Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Routemap

bringing together

Net Zero Aberdeen I Aberdeen Adapts

Reducing emissions | Preparing for climate impacts | Delivering benefits fairly

One routemap. One dashboard

Shared delivery across Aberdeen

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Executive summary

The Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Routemap sets out a shared city-wide approach built around three connected priorities: Net Zero, Adaptation and Just Transition. Together, these priorities help Aberdeen reduce emissions, prepare for climate impacts and deliver benefits fairly.

The Routemap brings together Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts into a single city-wide Routemap, helping partners align action, track progress and respond to changing evidence, risks and opportunities.

This Routemap will:

- **Set clear direction**
- **Focus effort** where emissions, climate risks and inequalities overlap.
- **Join up delivery** across the seven themes.
- **Turn ambition into projects** through delivery pathways and ClimateView platform.
- **Track progress** and adapt as evidence, risks and opportunities change.

One city-wide Routemap: Three Connected Priorities

Net Zero:
Reducing Emissions

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, transport, energy, resources and land use to meet our net zero target of 2045.

Adaptation:
Preparing for climate impacts

Build resilience to flooding, coastal change, heat, storms, water stress and infrastructure disruption.

Just Transition:
Delivering benefits fairly

Share benefits, reduce inequalities and support people, communities, businesses and services to act.

Seven connected delivery themes

Buildings, Heat and Infrastructure
Efficient, resilient buildings, low and zero carbon heat, reduced fuel poverty, and protected infrastructure and heritage.

Mobility
Reducing the need to travel, improving public transport, active travel, low-emission vehicles, informed transport choices and resilient routes.

Circular Economy
Less waste and consumption, with more reuse, repair, recycling and circular business models.

Energy
Affordable, resilient low-carbon energy, supporting jobs, investment and local benefit.

Climate Risk
Risk-led adaptation through flood and coastal management, blue-green infrastructure and resilient communities.

Natural Environment
Protected and restored nature, supporting biodiversity, carbon storage and nature-based solutions.

Empowerment
Climate understanding, participation, behaviour change, resilience, green skills and wellbeing.

Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts were co-created with stakeholders. Our combined Routemap was developed with the multi-stakeholder Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board. Combined planning and delivery is at the heart of Aberdeen's approach.

1. Introduction

Aberdeen's climate pathway is shaped by its place, people and shared systems. Its coast, harbour, rivers, green corridors, parks and low-lying neighbourhoods influence both the emissions the city must reduce, and the climate risks it must prepare for.

The city also has major strengths to build from, including world-leading energy expertise, skilled workforce, universities and colleges, public services, construction sector, tourism, businesses, communities and growing clean energy economy. These assets can support a fair, practical transition that creates lasting local benefit.

Daily life depends on connected systems, including the harbour, airport, road and rail links, energy, water, wastewater and digital networks, hospitals, schools, flood protection assets and blue-green infrastructure. Because these systems are shared and interdependent, resilience must be planned, funded and delivered across organisations, sectors and places.

Climate action must cut emissions at source, reduce fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency, support affordable low and zero carbon heat, strengthen infrastructure, restore nature and widen opportunities for people and places most exposed to climate impacts or transition pressures.

Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts, co-created in 2022, are now being brought together as one city-wide Routemap.

Developed through the Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board, the Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Routemap sets out how partners will work collectively towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, focusing action where emissions, climate vulnerability, infrastructure risk and wider benefits intersect.

ClimateView will support delivery by bringing emissions data, actions, pathways and progress into one place.

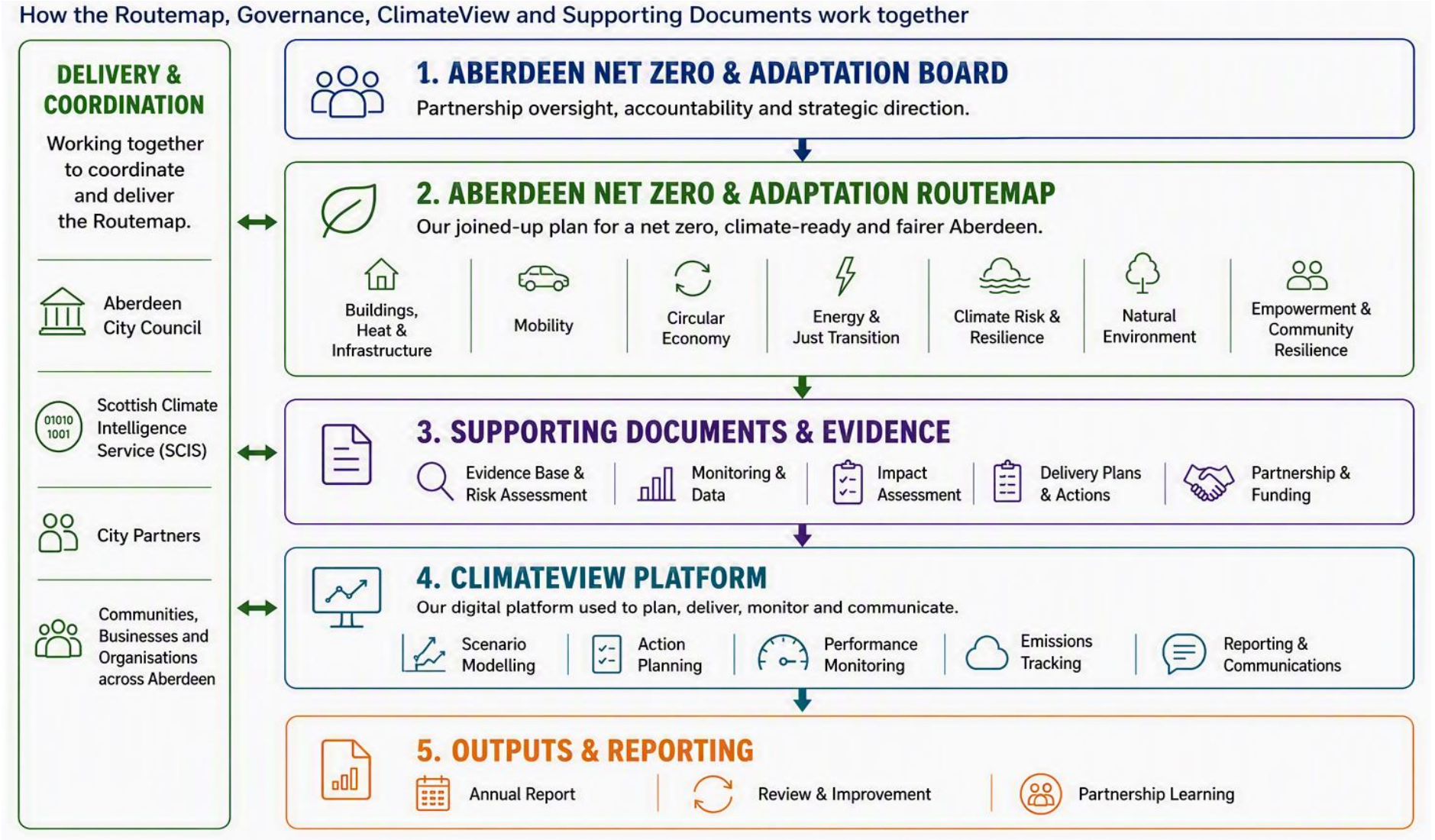
Scope

- The Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Routemap is city-wide, covering emissions, adaptation, resilience, nature recovery, just transition outcomes and partnership delivery for Aberdeen City.
- Individual organisations involved in delivery may also have their own climate, sustainability or corporate plans and reporting arrangements.
- The Routemap recognises wider dependencies, including river catchments, coastal processes, transport corridors, energy networks, supply chains and regional partnerships, where they affect Aberdeen. These dependencies do not extend the city-wide reporting boundary.
- The approach will focus on area-wide outcomes, delivery actions and partnership progress.

How the Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Routemap works

Figure 1 shows a high-level overview of how the Routemap works, showing how governance, delivery partners, supporting evidence, ClimateView and annual reporting come together to support delivery.

Figure 1: Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Routemap system at a glance

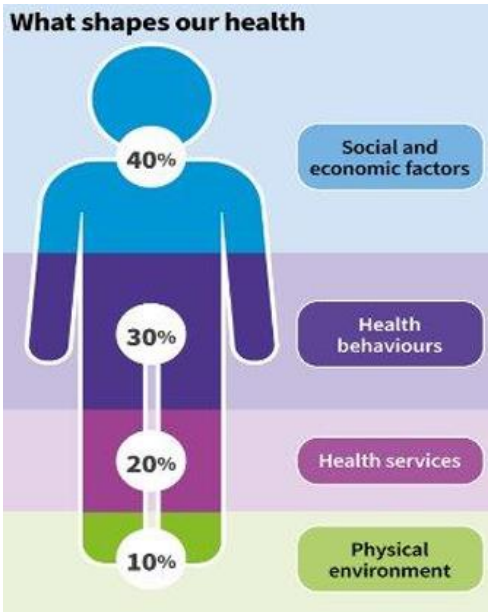


2. Health Impacts and a Just Transition

Climate change is a public health issue as well as an environmental one. Hotter summers, wetter winters, flooding, poor air quality, damp homes, disruption to services, food and water risks, and climate-related stress can all affect physical and mental health.

These impacts are not felt equally. People can be disproportionately affected where they already experience poorer health, fuel poverty, limited access to green space, poor housing or higher exposure to climate risks. As a result, climate change can widen existing inequalities unless action is taken to address both environmental and social factors together.





Climate change can affect health, wellbeing and quality of life through rising temperatures, flooding, severe weather and increasing living costs. These impacts are often felt most strongly by people and communities already experiencing disadvantage or vulnerability.

