le Cathraiche a’ Bhùrd Leasachadh Seasmhach

Agus sinn a’ ruigsinn na bliadhna mu dheireadh den t-siathamh Seisean Phàrlamaideach (2021–2026), tha an ùine aithris 2024–2025 a’ comharrachadh àm cudromach nar turas a dh’ionnsaigh leasachadh seasmhach a dhaingneachadh ann an obair Pàrlamaid na h-Alba.

Tha sinn moiteil às an adhartas a rinn sinn. Bho bhith a’ lùghdachadh ar buaidh air an àrainneachd gu bhith a’ neartachadh cultar ar buidhne a thaobh seasmhachd, tha sinn a’ sìor leantainn air adhart air an t-slighe cheart gus ar targaid deireadh-seisein airson a’ Phrògram Leasachaidh Seasmhaich a choileanadh.

Tha aithisg na bliadhna seo a’ nochdadh prìomh choileanaidhean

agus a’ sealltainn dàta soilleir air mar a choilean sinn mu choinneimh thargaidean.

Tha i cuideachd a’ mineachadh mar a tha sinn a’ coileanadh nan trì dleastanasan atharrachadh gnàth-thìde san roinn phoblaich fo Achd Atharrachadh na Gnàth-thìde (Alba) 2009: lùghdachadh eimiseanan carboin, obair gu seasmhach, agus freagradh ri gnàth-thìde a tha ag atharrachadh.

Tha sinn toilichte lùghdachadh 66% aithris anns na h-eimiseanan againn bhon bhun-loidhne againn ann an 2005/06 – a’ coileanadh na targaid againn airson 2026 gu tràth.

Tha a’ chlach-mhìle seo a’ nochdadh dìcheall agus oidhirp choitcheann air feadh na buidhne.

A bharrachd air eimiseanan, tha sinn air ar dealas a dhoimhneachadh a thaobh a bhith ag obair gu seasmhach le bhith a’ neartachadh ar cleachdaidhean solair, a’ leasachadh riaghladh bith-iomadachd, agus a’ daingneachadh ar dòigh-obrach a thaobh Sgrùdadh Leasachadh Seasmhach. Tha sinn cuideachd air a bhith an sàs anns an dreachd stiùireadh reachdail air dleastanasan atharrachadh gnàth-thìde, a’ dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil sinn ann an deagh shuidheachadh airson riatanasan san àm ri teachd a chur an gnìomh.

Is i clach-òisinn ar prògram a bhith a’ cur smaoineachadh leasachadh seasmhach an sàs air feadh na buidhne. Tro thrèanadh, co-obrachadh, agus com-pàirteachadh gnìomhach, tha sinn air cumhachd

a thoirt do sgiobaidhean gus eòlas a thogail, giùlan atharrachadh, agus uallach a ghabhail airson seasmhachd nan obair làitheil.

Bu mhath leam mo thaing dhùrachdach a thoirt do gach neach a chuir ris an aithisg seo agus ris a’ phrògram nas fharsainghe. Tha ur dealas agus ur dìoghras a’ sìor stiùireadh atharrachadh brìoghmhor. Tha mi an dòchas gun aontaich sibh gu bheil aithisg na bliadhna sa fiosrachail agus brosnachail.



Lynsey Hamill
Stiùiriche Obrachaidh agus Didseatach

Performance Overview

Gèarr-chunntas air Dèanadas

(Financial Year 2024/25)



Carbon Footprint

Target against 2005/06	Actual performance
64% reduction	66% reduction 1,472.38 tonnes CO₂e



Gas

Target against 2005/06	Actual performance
17% reduction	22% reduction 475.7 tonnes CO ₂ e 2,600,472.64 kWh



Electricity

Target against 2005/06	Actual performance
40% reduction	44% reduction 764.4 tonnes CO ₂ e 3,692,244.9 kWh



Business Travel

Target against 2005/06	Actual performance
80% reduction since 2018/2019	50.1% reduction 206.8 tonnes CO ₂ e 931,032.06 km

Performance Overview

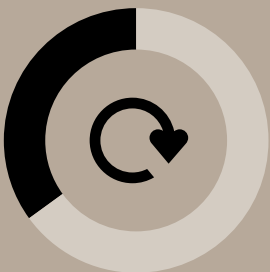
Gèarr-chunntas air Dèanadas

(Financial Year 2024/25)



Total Waste Arising

Target	Actual performance
Reduce by 15% from 2011 (as per Scottish Government Target)	69% reduction (from 2005/06) 0.56 tonnes CO ₂ e 80.63 tonnes



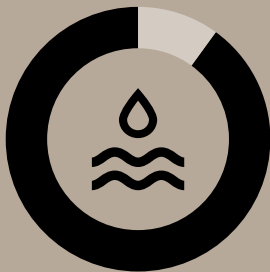
Recycled and Composted Waste

Target	Actual performance
70% recycle rate	64% recycle rate 0.37 tonnes CO ₂ e 51.52 tonnes



General Waste (incinerated)

Target	Actual performance
Send no more than 5% of waste for incineration	36% sent for incineration 0.19 tonnes CO ₂ e 29.12 tonnes



Water

Target	Actual performance
14% from 2011/12	10% reduction 7.44 tonnes CO ₂ e 22,562 m³

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 page 8, 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 Sustainable Development Duties

Governance and Oversight of Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The Public Sector duties on climate change and sustainable development are embedded within the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body's (SPCB) governance and decision-making through the leadership of the Senior Executive Team, the Sustainable Development Steering Group and the Investment Advisory Group. The SD Steering Group, which includes representatives from across the organisation, meets regularly to oversee progress on sustainability objectives, including climate resilience, carbon reduction, and responsible resource use. This group ensures that climate-related considerations are integrated into operational planning, procurement, and facilities management, aligning with the Parliament's broader environmental commitments.

