

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL – LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013 - 2027

Introduction

Whilst the Council welcomes this opportunity to contribute towards the forthcoming RPP2, longer timescales would be required for a more detailed response to the current draft.

The Draft RPP2 is very comprehensive and provides a good overview of current position and future proposals for achieving Scotland's climate change targets in 2027. It would, however, benefit from a more detailed account of future/planned actions and impacts/opportunities for individual stakeholders, namely Local Government organisations (taking into account area size and local characteristics).

It is appreciated that RPP2 will refine the policies and continue to develop the proposals (or alternatives) with equivalent effect. However, given that it covers a period which is much further away than that in RPP1, it should be more detailed and/or make provision for an interim review between the present time and 2027.

The changes proposed ought to be more ambitious and truly transformational if they are to influence and shape business and behaviour.

Glasgow City Council remains committed to meeting its climate change targets and is on track to do so.

The Council is currently working on several key initiatives, plans, programmes, policies and partnerships which will support the delivery of Glasgow's climate change targets and contribute to achieving Scotland's ambitious interim targets by 2027.

Where possible, the Council will deliver more and will continue to seek additional innovative ways to maximise the impact of the investments. Glasgow City Council understands that Public Sector leadership will be critical to achieving local and national climate targets. The Council aim to lead by example, support and develop the transition to a low carbon economy.

Glasgow City Council will work closely with our key partners and local stakeholders, including Sustainable Glasgow, Scottish Government and SSN,

to ensure that the Council will act the best possible way to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The RPP2 rightly predicts that Scotland will look and feel different in 2050 – particularly in terms of energy generation and usage.

Scotland can be a much better place in 2050 and so can Glasgow, despite the transition being far from smooth or predictable, it will deliver benefits for all, locally and nationally.

Key Questions:

I. The effectiveness of progress towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in the RPP1 and the appropriateness of the proposed adjustments to the proposals and policies within the RPP1.

We believe that, while the RPP2 is very comprehensive and provides a reasonable overview of current position and short term targets, it does not improve particularly from the RPP1. Furthermore, Scotland missed its first climate target, and the draft plan does not seem to be clear on how Scotland can effectively cut its carbon emissions and achieve targets set in Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

II. The effectiveness of the proposals and policies with the draft RPP2 for meeting the annual emissions targets.

Globally, and across Scotland, all sectors face a shared problem and, therefore, Scotland needs shared solutions: across public, private and third sectors; by individuals, communities and businesses alike. The RPP2 ought to perhaps emphasise this more clearly and provide more effective guidance for the different stakeholders and the roles they are expected to play if Scotland is to achieve its ambitious targets by 2030 and 2050.

The report states that in the short term we are on track to meeting the targets, in the medium term savings could be delivered through both policies and proposals; however, this seems to be in very challenging circumstances and uncertain circumstances.

According to RPP2, in the longer term (2027/30), carbon savings could be achieved through significant technological change and behavioural adaptation: big ticket technology led solutions. However, there is no clear steer as to what the alternatives might be should these proposals not be implemented or fail to achieve the carbon savings projected.

III. How these proposals and policies are likely to contribute towards the achievement of the interim target the 2050 target and, in each target year, the domestic effort target.

The report makes reference to a number of potential solutions. Examples of technical solutions include Carbon Capture and Storage and pervasive change in energy sources for travel and heat. However, none of these are guaranteed. There is a clear gap between what is on the table now and where we need to be in 2027, and there does not appear to be a clear alternative route to fill in the gaps. In our view, the timescales are perhaps too long and this increases uncertainty significantly.

The list of realistic options available to Scotland needs to be improved if it is to encourage, promote and deliver on the investment required to produce effective changes and achieve targets identified for the medium and long term.

IV. The appropriateness of the timescales over which the proposals and policies within the draft RPP2 are expected to take effect.

The timescales appear to carry a high level of uncertainty, specifically due to the long period being considered.

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