



# Glasgow's Climate plan

## Glasgow, United Kingdom

### IN A NUTSHELL

*While acknowledging climate change as the challenge of a lifetime, Glasgow has created the Glasgow Climate Plan to smooth the transition to a low carbon and resilient city and to improve the quality of life of its people while achieving climate neutrality by 2030. Featured by a strong involvement of its citizens perspectives and needs, the city advances towards a greener future.*

### Why a local climate pact?

Glasgow acknowledges climate change as the challenge of a lifetime, one that can have devastating implications for society. The city has created the Glasgow Climate Plan to smooth the transition to a low carbon and resilient city and to improve the quality of life of its people while achieving climate neutrality by 2030. Given the need to make the transition possible and positive for all local actors, Glasgow City Council has called upon existing networks, partnerships, organisations, and individuals in the city to cooperate for the creation of the local climate plan.

On 16 May 2019, the Glasgow City Council's Climate Emergency Working Group declared a climate and ecological emergency. This later led to the development of the Local Climate Plan. The group, formed by members of all political parties and a wide range of stakeholders, presented a report that stated the need to become climate neutral by 2030 and highlighted 61 recommendations in the areas of transport, biodiversity, economy, and energy. These set the basis for the Glasgow Climate Plan.

### Underlying policy framework

To ensure the success of the plan, Glasgow has made sure to involve multiple partners and actors at a local and national level. Glasgow has ensured the proper collaboration between the public sector, private sector, and its community through a multistakeholder approach. The local government has created the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Programme Board, staffed with senior representatives from across the city council and led by the Director of Neighbourhoods. The board oversees the progress and direction of climate and ecological emergency actions.

Moreover, to bolster the cooperation between businesses, citizens, and governments to design innovative policies, Glasgow has created the Glasgow Green Deal. It aims at reducing carbon emissions and building resilience; creating prosperity and sustainable jobs; and delivering a just transition by ensuring inclusion and equality.



Kids enjoying a green space, photo by Glasgow City Council

## GLASGOW



City of Glasgow, (c) Glasgow Life

<b>Population:</b> 612,000	<b>Area:</b> 175 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Signatory to the Covenant of Mayors since:</b> 28/08/2009	<b>Covenant of Mayors GHG emission reduction:</b> 30% Carbon Neutrality by 2030



### FINANCING THE PROJECT

- Public Funds (mostly municipal funds):** Green Deal and associated Investment Framework to help mobilise finance towards implementation of Climate Plan

## Communication and community empowerment

According to the Scottish Government's Draft Public Engagement Strategy 'Net Zero Nation,' over 60% of measures to achieve net zero emissions require societal change. Following this line, Glasgow has bolstered public engagement across the city to ensure citizens' needs are considered in the development of sustainable policies and actions.

The city has started to hold climate conversations to engage residents on the main actions to be taken get their feedback and ideas. Some of these conversations have taken place through the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and Glasgow Life. This has included climate conversations with local school communities in collaboration with an artist in residence programme run by Glasgow Life, and a legislative theatre project in partnership with Community Empowerment Services, as well as climate cafes in cooperation with the Glasgow Science Centre.

Glasgow believes in the '4 Es' of intervention – education, engagement, enhancement, and enforcement – to engage with citizens and make change happen. It is because of this reason that the city advocates for providing both education services to youth, and continuous education for staff. Younger generations are allowed to explore outdoor opportunities through the 'Climate Ready Classrooms' programme, while lifelong learning is provided by training such as 'Carbon Literacy and Ecological Emergency.' The latter has been taken by 40% of all elected members of the Local Council, including its leader, as well as the Corporate Management Team, many local officers and staff and volunteers for CoP26.

## Results and next steps

The work of the climate, resilience, and sustainability programme office will require significant investment both internally and externally to the city council. The development of a Green New Deal for Glasgow was critical in establishing the financial landscape from which this can be delivered.

Glasgow City Council has now approved an Action Plan and Framework to support the delivery of the Glasgow Green Deal, a nine-year mission to transform the city's economy to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.

A range of finance-related work has been undertaken with a view to developing a Glasgow Climate Investment Framework, an innovation programme to support mitigation and adaptation activity has been set up, and a Green Business Grant is currently being piloted in the city.

Impressive commitments have been made and it is now time to show meaningful progress – particularly in terms of using the Glasgow Climate Pact as a blueprint for real action in reducing emissions and accelerating the move to renewables.

### KEY FIGURES

Engaged with stakeholders as part of Sustainable Glasgow Partnership  
<https://sustainableglasgow.org.uk/>

Engaged with local communities as part of climate conversations and climate cafes.

**61** recommendations

**4** areas of action – Communication and Citizen mobilisation; Net Zero; Climate Adaptation and enhancing Biodiversity.

### USEFUL LINKS

- » <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=50623&p=0>
- » <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/glasgowgreendeal>
- » <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18318>



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