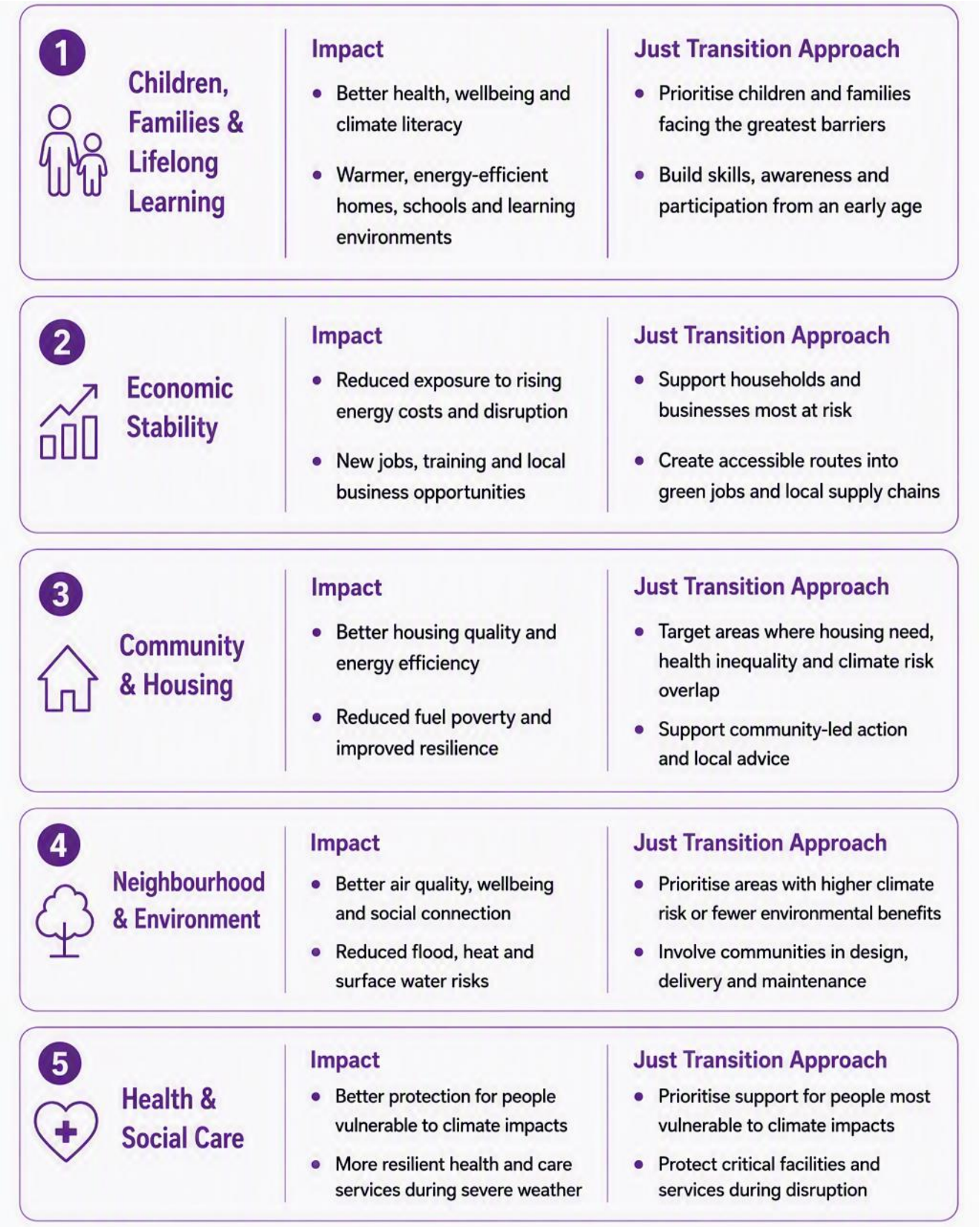
Scotland's just transition approach recognises that climate action should reduce emissions and build resilience in a way that shares costs and benefits fairly, tackles inequality and involves those most affected in shaping change.

In Aberdeen, climate action can support warmer homes, reduced fuel poverty, healthier neighbourhoods, skills development, community resilience and fair access to the benefits of investment.

Across the five social determinants of health, the Routemap considers the outcomes climate action can deliver and the approaches needed to achieve them fairly. Personas will be used to support communication, consultation and assessments, to ensure climate action is fair, accessible and practical for people facing greater barriers or climate risks.

Figure 2 below summarises how the Routemap links net zero, adaptation and just transition outcomes, and how delivery can be evidence-led, place-based, participatory and focused on reducing disadvantage.

Figure 2: Health impacts and a Just Transition

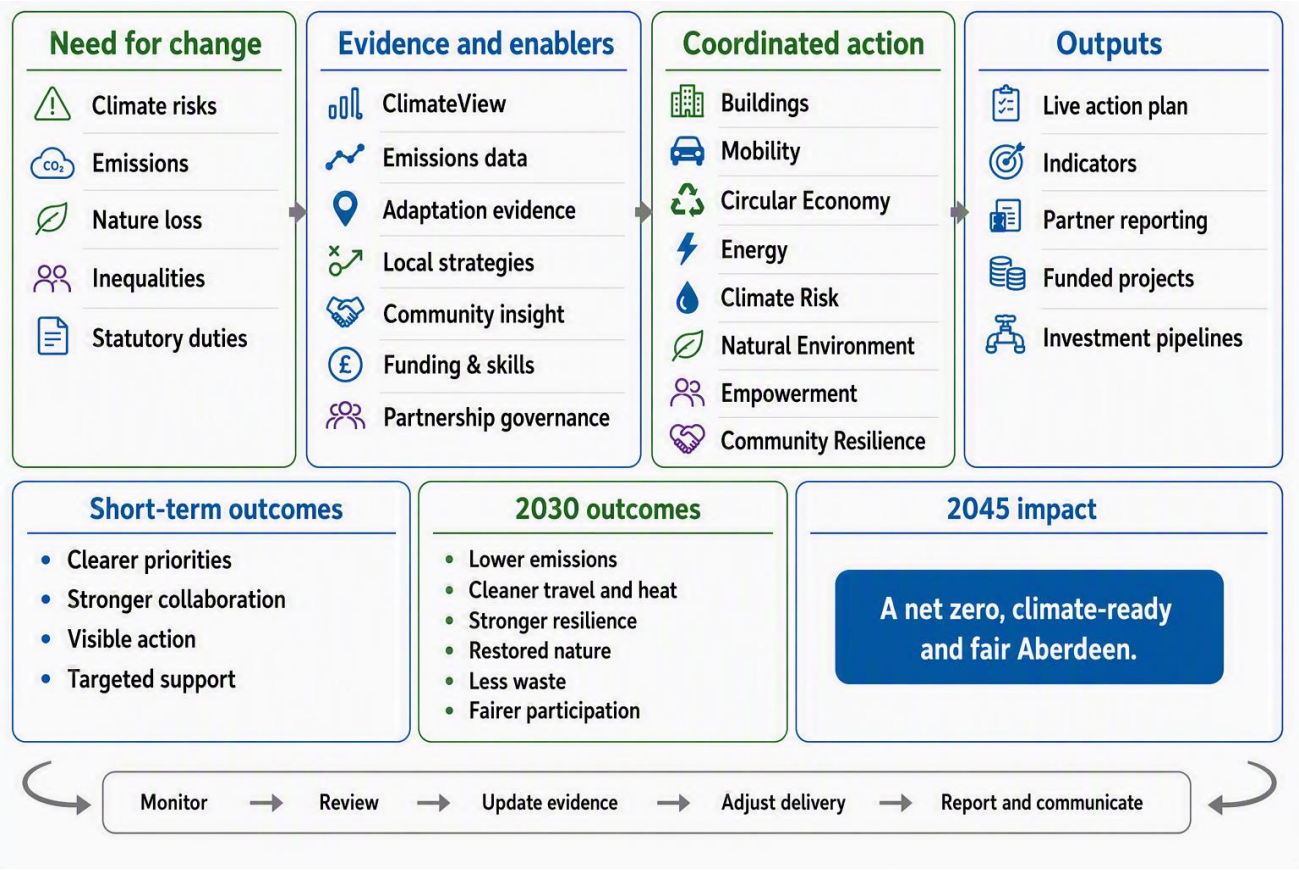


2.1 Summary – how change will happen

Figure 3 summarises how the Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Routemap translates shared ambition into co-ordinated action and long term outcomes. It illustrates how reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preparing for climate risks and delivering a just transition are brought together through partnership working, evidence led decision making and a targeted approach. Progress will be monitored through ClimateView and supported by regular reporting to ensure actions remain responsive to emerging evidence, changing risks and new opportunities.

The Routemap is built around three connected priorities. Together they reduce emissions, prepare Aberdeen for climate impacts and ensure the benefits of climate action are shared fairly.

Figure 3: The approach in summary



The Routemap brings together three connected priorities

NET ZERO Reducing Emissions	ADAPTATION Preparing for climate impacts	JUST TRANSITION Delivering benefits fairly
Net zero is about reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with a credible pathway to net zero, balancing any remaining emissions that cannot be avoided. Key areas include: • Low and zero carbon heat	Adaptation is about protecting people, places, services and infrastructure from climate impacts, so Aberdeen can keep functioning well as conditions change. Key areas include:	The strongest climate choices cut emissions while also making Aberdeen safer, healthier, fairer and more resilient. • People and places facing the greatest climate risks and inequalities are prioritised.

• Energy efficiency • Low emission transport and active travel • Clean Energy • Circular Economy • Carbon storage in nature	• Flooding, coastal change and sea level rise • Warmer, wetter winters • Hotter, drier summers • Risk to health, nature, infrastructure and services.	• Nature, infrastructure and services are more resilient. • Buildings are warmer in winter and cooler in summer • Blue-green infrastructure that stores carbon and manages flood risk • Cleaner travel choices that improve health and air quality • Skills, jobs and investment support a just transition
Partners, communities and businesses are actively involved in delivery.		

3. Drivers

3.1 Key policy context

This Routemap covers area-wide climate action across Aberdeen City, including emissions, climate risks, infrastructure, communities, businesses, natural assets and delivery partnerships, while recognising regional dependencies.

Aberdeen's climate response does not operate in isolation. International agreements, UK legislation, acts of the Scottish Parliament, regional strategies and local government policies and priorities all influence how the city responds to climate change, nature loss, energy transition and wider sustainability challenges.

Global commitments such as the Paris Agreement and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals set the wider direction, while UK legislation and climate risk assessment provide the framework for adaptation planning, low-carbon energy transition and the economy.

