



# Sustainable Growth Agreement

2050 Climate Group and Scottish Environment  
Protection Agency

6 July 2017

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**Between:**

**Scottish Environment Protection Agency ("SEPA")<sup>1</sup>**

Corporate Office  
Strathallan House  
Castle Business Park  
Stirling FK9 4TZ

**and**

**2050 Climate Group<sup>2</sup>**

C/O Young Scot  
Rosebery House  
9 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh EH12 5LZ

(each a "Party" and together the "Parties")

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<sup>1</sup> SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY, a body corporate established under Section 20 of, and Schedule 6 to, the Environment Act 1995

<sup>2</sup> 2050 Climate Group is a registered charity in Scotland (Number SC047206)

### Our Joint Aspirations

The parties agree to work collaboratively to deliver the commitments set out in this Sustainable Growth Agreement. The agreement aims to enable the 2050 Climate Group to explore, expand and develop opportunities for youth leadership, influence and inclusion in driving the transition to a low carbon world.

### What are Sustainable Growth Agreements?

Sustainable Growth Agreements are voluntary, non-legally binding, formal agreements through which an organisation (or organisations) and SEPA can explore new and innovative ways of working that deliver environmental, social and economic success.



## The 2050 Climate Group's Vision

The **2050 Climate Group** is Scotland's youth climate group and aims to lead a social movement by engaging, educating and empowering Scotland's Future Leaders to take action on climate change. The group is a collection of young professionals across Scotland who all share a commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation and accelerating Scotland's transition to a low carbon economy.

The **2050 Climate Group** is committed to leading the change, to inspire and be inspired by others and to start a movement of passionate, like-minded individuals who want to ensure a sustainable future beyond 2050.

The **2050 Climate Group's** Young Leaders Development Programme takes Young Leaders aged 18-30 from all sectors, backgrounds and locations in Scotland and trains them in leadership skills that will be essential to deal with 21st century challenges, particularly climate change and the low carbon transition, ensuring they are equipped to be leaders in a successful Scotland.

The **2050 Climate Group** has been described as a "world first" by Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. As the 2050 Climate Group progresses, its goal is to spread the model to an international audience as well as here in Scotland. This will drive changes in business, society and behaviour, and also highlight Scotland's impressive work in this area internationally. Environmental challenges don't stop at borders; the 2050 Climate Group knows that for meaningful action to take place on a global scale, a collaborative approach is needed between nations. Last year the 2050 Climate Group presented its model at the UN Conference on climate change (COP21) and was subsequently invited back to present on the progress delivering the first year of their leadership development programme at COP22 in Marrakech. The presentation in Paris received great interest from the international community, with many countries asking how they can replicate it.

The **2050 Climate Group** is establishing a "new normal", where low carbon climate action and environmental responsibility are mainstreamed across their generation so that Future Leaders can achieve one planet prosperity.





# Why is SEPA supporting the 2050 Climate Group?

SEPA believes that the only nations, societies and businesses which will thrive in the 21st century will be those which have developed ways to prosper within our planet's capacity to support them, including adapting to and taking action on climate change early. Scotland has committed to being a world leader in addressing climate change, and is already taking ambitious steps to drive a low carbon economy, creating new opportunities for a stronger and more inclusive economy and society.

SEPA's job is to help make this happen, including working with and supporting people and groups in Scotland who share this aim. SEPA knows that Scotland has, in the 2050 Climate Group, a unique asset for helping to achieve this goal. The 2050 Climate Group is leading a social movement by engaging, educating and empowering Scotland's Future Leaders to take action on climate change.

SEPA has been a key supporter of the 2050 Climate Group from the start. We believe that, rather than creating our own programmes in this area, we should support the Group in helping deliver our shared outcomes. For example, SEPA (through its own networks) will support the 2050 Climate Group in making connections and exporting its work. This will help make the 2050 movement truly international, with global impact, strengthening Scotland's position as an environmental leader and developer of young talent.

The 2050 Climate Group's work involves leaders from all backgrounds and areas in Scotland in decision-making that affects their future. SEPA is committed to improving the environment, as far as possible in ways that also benefit the economy and society. Including a more diverse group in creating the future will bring mutually beneficial outcomes for both organisations and also for Scotland. Through SEPA's support of the 2050 Climate Group, those in deprived or remote areas will have opportunities to develop themselves and contribute to Scotland's success as a nation. They will offer up fresh thinking on the environmental issues that affect them and their communities.

# Areas Agreed for Joint Working

## Influencing and Leadership

The environment needs leadership! Both parties will work together to create opportunities for leadership that excite, interest and support all sectors of society to deliver environmental, economic and social benefits.

To help Scotland thrive in a resource-efficient, low carbon economy, both parties will support exciting opportunities for creative thinking and new approaches to resource use. Supporting joined-up thinking, providing resources and actively seeking to collaborate with, and influence, key partners through activities such as:

- **2050 Climate Group** working with SEPA and SEPA's partner organisations through working groups, and potentially others with Sustainable Growth Agreements, to help transform its vision of a sustainable Scotland into reality.
- **2050 Climate Group**, including alumni, strengthening SEPA's planning of its programmes by contributing viewpoints and suggestions at key SEPA meetings.
- **SEPA** encouraging regulated businesses to consider working with the 2050 Climate Group, through mechanisms such as Enforcement Undertakings and Sustainable Growth Agreements, to improve Scotland's environment, resource efficiency and sustainability. This will allow young people to influence and help businesses, and drive improvements to Scotland's environment.
- **SEPA** offering Young Leaders attendance at SEPA events, training and development opportunities.
- **SEPA** providing opportunities for focus groups and advisory panels, in which 2050 Climate Group Young Leaders will participate, to consider young people's views during decision making.



