

Climate Fife 2024 Strategy and Action Plan

#OurClimateMatters



Foreword

I am pleased to introduce Fife Council's "Climate Fife 2024". Much has changed since Fife Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, and this plan reflects the Fife Council adaptive approach to our changing climate, outlining the action we are committed to taking over the next 4 years.

Fife Council has made some significant progress over the years, we have almost halved our carbon footprint since 2015. But the scale of the challenge is enormous and there is still much work to do to meet our target. And while we have reduced Fife Council's carbon footprint, this only represents a small percentage of Fife's total. Through our policies, projects and service delivery Fife Council can also influence, support and lead all of Fife to tackle the emergency.

Fife Council cannot do this alone. Only by working together can we tackle both our impact on the climate and the changing climate's impact on us. Our partnerships with other public sector organisations, local businesses and our communities is crucial, and Fife Council commits to working with everyone in Fife to meet our ambitions.

We also need support from national government. We welcome the recent Partnership Agreement between the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Scottish Government, setting out a more collaborative approach to delivering our shared priorities. But it is clear additional government funding, new national policies, and wider support and guidance is needed to deliver these priorities in Fife.

Taking action to address the Climate Emergency is not just about the planet, our actions in this plan play a significant role in tackling the nature emergency, making the most of opportunities for a greener economy, and support people during the cost-of-living crisis. Energy efficient homes, local food and low carbon public transport can all contribute to keeping household bills low and support healthy living.

I look forward to working together with everyone across Fife, embracing the opportunities climate action can bring, and taking Fife into a future that is climate friendly, climate ready, and climate just.



Cllr. Jan Wincott
Spokesperson
Environment & Climate Change

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Introduction

In 2019 Fife Council declared a Climate Emergency, committing to the target of net-zero by 2045. This was closely followed by “Climate Fife” our Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (2020-2030), outlining our ambition and actions to tackle the climate emergency over the long term.

Since then, much has changed. The week “Climate Fife” was launched the country entered the first lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic, and over the next 2 years this significantly impacted both our priorities for action and how we deliver services to our communities. This change in priorities was reflected in the revised Plan4Fife (2021-24) where ‘Addressing the Climate Emergency’ was identified as one of the three key priorities for recovery and renewal, supported by an overarching approach of Community Wealth Building.

At a national policy level there have also been significant changes, notably the update of the Scottish Government’s Climate Change Plan (2020) and publication of their Environmental Strategy (2020). Both highlighted the recovery from the pandemic needs to respond to the climate emergency, putting us on a pathway to deliver emission reduction through a just transition to net zero.

More widely during this period, scientific evidence provided more impetus to deliver real change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that insufficient pace and scale of action means globally we are on course to reach 1.5 °C of warming within the next two decades . Noting that limiting it to 1.5 °C is still within reach, but only with urgent transformational change. The UK’s own Climate Change Committee also emphasised the need for urgency, and for the UK to retake a leadership role internationally.

“Climate Fife 2024” provides a revised, refreshed, and focussed strategy on what Fife Council will deliver over the next 4 years. This offers an opportunity to look to the future at what we can scale-up, going further and faster, and to build on our achievements so far.

IPCC, 2023: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

Our strategy

The **Vision for Climate Fife** remains the same. By 2045 Fife will be:



Climate Friendly

having transformed the economy, infrastructure, land use and energy system to decarbonise how we live



Climate Ready

with plans and projects to increase the resilience of Fife communities and the economy to help minimise the impacts from unavoidable climate change



Climate Just

ensuring that all Fifers and the Fife environment can benefit from this transition

To achieve this vision we need to continue to deliver reductions and efficiencies, but

recognise the need to transform how we do things to facilitate increased pace and scale.

Our strategy addresses this through 3 “Big Moves” which will transform how we will do things, and an Action Plan outlining our ongoing and continued actions over the coming four years.

Big Moves

These are key transformations that we need to make over the period of the strategy. Including where we need to agree or change policy, develop new delivery models, and adopt a place-based approach.

The three Big Moves are:



Energy

where we will begin to transform the energy system in Fife to low carbon



Resilience

where we will transform how we protect Fife from the unavoidable impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, including through nature-based solutions