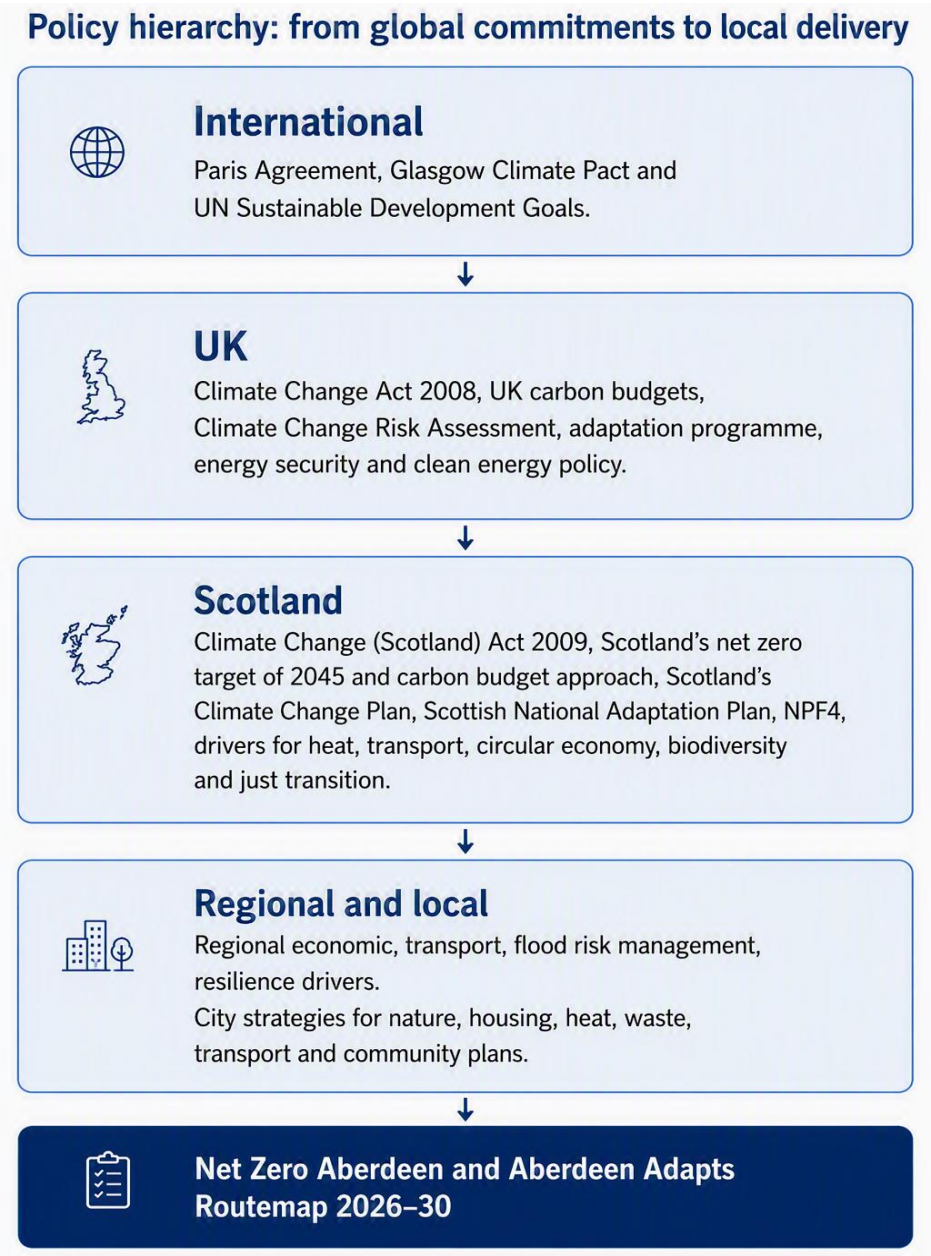
The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets the statutory direction, including Scotland's 2045 net zero target, carbon budgets, the Climate Change Plan and the Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3). Wider plans, policies and strategies on heat, transport, circular economy, biodiversity, planning and just transition shape the sectoral and cross-cutting delivery context.

Regionally, the Routemap reflects Aberdeen's strategic drivers for the economy, transport, energy infrastructure, river catchments, flood risk management and resilience, recognising how these systems connect across the wider north-east.

Locally, it builds on the 2023 Climate and Nature Emergency declaration, Net Zero Aberdeen, Aberdeen Adapts and related plans for development, housing, heat and waste, bringing information together into a clearer city-wide Routemap for co-ordinated delivery, monitoring and partnership action.

Aberdeen's climate action is shaped by a hierarchy of international, UK, Scottish, regional and local policies, plans and strategies. Figure 4 summarises the high-level drivers, while Appendix A provides detailed policy and legislative drivers and Appendix B sets out emerging and developing drivers.

Figure 4: Policy hierarchy



3.2 Milestones

The milestone table below summarises key national, regional and local milestones that shape Aberdeen's climate transition and adaptation approach. It provides a shared timeline of policy commitments, statutory targets and strategic ambitions that will help guide delivery, prioritise action and track progress across the Routemap.

2024	Scotland	From 1 April 2024, new buildings will need to use clean heating systems
2025	Scotland	Target of 70% recycling and maximum 5% to landfill by **2025** for all Scotland's waste
2025	Scotland	Reduce food waste in Scotland by 33% by **2025**
2025	ACC	56% of household waste to be recycled through source separation by **2025**
2025	ACC	No more than 5% of household waste should be landfilled by **2025**
2025	UK	UK ambition to reach 1GW of hydrogen production capacity

2025	UK	Committed to ending coal in the electricity mix no later than **2025**
2027	Scotland	Set statutory targets to ensure that the combined supply of thermal energy by heat networks in Scotland reaches 2.6TWh in **2027**
2028	Region	North East Flood Risk Management Plan cycle completed by **2028**
2029	Scotland	Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3) 2024–2029, establishing adaptation outcomes for Communities, Nature Connects, Public Services & Infrastructure, and Economy, Business & Industry by **2029**
2030	Aberdeen	Adaptation embedded across city planning, infrastructure, services and community resilience in support of SNAP outcomes by **2030**
2030	Scotland	We will phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by **2030**
2030	Scotland	Ambition of generating 5GW of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen by **2030**
2030	Scotland	Combined supply of thermal energy met by heat networks to reach 6 TWh of output by **2030**
2030	Scotland	Ambition for Scotland's offshore wind capacity could grow to between 8GW to 11GW by 2030.
2030	Region	Protect and enhance the natural capital of the region - manage 30% of the region for people and nature by **2030**
2030	Scotland	Halt Biodiversity Loss by **2030**
2033	Scotland	All homes to reach EPC C by **2033**
2040	Scotland	no more than 5% of households in Scotland to be in fuel poverty and no more than 1% to be in extreme fuel poverty by end of **2040**
2045	Scotland	At least 25 GW installed renewable and low-carbon hydrogen production capacity by **2045**
2045	Scotland	All homes/ buildings Scotland must have significantly reduced their energy use. Almost all must be using zero emissions heating system
2045	Scotland	Restoring and regenerating biodiversity
2045	Aberdeen	Climate resilient Aberdeen, people, places, infrastructure and nature prepared for a changing climate
2045	Aberdeen	Net zero city
2045	Scotland	Net zero Scotland

3.3 Emissions context

3.3.1 Scotland Greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions

Scotland's emissions have fallen substantially since 1990, but the next phase remains significant. In 2024, national greenhouse gas emissions were estimated at 39 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, around half the 1990 level. These figures provide an important benchmark for Aberdeen's own pathway by showing both the progress already made and the continued effort needed across homes, transport, energy supply, business, industry, agriculture, land use, waste, aviation and shipping.

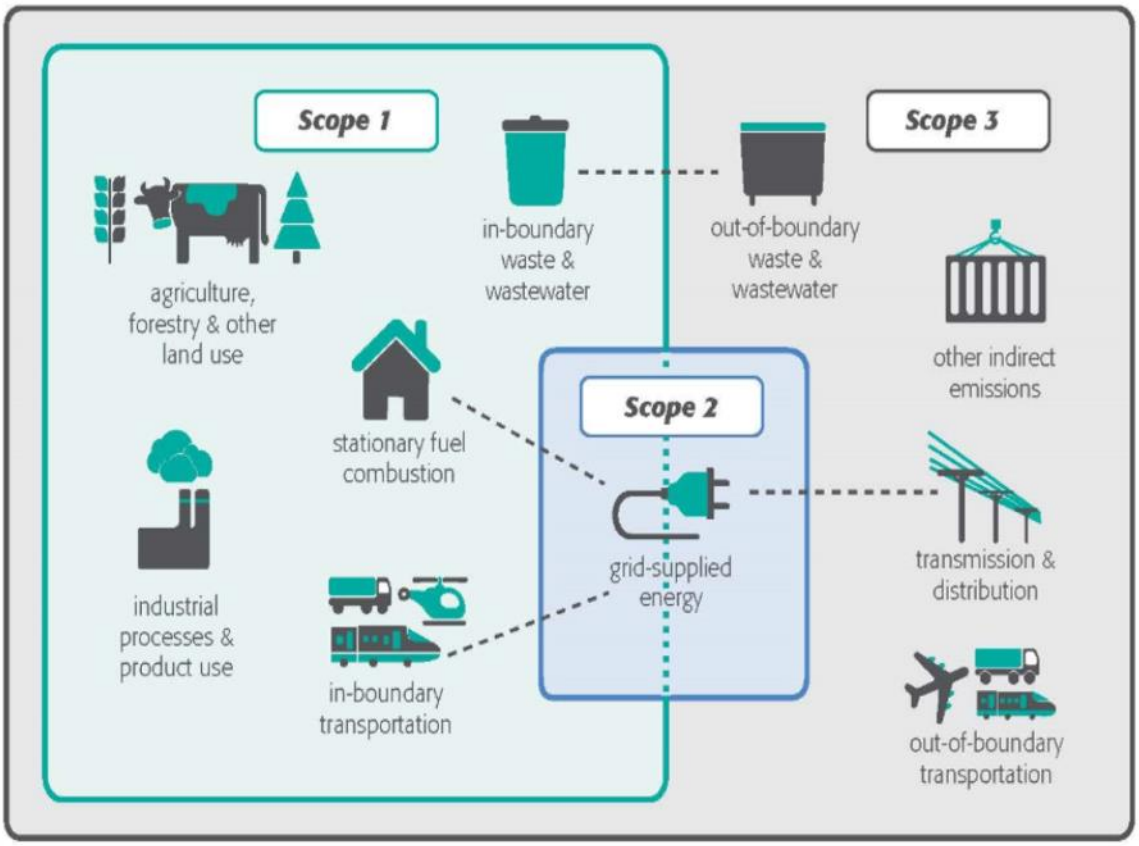
3.3.2 Emissions – City of Aberdeen

Aberdeen City's emissions are measured and reported using the city's land-based geographic boundary. UK greenhouse gas emission and Scottish Climate Intelligence Service datasets are used to monitor emissions linked to activities within Aberdeen City. Emissions are categorised by scope as reflected in Figure 5.