## Inclusion and Decision Making

Environmental improvement and social inclusion should be mainstreamed into all aspects of life in Scotland. Both parties will work to ensure young people (specifically, the target 18-30 group) from all backgrounds and locations are represented in decision-making. Both parties know that environmental action is not just for environmentalists. SEPA and the 2050 Climate Group will work together to promote action in this area across all of society, with a specific focus on the characteristics of geographic location and socio-economic deprivation through activities such as:

- **2050 Climate Group** continuing to be a platform which empowers young people to shape their future, promoting the benefits of including youth in decision making.
- **2050 Climate Group** providing opportunities for SEPA staff, partners and others with Sustainable Growth Agreements to volunteer to help with operations and events.
- **2050 Climate Group** providing opportunities for SEPA staff, partners and others with Sustainable Growth Agreements to participate in the Young Leaders Development Programme or similar events.
- **2050 Climate Group** supporting development in areas of deprivation and regeneration through growing leadership capacity, mentorship and the visibility of environmental careers.
- **2050 Climate Group** and **SEPA** creating opportunities in leadership for those from deprived backgrounds and remote locations.
- **SEPA** drawing on help from partners to support the 2050 Climate Group in building resource and capacity towards more online materials to help those in more remote areas participate without travel (e.g. live streaming of events).
- **SEPA** supporting the 2050 Climate Group in working with partner organisations who can help the Young Leader Development Programme reach out to more diverse groups.
- **SEPA** providing more opportunities for the 2050 Climate Group to work with businesses from different sectors.
- **SEPA** creating opportunities for Young Leaders to advise SEPA and help shape approaches to environmental regulation in Scotland.

## International Co-operation

Both parties will commit to increasing the ability of the 2050 Climate Group to share its work internationally; gaining more action, partners and putting Scotland on the map as a place for youth leadership driving ambitious climate action, through activities such as:

- **2050 Climate Group** continuing to promote its work to an international audience and explore expansion avenues.
- **SEPA** supporting the 2050 Climate Group in attending events to promote the work of the group, gain new ideas and collaborate more (e.g. international conferences held in Scotland).
- **SEPA** helping the 2050 Climate Group make new connections internationally via existing networks, such as the European EPA CEO network.
- **SEPA** providing the 2050 Climate Group with access to its proposed International Innovation Panel of advisors made up of senior leaders from diverse business backgrounds, think tanks, academics, etc.

## Practical Support

SEPA, as a large public sector organisation, and the 2050 Climate Group as a volunteer-led charity, have access to divergent but equally valuable physical, financial and human resources. Both parties will explore opportunities to collaborate and maximise these resources to ensure the long-term strength of the partnership, through activities such as:

- **SEPA** helping 2050 Climate Group to find meeting spaces.
- **SEPA** providing communications support and training to help build the profile of the 2050 Climate Group.

## Working Practice

This SGA sets out a range of activities to help achieve the shared aims of SEPA and the 2050 Climate Group. These activities and any developed in the future will be prioritised alongside other opportunities as they arise in order to achieve the best possible outcomes.

# Sustainable Growth Agreement Management

1. All applicable laws continue to apply to the 2050 Climate Group and nothing in this Sustainable Growth Agreement is intended to, or shall be deemed to:-
  - a. establish any partnership or joint venture between the Parties, constitute any Party as the agent of the other Party, nor authorise any of the Parties to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of the other Party; and
  - b. adversely affect or prejudice the ability of SEPA to act in its capacity as a regulator.
2. The Parties have agreed that this Sustainable Growth Agreement will remain in place for three years from the date of signing this Sustainable Growth Agreement.
3. This Sustainable Growth Agreement is not legally binding and creates no legal rights or legal obligations between the Parties. Both Parties are accountable and responsible for honouring their commitments in this Sustainable Growth Agreement.
4. This Agreement will be made available to the public by both Parties (e.g. on SEPA and the 2050 Climate Group websites).
5. The 2050 Climate Group and SEPA agree to review and document progress on a six monthly basis and report this to the SEPA Chief Executive and the 2050 Climate Group Chair.
6. Opportunities to promote the Sustainable Growth Agreement and its outcomes will be included in the six monthly reporting to the SEPA Chief Executive and the 2050 Climate Group Chair.
7. There will be a formal Annual Review and a joint Annual Report prepared by the SEPA Chief Executive and the 2050 Climate Group Chair to assess progress against the commitments set out in this Sustainable Growth Agreement and to assess success.
8. The Annual Review and joint Annual Report can also identify areas of focus for the following year, possible amendments to the Sustainable Growth Agreement and opportunities to promote the Sustainable Growth Agreement.
9. The joint Annual Report on this Sustainable Growth Agreement will be presented to the SEPA and the 2050 Climate Group Boards and made available to the public.
10. Both Parties reserve the right to withdraw from this Sustainable Growth Agreement if they believe it is no longer effectively promoting their aspirations.
11. If a Party is considering withdrawing they will notify the Chief Executive/Chair of the other Party of their intention. Both Parties agree to work together to seek a resolution wherever possible.

Signed For and On behalf of 2050 Climate Group

Signed For and On behalf of SEPA



### Further Information

#### 2050 Climate Group

Website: [www.2050.scot](http://www.2050.scot)  
Tel: 0131 313 2488  
Email: [contact@2050.scot](mailto:contact@2050.scot)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/2050group>  
Twitter: @2050ClimateGrp

#### SEPA

Website: [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)  
Tel: 03000 996699  
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SEPA's Regulatory Strategy: One Planet Prosperity



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