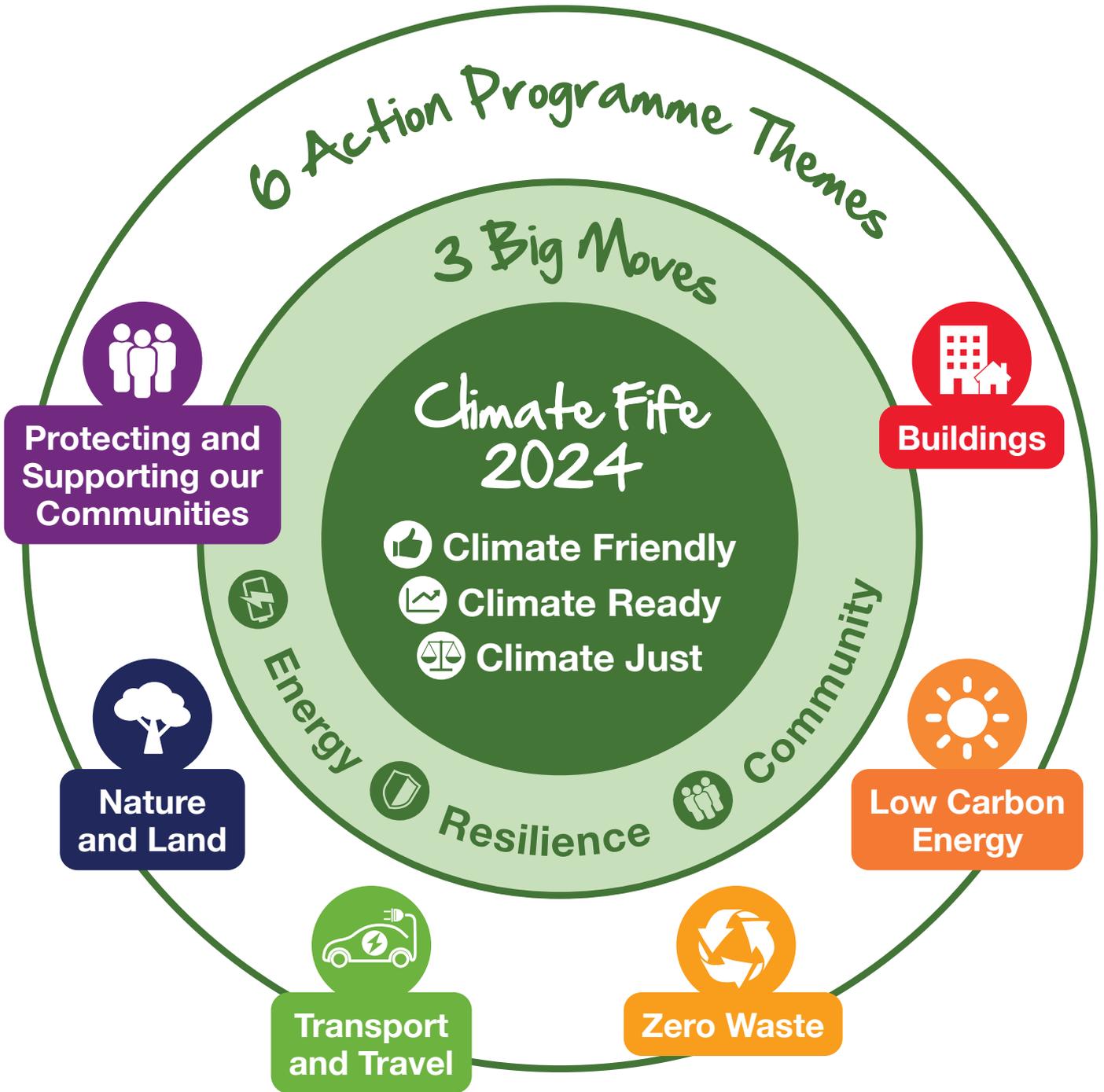


Community

where we will transform our approach to supporting community climate action, empowering our communities to transform local food, waste, transport, and energy generation systems to create community wealth and wellbeing

Action Plan Programme

Covering six themes, this programme outlines actions we are committed to delivering over the next 4 years. The themes describe which actions are ongoing, and which are part of our **Big Moves**, how progress will be measured, and a section looking to future challenges we need to respond to.

