

CLIMATE PLAN



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A CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY



A Climate & Biodiversity Emergency



The earth has a natural process called the greenhouse effect. Greenhouse gases enable the earth to be habitable by trapping in the sun's heat. Climate change is the resulting impact human activity has on this natural system by causing an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. More emissions in the atmosphere results in an imbalance in this fragile system and an increase in temperature throughout the planet. This has caused the following changes

- an increase in rainfall including the frequency of intense and heavy events;
- a worldwide decline in glaciers including permafrost;
- warming of the world's oceans and their acidification;
- a rise in sea levels;
- a shift in climate zones;
- a worldwide surface temperature increase including the frequency of extreme heat events.

In the UK the past four decades have been warmer than the one before. In North Lanarkshire it is expected that the average summer temperatures will increase, and the number of rainy days will reduce. The volume of rain on summer's wettest day will increase. Our winters are expected to be milder. Whilst the impact of climate change may seem to be less severe locally, in recent years we have seen an increase in severe weather events. These can affect us through:

- Travel disruption
- Emergency response situations
- Loss of power supply
- Landslides
- Flooding
- Disruption to service delivery

Temperature changes are expected to lead to a loss of some of our native species (such as the Atlantic Puffin, Mountain Hare, Great Yellow Bumblebee and Bluebell) and some habitats in Scotland. We will see an increase in non-native species as well as an increase in emerging diseases (SARS, MERS, Ebola, COVID-19).

As we continue our day-to-day activities, the level of greenhouse gases continues to increase in the atmosphere. This increases the likelihood of a 2°C global temperature rise and the quickening of the changes in our climate. Climate change presents both risks and opportunities. (For more information on this visit [Climate Ready Clyde.](#))

The council recognised that it must take action and declared a climate emergency in June 2019. It has committed itself and the area of North Lanarkshire to achieving net-zero by 2030. Concerned about the impact of climate change on biodiversity, the council became a signatory of the Edinburgh declaration on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

CO₂

Carbon dioxide

HFCs

Hydrofluorocarbons

N₂O

Nitrous Oxide

CH₄

Methane

DID YOU KNOW...

Greenhouse gases are sometimes referred to as carbon emissions when we talk about climate change. They are however a number of different gases. Here are some examples of greenhouse gases:

Global Climate Action

The UK is part of a global partnership known as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In 2015 the member nations met in Paris and agreed to try to limit temperature increases below 2°C by taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Glasgow Pact was agreed at COP26 in 2021 and strengthened the Paris Agreement by pledging to carry out bolder action such as a worldwide reduction in the use of coal.



NORTH LANARKSHIRE



North Lanarkshire

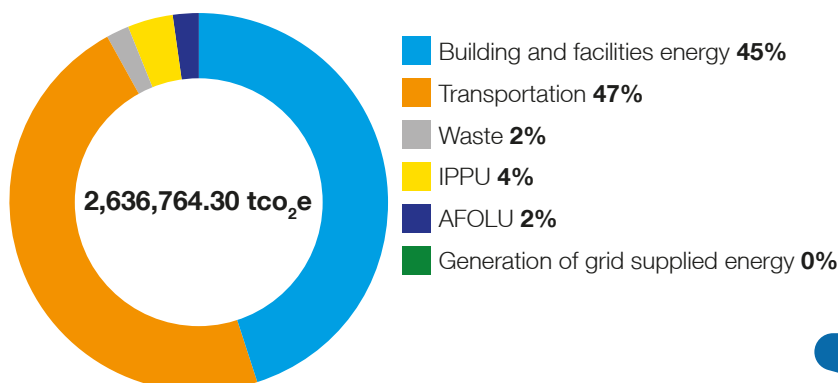
North Lanarkshire Council is the fourth most populated local authority in Scotland with a population of 341,140, living within 152,910 households. North Lanarkshire covers an approximate land area of 470 square kilometres with a population density of 726 persons per square kilometre. For every person who lives in the area the equivalent of 5.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is emitted.

There are over 10,000 businesses operating in the area and each generates carbon emissions through their use of buildings and transport as well as industrial or farming processes.

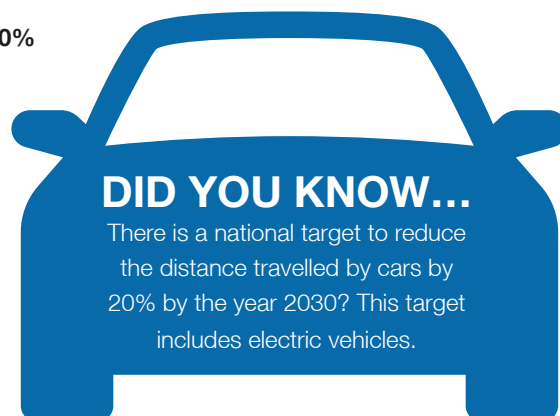
Private car use accounts for 60.7% of the total carbon emissions from road transport. North Lanarkshire has an [Active Travel Strategy](#) to encourage residents to become more active and use their cars less.