- Scope 1 – direct local emissions from sources of local energy consumption
- Scope 2 – emissions linked to consumption of grid-based energy

- Scope 3 - emissions throughout the value chain linked to material use, infrastructure, transport, production and product sales.

Figure 5: Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Scope



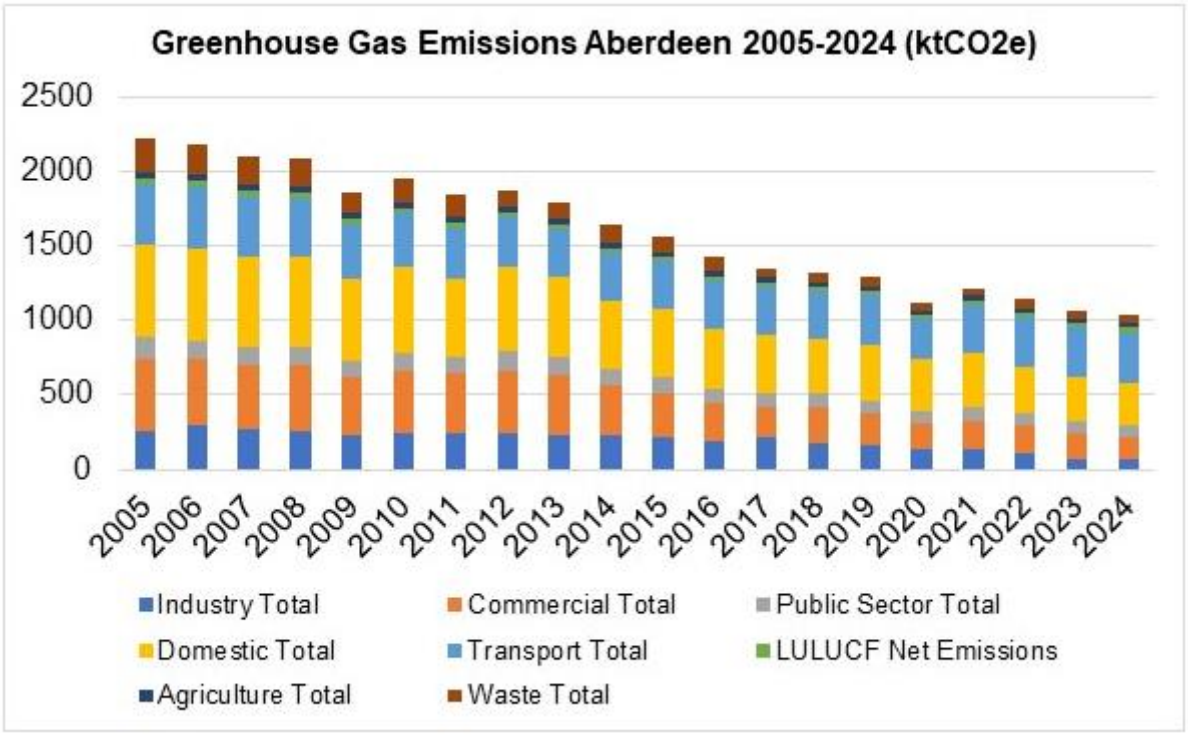
UK Government local authority datasets provide the main comparable evidence for area-wide greenhouse gas emissions, tracking change from 2005 onwards.

Aberdeen has already made significant progress in reducing emissions, as indicated in Figure 6. City emissions fell by 1,193.4 kilotonnes CO2e between 2005 and 2024, a reduction of 53.7%. Over the same period, emissions per person fell from 10.7 tCO2e to 4.4 tCO2e, despite population growth. However, a significant scale of action is still needed.

This local picture is strengthened by the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service, which refines area-wide data for Scottish councils and supports Aberdeen's pathway through the ClimateView dashboard.

Together, these datasets give Aberdeen a clearer basis for tracking progress, testing future scenarios and focusing action where local influence can deliver the greatest impact.

Figure 6 : Greenhouse Gas emissions data Aberdeen kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO2e)



3.3.3 Targets: area-wide

Aberdeen City has a net zero target of 2045. City emissions will be tracked and progress against this target will be calculated through the ClimateView data platform which supports this Routemap. Additional high-level targets relevant to this Routemap are set out in the theme sections.

3.4 Adaptation context

This section sets out what climate risk means for Aberdeen now and in the years ahead. It brings together evidence on current and future hazards, and shows how those hazards may affect people, places, services, infrastructure, buildings, nature and the economy. By linking hazards with exposure and vulnerability, it provides the evidence base needed to prioritise future adaptation action where it can make the greatest difference.

3.4.1 Current and future climate risks - Scotland

Scotland's climate is changing. Scotland's last decade was 1.02°C warmer than 1961–1990 and 10% wetter overall, with winters 29% wetter. Over recent decades, temperatures and rainfall have increased, while the number of days with frost, ice and snow has declined. These trends are expected to continue, with more frequent and intense weather events affecting communities, infrastructure and the natural environment.

3.4.2 Future climate - Aberdeen

The Met Office Climate Report for Aberdeen City shows how UK Climate Projections may affect the city. Key pressures Aberdeen needs to plan for include:

- Warmer temperatures across all seasons
- Hotter, drier summers, increasing the likelihood of heatwaves
- Wetter winters, with heavier and more intense rainfall events
- Reduced snowfall, frost and ice days, with occasional extreme events
- Increased risk of summer water scarcity affecting water availability and quality

- Hotter, drier summers and periods of drought may increase the risk of wildfire or vegetation fires.
- Continued sea level rise, increasing coastal flood and erosion risks

Aberdeen's adaptation approach is grounded in climate projections (UKCP18), the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment and local data. This evidence helps identify where climate impacts are most likely, who and what is exposed, and where vulnerability is greatest.

The Routemap refresh will keep Aberdeen's climate risk information current as projections, local evidence, weather patterns and emerging risks evolve. This will help prioritise action, target resources and prepare for changing conditions and cascading impacts. Risk depends on where impacts occur, what is exposed, and how well people, services and systems can prepare, respond and recover. Risks are greatest where climate hazards intersect with:

- Coastal and low-lying areas
- Critical infrastructure and services
- Buildings sensitive to damp, flooding or overheating
- Communities with reduced capacity to respond or recover

3.4.3 Climate challenges - Aberdeen

Aberdeen is already experiencing a changing climate. Wetter winters, heavier rainfall, rising sea levels, warmer temperatures and periods of drought are making weather more extreme and less predictable, with consequences for people, communities, businesses, infrastructure and nature. National evidence identifies flooding, infrastructure failure, heat-related health risks, water scarcity, nature loss and supply chain disruption as major risks for Scotland, while the Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3) calls for adaptation across communities, public services, infrastructure, nature and the economy.

Flooding, drainage and coastal change
Flooding, drainage pressure and coastal change are major climate risks for Aberdeen, affecting homes, businesses, infrastructure, habitats and heritage. SEPA data shows parts of the city face long-term risk from rivers, the sea, surface water and small watercourses; nationally, flooding already costs Scotland around £500 million a year and around 400,000 properties are in medium-risk areas. Dynamic Coast evidence shows at least £20 billion of assets lie within 50 metres of Scotland's coastline, including around £18 billion of buildings and infrastructure. For Aberdeen, this makes early action on flood risk, surface water, coastal planning, property protection, maintenance and nature-based solutions essential before damage and recovery costs rise.

Buildings, Health and wellbeing
Climate change is increasing risks to homes, public buildings and workplaces from flooding, water ingress, damp and overheating. The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment identifies risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in buildings as a UK priority risk area. These impacts can disproportionately affect older people, young children and people with existing health conditions, while increasing pressure on housing, healthcare services and public infrastructure.

Water availability, water quality and drought resilience
Water scarcity is an increasing risk for Aberdeen City. SEPA's 2025 reporting recorded significant scarcity in the Lower Dee and Water of Feugh, with moderate scarcity across the rest of the Dee. This matters locally, the River Dee supplies drinking water to people across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. The River Dee is also a Special Area of Conservation supporting Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel and otter, so prolonged low flows can put both water supply and protected river ecology under pressure.

Infrastructure, transport and energy interdependencies
Aberdeen depends on interconnected transport, energy, water and digital networks. Climate risks can create cascading impacts across these systems, with flooding, storms, coastal erosion and extreme temperatures disrupting transport links, energy infrastructure, communications and essential public services. The CCRA3 Scotland Summary identifies infrastructure services and transport networks

among the areas requiring further adaptation action, highlighting the need to improve resilience across critical infrastructure systems.

Natural environment, blue-green infrastructure and soils
National climate assessments identify major risks to terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. In Aberdeen, climate change is already affecting habitats, rivers, coastlines, woodlands and greenspaces. The Aberdeen Open Space Audit 2024 shows how blue-green infrastructure supports biodiversity, flood management, active travel and wellbeing, while the Soil Route Map for Scotland identifies healthy soils as vital natural infrastructure for climate regulation and resilience.

Marine environment, fisheries and coastal ecosystems
Aberdeen's marine environment is part of a rapidly changing North Sea system. UK evidence shows that sea surface temperatures are rising, with future warming expected across the North Sea. In Scotland, NatureScot and Scottish Association for Marine Science evidence shows warming seas are already changing rocky shore communities, including shifts towards warm-water species and declines in some species. For Aberdeen, these changes have implications for coastal habitats, fisheries, harbour activity and the wider North Sea economy, reinforcing the need for climate-resilient marine and coastal management informed by local monitoring.

Business resilience, supply chains and food systems
Climate related disruption can damage assets, interrupt supply chains, increase operating costs and affect business productivity. Flooding is estimated to cost Scotland hundreds of millions of pounds annually and remains the most significant climate hazard for many businesses. The north east's food, drink, agriculture, fisheries and energy sectors are particularly exposed to climate risks. The region supports around 22,000 jobs in food, drink, agriculture and fishing and produces over 20% of Scotland's food and drink output, highlighting the importance of building resilience across local and global supply chains.