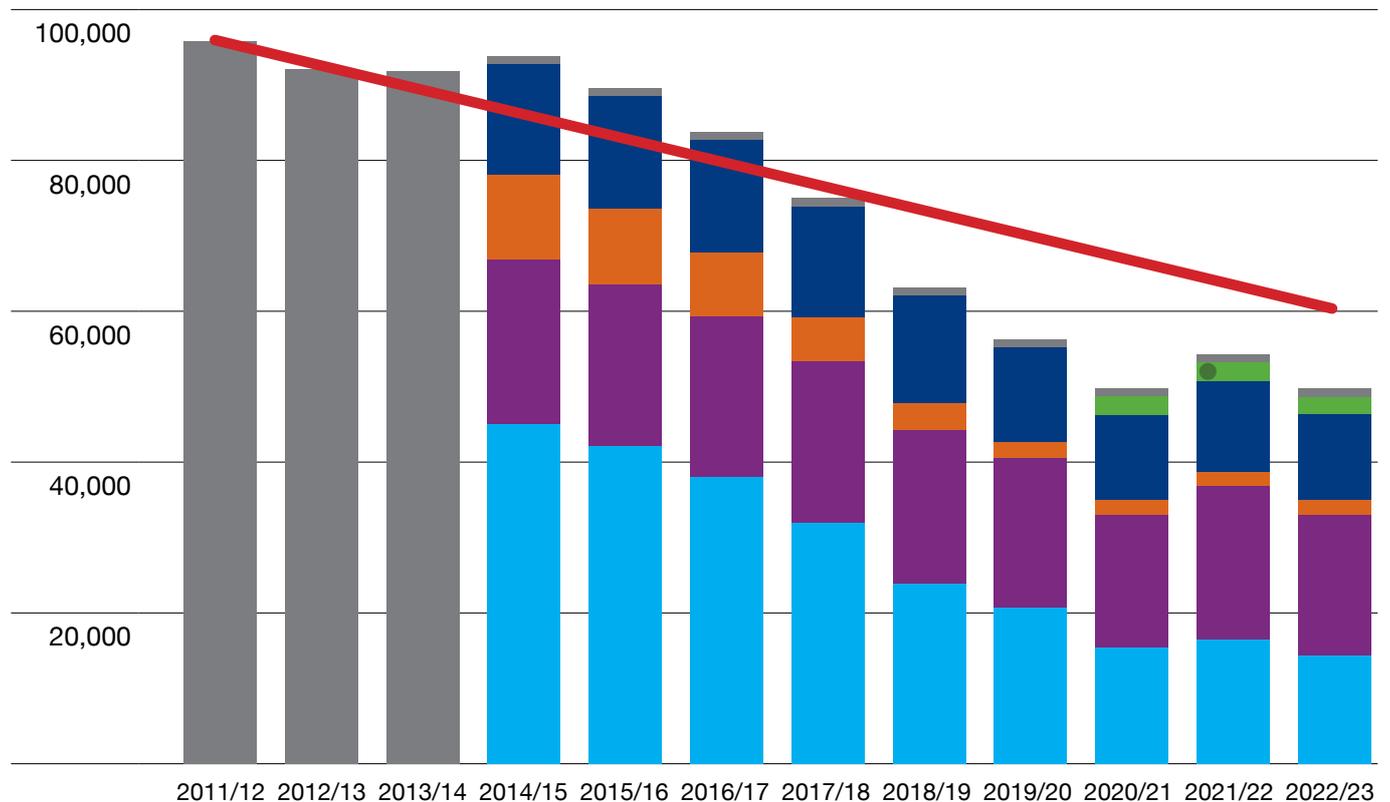


Target, progress and monitoring

Climate Fife commits us to both Fife and Fife Council becoming net zero by 2045. Since our baseline year, Fife Council's carbon footprint has reduced by 46% (to 2022/23). The recent trajectory indicates that we need to do more in the short term on gas use and transportation to meet this target.

- Resource Use - Water and Waste
- Transport
- Infrastructure
- Buildings - Gas
- Buildings - Electric
- Other (no breakdown)
- Target

Fife Council Carbon Footprint (Figure 1)



The new Scottish Climate Intelligence Service (SCIS) is developing a national, standard framework for assessing and monitoring effectiveness of climate action plans in Scotland in 2024. Fife will work with the SCIS to both develop and implement that standard for Climate Fife.

This strategy outlines key measures for our actions to begin that process. Targets will be determined in 2024, aligned to the new national standard and reported annually throughout the Climate Change Public Bodies Report.

Our Big Energy Move



Here we will begin to transform the energy system in Fife to low carbon.

Energy is critical to everything we all do and one of the most significant costs to Fife homes and business. We need to transform Fife's energy system to one where we have energy when we need it and in a way that financially benefits the people of Fife.

Phase 1 – Policy position and technical case (2024/25)

Using the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Delivery Plan as the basis we will bring together our different council plans, strategies and policies with pathfinding projects to establish an integrated, place-based approach to Fife's energy system. Including:

- Finding the best ways to heat our buildings and make them more energy efficient.
- Developing District Heat Networks, defining and supporting new areas and expansion.
- Establish policy position on solar energy generation, including identifying opportunities on our own estate.
- Using Fife energy resources, such as heat in rivers and sea, underground and waste heat from homes or business. Notably undertaking geothermal heat feasibility studies in partnership with British Geological Survey.
- Electric Vehicle Strategy, establishing our policy on how we will support their adoption across Fife.
- Local Energy System Prospectus for the Dunfermline/Rosyth area.
- Council estate decarbonisation pilots (from 24/25 and ongoing).

Phase 2 – Economic case and change (2025/26)

We will develop the economic case for change, working with partners across the public and private sector to develop the business models to be adopted. Including:

- Examine the different business models to manage the change.
- Agree the most resilient area-based approaches.
- Develop business cases for the changes needed that bring the best benefit to Fife.
- Seek funding from government and wider to support the delivery.

The new Local Development Plan (currently in preparation) will also provide the spatial expression of the policies developed. The Local Economic Strategy, Local Transport Strategy and the Local Housing Strategy all guide the approach.

Phase 3 - Delivery and Transformation (2026 onwards)

With the technical case developed from Phase 1 and the business model from Phase 2 we will start to deliver the transformation. Projects where the business case is made, and funding is secured will commence.

The Big Energy Move will support the people of Fife:

- Making the best use of Fife's net zero energy, within our land resource
- Providing a transition path for Fife's buildings, transport and business
- Strengthening energy links between communities and business
- Providing resilient local affordable energy systems
- Energy that enables community wealth and health
- Putting Fife at the forefront of the energy skills and jobs transition

Our Big Energy Move

(figure 2)

Activities

- LHEES Delivery Plan
- Geothermal Pilot
- Heat Network Zones
- EV Strategy
- PV Policy
- Local Energy System Pilot
- Estate Decarbonisation Pilots

Phase 1 • 2024/25

- Local Energy System
- Policy Agreement
- Place Approach

Phase 2 • 2025/26

- Economic Case
- Operating Models
- Business Cases

Phase 3 • 2026 onwards

- Energy Delivery Programme

Ongoing activities e.g. Estate Energy Efficiency Programme,
Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing

Our Big Resilience Move



Here we will transform how we protect Fife from the unavoidable impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, including through nature-based solutions.

Phase 1 - Policy position and technical case (2024/25)

Using the 2023 Risk & Vulnerability Assessment as the basis we will develop and combine policies on how we use our land and assets to adapt to the changing climate and how we support this throughout Fife. Establishing policies on: Carbon Offsetting/Insetting, Coastal Change, Resilience Strengthening, Natural Flood Management, Nature Networks and how we measure Positive Effects for Biodiversity. Nature based solutions will be implemented through our revised Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Forest and Woodland Strategy, with wider infrastructure needs delivered through ongoing and new work including:

- Flood Risk Management Plans
- Shoreline Management Plan being followed by the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan
- Property Flood Resilience Grant

Phase 2 - Economic case and change (2025/26)

We will develop the economic case for change via nature-based solutions with the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust through the **Nature Finance Fife project**. This is a partnership, place-based approach to understanding and meeting the needs of stakeholders to create a model to finance nature restoration at scale. Blending public, philanthropic, and private finance into a pipeline of high integrity nature-based projects across Fife for the benefit of nature, people, and the green economy.