The Investment Advisory Group ensures that climate and sustainability considerations are made in project decisions and business cases. Management is actively involved in assessing and managing climate-related issues through the implementation of the Environmental Management System (EMS), certified to ISO 14001:2015. This system supports continuous improvement in environmental performance and ensures that both climate mitigation and adaptation measures are embedded in day-to-day operations. Key staff are responsible for monitoring compliance, reporting progress, and driving initiatives that support the Parliament's sustainability goals.

Metrics, Emissions, and Risk Management

The SPCB uses a range of environmental metrics to monitor its performance, including energy and water consumption, waste generation, biodiversity impact, and sustainable procurement. In 2024/25, the Parliament achieved a 66% reduction in carbon emissions compared to the 2005/06 baseline, meeting its interim target of 66% by the end of Session 6.

Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions are tracked annually, with key risks identified including energy supply carbon intensity and availability, climate related damage to infrastructure and operations, and reputational risks from non-compliance.

To manage these risks, the Parliament has set ambitious targets, including a long-term goal of net zero emissions by 2038 for scope 1, 2 and some scope 3 (waste, water and business travel) emissions. Progress is reviewed annually and reported publicly. Climate-related risks are identified through office risk registers, corporate risk planning and environmental audits, and are assessed using a risk register that is integrated into the organisation's overall risk management framework. This ensures that climate risks are considered alongside financial, operational, and reputational risks, enabling a coordinated and resilient response to the challenges of climate change.

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 for 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.

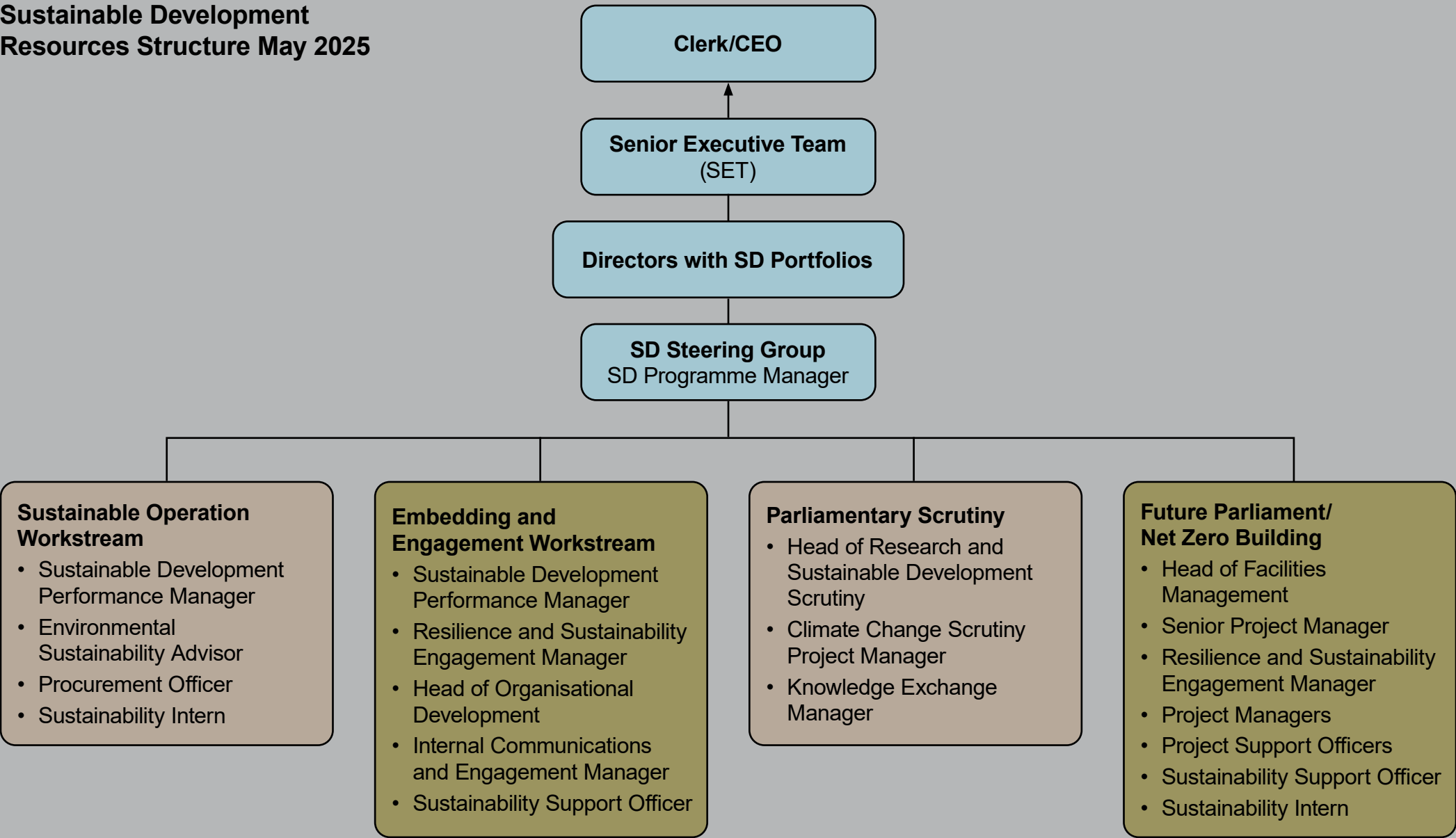
A programme structure has been introduced to deliver the objective and aims of the Sustainable Development Programme, headed by Lynsey Hamill as Senior Responsible Officer. A Programme Steering Group has been established to oversee the direction and key decisions of the programme, with the SRO as the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

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.

