



A REVIEW ONE YEAR ON

A SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AGREEMENT WITH THE 2050 CLIMATE GROUP



JULY 2018



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AGREEMENT A REVIEW - ONE YEAR ON THE 2050 CLIMATE GROUP

Between:

2050 Climate Group

c/o Young Scot
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And

Scottish Environment Protection Agency ("SEPA")

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FOREWORD FROM SEPA AND 2050 CLIMATE GROUP

Sustainable Growth Agreements (SGA) inspire us to find new ways of working, and new ways of seeking success. When the 2050 Climate Group and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency co-designed and committed to our shared SGA just over a year ago, it was itself a new way of working: co-designing commitments which enable us to achieve our aims in mutually-beneficial ways, which helps to deepen and widen the scale of our impact. As our organisations and initiatives have developed, evolved and matured, so too has how we have implemented our activities.

Exploring our ambition collaboratively enables us to go further: combining our skills and expertise to compound our impact. Practical actions turn into real opportunities for young people in Scotland: a new generation equipped to understand and address climate change and its impacts for our way of life. Achieving 'One Planet Prosperity' is vital to both of our organisations and this partnership is an excellent example of how Scotland can achieve that.

This report explores the activity undertaken in the year since the signing of our shared Sustainable Growth Agreement, but it is not the end of our work together: in Scotland's Year of Young People, the power and potential of the nation's youth has been celebrated. However, it essential that we develop the legacy of this special year, and continue to encourage, support, develop and learn from our young people as we work together towards a sustainable Scotland.



Catriona Patterson
2050 Climate Group Chair of the Board



Terry A'Hearn
SEPA Chief Executive Officer



WHAT ARE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AGREEMENTS?

Currently, Scotland needs approximately three planets to sustain its current way of living¹, however, we only have one.

All parts of our communities, businesses and government have key roles to play to enable Scotland to tackle the challenge of creating social and economic success within planetary constraints. In terms of environmental regulation, this effectively means that SEPA needs to:

1. get all those it regulates to meet their legal obligations and reach compliance; and
2. help as many regulated entities as possible move beyond compliance.

Sustainable Growth Agreements are one way of helping achieve this. They are voluntary, non-legally binding, formal agreements through which an organisation (or organisations) and SEPA can explore new and innovative ways to improve environmental performance and focus on practical actions that deliver environmental, social and economic success.

¹ www.sepa.org.uk/media/219427/one-planet-prosperity-our-regulatory-strategy.pdf

A SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AGREEMENT WITH THE 2050 CLIMATE GROUP

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 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 committed to leading the change, in establishing a 'new normal' where low carbon climate change action and environmental responsibility are mainstreamed across their generation so that future leaders can achieve a sustainable future beyond 2050.

This Sustainable Growth Agreement includes areas for joint working that support the 2050 Climate Group to create opportunities for climate change leadership, engaging young people from all backgrounds and locations and to share its work more internationally gaining global action.

2050 CLIMATE GROUP: FACT FILE

The numbers

- 18 board trustees, 45 operational volunteers, 1 core member of staff, and over 260 alumni - a Leaders Network of young people committed to taking action on climate change.
- In 2018-2019, 130 additional young people (aged 18-35) are currently enrolled in the third year of the Young Leaders Development Programme (YLDP).

The activities

Officially incorporated as a charity in April 2017, the organisation continues to develop a variety of workstreams including:

- the design and delivery of their flagship one-year development programme;
- the support and facilitation of climate action by their Young Leaders;
- the engagement of young people in policy and strategy consultations; and
- their expansion into delivering an international project in Malawi.

The impact

- 199 actions tackling climate change were undertaken by Young Leaders in 2017-2018.
- Winner at Scottish Green Energy Awards; Energy Globe Awards and Global Gamechangers Awards. Shortlisted for NGO of the Year and Finalist at Scottish Charity Awards.
- [A full impact report is available to view on the 2050 Group website.](#)

SEPA and the 2050 Climate Group have been working closely over the past year towards the objectives of the Sustainable Growth Agreement. The achievements are summarised in this publication showing progress across all four areas of agreed joint working.



SGA launch

“It was very interesting to be there and be able to feed into their commitment statements. We discussed sustainable finance, site visits of practical climate impacts and widening each other’s messaging.”

Quote from 2050 Climate Group participant after SEPA Climate Change Commitment workshop

Influencing and leadership

Enhanced recognition of the contributions of young people.

Young Leaders were invited to a VIBES Awards Internal Stakeholder meeting, leading to the suggestion and development of a Young Persons Award for Scotland’s Year of Young People 2018.

This award recognised the achievements of a Young Person who has made a difference to waste, recycling or to environmental sustainability in general and resource management in their local area, or on a regional or national project.

Increased participation in influencing opportunities.

Young leaders were invited to contribute to a range of SEPA activities, including the development of SEPA’s Climate Change Commitment Statement and a new International Innovation Panel.

Inclusion and decision-making

Reaching new audiences to ensure that young people from all backgrounds and locations are represented in decision-making and have the opportunity to participate.

As a result of support and advice from SEPA’s Equalities Officer, the 2050 Climate Group was able to widen the diversity of its YLDP intake and other work geographically, sectorally and personally. The group now has representation from 23 of Scotland’s 32 local authorities, including significant numbers in rural areas.