We will develop the case for change preparedness by engaging communities of interest in resilience growth. We will also form an approach to how the Council responds to key climate impacts on our land and key infrastructure assets, and how we engage communities of interest to strengthen their own resilience.

Edinburgh and South East Scotland Risk & Opportunity Assessment will be undertaken across Fife, Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and Scottish Borders. This will provide detailed evidence of climate risks and will include an economic assessment of risks and engagement, enabling further priorities to be identified and support the financial case for action.

Phase 3 - Delivery and Transformation (2026 onwards)

Through implementation of key policies, land use, infrastructure resilience and the actions of communities of interest will be developed to increase Fife's resilience to unavoidable impacts of climate change. It will be essential to progress this work with regional & community-based partnerships to grow capacity, understanding and practical preparedness for climate impacts.

- There will be clarity on responsibilities across local, regional and national stakeholders on how to prepare for and respond to climate impacts.
- The updated Local Development Plan and Coastal Change Adaptation Plan will integrate climate resilience actions.
- Infrastructure management, communities and key stakeholders will be prepared to act to reduce impacts and in the event of climate impacts.
- Nature based solutions will attenuate climate impacts in key locations.

Our Big Resilience Move

(figure 3)

Activities

- Flood Risk Management Plans
- Property Flood Resilience Fund
- Shoreline Management Plan
- Coastal Change Adaptation Plan
- Fife Risk And Vulnerability Assessment
- Regional Risk and Opportunities Assessment
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Nature Networks Programme
- Forest and Woodland Strategy
- Fife Climate Forest

Phase 1 • 2024/25

- Resilience Plan
- Policy Agreement
- Place Approach

Phase 2 • 2025/26

- Economic Case
- Regional Climate Economic Assessment
- Nature Finance Fife
- Business Cases

Phase 3 • 2026 onwards

- Resilience Delivery Programme

Ongoing Activities e.g. Biodiversity Neighbourhoods, Flood Management

Our Big Community Move



Here we will transform our approach to supporting community climate action, empowering our communities to transform local food, waste, transport, and energy generation systems to create community wealth and wellbeing.

Phase 1 - Systems change for Community Wealth Building and Wellbeing (2024-25)

We recognise the critical need to build relationships and effective communication channels with communities across Fife. Allowing us to support and enable local climate action to flourish as a collaborative effort. Echoing the “no wrong door” approach to child poverty and family wellbeing, this transformation focuses on collaborative, place-based approaches with several key opportunities across policy, strategy and project work briefly outlined below;

- In addition to our work through Climate Action Fife, actively work with the Climate Hub to establish ongoing dialogue and partnership opportunities across sectors. Work with the Climate Hub and cross service representation on pathways to enable communities to take climate action at a local level with fewer barriers.
- Agree our position on climate approach & support in Community Place Plans (Plan for Fife, Local Community Plans, Community Action Plans, Local Place Plans).
- The Climate Place project provides the opportunity to consider place specific climate hazards/risks and enable delivery of co-designed actions to address opportunities that are identified. Additionally, funding opportunities for communities will be made available.
- Through our Local Transport Strategy and our development of Area Transport Plans we will engage communities to support behavioural change to more sustainable travel modes.
- The Food4Fife Strategy will provide a pathway and policy on supporting communities to grow and eat locally.
- Work with communities to respond to, and manage, the impacts of climate change through our Flood Risk Management Plans.
- As part of our Zero Waste Fife Strategy we will develop a Re-Use Pathfinder Project to establish policies on supporting community groups and social enterprises to deliver Re-Use and Repair programmes.
- Working in partnership with Fife Communities Climate Action Network to develop the Fife Communities Renewables Co-Operative. Establishing our policy on supporting community energy generation.
- Fife Education are committed to answering the Scottish Government Call to Action for all 3-18 places of education to become Sustainable Learning Settings by 2030 as outlined in the refreshed Learning for Sustainability Action Plan 23-30. Fife Education will collaborate and work with partners to co-create and implement the Fife LfS Action Plan.

Phase 2 - Delivery and Transformation (2025 onwards)

Agree our community wealth building approach and local place-based approach for a range of place plans, projects and funding opportunities.

- Established communication channels/methods across sectors are operational, helping communities to better undertake climate action with support of Climate Action Fife and the Fife Climate Hub.
- Agreed collaborative approach to identifying and bidding for funding that supports community climate action.

Our Big Community Move

(figure 4)

Activities

- Food For Fife Strategy
- Re-Use Pathfinder
- Community Renewables Feasibility
- Fife Climate Hub
- Climate Place Projects
- Area Transport Plans

Phase 1 • 2024/25

- Environmental Community Wealth Building
- Policy Agreement
- Place Approach

Phase 2 • 2025 onwards

- Environmental Community Wealth Building Programme

Ongoing Activities e.g. Climate Action Fife, Recycling Engagement

Our Action Plan Programme

Buildings

We will decarbonise our buildings by becoming more energy efficient and using more low carbon energy sources. We aim to reduce our emissions from our own buildings by 68% by 2030 against 2020 levels.

Energy use in non-industrial buildings constitutes around 22% of the Fife's Carbon Footprint, and over 75% of Fife Council's own footprint. The actions described below reflect our short-term priorities to cut carbon emissions. However increased pace and scale of action is required, and we have prepared a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan to develop further action across the Council estate, homes and businesses.



Dunfermline Learning Campus to become the largest Passivhaus standard building in Europe (Artist's impression)



We will...