Page 15 shows a diagram with the programme structure.

Sustainable Development
Resources Structure May 2025



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 eimiseanan bho a h-obair a lùghdachadh agus mar a tha i a’ coileanadh a rèir nan targaidean aice.



Climate Change Mitigation

Lasachadh Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde

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 (SPCB) is striving to become a leader as 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 SPCB'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 Targaidean Lorg Carboin

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 suppliers. 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 21.



66%

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 66% between 2005/06 and 2024/25.



Carbon Footprint Measurement and Targets

Tomhas agus Targaidean Lorg Carboin

Scope 1

(direct emissions from owned or operated assets)

Fleet Vehicle	Gas	Diesel from Generator	F-Gas	White diesel and Biofuel
0.27 tCO ₂ e	475.7 tCO ₂ e	0 tCO ₂ e	15.86 tCO ₂ e	1.27 tCO ₂ e

Scope 2

(direct emissions from owned or operated assets)

Electricity
764.4 tCO ₂ e

Scope 3

(all other indirect emissions)

Business travel total 206.8 tCO₂e

Waste	Recycling
0.56 tCO ₂ e	0.37 tCO ₂ e
Water	
7.44 tCO ₂ e	

Air	Car	Taxi	Tram
132.98 tCO ₂ e	56.91 tCO ₂ e	1.17 tCO ₂ e	0.01 tCO ₂ e
Rail	Bus	Ferry	
14.18 tCO ₂ e	0.53 tCO ₂ e	1.01 tCO ₂ e	

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

Carbon Footprint Measurement and Targets

Tomhas agus Targaidean Lorg Carboin

During 2024/25 we have delivered several projects aimed at reducing our energy consumption, including:

- Improved insulation on the external walls in Queensbury House and the upper basement increasing energy efficiency of the building.
- Replacing boiler parts to those which are more efficient.
- LED Lighting installed site wide to improve efficiency and reduce electricity consumption.
- Pump replacements for borehole, east plantroom and chiller plant to improve asset efficiency.
- Heat meter survey and replacement took place to improve provision of energy use data and ability to target future reductions.
- Kitchen canopies were upgraded site wide to improve efficiency and reduce electricity consumption and loading.

Consultancy and research works conducted included:

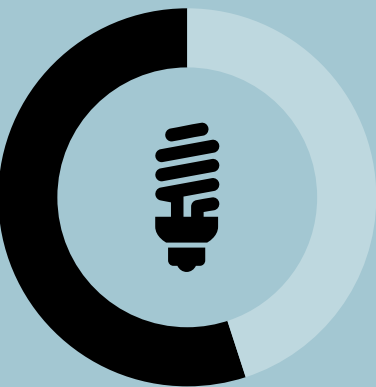
- Reviewing and investigating all available options to decarbonise the building.
- Developing several decarbonisation options to allow an assessment of their feasibility for the Scottish parliament.
- Active involvement with utility suppliers and other local public bodies to consider the feasibility of heat networks and hydrogen as options to decarbonise the Scottish Parliament.
- Development of an outline approach and strategy for the decarbonisation of the building.



Electricity Dealan

We achieved our target of consuming no more than 3,963,894 kWh of electricity in 2024/25.

Our electricity consumption decreased by 84,794.1 kWh compared to last year.



44%

Total reduction achieved:
4% better than target.

Target: Maintain electricity consumption at 40% of 2005/06 levels = 3,963,894 kWh.



Electricity

% reduction from 2005/06 baseline

2005/06

—

6,606,490 kWh

2020/21

-45%

3,657,167 kWh

2021/22

-41%

3,868,629 kWh

2022/23

-39%

3,997,983 kWh

2023/24

-43%

3,777,039 kWh

2024/25

-44%

3,692,244.9 kWh

Gas Gas

The Scottish Parliament has reduced gas use in 2024/25 by 22% compared to 2005/06.

The Parliament regularly monitors gas consumption in the building to identify areas to improve efficiency and better understand the performance of the building in terms of gas consumption.

Gas consumption is monitored during monthly Energy Insights meetings.