In North Lanarkshire we benefit from greenspaces in our towns. Mature trees can store carbon and so this helps remove carbon dioxide from our air and release the oxygen back into the atmosphere. Peatlands can provide us with the same benefit and as they are formed over thousands over years already store a large amount of carbon. This is why we must protect our peatlands from damage – to prevent the release of stored carbon back into the atmosphere. (See the [Biodiversity Action Plan](#) for more information on peatlands).

Figure 1 Summary of Greenhouse Gas Emission Sectors in North Lanarkshire



Source: Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction, 2018 Emissions (2021)



DID YOU KNOW...

Housing generates more emissions than other types of buildings in North Lanarkshire? [Home Energy Scotland](#) provides advice to home owners and can help some carry out energy efficiency improvements? For more information on housing and climate change in North Lanarkshire see the [Local Housing Strategy](#).

For non-domestic buildings, assistance is available to businesses in the form of advice and funding through [Zero Waste Scotland](#).

Working as a community, in partnership

[The Plan for North Lanarkshire](#) is the council's main strategy for the area to improve services and outcomes for the communities who live here. It provides a shared ambition for inclusive growth and prosperity for all. It sets a path for the council and partners to follow. The Plan covers a wide range of activities that can impact on carbon emissions and help to make North Lanarkshire a more sustainable place to 'live-learn-work-invest-visit'.

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Below is a list of some the supporting documents

- Local Development Plan
- Transport Strategy
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Open Space Strategy
- Single Use Plastic Policy
- Procurement Strategy
- Active Travel Strategy
- Food Growing Strategy
- Local Housing Strategy

The council along with the other North Lanarkshire Partnership members (NHS, Police, Fire and Rescue, Scottish Enterprise and Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire) identified climate action as a key priority for the community planning partnership. The ACT Now Plan was developed by the NLP and is an integration of each of the partners' climate aims and ambitions. A new co-ordinating group was formed to take the plan forward. This partnership group will help to highlight climate issues and develop opportunities for local initiatives and climate action.

The council's climate plan ACT2030 will continue to feed into the work of this group. To further develop the council's strategic approach to tackle climate change we have identified the need for the following:

- we will develop a new engagement strategy in consultation with our partners and communities to ensure that we make the most of opportunities to share information, consult and work together to achieve net-zero by 2030
- Following the publication of Scottish Government guidance, we will develop our Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to reduce energy demand and decarbonise the heat supply of all buildings in North Lanarkshire
- We will continue to work with our partners in Climate Ready Clyde to deliver the Regional Adaptation Strategy. We intend to ensure that our local authority area is prepared to meet current and future climate change by developing an Adaptation Plan for North Lanarkshire.

DID YOU KNOW...

Each community board area in North Lanarkshire has a Local Outcome Improvement Plan which sets out its key priorities. Is climate or the environment a priority in your area? To find out more see [Local Outcome Improvement Plans](#)

Climate Plan Action on Climate Together 2030 (2021-2030)

The Scottish Government's updated Climate Change Plan provides us with a series of milestones to achieve net-zero in the form of a routemap. In North Lanarkshire we have brought forward that target, and so we will publish a detailed climate action plan and bespoke routemap. These documents will show how the council intends to lower its own emissions and use its influence to reduce area emissions. The following is what our routemap currently looks like.

2021

Adoption of the council's Active Travel Strategy	Peatland restoration continues	Scottish Government funds for improving recycling; zero emission buses; and innovation in energy	Restrictions on single use plastic	Continued delivery of the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project	Continued delivery of the Energy Efficiency Strategy by social landlords and the delivery of Energy Efficient Scotland Area Base Schemes for the private sector
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2022

Planting of Climate Emergency Woods complete	Scottish Government's Heat Networks Delivery Plan is published	Development of a routemap for North Lanarkshire and publication of the council's Climate Action Plan	Adoption of council's Climate Plan ACT2030
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2023

Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy Published	Regional Land Use Framework Developed	Implementation and further development of the North Lanarkshire routemap and council's Climate Action Plan.	Introduction of Deposit Return Scheme
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Carbon management and the council's emissions

Climate Champions

The council's climate champion is appointed from the current serving elected members. Their role is independent of the Climate Change Group and allows to them to advocate for change and also to hold the council's officers to account.