Schools, Offices and Community Buildings			
We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Build Dunfermline Learning Campus to become the largest Passivhaus standard building in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon emissions from our public buildings Number of refurbishment projects incorporating low carbon technology 	By Summer 2024	
Invest at least £13.6m in decarbonising around 22 existing buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon emissions from our public buildings Number of non-domestic buildings that have had their heating and hot water systems decarbonised Number of refurbishment projects incorporating low carbon technology Capital spend on carbon and energy reduction 	by 2028	
Invest up to £3.1m in energy efficiency works through the Energy Management Revolving Fund over the next four years, for example upgrading stage lighting in 5 venues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon emissions from our public buildings Capital spend on carbon and energy reduction 	2024-26	
Take opportunities to enhance energy efficiency during major repairs and refurbishments on existing buildings. Including converting gas catering appliances to electric when due for upgrade. Low carbon heating and hot water prioritised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon emissions from our public buildings Number of non-domestic buildings that have had their heating and hot water systems decarbonised 	2024-27	
Establish all new construction projects to deliver low in use energy consumption and align with net zero objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new buildings meeting the Passivhaus standard or exceeding the SFT performance metric (67kWh/m2/annum energy use) Number of non-domestic buildings that have had their heating and hot water systems decarbonised 	2024-27	-

Housing

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Build 750 new affordable houses per annum to the Silver Plus Standard (by 2027) as part of the Phase 4 Affordable Housing Programme (2024-29). All houses built to EPC B rating and have zero-emissions heating systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of new buildings built to Silver Plus Standard ● Capital spend on carbon and energy reduction. 	By 2027	
Provide home energy advice to 19,950 people (2024/24) through: government and local advice and schemes; in-depth telephone advice; and energy advice/measures as part of the Handy Service. Continued annual programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of refurbishment projects incorporating low carbon technology ● Capital spend on carbon and energy reduction 	2024-27	
Increase the energy efficiency of 1,500 council houses per annum. Including general energy efficiency improvements and through External Wall Insulation schemes (EWI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of refurbishment projects incorporating low carbon technology ● Capital spend on carbon and energy reduction. 	2024-27	

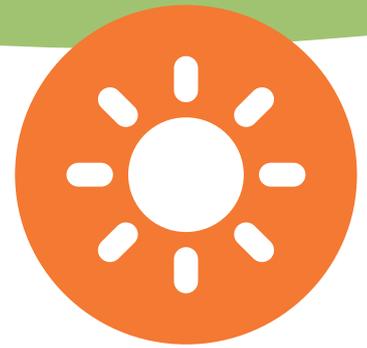
Businesses

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Undertake Condition Surveys across all Economic Development Business Properties (industrial, office and business centres across Fife) to assess EPC Ratings. Implement energy efficiencies in line with recommendations through investing in solar PV, LED Lighting, EV Charging Units, heating systems. Investment committed during 2024-2035 is £420K.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carbon emissions from our public buildings ● Number of non-domestic buildings that have had their heating and hot water systems decarbonised ● Number of refurbishment projects incorporating low carbon technology ● Capital spend on carbon and energy reduction. 	2024-2035	

Looking to the future

There are significant opportunities to reduce our emissions through sharing assets across the public estate. We will create a shared asset plan between public sector stakeholders in Fife to facilitate further carbon efficiencies for both building stock and to reduce travel.

Low Carbon Energy



We will use and support low carbon fuel use and renewable energy generation in Fife.

Energy is critical to support everything we do, a significant cost to people and businesses, and a cause of fuel poverty. To tackle the climate emergency, over 80% of the energy we use in Fife needs to change to low carbon energy sources.

Energy supply is constrained through our existing infrastructure, and new generation, supply and storage is needed to meet future demand. Public sector bodies, like Fife Council, can play a vital role as anchors to support the energy transition, allowing us to explore options for local energy ownership in Fife and develop policy and plans like our Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy to support and enable change.

We will...

Renewable Generation

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Install 200kW of solar panels on the new Dunfermline Learning Campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> kWh of renewable energy and heat generated by our own estate 	2024	
Add solar panels to suitable non domestic buildings (inc schools and a leisure centre) within the scope of the Energy Management Revolving Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> kWh of renewable energy and heat generated by our own estate 	from 2024	
Support Community Renewables projects, providing guidance and identifying where we can provide assets for community use and act as a customer for energy generated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of community renewable energy projects supported 	2024-27	 

Supporting Community Renewables projects



Low Carbon Fuel

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Investigate offset gas consumption for larger buildings by maximising the use of low carbon electricity for heating and hot water generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> kWh of renewable energy and heat generated by our own estate 	2024-27	
Support the development of low carbon heat networks; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigating possible expansion of our District Heating schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> kWh of renewable energy and heat generated by our own estate 	2024-27	
Support the development of low carbon heat networks; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of a pilot Dunfermline & Rosyth area energy plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> kWh of renewable energy and heat generated by our own estate 	2024-2025	

Innovation and Skills

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Be an active partner in SGN's H100 Project, developing a world-first green hydrogen network in Buckhaven and Denbeath. Trial green hydrogen as a zero-carbon fuel for heating and cooking in 300 homes (2024-2027).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> kWh of renewable energy and heat generated by our own estate 	2024-27	
Implement our Economic Strategy to support the creation of jobs and support skills to help the energy transition on a Fife-wide and regional basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green jobs within Fife 	2024 onwards	

Looking to the future

Planning how the energy system needs to change in Fife is critical to support many of the other changes we need to make. This needs even more partnership working between the energy utilities, public bodies, businesses, education, and communities.

We will work with our public sector partners to map out our existing building and land assets, assessing the potential for energy generation, energy resources such as geothermal, energy supply, and low carbon fuel use.

As energy does not respect borders, we will also work regionally to help plan the changes needed, from big energy networks to decisions about our homes and transport.

Zero Waste



We will reduce, re-use and recycle more of Fife’s waste and support a move to a circular economy.