SEPA’s advice also helped the 2050 Climate Group manage their travel fund which supports those who may not otherwise be able to participate in events and activities.

Development opportunities for SEPA staff members.

10 members of SEPA staff participated in the group’s Second Young Leaders Development Programme (YLDP2).

“When the opportunity came up to join the YLDP2 I jumped at the chance as I was keen to expand my knowledge of climate change action and to develop my leadership skill sets. Both these programmes increased my confidence in my abilities, allowed me to engage with others and create a network of contacts, and develop as a young leader. This personal growth reflected positively in my working life as a scientist at SEPA and I was ultimately successful in securing a three month secondment to a senior scientist position...I am now also a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) ambassador, going to schools and community groups to promote STEM careers to young people.”

Fiona Gentle, Scientist at SEPA and 2050 Climate Group member



First Minister and 2050 Climate Group

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, spoke at 2050 Climate Group's Youth Climate Summit in April 2018 on Scotland's climate leadership. The summit was attended by over 300 young people across Scotland, and themed around the 'Just Transition' - how we transform ourselves to a low carbon, sustainable society in a way which is equitable for all.

International co-operation

New networks, partners and audiences.

Networks facilitated through the International Innovation Panel, the wider Environment Protection Agency network and with individuals in the sustainability and climate change sphere have sparked ideas, ambitions and seeded potential future partnerships to enable the 2050 Climate Group to work with an international focus and audience.

At their Third Youth Summit event in April, the 2050 Climate Group and Scottish Government announced a new partnership between young people in Scotland and Malawi. The collaboration will draw on the knowledge of the 2050 Climate Group to support young people in Malawi to tackle climate change in the future.

Practical support

"As a volunteer-led charity, 2050 Climate Group have one full-time member of staff and 64 volunteers, aged between 18 and 35 years old. Having incorporated as a charity (SCIO) in April 2017, this is a significant period of organisational development for the group.

Practical support and mentorship from senior SEPA managers have helped our leadership team with strategic direction of the charity, enabling us to gain knowledge and learning from their experiences as one of Scotland's major public bodies."

Richard Dryburgh (former Chair, 2050 Climate Group)



SEPA HAVE OFFERED A RANGE OF SUPPORT FOR 2050 CLIMATE GROUP ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT AS A CHARITY.



PLANS FOR YEAR 2 OF THE SGA

SEPA and the 2050 Climate Group will continue to work together over the next year towards the objectives of the Sustainable Growth Agreement. A summary of some key areas of focus are outlined below:

- Developing opportunities and models for youth engagement, influence and decision making in policy and strategy through the SEPA sector plans.
- Supporting international leadership in climate change and One Planet Prosperity through the International Innovation Panel and shared learning from new projects in Malawi.
- Increasing representation and participation from young people in governance; working together to encourage regulated businesses and partners to consider young people for board-level positions.
- 11 members of SEPA staff to participate in the Third Young Leaders Development Programme.
- Utilising SEPA's corporate communications expertise to help support and build the profile of the work of the 2050 Climate Group.

The impact

199 actions tackling climate change were undertaken by Young Leaders in 2017-2018. Here is a flavour of some of them:

- Arita Berzera developed her idea for a 'vegan junk food takeaway' combining food sustainability, and the growing consumer market for ethical and low-carbon food products. Her business idea 'Glasvegan' launched earlier this year and is doing really well.
- Christina Bristow, who is an account manager for Paterson Arran Ltd, presented as part of our professional leadership module this year on 'owning your skillset' and overcoming the fears, learning and challenges that might get in one's way. She spoke about how, before joining the programme, she felt that she was in the 'mainstream' - caring about climate change, but not empowered to take action on it.

As part of her 'actions' she joined the organisational Environmental Management team, drove new ideas and engagement initiatives and ended up running a pilot of a 'DoNation' campaign (where you 'sponsor' people with low carbon actions) which will be rolled out to 150 staff in 2019. Christina has now been asked to join the Business Steering Committee for Paterson Arran, helping to set the whole-business strategy. The company was also a finalist in the 2018 VIBES Awards.

Making Changes in the workplace - Kim Cooper (Impact Review - Action in the Professional Sphere)

Young Leader Kim Cooper works in a microbiology lab for Scientific Services at Scottish Water and she is concerned by the large amount of consumables and energy her lab uses for sterility, business continuity, and regulatory requirements. With the help of management and her colleagues, Kim put together a workshop for Scientific Services employees promoting and raising awareness about her team's ISO14001 environmental certification, inspired to do so after attending her first YLDP module. The workshop focus was on energy usage and waste production. Despite having to meet various regulatory requirements, the workshop discussed methods Scientific Services can use and how they can procure consumables more sustainably - for example using steel loops instead of plastic, disposable ones.

The workshop was well attended by staff and management, and was praised by the chief scientist, Kim's lab manager and her team leader. This was a great example of a young person reaching out to her peers and managers to effect measurable change in her workplace. According to Kim, long-term behaviour change is her biggest stumbling block in influencing her lab. We therefore paired Kim with one of our external mentors, Alex Hillam, who has a working knowledge of behaviour-change initiatives. Kim's action is a perfect example of an ambitious determination to influence her peers, while being open to the wisdom and experience of those at different stages in their careers.

Having completed the Young Leaders Development Programme 2017-2018, Kim returned to the programme in 2018-2019 as a speaker.



Further Information

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 2050group

 2050ClimateGrp

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