Pests, diseases and invasive non-native species
A changing climate can increase the spread of pests, diseases and invasive non-native species, placing additional pressure on biodiversity, agriculture, forestry and water environments. NatureScot's Scottish Action Plan for Invasive Non-Native Species 2026–2032 identifies climate change as a factor increasing the establishment and spread of invasive species, while the Scottish Plant Health Strategy 2024–2029 highlights growing risks to crops, trees and natural habitats. Strong biosecurity, monitoring and early intervention will be essential to manage these emerging threats.

Cultural heritage, landscape and city identity
Aberdeen's historic buildings, coastal heritage, public spaces and landscapes are already exposed to a changing climate. The Climate Change Committee's *A Well-Adapted UK* identifies cultural heritage as a distinct adaptation priority, with flooding and coastal erosion posing key risks and recognises the need for long-term adaptation planning for at risk heritage assets. For Aberdeen, this strengthens the case for targeted maintenance, flood and storm protection, drainage, monitoring, digitisation and nature-based solutions to protect the places that shape the city's identity.

4. Themes

The Routemap will be delivered through seven connected delivery themes covering Aberdeen's key climate priorities. Together, these themes contribute to the Routemap's three connected priorities, outlined in Figure 7:

- Net Zero – reducing emissions.
- Adaptation - preparing for climate impacts.
- Just Transition – delivering benefits fairly.

Each theme considers how it can reduce emissions, prepare for climate impacts and deliver benefits fairly, while recognising the links and dependencies between different areas of action. Theme sections indicate the priorities, what success would look like and intended outcomes for each theme and each theme considers three practical questions:

1. What needs to change
2. Where is Aberdeen already making progress
3. What needs to happen next

The Aberdeen **ClimateView platform** will hold the project details, bringing together planned and in-progress actions for the city. Project types include:

Direct	**Indirect**	**Enabling**
Physical or practical interventions, e.g. retrofit, flood protection, tree planting	Activities that influence or support change but may not deliver a measurable climate outcome on their own	Evidence, feasibility, funding, engagement, skills, business case development

Figure 7: Three Connected Priorities, Seven Delivery Themes and Shared Benefits



Theme 1 - Buildings, heat and Infrastructure

Our ambition: Buildings use less energy, rely increasingly on low and zero carbon heat and are better prepared for climate impacts

We will focus on energy efficient, healthier homes, resilient buildings and infrastructure, reduced fuel poverty and fair access to retrofit and clean heat.

Why is action needed?

Net Zero	Adaptation	Just Transition
Domestic housing emissions fell 54% and commercial and public sector emissions fell by 64% between 2005 and 2024, but gas use remains significant. By 2045, almost all buildings must use zero-emissions heat and much less energy.	Aberdeen's buildings face heavier rainfall, wind-driven rain, flooding, coastal change, water ingress and overheating. City evidence indicates 11% of buildings are affected by condensation and 8% by damp.	Fuel poverty, poor energy performance, damp, condensation and climate exposure often overlap, affecting health, affordability and resilience. Local targets aim to cut fuel poverty below 15% and extreme fuel poverty to 5% by 2030.

Strategic alignment: Supports Scotland's Heat in Buildings Strategy, Aberdeen Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy, fuel poverty targets, public and private sector decarbonisation and outcomes under the Scottish National Adaptation Plan.

Priority Areas

Area	What this means
Reduce demand first	Reduce energy demand, improve comfort and prepare buildings for clean heat.
Switch to clean heat	Move homes, public buildings and businesses away from fossil fuel heating to heat networks and renewable energy with local solutions.
Target action	Use building, heat demand and climate-risk data to prioritise buildings, infrastructure and heritage assets
Build resilience	Reduce risks from flooding, damp, overheating, water ingress and deterioration.
Maintain and protect	Protect heritage and public assets from loss, damage and degradation through climate impacts.
Target support fairly	Focus investment, advice and skills where fuel poverty, poor condition and climate vulnerability overlap.
Enable delivery	Build the finance, skills, data, supply chains and partnerships needed to deliver at scale.

Progress

Aberdeen's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy provides the long-term, place-based route for improving energy efficiency and decarbonising heat across domestic and non-domestic buildings. Its five-year Delivery Plan focuses on heat networks, building-level decarbonisation, energy efficiency and fuel poverty.
The Local Housing Strategy 2025–30 reinforces this by improving home condition and energy efficiency across all tenures, helping tackle fuel poverty, climate change and a just transition.

Recent city progress includes:

- The Tullos Energy from Waste plant began supplying the Torry District Heating network in summer 2024, providing low-carbon heat to a number of homes and public buildings.
- Project DORIC enabled whole-house retrofit for 50 Council homes, improving energy efficiency and installing zero direct emissions heating (ZDEH) systems, as well as photovoltaic (PV) panels.
- The new Council house building programme built to high energy standards, used renewable and low-carbon heat and linked to district heating where possible.
- By March 2026, Aberdeen Heat and Power had connected a total of 4,652 domestic properties to district heating.
- The University of Aberdeen secured £4 million for heating and electrical upgrades around Old Aberdeen, improving efficiency and future-proofing campus infrastructure.
- ETZ Ltd supported supply chain workshops and funded improvements to eight properties, saving an estimated 4,000 tonnes of carbon compared with rebuild and cutting annual emissions by 46 tonnes.
- Construction continued on ETZ Energy Works, using whole-life carbon assessment, low embodied carbon materials, passive design, green space and biodiversity

Delivery to 2030

No.	Outcome	Focus	By 2030
1.	**Better building performance**	i. Reduce heat demand by improving building fabric, energy efficiency and smart control. ii. Use data and technology to target action where heat demand is highest and improvement will have the greatest impact. iii. Apply consistent energy performance standards to guide retrofit, maintenance and future upgrades.	Buildings use less energy, cost less to run, support health and are easier to decarbonise.
2.	**More local energy networks**	i. Implement the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan to guide heat decarbonisation, energy efficiency and fuel poverty action. ii. Expand city heat networks and increase connections to waste heat and other local low-carbon energy sources. iii. Use improved data and evidence to target heat demand, emissions and areas where fuel poverty risk is greatest.	More homes, public buildings and commercial premises are connected to efficient, affordable local energy systems.
3.	**Cleaner heating systems**	i. Accelerate the shift to low and zero carbon heat through solutions tailored to Aberdeen's homes, public buildings and businesses.	Cleaner heat solutions are selected alongside affordability, building suitability, fuel poverty risk and future maintenance needs.
4.	**Reduced fuel poverty**	i. Coordinate partners to target advice, funding and delivery support to households and communities experiencing both fuel poverty and climate vulnerability.	Households have better access to advice, funding, skills and retrofit support, helping reduce costs,

			improve health and avoid widening inequalities.
5.	**Protected heritage and assets**	i. Embed climate resilience into planning, design, upgrades and policy for buildings, including traditional and heritage assets. ii. Promote effective building management and maintenance to protect condition, performance and long-term resilience.	Buildings and infrastructure are better able to cope with heavier rainfall, flooding, overheating, water ingress, storms and long-term deterioration.
6.	**Resilient infrastructure**	i. Identify and monitor climate risks across the built environment, using evidence to target action on drainage, flood protection, damp, overheating and water ingress. ii. Embed climate resilience into design, planning, retrofit, maintenance and asset management for buildings and infrastructure.	Regular maintenance, property-level flood protection, water efficiency, natural cooling and appropriate retrofit reduce damage, disruption and long-term costs.

Measures	Year	Figures
City Greenhouse Gas emissions domestic buildings	2024	286 kt CO2e
City Greenhouse Gas emissions commercial sector energy	2024	148 kt CO2e
Number of homes (Aberdeen) connected to district heating	March 2026	4,652
Households in a) fuel poverty and b) extreme fuel poverty	2026	a) 33% b) 20%
Building condition % in urgent disrepair	2026	16%

Links with other themes
Buildings, heat and infrastructure theme shapes how Aberdeen lives, travels and uses energy. Future focused design can support electric vehicle charging, local renewables, circular retrofit, green infrastructure and climate-resilient buildings — cutting emissions, improving comfort and helping communities adapt.

Theme 2 - Mobility

Our ambition: Aberdeen has a cleaner, fairer and more resilient transport system that makes walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared mobility the easy, affordable and attractive choice for everyday journeys.

We will focus on reducing the need to travel and car dependency, by improving access to sustainable travel, supporting low and zero emission vehicles, and strengthening routes and local living so people, goods and essential services can keep moving during climate impacts.

Why is action needed?

Net Zero	Adaptation	Just Transition
Transport accounted for 32.6% of Aberdeen's land-based greenhouse gas emissions in 2024. Emissions have fallen by 17% since 2005, but road travel, especially cars and light goods vehicles, remains the main source.	SEPA flood mapping, Dynamic Coast data, local road disruption records, Transport Scotland evidence and the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment show that heavier rainfall, flooding, heat, storms, coastal disruption and cascading infrastructure failures are key risks for transport planning, maintenance and critical services.	Around half of city journeys are by car or van, affecting congestion, air quality, safety and travel costs. Action should improve lower-cost options and prioritise communities facing the greatest transport, health and income barriers.

Strategic alignment: Supports Scotland's National Transport Strategy (NTS2), the sustainable travel hierarchy, the sustainable investment hierarchy, the national commitment to reduce car kilometres, the national commitment to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, Aberdeen's Local Transport Strategy and the Regional Transport Strategy.

Priority Areas

Area	What this means
Reduce travel need and car dependency	Make local living, shared mobility and lower-carbon travel easier, reducing reliance on private car travel where suitable options exist.
Plan low carbon choices	Use policy, modelling, guidance and investment to enable local living and encourage sustainable travel.
Improve public transport	Improve reliable, accessible and integrated services that compete with car travel.
Extend active travel	Create safer, more attractive walking, wheeling and cycling routes for shorter journeys.
Decarbonise vehicles	Expand electric vehicle charging, support fleet and bus decarbonisation and enable shared mobility.
Integrate networks	Improve integration between different forms of sustainable and active transport.
Build resilience and track	Prepare routes and services for flooding, heat, storms, coastal disruption and cascading impacts.
Make travel fairer	Target support and information where transport, health and income barriers are greatest.