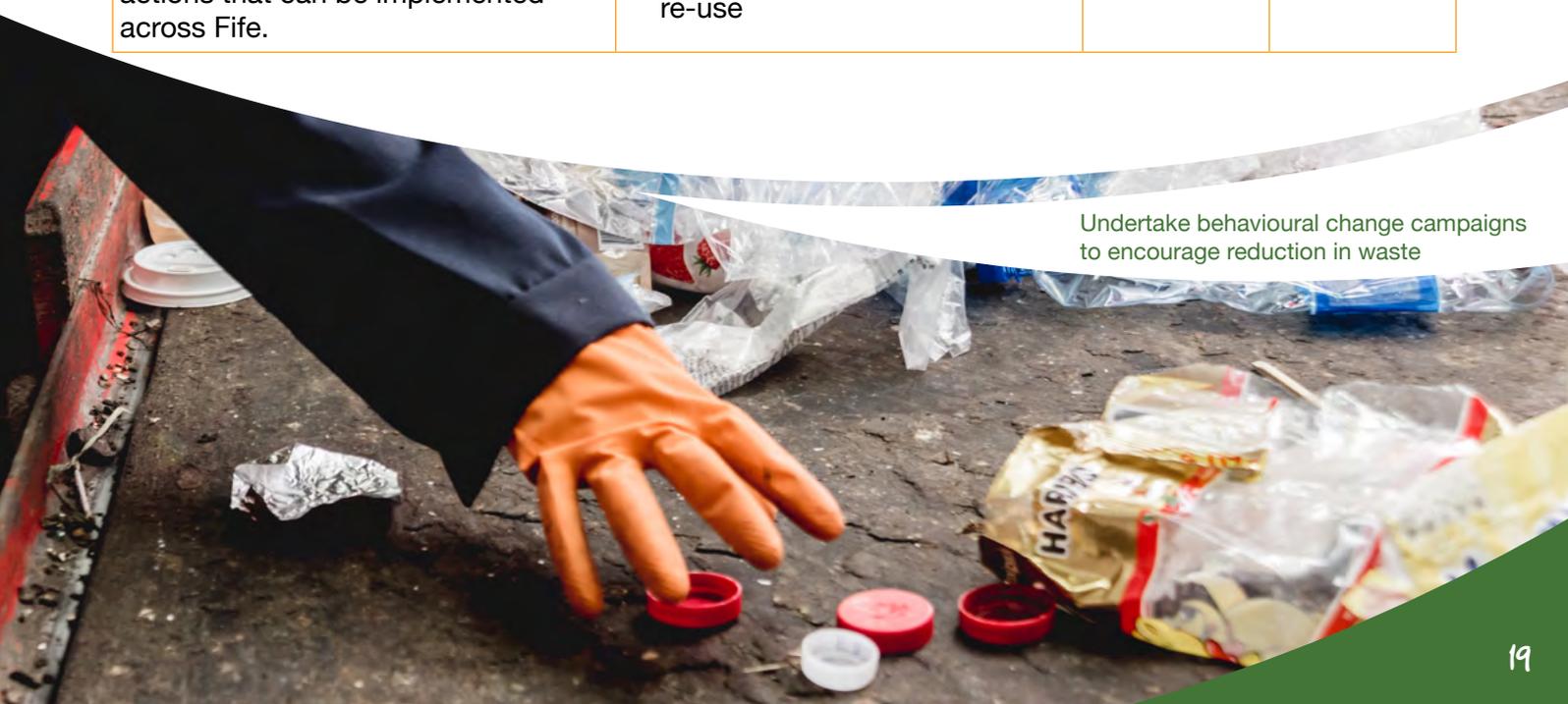
Waste generated is a major contribution to Fife’s carbon footprint, and this climate impact can be most effectively addressed by applying the Waste Hierarchy (Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle) to what we consume and by diverting waste from landfill.

Fife Council, as one of the largest managers of waste, can both lead and support people, communities, and businesses to reduce their impact. By providing a waste collection service that meets our commitments under the “Household Waste Recycling Charter”, we can improve recycling. Reducing the amount of waste generated, through Reduction and Re-Use, is also needed to address the challenge.

We will...

Reduce			
We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Undertake behavioural change campaigns to encourage reduction in waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volume of waste collected in Fife 	2024-27	
Work in partnership with the Big Hoose to repurpose Amazon and other corporate donors of household goods and toiletries. Positively impacting those struggling to afford household goods such as beds, mattresses, kitchen items and clothing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volume of waste diverted for re-use ● Community waste schemes supported 	2024	
Work with Zero Waste Scotland on food waste reduction research project to identify behavioural change actions that can be implemented across Fife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● % of waste to landfill ● % of waste recycled ● Volume of waste diverted for re-use 	2024	

Undertake behavioural change campaigns to encourage reduction in waste



Reuse

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Use our waste facilities to promote and encourage re-use, including developing re-use hubs across Fife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volume of waste diverted for re-use ● Community waste schemes supported 	2024-27	
Support re-use scheme with Fife based social enterprises, including bikes, furniture and clothes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volume of waste diverted for re-use ● Community waste schemes supported 	2024-27	

Recycle

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Promote recycling through our annual climate communications plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● % of waste to landfill ● % of waste recycled 	2024-27	
Expand our recycling provision to properties across Fife, trialling food waste collection in high rise properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● % of waste to landfill ● % of waste recycled 	2024-25	

Looking to the future

Our recycling infrastructure needs to be fit for the future. With new legislation encouraging a more circular economy, we will review our provision of domestic kerbside collection and recycling points to ensure we meet national standards.