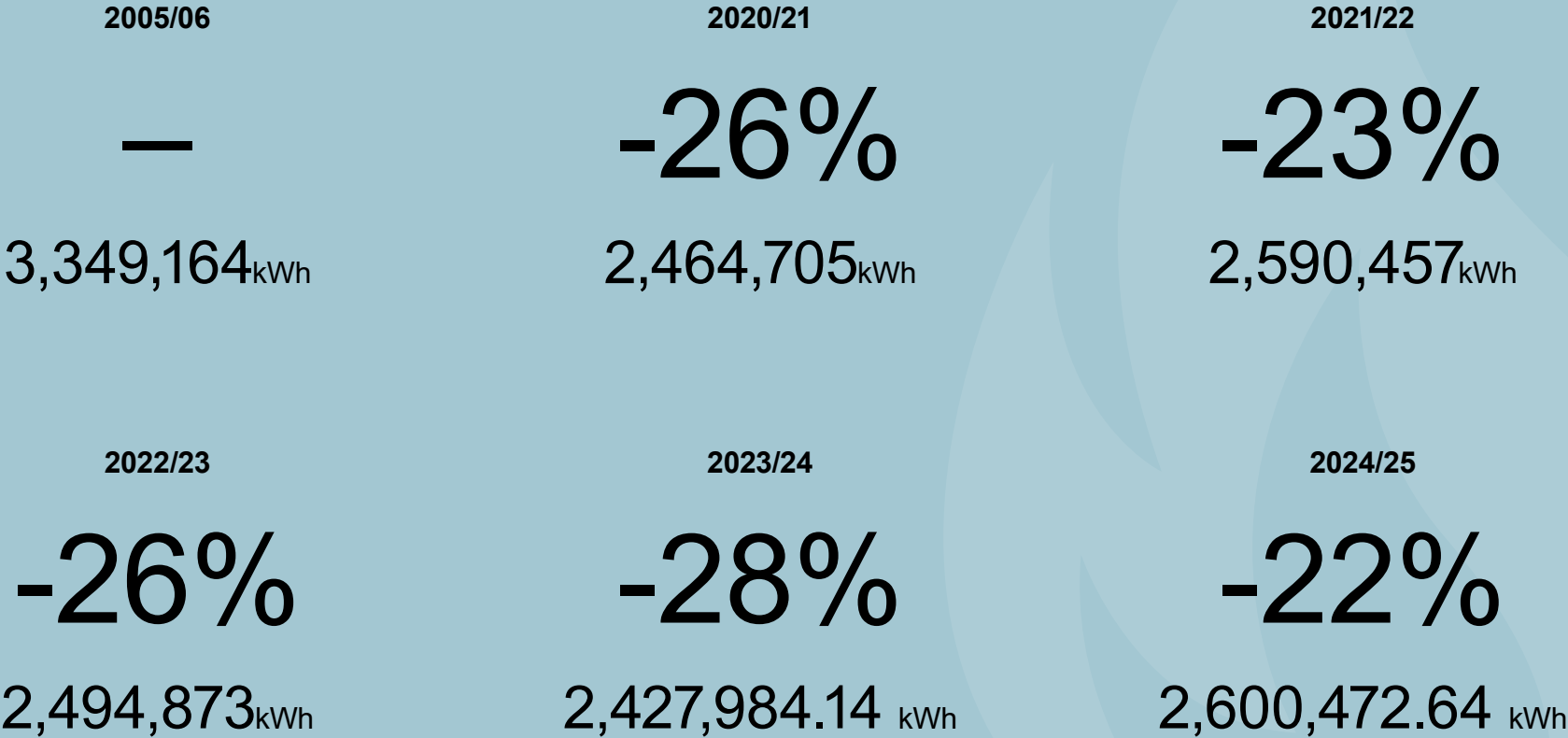
22%

Total reduction achieved:
6% better than target.

Target: Reduce gas consumption by 16% 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.



10%

Total consumption:
Total water consumed in 2024/25: 22,562 m³

Target: Reduce water consumption from the 2011/12 total by 14%, and maintain 21,648.78 m³ of water for the year 2024–2025.

Water

% reduction from 2011/12 baseline

	2011/12	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	—	-37%	-23%	-13%	-9%	-10%
Boreholes	18,258m ³	12,778m ³	13,614m ³	16,315m ³	16,935m ³	15,939m ³
Mains	6,915m ³	3,063m ³	3,615m ³	5,626m ³	6,070m ³	6,623m ³
Total	25,173m ³	15,841m ³	17,229m ³	21,941m ³	23,005m ³	22,562m ³

Waste and recycling

Sgudal agus Ath-chuairteachadh

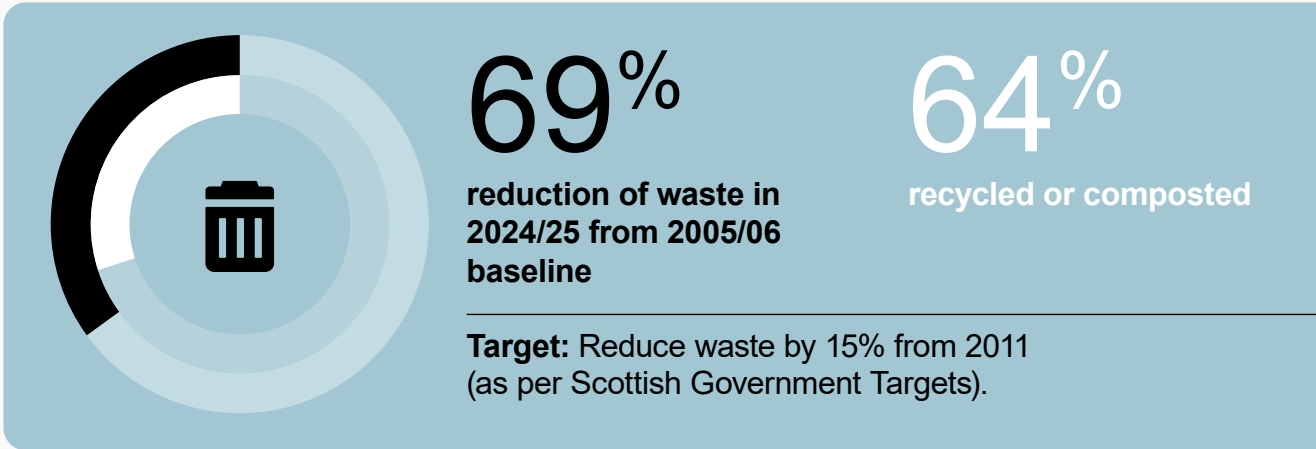
In 2024/25, 29.12 tonnes of waste were incinerated as opposed to being recycled or composted. Our recycling/composting performance was 64%.

During 2024/25 we had 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 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 page 31.