Progress

Aberdeen is already investing in cleaner, healthier and more resilient travel through the Local Transport Strategy, Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy and partnership projects across public transport, active travel, electric vehicles and greener streets. Initiatives include:

- Aberdeen Rapid Transit: a major regional opportunity for fast, frequent and accessible cross-city travel, supporting growth, inclusion, city centre transformation and net zero. This is currently being progressed to more detailed scheme development and appraisal in an Outline Business Case as part of the Aberdeen City Region Deal.
- Electric vehicle charging: 570 new chargers are planned across the north of Scotland by 2029, including around 200 in Aberdeen, more than doubling the local network.
- E-bike hire: a new city scheme launched in 2026, gives residents and visitors another low-carbon travel option.
- Aberdeen Car Club: provides access to share vehicles helping to reduce the need for private car ownership and support more flexible, lower-carbon travel.
- Cycle storage at Tillydrone and Seaton provides space for up to 120 bikes, with further shelters installed at Aulton Court, Bayview Court, Beachview Court and Northsea Court.
- More young people travelling actively: Educational programmes to equip young people with the skills and enthusiasm to walk, wheel and cycle more with supporting infrastructure such as cycle and scooter parking, footprint routes and road safety campaigns.
- Aberdeen now has 107 solar-powered sedum-roofed shelters, creating small “stepping stones for nature” across the city.
- School streets: schools have been invited to join a pilot to reduce traffic, improve safety and support active travel at drop-off and pick-up times.
- Getabout partnership: ongoing region-wide promotion is helping residents choose walking, cycling, public transport and shared travel.
- Completed the latest Walking and Cycling Index in 2026, produced every two years by the Council and the Walk, Wheel and Cycle Trust. This surveyed more than 1,000 residents on active travel habits and aspirations to promote walking, wheeling and cycling.
- The Council staff Travel Plan was refreshed in 2025 and will pave the way for a refreshed Staff Travel Policy to support this.

Delivery to 2030

No.	Outcome	Focus	By 2030
1.	**Less traffic**	i. Reduce the need for car journeys by supporting local living, community hubs, flexible working, digital access and through land-use planning. ii. Enable lower-car choices through improved links between everyday services, public transport, active travel and shared mobility.	More people can access everyday services, work, learning and local facilities without unnecessary car journeys.
2.	**More active travel**	i. Extend safe, accessible active travel infrastructure, including connected routes, crossings, school streets, cycle parking and links to public transport. ii. Improve wayfinding and travel information to support accessible journey planning. iii. Increase cycle confidence and bike maintenance skills through training and support.	Walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared mobility become easier, safer and more attractive choices.

3.	**Increased public transport use**	i. Strengthen priority public transport routes through Aberdeen Rapid Transit, bus priority, Park and Ride and improved rail station connections. ii. Improve access to services through demand responsive transport, better interchange between modes and links to active travel routes. iii. Make public transport easier to use through integrated ticketing, clearer travel information and better coordination between services.	Transport services and networks are accessible, reliable, easier to use, integrated across modes and competitive with car travel.
4.	**Lower transport emissions**	i. Expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure to enable the switch to low and zero emission vehicles. ii. Support the transition of buses, fleets and freight to cleaner vehicles and fuels. iii. Grow shared mobility options and uptake of the City Car Club and e-bike hire scheme, to reduce reliance on private car ownership.	Public transport, fleets, freight and private vehicles produce fewer emissions and are supported by the right charging and energy infrastructure.
5.	**Resilient transport networks**	i. Design, monitor and maintain transport routes to cope better with flooding, heat, storms and coastal disruption. ii. Use monitoring, maintenance and early warning data to identify risks and respond faster. iii. Embed nature-based solutions in transport networks to reduce climate risks.	Transport routes and services are better prepared for flooding, heat, storms and coastal disruption, with solutions that enhance places.

Measures	Year	Figures
GHG emissions Transport Aberdeen	2024	336.3 kt(CO2e)
Vehicle kilometres travelled Aberdeen	2025	1,570 million
Car/van main mode of travel Aberdeen	2024	50%
% - walking and wheeling 5 or more days a week	2025	53%
% - travel public transport 5 or more days a week	2025	14%
Electric vehicle charging outlets Aberdeen	2026	Council – 236 (163 public, 40 fleet, 14 private, 19 car club)

Links with other themes
Mobility connects the whole Routemap: better places reduce the need to travel; clean energy powers low-carbon transport; shared mobility cuts material demand; resilient, greener routes protect people from climate impacts; and community engagement helps people choose sustainable travel.

Theme 3 - Circular Economy

Our ambition: Aberdeen uses resources more efficiently, keeps products and materials in use for longer, and reduces waste and lifecycle emissions.

We will focus on prevention, reuse, repair, recycling, circular procurement and local recovery systems that retain value, cut emissions and support fair access to circular choices.

Why is action needed?

Net Zero	Adaptation	Just Transition
Scotland's material footprint is 11 tonnes per person and its carbon footprint 8.3 tonnes CO2e per person. Waste is around 5.1% of Aberdeen's carbon footprint; in 2024, Aberdeen recycled 43% of household waste and diverted a further 52% from landfill.	Scotland used around 200 million tonnes of material inputs in 2020, with imports meeting 43% of material needs and 66% of critical raw material needs. Keeping products, materials and assets in use for longer can reduce exposure to supply chain disruption.	Prevention, reuse and repair can cut waste, lower costs and improve access to affordable goods, especially where cost, access and resource pressures are greatest.

Strategic alignment: Supports the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024, Scotland's waste and recycling priorities, including under the Circular Economy Routemap and Strategy, sustainable procurement and just transition outcomes.

Priority Areas

Area	What this means
Design out waste	Build circular design, durability and end of life reuse into projects and procurement.
Make reuse normal	Expand repair, reuse and refurbishment through hubs, repair cafes and practical skills
Use assets creatively	Repurpose buildings, spaces and assets for reuse, repair, learning and community activity.
Strengthen recycling and recovery systems	Improve local recovery routes and heat or energy recovery so valuable materials stay in circulation.
Make circular choices fair and accessible	Improve access to affordable repair, reuse, sharing and recycling options across communities.
Grow circular skills, jobs and enterprise	Expand repair, reuse, refurbishment and materials exchange across homes, businesses and public services.

Progress

Local delivery is also moving beyond collection and disposal towards reuse, repair, materials recovery and community access:

- Recent progress includes the expansion of reuse and recycling infrastructure with new Bridge of Don Household Waste Recycling Centre, which expanded local recycling options and added a purpose-built reuse shop. Further expansion and improvement to Hazlehead and Bridge of Don reuse shops was delivered in 2025/26 with Scottish Government funding.

- The rebuilt Altens Materials Recovery Facility, offers smarter materials recovery. The facility uses photovoltaic panels, optical sorting technology and a modular design to improve recycling and adapt to future needs.
- Improving access for recycling electrical items, pink recycling bins for small electrical items were installed at community sports clubs and libraries.
- Through the Nestrans People and Place programme, bikes sent to Hazlehead Household Waste and Recycling Centre are refurbished by Stella's Voice and made available at low or no cost to people without access to a cycle.
- Ness Energy from Waste Facility generates electricity and heat from non-recyclable waste.

Aberdeen already has strong household recycling performance compared with other Scottish cities, although overall waste volumes, commercial waste data and the quality of recycling streams remain important challenges.

- Aberdeen's Waste Strategy (2014 - 2025) delivered significant progress including provision of strategic infrastructure, modernisation of kerbside services and substantial investment in household waste and recycling centres. A refresh of the strategy is underway and is expected to be completed in 2027, following clarification of requirements arising from emerging legislative changes.

Delivery to 2030

No.	Outcome	Focus	By 2030
1.	**Less waste**	i. Increase sharing, leasing, repair, refill and reuse opportunities so people and businesses buy less new. ii. Encourage prevention, reuse and repair first, with recycling and recovery where materials cannot be kept in use.	Households, businesses and public services avoid unnecessary consumption and reduce waste.
2.	**More reuse and repair**	i. Map, promote and expand repair, reuse and refurbishment capacity across the city. ii. Improve access to reuse hubs, repair cafés, shared spaces, skills and affordable circular services.	Products, materials and assets stay in use for longer, with more visible and affordable reuse and repair options.
3.	**Lower lifecycle emissions**	i. Embed circular design, whole-life carbon, durability, repairability and end-of-life reuse into procurement, construction and major developments. ii. Use reused, recycled and lower-carbon materials where safe, practical and good value.	Major projects, procurement and construction choices cut lifecycle emissions and reduce demand for new materials.
4.	**Recovery and recycling**	i. Strengthen recycling, recovery and local infrastructure where prevention, reuse and repair are not possible. ii. Improve material quality, capture more value locally and recover heat or energy from non-recyclable waste, where appropriate.	More end-of-life value is recovered through stronger local and regional recycling, recovery and heat-use routes.
5.	**More circular businesses**	i. Repurpose underused buildings, spaces and assets for reuse, repair, learning, innovation and community activity. ii. Support circular enterprises, materials exchange, community-led projects and business innovation.	Reuse hubs, repair spaces, shared assets and circular enterprises support regeneration, local value and resilience.

6.	**Local jobs and innovation**	i. Build circular economy skills, jobs and enterprise through community, business, social enterprise and education partnerships. ii. Target support where cost, access or digital barriers limit participation.	Businesses, social enterprises and communities benefit from circular skills, jobs and local services.

Measures	Year	Figure
City Greenhouse gas emissions from waste	2024	52.3 ktCO2e
% of household waste recycled	2024	43% recycled 52% diverted from landfill
Citizen reuse and repair facilities (year)	Annual	Narrative

Links to other themes

A circular economy keeps products, materials and assets in use for longer. Shared and repaired mobility, circular construction, waste heat reuse, longer-life energy assets. Smarter consumer choices and lower demand for raw materials can cut emissions, capture resources and help to protect against supply chain disruption.

Theme 4 - Energy

Our ambition: Aberdeen has clean, secure and affordable energy systems that reduce emissions, strengthen resilience and support local jobs, skills and investment.

We will focus on reducing demand, supporting clean energy growth, strengthening local energy networks and ensuring communities, workers and businesses benefit from the transition.

Why is action needed?