Communications are essential and we will work with public and private sector partners to establish a Fife wide branding for recycling and re-use, supporting people to recycle and re-use more.

Transport and Travel



We will promote low carbon and active travel and decarbonise our fleet.

The Local Transport Strategy for Fife 2024-2033 (draft for consultation) sets out a vision for a transport system that “...supports our communities with affordable, seamless and sustainable access to all aspects of our daily lives.” With greenhouse gas emissions from transport constituting around 18% of Fife’s Carbon Footprint, changes to how we travel for work and leisure can play a vital role in tackling the climate emergency.

Infrastructure improvements including walking, wheeling and cycling routes, electric vehicle charging, park and ride schemes and the Levenmouth Rail Link; as well as supporting behavioural change, all contribute to meeting our target.

Fife Council can also make a direct impact through its own fleet and travel for work. Our fleet makes it possible for us to deliver public services efficiently, and we know that the miles we drive impact the climate. With more than 30 electric vehicles we have made some initial impact, but significant challenges lie ahead to decarbonise the rest of our fleet.

By implementing hybrid working for some staff we have seen significant reduction in travel for commuting. Offering smarter and flexible working arrangements allows us to continue to reduce Fife’s emissions.

We will...

Travel for Work and Leisure			
We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Roll out public electric vehicle chargers and support the private sector to provide chargers, with further details to be included in our upcoming Electric Vehicle Strategy and Expansion Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of charging stations. 	from 2024	
Deliver new integrated walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure, including the Levenmouth Connectivity Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carbon emissions from travel. ● Kilometres of traffic-free walking, wheeling and cycling routes. 	2024-27	
Deliver bus priority lanes and improved bus stops on key routes through the Bus Partnership Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carbon emissions from travel. 	from 2024	
Review the Fife Council Travel Plan to support hybrid working.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carbon emissions from travel. ● Reduction in business mileage. 	2024	

Our Vehicles

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
We will educate Council staff in fuel efficient driving and journey planning techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of training sessions in fuel efficient driving or journey planning. ● Reduction in diesel fleet miles driven. 	2024-27	
We will introduce smarter working practices to reduce unnecessary miles and fuel costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carbon emissions from travel. ● Number of training sessions in fuel efficient driving or journey planning. ● Reduction in business mileage. 	From 2024	
We will reduce the council's grey fleet miles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduction in business mileage. 	2024-27	
Seek and secure investment for the green fleet transformation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carbon emissions from travel. ● Reduction in diesel fleet miles driven. 	2024-27	

Looking to the future

To meet our targets, we must reduce how much we travel; switch to walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport; and switch to zero emissions vehicles. The actions outlined in the Local Transport Strategy will drive these changes, while also benefitting equality, health and the economy.

With changing technologies there will be increasing opportunities to decarbonise our fleet and we will investigate investment strategies and operating models to progress this. We will also work with our public sector partners to explore options for shared fleet services across organisations.

Roll out public electric vehicle chargers and support the private sector to provide chargers

Nature and land



We will protect and enhance our natural environment to respond to the climate emergency.

Fife’s landscape supports a rich diversity of habitats, from the stunning coastline of cliffs and sand dunes of East Neuk, to the heathland of the Lomond Hills. These are home to over 10,000 different species of plants and animals. This tapestry of habitats, and the species they support, together make up biodiversity - the variety of life in Fife. This biodiversity is key to our health and well-being, building resilience to the impacts of climate change and helping absorb carbon emissions.

In 2021 Fife Council signed the Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity, committing the Council to mitigating the effects of climate change and improve local biodiversity. Fife Council, in partnership with the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, will take a lead role as we work together to tackle the nature emergency.

We will...

Protecting and enhancing our Natural Heritage

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Create Biodiversity Neighbourhoods across Fife. Undertake enhancement projects in each of the 7 localities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Area of land enhanced to support climate aims ● Number of people engaged in volunteering to help nature. 	2024	
Develop Nature Finance Fife approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Area of land enhanced to support biodiversity aims ● Area of land managed for biodiversity aims. 	2024-26	
Develop the “Fife Climate Forest” project, supporting tree planting across Fife to enhance nature networks, mitigate our climate impacts and empower communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of trees planted ● Number of people engaged in volunteering to help nature 	2024-26	
Enhance the biodiversity of our Rivers through projects including: The River Park in Levenmouth, the Dreel Burn, Lynn Burn and the River Eden projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Area of land enhanced to support climate aims 	2024-27	
Protect our existing biodiversity by identifying and designating Wildlife Sites and Nature Networks across Fife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Area of land enhanced to support climate aims ● Area of land actively managed for biodiversity 	2024-24	

Using our land assets for climate action

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Support community growing on public sector land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Areas of land used for community growing ● Number of people engaged in volunteering to help nature. 	2024-27	
Invest in the naturalisation and repurposing of brownfield land supported by Fife Council's allocation of the Scottish Government's Vacant & Derelict Land Fund, alongside a range of other funding sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Area of land enhanced to support climate aims ● Area of land actively managed for biodiversity. 	2024-26	
Support asset transfer to create and manage places to be more resilient to the climate emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Area of land enhanced to support climate aims ● Number of people engaged in volunteering to help nature. 	2024-27	
Work with our public sector partners to manage our land assets for the benefit of climate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Area of land enhanced to support climate aims ● Area of land actively managed for biodiversity. 	From 2024	

Looking to the future

Our Local Biodiversity Action Plan will be refreshed to reflect new challenges and priorities for Fife's nature. Working in partnership with the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, we will develop new approaches to investment for nature-based solutions and promoting good management of Fife's biodiversity through the Nature Finance Fife project.