Climate Change Group

The role of the Climate Change Group is to ensure carbon and climate actions are integrated within the council activities including:

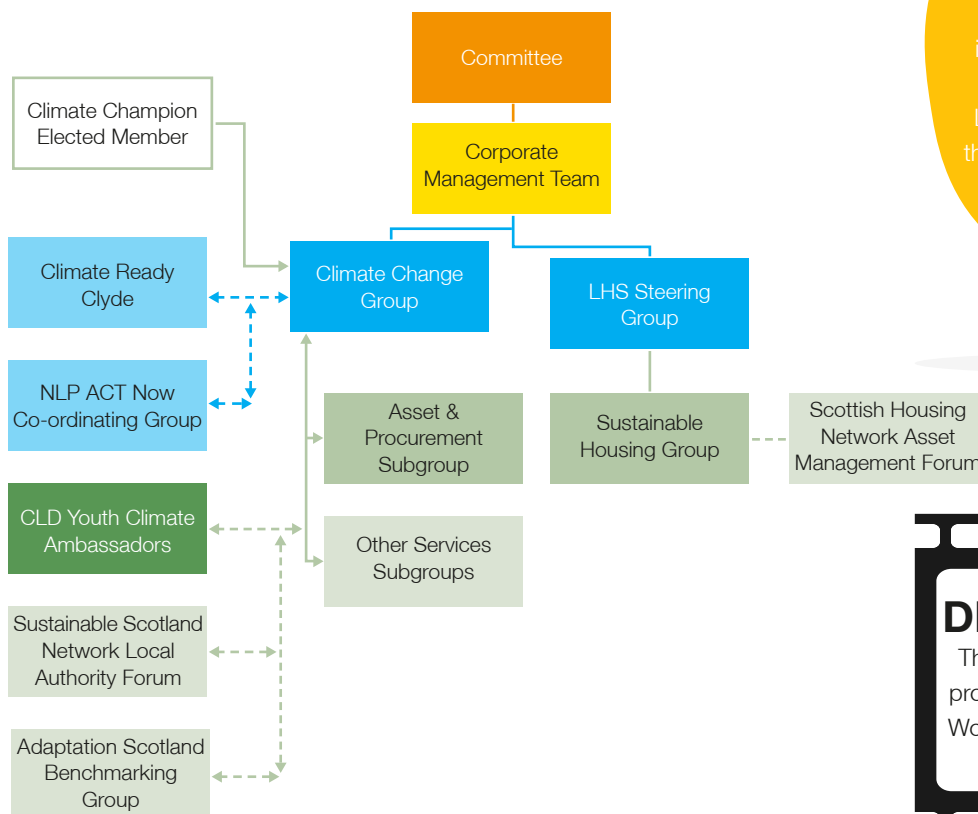
- the implementation of the carbon management plan;
- participation in Climate Ready Clyde and the regional Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan;
- the development of a wider strategy such as this plan; and
- having an input to any other arising relevant council policies, plans, actions and targets.

Reporting to the Environment and Transportation Committee, the group is comprised of senior management and council officers. The group meets every six weeks to review progress and agree new actions. Membership of this group includes the following Heads of Service:

- Asset & Procurement (Chair)
- Environmental Assets
- Regulatory Services and Waste Solutions
- Planning and Regeneration

DID YOU KNOW...

The climate change group links into the development of other key council documents such as the Local Housing Strategy as well as the Tackling Poverty Strategy where fuel poverty action is a key climate priority.



DID YOU KNOW...

The Youth Climate Ambassadors produced a short film entitled Dear World Leaders and it is available to view [online](#)

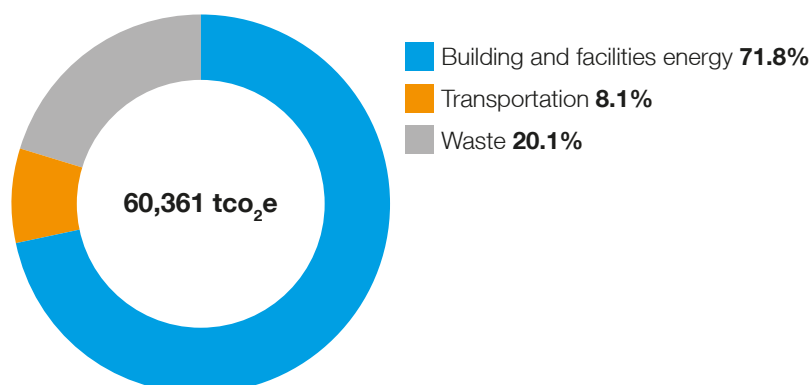
Focussing on the Climate Emergency Target for 2030 the group membership is reflective of the main sources of emissions within the council as well as recognising the importance of both housing and biodiversity in tackling climate change.