Net Zero	Adaptation	Just Transition
Aberdeen used 5,003 GWh of energy in 2023, with gas still the largest fuel source. Cutting demand and switching to clean energy are essential to reduce city emissions and meet net zero.	Price volatility, grid constraints, severe weather and infrastructure disruption can affect households, businesses and services. Local energy systems need to be reliable, flexible and climate resilient.	Aberdeen's economy, skills and identity are closely linked to oil and gas. A fair transition must support workers, supply chains, communities and businesses to access clean energy opportunities and build energy resilience.
Strategic alignment: Supports UK and Scottish net zero targets, Scotland's draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, the Climate Change Plan, energy security priorities, local heat and energy planning, adaptation outcomes and green economy ambitions.		

GWh – gigawatt hours

Priority Areas

Area	What this means
Plan local energy	Grow renewables, storage, heat networks, waste heat use and decentralised energy where suitable.
Scale clean energy	Develop micro-renewables, storage and low-carbon generation across key sites.
Diversify and track	Use North Sea skills and infrastructure for hard-to-abate emissions. Track clean energy supply chains, jobs, investment, capacity, fuel poverty and emissions.
Strengthen energy resilience	Design networks, generation and critical infrastructure to cope with climate impacts and disruption.
Build local skills, jobs and supply chains	Support retraining, fair work, business diversification and community benefit from clean energy growth.
Investment & innovation	Develop investable project pipelines for offshore wind, hydrogen, storage, heat and local generation.

Progress

Aberdeen already has significant energy transition assets and activity. Offshore wind capacity from those consented, including the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre and the nearby Kincardine Floating Offshore Wind Farm, provide a strong platform for clean energy growth. Aberdeen's port, South Harbour and supply chain routes are also important strengths for offshore wind and future consents.

Our universities, colleges and energy businesses are essential for wider energy storage and low-carbon innovation and skills.

Local energy systems are already in place and developing. Aberdeen has established district heating networks, including through Aberdeen Heat and Power, with opportunities to expand and integrate low-carbon heat.

The Energy from Waste facility provides locally generated heat and power opportunities, and the anaerobic digestion plant at The Event Complex Aberdeen is another example of local energy infrastructure.

Energy transition activity is also being supported through the Energy Transition Zone, skills and supply chain development, innovation projects and skills activity across partners. These provide a basis for strengthening Aberdeen's role as a leading energy transition city while supporting workers, communities and businesses through change.

Delivery to 2030

No.	Outcome	Focus	By 2030
1.	**Joined up energy infrastructure**	a. Use area-based planning to identify and prioritise opportunities for district heat, local generation, energy storage, shared infrastructure, waste heat use and demand reduction.	Viable projects move from opportunity to delivery with utilities, communities, major users and investors.
2.	**More local clean energy**	i. Expand renewables, heat networks, energy storage, waste heat recovery and decentralised energy in locations where they are technically, financially and environmentally suitable.	innovation, opportunities and skills in support of a wider clean energy transition.
3.	**Resilient energy infrastructure**	i. Build climate resilience into networks, local generation, critical services and energy planning. ii. Prioritise energy efficiency, demand reduction, smart energy management and heat decarbonisation across buildings and infrastructure.	Energy systems are more reliable during severe weather, disruption and changing demand.
4.	**Clean energy investment**	i. Identify and progress opportunities for offshore wind, hydrogen, carbon capture, heat, storage and local generation. ii. Develop ownership, investment and funding models for decentralised, community-scale, commercial and regional energy projects.	Clear projects and partnerships attract investment and support delivery at scale and investor confidence.
5.	**Diversified energy sector**	i. Support businesses to enter and grow in renewables, energy distribution, operations, maintenance and clean energy services. ii. Build local supply chain capacity to deliver clean energy and retrofit projects.	Aberdeen's energy economy diversifies while retaining skills, jobs and local value.
6.	**Fair energy transition**	i. Support skills pathways through training, retraining and education opportunities. ii. Explore ownership, finance and community benefit models that retain value locally.	Workers, communities and businesses can access clean energy jobs, skills and investment

		iii. Work with partners to help workers, communities and businesses access transition opportunities.	opportunities. fair work and community benefits.

Measures	Year	Figure
Greenhouse gas emissions from industry	2024	71.2 ktCO2e
Renewable electricity installations (Aberdeen)	2024	4,129

Links with other themes

Energy links every theme by powering a fair, resilient transition. Clean energy supports low-carbon transport, tackles fuel poverty, enables decentralised heat and power, creates green jobs, supports circular resource recovery and must be designed to withstand future climate risks.

Theme 5 - Climate Risk

Our ambition: Aberdeen is prepared for climate impacts, with resilient places, infrastructure, services, communities and natural systems.

We will focus on understanding climate risks, reducing flood and coastal impacts, strengthening blue-green infrastructure, protecting critical assets and supporting community and business preparedness.

Why is action needed?

Net Zero	Adaptation	Just Transition
Warmer temperatures, hotter drier summers, wetter winters can all impact energy demands, power supply and infrastructure. Climate disruption can affect transport, energy, water, ICT, health services, homes, businesses and community wellbeing at the same time.	Aberdeen faces warmer temperatures, hotter drier summers, wetter winters, heavier rainfall, sea level rise, severe weather and increased risks from water scarcity and wildfire. These pressures increase risks to people, places, services, infrastructure, nature, homes, businesses, catchments and ecosystems.	Risk is greatest where climate exposure overlaps with poorer health, limited resources or reduced capacity to respond, so support should prioritise people and places facing the greatest climate risks and barriers.

National alignment: Contributes to Scotland's National Adaptation Plan outcomes, particularly Communities, Public Services and Infrastructure, Nature Connects and Economy

Priority Areas

Area	What this means
Understand climate risk and vulnerability	Keep local climate evidence, flood mapping, coastal studies and partner intelligence up to date so action is targeted where hazards, exposure and vulnerability overlap.
Manage flooding, drainage and surface water risk	Reduce flood and drainage pressures through flood risk management, property-level protection, sustainable drainage, maintenance and nature-based solutions.
Plan for coastal change and watercourse resilience	Strengthen long-term planning for coastal flooding, erosion, river catchments, water quality and water scarcity through partnership action.
Expand blue-green infrastructure	Use green infrastructure, wetlands, rain gardens, tree planting, sustainable drainage and natural flood management to reduce risk and improve places.
Strengthen resilient assets and services	Embed climate risk into planning, asset management, maintenance, procurement and service continuity so buildings, networks and public services can cope with severe weather.
Build community and business preparedness	Build local resilience through early warning, emergency planning, community resilience groups, business continuity, practical advice and targeted support for people and places most at risk.

Address delivery barriers	Identify and respond to barriers that could slow climate action, including cost, limited capacity, lack of knowledge or skills, short-term decision-making, resistance to change and misinformation.

Progress

Assessment and local data are used to identify risks, existing action and areas needing further investigation, monitoring or sustained effort.

- Flood risk management: The Council works with SEPA, Moray Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water through the North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan, supported by a Duty Flood Officer rota to monitor river, coastal and surface water risks.
- Property protection and monitoring: A 75% funded flood protection grant supports eligible residents and businesses, while CCTV at Maryculter Bridge helps monitor River Dee water levels during flood events.
- Coastal management: Dynamic Coast mapping, the North East Flood Risk Management Plan, Footdee Coastal Flood Study and Aberdeen Strategic Overview of Coast Protection inform future coastal flooding, erosion and adaptation planning.
- Watercourses and catchments: River Basin Management Planning and the Dee Catchment Partnership support healthier water environments across the Dee, Don and wider catchments.
- Nature-based solutions and blue-green infrastructure: Mapping and projects are expanding green infrastructure to support flood management, biodiversity and urban cooling.
- Community resilience and engagement: continued emergency planning activity, Grampian Local Resilience Partnership and engagement support preparedness, response and recovery.

Delivery to 2030

No.	Outcome	Focus	By 2030
1	**Clear climate risk evidence**	i. Use local climate evidence, flood mapping, coastal studies, inspections and partner intelligence to identify exposed people, places, assets and services. ii. Update the local evidence base to identify areas of climate hazards, exposure and vulnerability.	Climate risks, vulnerabilities and interdependencies are reviewed regularly and used to guide planning, investment and service delivery.
2	**Managed flood risk**	i. Deliver grey and green flood measures and surface water action through the North East Flood Risk Management Plan ii. Support property-level flood protection for homes and businesses most at risk.	Flood incidents, surface water pressure and avoidable disruption are reduced through targeted prevention, monitoring and response.
3	**Protected coastlines and catchments**	i. Develop coastal adaptation, catchment management, natural river management, bank protection, riparian planting and long-term monitoring to reduce climate risks and improve resilience.	Coastal, erosion, water quality and catchment risks are managed through long-term plans and partnership action.
4	**More blue-green infrastructure**	i. Expand sustainable drainage, permeable surfaces, swales, rain gardens, wetlands, de-culverting, buffer zones and urban cooling	Nature-based measures help absorb rainfall, reduce run-off, provide cooling, improve biodiversity and

		measures where practical, linking them to flood, drainage, property-level and coastal adaptation.	create better places and resilient transport routes.
5	**Resilient assets and services**	i. Embed climate risk into asset management, inspections, maintenance, design, planning, procurement, investment and service continuity. ii. Use inspections, mapping, sensors, flood response data and partner evidence to update priorities, trigger early action and strengthen monitoring, maintenance and operational response.	Critical infrastructure, buildings and services are better prepared for heat, flooding, storms and severe weather.
6	**Prepared communities and businesses**	i. Support community resilience plans, business preparedness, early warning, response and recovery, with targeted advice for vulnerable places.	Communities and businesses are better able to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related disruption.

Measures	Year	Progress
Climate risk assessment Aberdeen	2019	Strategic risk assessment
Completed flood studies	Various	Various
Lowest water levels (SEPA)	no date	-0.928m Dee (Garthdee) 0.755m Don (Parkhill)
Highest water levels (SEPA)	2015 2016	6.195m Dee (Garthdee) 5.56m Don (Parkhill)

Links with other themes
Climate Risk and Resilience theme helps Aberdeen stay safe, functional and prepared as risks intensify. Resilient buildings, routes, energy systems, reusable materials, blue-green infrastructure and community-led action all work together to reduce disruption, protect people and support a stronger, climate-ready city.