Waste and recycling levels

% reduction from 2005/06 baseline

	2011/12	2020/21	2021/22	2022/2	2023/24	2024/25
	-	-96%	-95%	-88%	-72%	-69%
Total waste arising (tonnes)	263 tonnes	35.06 tonnes	39.37 tonnes	72 tonnes	74.2 tonnes	80.63 tonnes
Incinerated waste (tonnes)	154 tonnes	5.56 tonnes	7.59 tonnes	18.4 tonnes	26 tonnes	29.12 tonnes
Recycling rate	41%	84%	81%	75%	65%	64%
Recycled and composted waste (tonnes)	109 tonnes	29.5 tonnes	31.78 tonnes	53.65 tonnes	48 tonnes	51.52 tonnes

Waste and recycling

Sgudal agus Ath-chuairteachadh

Ad Hoc Waste Items		Quantity
Electrical goods (fridge, fans, heaters, microwave, shredders, uplighters, TVs etc)		56
Furniture, desk equipment and coat stands		7
WEEE waste		5
Confidential waste (banners and signage)		7
Trolleys, cages and metal stands		1
Materials (broken furniture, wood, metal pieces, prints and frames etc)		33
Bins		134 (u-bins)
Batteries		1 container
Cabinet		2
Cleaning products (liquids)		83 litres
Hazardous (oil filled radiators/gas canister)		6
Organic material (plant and soil)		1



Travel Emissions and Sustainable Travel

Eimiseanan Siubhail agus Siubhal Seasmhach

Business travel emissions

Our business travel emissions for 2024/2025 were 206.8 tCO₂e. We have seen an increase in business travel emissions compared to last year. There had been a large reduction in business travel since the COVID-19 pandemic however we are starting to see increased business travel and therefore emissions increasing again.

We are reviewing business travel trends and patterns to identify ways to reduce emissions going forward.

The emissions from various modes of travel breakdown can be viewed on page 33.

Most business travel emissions were from air travel in 2024/25.










Business Travel Emissions

(tonnes CO₂e)

2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
330	415	338	96	71.38	218.85	187.54	206.8
tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e

2024/25 Business Travel Emissions

							
Air	Car	Taxi	Rail	Bus	Ferry	Tram	Total
132.98	56.91	1.7	14.18	0.53	1.01	0.01	206.8
tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e	tonnes CO ₂ e

Sustainable Travel Plan

Plana Siubhail Seasmhach

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












Scope 3

We calculate our scope 3 emissions in different ways depending on the category of emissions. Most emissions are modelled and extrapolated following best practice guidelines.

Scope 3 for purchased goods and services

- **2020/21:** 4,828 tCO₂e
(or total scope 1,2 and 3 – 6,155 tCO₂e)
 - **2021/22:** 5,200 tCO₂e
(or total scope 1,2 and 3 – 6,500 tCO₂e)
 - **2022/23:** 4,285 tCO₂e
(or total scope 1,2 and 3 – 5,751 tCO₂e)
- **2023/24:** 3,332 tCO₂e
(or total scope 1,2 and 3 – 4,559 tCO₂e)
 - **2024/25:** 3,153 tCO₂e
(or total scope 1,2 and 3 – 5,330 tCO₂e)

The below diagram shows the categories of emissions calculated.

Scope 1 (Direct emissions from owned or operated asset)	Fleet vehicle 	Gas 	F-Gas 
Scope 2 (Indirect emissions from purchased energy)	Electricity 		
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 	

Carbon Footprint Measurements

A' Tomhas Lorg Carbon

Suppliers

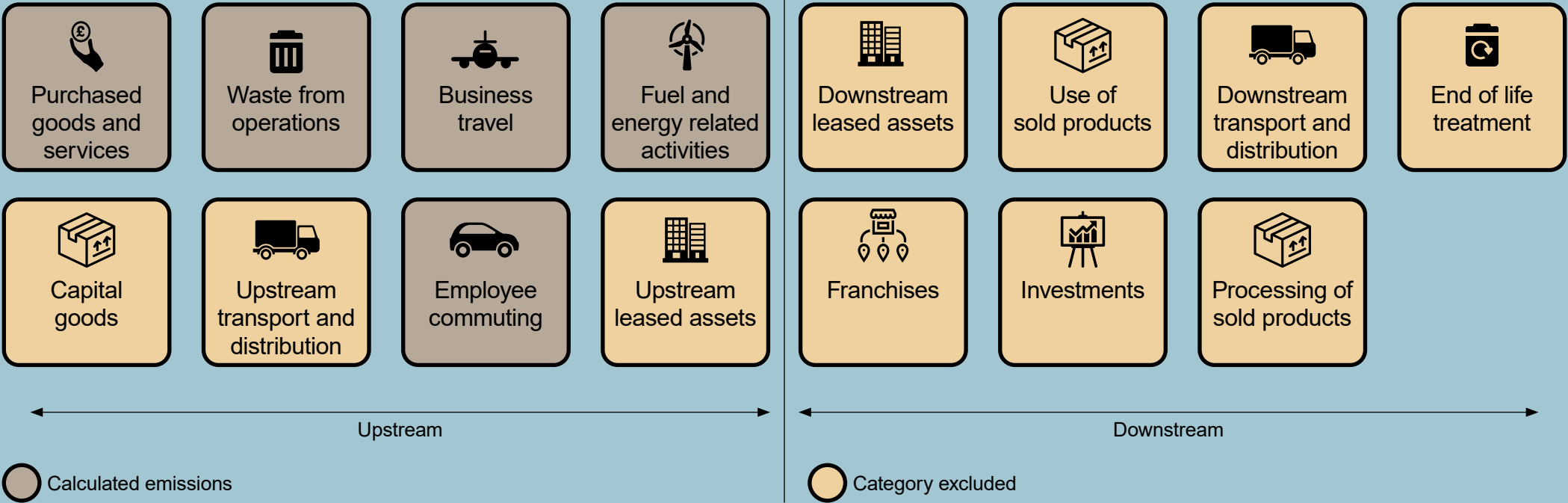


The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Customers

Scope 3



Scope 3 Measurement

Tomhas Sgòp 3

The below table shows the results of Scope 3 assessment 2024/25.