In 2021 the council strengthened its response to climate change by introducing new service-specific sub-groups. These sub-groups will contribute to the development of the Climate Plan ACT2030's Action Plan and Route Map, as well as continuing to embed climate action into the council's daily business.

The Youth Climate Ambassadors (established via Community Learning and Development's Youth Strategy) are critical to the development of this climate plan and other pieces of associated work. As they are independent from the council's governance structure, they offer a wholly independent perspective. They are also a key member of the NLP ACT Now group.

Council's Footprint

Figure 2 Summary of the council's emissions 2020/21



Source: Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report

The council has a responsibility to identify, monitor and report on its emissions. In 2016 a new baseline (2015/16) was established following a review of the council's carbon boundary. The carbon boundary is the list of known emission sources which are under some element of the

council's control. These are summarised into three main categories: buildings, transport and waste as shown in the above chart. The table below provides a summary of the council's footprint and performance since the baseline year.

Table 1 Summary of Emissions from the baseline year to the end of the report year (2015/16-2020/21)

Year	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total (tCO ₂ e)	Reduction/Increase (-/+) in Emissions since baseline year
2015/16*	35,611	41,516	39,948	117,075	-
2016/17	34,358	36,945	41,038	112,341	4.04%
2017/18	36,079	29,858	55,786	121,723	-3.97%
2018/19	35,347	21,525	41,029	97,900	16.38%
2019/20	33,475	20,898	22,740	77,113	34.13%
2020/21	29,815	15,731	14,815	60,361	48.44%

*Baseline year

Reductions in electricity emissions as well as waste has contributed to the overachievement of the targets set for 2019 (9%) and 2022 (21%). In 2020/21 the council reported a carbon footprint of 60,361 tCO₂e. As this was at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown restrictions such as staff working from home and temporary building closures such as schools led

to an overall reduction in building emissions (gas, electricity, water) which resulted in a much lower footprint than expected. Post-pandemic measures introduced during the course of 2021/22, such as increased ventilation requirements, are expected to increase energy consumption and so will increase building related emissions.

Targets

In order to achieve further reductions in emissions the council has set itself a series of challenging targets. In setting our targets, we have accepted that our emissions will increase during the course of 2021/22.

Table 2 Carbon Budgets Set

Annual Reduction Targets	Buildings	Transport	Waste	Annual Emissions Target	Reduction from baseline
2021/22	49,205	5,973	12,133	67,311	42.5%
2022/23	46,745	5,855	12,133	64,733	44.7%
2023/24	44,408	5,737	12,133	62,278	46.8%
2024/25	42,187	5,619	10,355	58,161	50.3%
2025/26	40,078	5,501	10,355	55,934	52.2%

The targets are based on current and planned projects:

- Completion of the Street Lighting Conversion to LED;
- Annual energy efficiency retrofit projects to existing council buildings;
- The anticipated 3% annual reduction in building consumption delivered via the council's Energy Policy;
- The continued Asset Rationalisation of the corporate estate;
- The gradual replacement of the council's fleet with low emission/electric vehicles.

For the first time, we have set specific carbon budgets for our main emissions: buildings, transport and waste, and these contribute to our annual reduction targets. This will not only enhance the council's monitoring of its progress but will aid the identification and justification of projects.

As our climate emergency target is set for 2030 we will continue to identify projects that will help us continue our target setting beyond 2025/26.

Monitoring and Review

The 'Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies; Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015', introduced a legal obligation requiring the council to produce an annual report detailing how it complies with its duties as specified in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and its subsequent amendments. The report is produced annually for the most recently completed financial year with a submission date of the 30th November.

Each year information and data is collated and verified for submission by individual services with the overall responsibility for the submission lying with the Climate Change Group. The report template is comprised of a number of sections which are mainly descriptive of the organisation:

- Profile;
- Governance;
- Emissions and Projects;
- Adaptation;
- Procurement;
- Validation; and
- A non-mandatory section: Wider Influence

The annual submission is brought before the Environment and Transportation Committee as part of the council's strategic performance framework. Thereafter a summary is published on the council's website.

NEXT STEPS



Next Steps

In our next phase of developing this plan we will produce and publish our detailed climate action plan and begin to build our planned routemap to 2030.



This document can be made available in a range of languages and formats, including large print, braille, audio, electronic and accessible formats.

To make a request, please contact Corporate Communications on 01698 302527 or email: corporatecommunications@northlan.gov.uk

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