With our public sector partners, we own and manage a wide range of land assets. This provides us with an opportunity to work together, combining our approaches and maximising the benefits for climate and nature.

Develop the "Fife Climate Forest" project, supporting tree planting across Fife

Protecting and supporting our communities



We protect our communities and businesses from the impacts of climate change and empower people to take action locally.

Climate change is already having an impact on the way we live. The Met Office reported that globally 2023 was “was the warmest year in a series stretching back to 1850” noting that in the UK in 2022 “a new all-time temperature record of 40.3°C was set on 19 July during an unprecedented heatwave”. In the future we can anticipate warmer and drier summers, milder and wetter winters, and an increase in intense, heavy rainfall events and storms, sea level rise and increased frequency of flooding and coastal impacts. As such it’s important we both provide infrastructure to minimise the risk to communities, and support communities to take action themselves.

Fife benefits from having several community groups delivering climate action, represented in part by the Fife Communities Climate Action Network (FCCAN). Fife Council aims to work in partnership with communities to take a place-based approach to tackling the climate emergency.

Fife can also benefit from the transition to a green economy, benefitting from green tourism, and green skills in manufacturing, construction, and renewable technologies.

We will...

Flood Resilience and Climate Risk Management			
We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Continue to deliver flood mitigation actions via Local Flood Risk Management Plans and other flood risk management work areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of flooding projects being progressed, underway and complete. 	2024-27	
Maintain the road drainage network (gully emptying, ditching etc.) through a new risk-based approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of gullies and ditches attended. 	2024-27	
Provide a ‘Property Flood Resilience’ grant to support home improvements for protection against flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of homes supported through the Property Flood Resilience grant. 	from 2024	
We will work with partners to plan for the current and future effects of climate change, defining and maintaining acceptable levels of risk and prepare an action plan based on the Fife Climate Risk & Vulnerability assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of climate risk projects being progressed, underway and complete. 	2024-24	

Community Action

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Work in partnership with community organisations to support local climate action including Climate Action Fife, FCCAN and the Fife Climate Hub (2024).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of climate risk projects being progressed, underway and complete. Number of businesses supported to become more climate ready. 	2024-27	
Deliver Climate Ready Places project offering grants to communities to improve buildings and land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of climate risk projects being progressed, underway and complete. 	2024-25	
Deliver Climate Literacy training to public sector staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of staff trained in Climate Literacy. 	2024-27	

Business, Skills and Jobs

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Support local businesses to accelerate their transition to net zero including through signposting to sources of funding and promoting energy, waste & water efficiencies and climate adaptations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of businesses supported to take climate actions. 	2024-27	
Work with regional partners to research green skills to bolster and grow the workforce across Fife including opportunities arising from the Forth Green Freeport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Green Jobs in Fife. 	2024-25	
<p>Fife Education are committed to answering the Scottish Government Call to Action for all 3-18 places of education to become Sustainable Learning Settings by 2030 as outlined in the refreshed LfS Action Plan 23-30.</p> <p>Fife Education will collaborate and work with partners to co-create and implement the Fife Learning for Sustainability Action Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 3-18 places of education to become Sustainable Learning Settings by 2030 	By 2030	
Support the Food4Fife partnership and to deliver projects supporting local food production through the Allotment and Community Growing Strategy and wider food redistribution to reduce waste and tackle food poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of land for community growing. 	2024-27	

Business, Skills and Jobs continued

We will	Measuring our success	When	Big Move
Undertake a Risk & Opportunities Assessment with the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Deal partners to assess the economic impacts of climate change in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of climate action projects being progressed, underway and complete. 	2024-25	

Looking to the future

We will work with public sector partners to create a shared approach to increase the climate resilience of public sector buildings and the services delivered from them.

Helping communities to be resilient to the impacts of unavoidable climate change will need to be an increasing part of our overall climate response.

Growing and distributing food locally is one way to support resilience. Implementation of the Food4Fife Strategy and the Allotment and Community Growing Strategy will include creating local systems that grow and distribute food locally, enabling businesses and communities to work together.

We will also work with partners on a regional approach to new skills development training needs, linking regional colleges and universities to develop a regional Net Zero Accelerator Hub and explore supply chain opportunities arising from the Forth Green Freeport.

Deliver projects supporting local food production through the Allotment and Community Growing Strategy



Conclusion

There are big challenges ahead, and some already with us now such as the impacts of increased storms and intensity of rainfall impacting travel, as well as scarcity of resources to take additional actions. Careful consideration and planning will be needed to support the increased pace and scale of change needed.

The challenge can seem overwhelming to individuals, so coming together in partnership is key, supporting each other to make lasting changes and build resilience. The Fife Environmental Partnership, Addressing the Climate Emergency Board and Climate Action Fife partnership efforts will oversee progress and support delivery to enable carbon emissions reduction and adaptation to climate impacts.



Links to associated Fife Strategies

Fife Air Quality Strategy (2021-2025)	    
Fife Allotment and Community Food Strategy (due 2024)	 
Fife's Economic Strategy (2024-30)	     
Flood Risk Management Plans	  
Food4Fife Strategy (Draft - due 2024)	   
Forest and Woodland Strategy (2013-2018)	 
Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2013-2018)	 
Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (Draft - due 2024)	 
Local Development Plan (due 2024)	 
Local Transport Strategy for Fife (2024-2033)	 
The Draft Local Housing Strategy (2022-27)	 
Shoreline Management Plan	 
Sustaining Success: Property Asset Strategy 2024-28 (draft)	   
River Basin Management Plan	   
Zero Waste Fife (2018-28)	   

Notes



Climate Fife 2024 Strategy and Action Plan



For more information
visit www.fife.gov.uk/climateFife