	Category	Calculation summary	Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	% of Scope 3	% of value chain
1a	Purchased goods and services (product)	Calculated from quantities purchased	220.85	5.42%	4.14%
1b	Purchased goods and services (non-product)	Calculated from financial spend	2,932.79	72.01%	56.02%
2	Capital goods	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
3	Fuel and energy related activities	Calculated from scope 1 & 2 footprint	315.6	7.75%	5.92%
4	Upstream transportation and distribution	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
5	Waste generated in operations	Calculated under scope 3	0.56	0.01%	0.01%
6	Business travel	Calculated under scope 3	206.8	5.29%	4.00%
7	Employee commuting and homeworking	Calculated under scope 3	396.1	10.14%	7.67%
8	Upstream leased assets	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
9	Downstream transportation and distribution	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
10	Processing of sold products	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
11a	Use of sold products (Direct)	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
11b	Use of sold products (Indirect)	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
12	End-of-life treatment of sold products	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
13	Downstream leased assets	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
14	Franchises	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%
15	Investments	Category excluded	0	0.00%	0.00%

Purchased Goods and Services

Bathar is Seirbheisean a Cheannaicheadh

The below table shows the **top 10** suppliers ranked in emissions.

These suppliers correspond to **93%** of emissions from purchased goods and services at the Scottish Parliament.

Category	Approach	Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	% of Scope 3
Buildings and building construction work	spend based	1,138.06	36.03%
Software	spend based	503.20	15.93%
Office administrative/office support	spend based	320.08	10.13%
Programming and broadcasting services	spend based	288.71	9.14%
Caterers	spend based	230.78	7.31%
IT purchases	quantity based	212.29	6.72%
Other professional/scientific and technical services	spend based	92.93	2.94%
Postal and courier services	spend based	56.74	1.80%
Entertainment services	spend based	49.83	1.58%
Bank services	spend based	47.07	1.49%

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 2025 we carried out a travel survey to better understand the commuter travel patterns of our building users travelling to and from the Parliament building. We have used the data collected in this survey to estimate carbon emissions in relation to staff commuting.

Carbon emissions have been based on data collection from the Staff Travel Survey. 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](#).

Staff commuting emissions are higher this year compared to last year. It is estimated carbon emissions from all SPCB staff commuting is approximately 241.36 tCO₂e, or average 381.89 kg CO₂e per staff member.

Travel emissions, along with the actions we are taking to reduce emissions are outlined in our [Sustainable Travel Plan](#) available on our website.

Homeworking emissions are calculated using the Eco Act Homeworking Enhanced Methodology.

Commuting Emissions

Scottish Parliament Staff Commuting (approx)	241.36 tonnes CO ₂ e
Average per member of staff	381.89 kg CO ₂ e

Homeworking Emissions

Total Annual Carbon Emissions across all SPCB staff	155 tonnes CO ₂ e
Average per member of staff	245.02 kg CO ₂ 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. Financial spend is used to estimate kWh and emissions.

The cost of electricity and gas can vary year to year, therefore affecting the estimated kWh and emissions.

Water

The amount spent on water is not solely for water usage but also includes wastewater 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	2024/25 FY	kWh	tCO ₂ e
Electricity	£107,598.76	334,523.73	69.26
Gas	£33,304.57	378,461.03	69.22

(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 Achd Atharrachadh Cliomaid (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 reporting 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

Sustainable and Responsible Consumption of Goods and Services

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 Circular Economy, Sustainable Procurement and Sustainable Development in Scrutiny and Biodiversity.

Gnìomh Seasmhach

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 san 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

In 2003, the Scottish Parliament formalised its responsible purchasing policy, focussing on social justice and environment, among other things.

In 2014, the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act was passed, and like other Scottish public bodies, we are continually working to improve the way in which we meet the ‘sustainable procurement’ duty it conferred on us. Our duty 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 impact is far higher than all other GHG emissions combined.

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 are not the sole basis of our decisions, they are key to reducing harms and increasing benefits to the extent 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.

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, it is 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. The results can be surprising – for example, contrary to popular opinion, Pero *et al* found that battery electric vehicles had higher impacts than combustion engine vehicles, in terms of acidification, particulate matter, human toxicity, photochemical ozone formation, and resource depletion.

Further research highlighted other electric vehicle impacts such as higher rates of microplastic shedding from tyres due to their greater weight.

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.

Case Study – Climate Springboard

A highlight of this year was the Climate Springboard Workshop, held in March, which brought together colleagues to explore how we can strengthen sustainability within procurement and decision-making. The workshop surfaced valuable insights and practical actions, including:

- **Improving Question Design:** Participants emphasised the importance of asking SMART, open-ended questions that are specific, measurable, and proportionate. This helps suppliers provide meaningful responses and ensures fair evaluation.

- **Broadening Scope:** Discussions highlighted the need to go beyond carbon and consider wider sustainable development themes such as fair work practices, gender pay gaps, and innovation.
- **Supporting SMEs:** We explored how to make our processes more inclusive, recognising that not all suppliers hold formal certifications like ISO14001. Clear guidance, exemplar answers, and prior information notifications were identified as key enablers.
- **Clarifying Intent:** A recurring theme was the need to be transparent about whether we are seeking improvements

in the Parliament’s sustainability performance, the supplier’s own practices, or both. This clarity is essential for meaningful engagement.

- **Embedding Evidence-Based Practice:** The workshop reinforced the importance of requiring clear, product-specific evidence and governance measures around sustainability, rather than information for its own sake.

These outcomes are already shaping how we approach procurement and supplier engagement, ensuring our sustainability ambitions are both practical and impactful.

