

# CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Every day SEPA works to protect and enhance Scotland's environment, helping communities and businesses thrive within the resources of our planet.

We call this One Planet Prosperity.



# Our Climate Change Commitment Statement

Every day SEPA works to protect and enhance Scotland's environment, helping communities and businesses thrive within the resources of our planet. We call this One Planet Prosperity.

If everyone lived as we do in Scotland, we would need three planets to sustain ourselves. We only have one. The scale of environmental challenge facing humanity is enormous and there is a real urgency to act.

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges that the world is facing. In 2015, 195 nations came together in Paris to agree a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global temperature increases to well below 2 degrees. Here in Scotland, we already have some of the most ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets in the world and the Scottish Government has introduced a new Climate Change Bill that will stretch that ambition further.

SEPA wants to play as powerful a role as possible to help Scotland deliver this world leading climate change action. We want to help to position Scotland as a prosperous, resilient and socially inclusive nation which makes the most of the opportunities afforded by a low carbon and circular economy. We want to support as strongly as possible Scotland's aspirations to be the inventor and manufacturer of low carbon innovations and solutions. We also want to ensure that social equity, people's health and well-being benefits and people's rights to a safe environment are considered in all our work, particularly in creating low carbon and climate resilient places.

Through our two core services of regulation and flooding we are already supporting practical delivery. The evidence we produce is already helping people to make informed decisions on climate change, be it long term planning for the future, or what to do to keep safe in the event of a flood.

We now want to stretch this ambition even further so that we make the biggest difference possible to Scottish efforts on climate change and achieving One Planet Prosperity. This climate change commitment statement sets out this ambition and the targets we are setting ourselves.

It will be the responsibility of everyone in SEPA to help deliver climate change action through their work. We will review this statement and measure success annually.

“We want to help to position Scotland as a prosperous, resilient and socially inclusive nation which makes the most of the opportunities afforded by a low carbon and circular economy.”

# Our Six Climate Change Commitments

## 1. We will drive energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions through our authorisations, inspections and enforcement

One Planet Prosperity explains how we will regulate for maximum benefit, using all of the regulatory tools at our disposal. We do this to deliver environmental protection and improvement in ways which will also create health and well-being benefits and sustainable economic growth. We will ensure that every regulated business fully meets their compliance obligations and want to help as many businesses as possible to innovate and go beyond compliance. Therefore we will:

- Pro-actively help regulated business achieve compliance outcomes with the lowest carbon footprint and in ways that improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide additional support to businesses which are piloting innovative and new approaches to help drive energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions along with other beyond compliance action.
- Ensure that every enforcement undertaking includes at least one action that substantially improves energy/resource efficiency and reduces greenhouse gas emissions for the business and/or its supply chain.

## 2. Climate change will be a key feature of sector planning, targeting emissions reductions across each sector that is aligned to Scottish Government sector targets

We are preparing sector plans that will provide the framework for our regulatory actions and drive our interactions with the sector. Sector plans will tackle compliance issues and identify the most promising beyond compliance opportunities that will deliver economic success for the sector. Embedding climate change commitments into our sector plans will ensure that mitigation and adaptation feature in everything we do. Therefore we will:

- Include at least two significant actions in every sector plan that will help Scotland adapt to and mitigate climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the sector and its supply chains.
- Agree at least two Sustainable Growth Agreements to specifically showcase and inspire low carbon innovation by end of 2019.
- Ensure that every Sustainable Growth Agreement contains at least one action that substantially reduces greenhouse gas emissions by the business and its supply chain.

## 3. We will use our regulatory and planning roles to help create low-carbon and climate resilient places

SEPA, working in powerful partnerships with others, plays an integral role in helping to shape the places of the future and we can help ensure that our towns and cities become low carbon and resilient places that we are proud to live in and which attract investment. We will:

- Deliver at least one Sustainable Growth Agreement with a Scottish city by September 2018 that helps to deliver One Planet Prosperity and builds climate change adaptation and mitigation action into the heart of future city region development.
- Set out a plan of action by end of 2018 for where and when SEPA will work in a similar way with other Scottish cities and regions, engaging pro-actively and at the early stages through our regulatory and planning roles.
- Use our regulatory, planning and partnership work to help Scotland protect and enhance natural carbon sinks and keep locked up carbon where it is.

## 4. We will use our flooding roles to greatest advantage to improve climate resilience for Scotland's communities

We prepare Scotland's Flood Risk Management Strategies to co-ordinate efforts and investment to tackle flooding. Embedding climate change knowledge and adaptation approaches at the heart of this process will help to ensure that everything that we and others do in flood risk management helps our communities, infrastructure and way of life adapt to climate change. Therefore we will:

- Prepare information that can be used by people to better understand the impacts of climate change on flood risk and to factor this into their decisions.
- Implement our Flood Warning Development Framework to deliver 14 additional Flood Warning schemes by 2021, a 15% increase in coverage and providing warnings to new communities in 38 Potentially Vulnerable Areas.
- By 2021, we will develop a public daily flood guidance bulletin to promote flood vigilance and preparedness and we will provide better access to our real time information to support decision making during flood events.
- Build on our range of partnerships to inform, influence and advocate adaptable actions to strengthen Scotland's resilience to future flooding.

## 5. We will develop partnerships that create significant breakthroughs and investment opportunities to help Scotland tackle climate change and transition to a low carbon economy

The challenges of tackling climate change are cross-sectoral therefore most solutions will be realised through partnership working. While existing partnerships will remain important, we also need to engage with new partners to help unlock transformational rather than incremental change. Therefore we will:

- Establish at least two new breakthrough partnerships by March 2019 via our sector planning approach to create Scotland-wide opportunities for business innovation that tackles climate change.
- Engage at executive level with key investors and funders and establish at least one breakthrough partnership that drives significant investment in the transition to a low carbon economy by March 2019.
- Optimise SEPA's Water Environment Fund by ensuring that wherever possible coincidental climate change benefits can be achieved through funded projects, with at least two such projects committed by SEPA funds by March 2020.

## 6. We will be a 'One Planet' organisation in terms of our green house gas emissions and carbon footprint and lead the way in supporting others to do the same

We already have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by almost 40% since 2007. We know that we can and must go further, demonstrating leadership and acting as an exemplar in environmental excellence. Therefore we will:

- Achieve our current 42% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target one year early – by April 2019.
- Explore opportunities to off-set our residual greenhouse gas emissions and aim for fewer offsets each year.
- Introduce new greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets that exceed our fair share of targets set for Scotland in the forthcoming Climate Change Act.
- Be a zero waste organisation by 2022.
- Make our fleet all new technology (hybrid, electric, hydrogen) by 2023.
- Where feasible, seek to locate SEPA offices near to public transport hubs.

## Our six climate change commitments



For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language please either contact SEPA by telephone on 03000 99 66 99 or by email to **[equalities@sepa.org.uk](mailto:equalities@sepa.org.uk)**

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL) the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter enabling you to communicate with us using sign language.

**<http://contactscotland-bsl.org/>**