Procurement for Sustainable Development

Solar airson Leasachadh Seasmhach

Summary and next steps

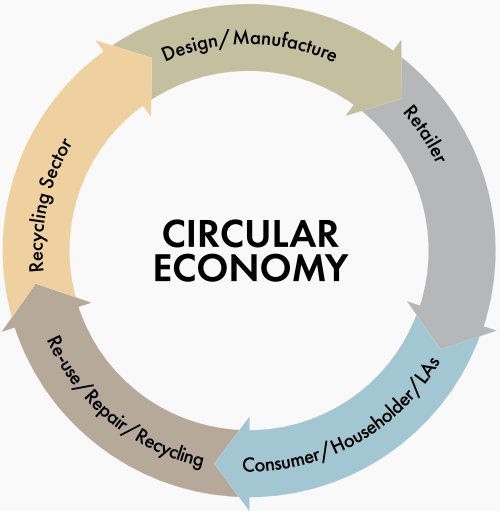
Through the use of a participatory approach, expert input, and supporting tools, we are working to design sustainability into our contracts.

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 we are 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 on page 49. 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.



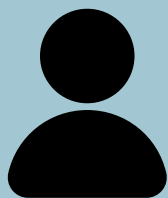
Commission research to illustrate how Climate Change impacts on policy areas across subject committees.



Liaise with the Scottish Government to access emissions data by committee portfolio.



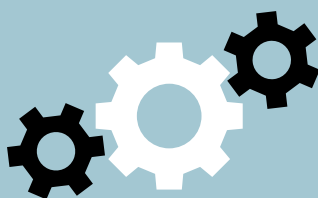
Consider ways to strengthen parliamentary processes and procedure.



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 Parliament on sustainable development and Net-Zero.

Sustainable Development Scrutiny

Sgrùdadh air Leasachadh Seasmhach

Through the Conveners Group strategic priorities, 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 are as follows:

- **Enhanced awareness of the relevance of climate change and engagement with it across parliamentary work**, through bespoke on-demand tailored support across committees from SPICe researchers and the NZET Committee's shared Adviser on Net Zero, published research on the relevance of climate change

to the policy areas of a further five subject committees (following the seven blogs produced against the remits of five different committees the previous year), continued roll out of the Scottish Parliament's innovative Sustainable Development Impact Assessment (SDIA) Tool in scrutiny, and activities to integrate climate change and net zero to cross-cutting work by SPICe.

- **Strengthened connections between the Scottish Parliament and strategic partners on climate change**, including the UK Climate Change Committee, Audit Scotland, Scottish Fiscal Commission and Environmental Standards Scotland providing regular evidence to the NZET Committee – supporting cross-committee

consideration of what 'good' looks like ahead of the draft Climate Change Plan – and participation in SPICe Seminars.

- **Members' access to the best available diverse research evidence and expertise on climate change**, including building academic capacity on policy engagement through presentations to over 175 academics and knowledge exchange professionals, trialling adaptations to existing knowledge exchange processes and piloting new tools, including Areas of Research Interest (ARIs). Through this work, the Parliament has engaged with over 75 academics with expertise on climate change, many of whom have never engaged with the Parliament before.

Sustainable Development Scrutiny

Sgrùdadh air Leasachadh Seasmhach

Outputs from this have already begun to support the work of the NZET Committee and we expect other committees to benefit from work done within ARIs over the coming months (especially during scrutiny of the Climate Change Plan) and into the next session.

- **Informed consideration of how parliamentary processes and procedures enable improved scrutiny coherence on climate change.** This includes the NZET Committee’s response to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee’s inquiry on Committee Effectiveness, in relation to strengthening the net zero scrutiny of Bills and increasing Members’ access to diverse research evidence and expertise.

It also includes the NZET Committee’s response to the Finance and Public Administration Committee’s inquiry into the Scottish budget process in practice, in relation to how net zero ambitions are considered in the Scottish budget process and how this could be developed.

- **Improved coordination of cross-cutting scrutiny of climate change.** Supporting cross-parliament communication on climate change and net zero issues and scrutiny approaches in relation to changes to climate change primary legislation and preparatory scrutiny work on forthcoming secondary legislation to set Scotland’s carbon budgets and the statutory Climate Change Plan.

- **Increased awareness of the model for parliamentary scrutiny of climate change.** Through activities to reciprocally share learnings and best practice, via parliamentary delegations (including the National Assembly of Zambia), conferences (including the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia meeting on Public Policy Making and Evaluation for Sustainable Development), and delivering a workshop on climate and environment scrutiny for officials from the UK Parliament and other devolved legislatures.



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

Scottish Parliament Bees and Beehives

In 2014, the Scottish Parliament became the first legislature in the UK to introduce beehives to its grounds. These hives are currently **managed by a well-established, family-run beekeeping company**, and today we're proud to host 15 of them onsite.

Our bees have access to a rich variety of plants and flowers across Holyrood Park, Arthur's Seat, and the Parliament's own gardens and wildflower meadows. Thanks to this natural abundance, we don't need to use artificial feed – a common practice in commercial beekeeping – as our bees produce enough honey to sustain themselves through the winter.

During the summer months, when bee populations are at their highest, more than a million bees live around the Parliament. As the world's most important pollinators of food crops, bees play a vital role in our ecosystem. It's estimated that around one third of the food we eat depends on pollination – mostly by bees, but also by other insects, birds, and bats.

We're proud of our place in Scotland's landscape and take our environmental responsibilities seriously. As we look to the future, we're exploring the best ways to continue supporting bees in our green spaces and help biodiversity thrive.



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

Com-pàirteachadh agus a’ Leabachadh Seasmhachd

’S e prìomh phàirt den phlana Leasachaidh Sheasmhaich againn mar a bhios sinn a’ conaltradh air an taobh a-muigh agus air an taobh a-staigh mu ar coileanadh agus mar a bhios sinn ag eadar-obrachadh le co-obraichean agus luchd-ùidh air feadh na Pàrlamaid. Tha seo a’ gabhail a-steach gnìomhachdan a chur air dòigh a bhios a’ cur ri mothachadh agus tuigse le bhith a’ feuchainn ri luchd-ùidh agus luchd-obrach a thoirt a-steach, a leasachadh agus a chumhachdachadh gus taic a thoirt dhan atharrachadh giùlain a tha a dhìth gus coileanadh àrainneachdail agus amalachadh leasachaidh sheasmhach a libhrigeadh.

Engagement and Embedding Sustainability

Com-pàirteachadh agus a’ Leabachadh Seasmhachd

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.

As an example, the Scottish parliament have recently become involved in a consortium of organisations with bases in the Edinburgh Old Town who are seeking to decarbonise their buildings but face challenges specific to their location in a city centre. By working together and sharing ideas the hope is that the power and influence of the collective may be able to affect significant change to the benefit of the organisations involved but also the wider community.

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 2024/25 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. Supporting leaders across the organisation to demonstrate leadership in SD** – knowledge building or providing the opportunities to discuss SD.



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.

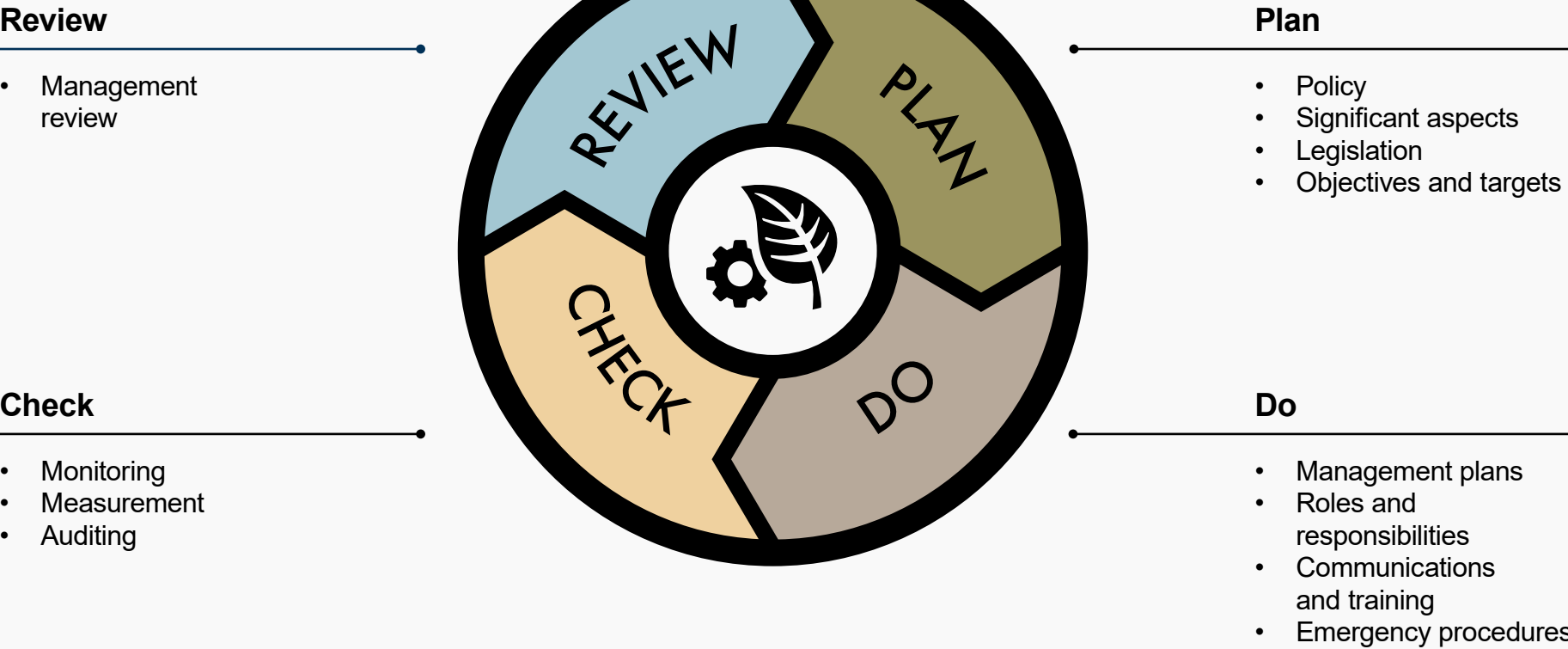
The standard assesses the way in which an organisation:

- 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

Siostam Rianachd Àrainneachdail



Part 5

Validation

Our work is externally validated to provide assurance and transparency to our stakeholders.

Pàirt 5

Dearbhadh

Tha ar n-obair air a dearbhadh air an taobh a-muigh gus am bi barantas agus follaiseachd aig an luchd-ùidh againn.

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 2024–25. 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: 24th November 2025



Part 6

Looking Forward

This section looks forward at the targets for 2025/26, the end of the current parliamentary session.

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 làithrich.

Look Forward


A' Coimhead air Adhart


Targets	2025/2026
Carbon Emissions Reduce carbon emissions from the 2005/06 total by:	66% 1,488 total CO ₂ e
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.	80%
Waste and Resources:	
• Reduce total waste arising in Scotland by 15% against 2011 levels.	15%
• Reduce food waste by 33% against 2013 levels.	33%
• Recycle 70% of remaining waste.	70%
• Send no more than 5% of remaining waste to incineration.	5%
We also aim to match the EU ambition for all plastic packaging to be economically recyclable or reusable by 2030.	–

Public Information

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