Theme 6 - Natural Environment

Our ambition: Aberdeen's natural environment is protected, restored and connected, supporting nature recovery, climate resilience and healthier places.

We will focus on restoring habitats, expanding blue-green infrastructure, improving access to nature, strengthening climate resilience and ensuring communities share the benefits of a healthier natural environment.

Why is action needed?

Net Zero	Adaptation	Just Transition
Trees, vegetation, soils, wetlands and coastal habitats store carbon and support the wider transition to net zero. Protecting and restoring nature helps strengthen carbon sinks while improving habitat quality and connectivity.	Healthy soils, trees, rivers, watercourses, wetlands, coast and greenspaces slow and absorb water, reduce erosion, provide cooling, improve air and water quality and help places cope with climate impacts.	Access to good-quality greenspace, shade, cleaner air, cooling and flood-resilient places supports health and wellbeing, but benefits are not always evenly distributed. Action should prioritise communities with lower access to nature and higher climate exposure.

Strategic alignment: Supports Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy, Environment Strategy and Natural Environment Act, Scottish National Adaptation Plan, climate change duties, net zero targets, nature networks and wider nature restoration priorities.

Priority Areas

Area	What this means
Strengthen carbon sequestration	Protect and enhance carbon storage in trees, woodlands, soils, wetlands, grasslands and coastal habitats while supporting biodiversity and resilience.
Protect and restore nature	Protect habitats, species, soils, trees, woodlands, watercourses, coast and marine areas, and restore degraded places.
Connect nature networks	Strengthen habitat connectivity across parks, greenspaces, rivers, coast, woodlands and wider nature networks.
Use nature to manage climate risk	Expand nature-based solutions that reduce flood, heat, erosion, water and biodiversity risks.
Track and respond to change	Use evidence on habitats, species, pests, disease, invasive species, soil health, canopy cover and carbon storage to target action.
Improve access and wellbeing	Improve fair access to quality greenspace, shade, cleaner air, nature learning, volunteering and community stewardship.

Progress

Aberdeen has significant natural assets, including the River Dee Special Area of Conservation, the River Don, coastline, parks, woodlands, open spaces, green corridors and marine habitats. The city's Green Space Network and Open Space Audit help identify the quantity, quality and connectivity of open space.

The Council manages around 350 hectares of woodland, 1,450 hectares of parks and greenspaces, and 25 countryside sites for biodiversity, education and public access. These include four Local Nature Reserves and one Site of Special Scientific Interest. These countryside sites cover more than 1,000 hectares and include 14 of Aberdeen's 44 Local Nature Conservation Sites.

The Tree and Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan identifies around 2,410 hectares of woodland across Aberdeen. These assets are managed by the Council, public bodies, landowners, community groups and partners including Forestry and Land Scotland, the River Dee Trust and the Woodland Trust.

Recent progress includes red squirrel expansion, red kite reintroduction, tree planting, invasive species control along watercourses, nature-based flood schemes, volunteering, green space improvements, pollinator habitat improvements, and continued success in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom Initiatives.

Strong local partnerships support delivery and evidence, including the North East Scotland Biological Records Centre, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership, Dee Catchment Partnership, local universities, the James Hutton Institute and Scotland's Rural College.

Future statutory nature recovery targets and new duties will be reflected in the Natural Environment Strategy as national legislation and guidance are confirmed.

Delivery to 2030

No.	Outcome	Focus	By 2030
1.	**More biodiversity**	i. Protect habitats, species, soils, trees, woodlands, watercourses, coast and marine areas. ii. Restore degraded places and expand naturalised areas to support nature recovery. iii. Strengthen habitat connectivity across parks, greenspaces, rivers, coastal areas, woodlands and wider nature networks.	Habitats are better connected, biodiversity can recover and people have improved access to nature.
2.	**Healthier soils**	i. Protect soils through planning, development and construction. ii. Use permeable surfaces to protect soils by reducing compaction and sealing.	Soil function, quality and stability are maintained, supporting nature, food growing and resilience.
3.	**More trees and woodlands**	i. Safeguard and enhance carbon storage in trees, woodlands, soils, wetlands, grasslands and coastal habitats. ii. Put processes in place to monitor nature-based carbon sequestration. iii. Protect and expand trees and woodlands, with the right tree in the right place.	Trees and woodlands are managed to support carbon storage, drainage, biodiversity, shade and resilience.
4.	**Connected nature networks**	i. Strengthen habitat connectivity across parks, greenspaces, rivers, coast, woodlands and wider nature networks. ii. Use the Green Space Network and open space evidence to identify gaps and target improvements.	Nature networks are better connected, helping species move, habitats recover and communities access nature.
5.	**Nature-based solutions**	i. Map, prioritise and deliver nature-based solutions with developers, landowners, infrastructure providers and communities to reduce climate risks and improve resilience.	Increased blue-green infrastructure helps absorb and slow rainwater, reduce flood

		ii. Use sustainable drainage, rain gardens, wetlands, riparian planting, green roofs and naturalised grasslands, where practical, to support adaptation.	risk, creates cooler urban areas and supports nature.
6.	**Improved access and wellbeing**	i. Improve fair access to quality greenspace, shade, cleaner air, nature learning, volunteering opportunities and community stewardship. ii. Prioritise communities with poorer access to nature, higher heat or flood exposure or poorer health outcomes. iii. Support community growing, volunteering, citizen science, learning and stewardship to strengthen local climate and nature action.	Nature is designed into places, improving wellbeing, access, shade and local resilience.
7.	**Monitoring and response**	i. Use evidence on habitats, species, pests, diseases, invasive species, soil health, canopy cover and carbon storage to target action. ii. Update delivery to reflect new statutory nature recovery targets and duties as legislation and guidance are confirmed.	Species, habitats, risks and sequestration are tracked so delivery responds to change and future duties.

Measures	Year	Figure
Greenhouse Gas emissions land use, land use change, forestry (Aberdeen)	2024	31.8 ktCO2e
Area protected and managed for nature	2025	21.3%
Tree canopy cover and woodland extent %	2025	17.3%

Links with other themes
The Natural Environment theme makes places healthier, cooler and more resilient. Blue-green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, sustainable land use and citizen science can reduce flood risk, support active travel, protect resources, store carbon and help communities shape local climate action.

Theme 7 - Empowerment

Our ambition: People, communities, businesses and organisations are informed, involved and supported to shape and deliver a fair, climate-ready Aberdeen.

We will focus on climate awareness, inclusive participation, community resilience, green skills, business adaptation, food resilience and fair access to the benefits of climate action.

Why is action needed?

Net Zero	Adaptation	Just Transition
Climate delivery depends on people, organisations and businesses having the skills, confidence and opportunity to participate. A just transition should create local jobs, build green skills, support behaviour change and enable communities to shape decisions that affect them.	Flooding, heat, severe weather, energy disruption, food pressures and service interruptions can affect households and communities directly. Local preparedness, trusted networks and community-led action can reduce harm and speed recovery.	Barriers to climate action can be greatest where climate vulnerability overlaps with poverty, poor health, disability, age, language, digital exclusion or limited access to services. Embedding health and fairness in delivery will help ensure climate action protects those most exposed to harm and direct benefits towards communities experiencing the greatest disadvantage.

Strategic alignment: Supports Scotland's Net Zero Nation Public Engagement Strategy, the Scottish National Adaptation Plan, just transition principles, Community Planning Aberdeen outcomes, community resilience priorities and wider sustainable development outcomes.

Priority Areas

Area	What this means
Build climate awareness	Use clear, local and accessible communication so people understand net zero, adaptation, risks, choices and benefits.
Enable participation	Give residents, young people, communities, businesses and partners meaningful routes to shape priorities and projects.
Strengthen partnerships	Support collaboration between communities, public bodies, businesses, schools, universities, volunteers and local organisations.
Build community resilience	Support local preparedness, community resilience planning, trusted networks and practical action for severe weather and disruption.
Support fair local benefit	Target advice, skills, funding and support where climate vulnerability, poverty, poor health and transition barriers intersect.
Track involvement and impact	Use evidence on reach, participation, local benefit, behaviour change and resilience to improve delivery.

Progress

Aberdeen has a strong platform for empowerment and resilience, with community planning, locality empowerment groups, resilience partnerships, NESCAN Hub, schools, colleges, universities, research institutes, community groups and environmental networks already supporting local climate action.

This aligns with national evidence that effective climate engagement must help people understand climate risks, participate in decisions and take practical action, using inclusive methods, trusted partners and clear feedback on how input shapes delivery.

Community Planning Aberdeen's 2026–36 Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans provide a direct route to connect climate action with wider work on inequality, safer and more sustainable neighbourhoods, community influence and long-term wellbeing.

City and regional resilience arrangements provide practical routes for preparing for severe weather and climate disruption, including emergency power packs, severe weather advice, community resilience groups and links with health and social care partners.

The Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge gives organisations and individuals a simple way to support the city's climate goals and commit to practical action on net zero, adaptation and nature recovery. With 35 organisations signed up by March 2025, it provides a visible platform for collaboration and wider involvement in a fair, climate-ready Aberdeen.

The Young Person Climate Group gives young people a dedicated route to learn about climate and nature issues, share priorities and help shape local action. It strengthens youth participation in the Aberdeen's climate response and supports long-term culture change by connecting young people's ideas with wider work on net zero, adaptation and community resilience.

Local delivery is also supported by LEAF funding, Just Transition Participatory Budgeting, NESCAN Hub activity, with event programme including Climate Week North East and initiatives including the University of Aberdeen's Just Transition Lab. Together, these provide visible ways for communities, businesses, young people and partners to learn, collaborate and shape a fair, climate-ready city.

Delivery to 2030

No.	Outcome	Focus	By 2030
1.	**Greater climate awareness**	i. Use trusted communication, local stories, creative activity and culture to make climate action relatable, hopeful and motivating. ii. Strengthen communication and climate literacy to improve local understanding of net zero and adaptation. iii. Develop case studies and learning resources that demonstrate the benefits of climate action for people and places.	People and organisations have clear, local and accessible information on climate risks, choices and benefits.
2.	**Stronger partnerships**	i. Facilitate collaboration between communities, businesses, schools, students, volunteers, universities, partners and local organisations. ii. Develop co-designed projects, placements, training and citizen science opportunities that help communities and partners take practical climate action.	Partnerships are delivering visible local climate and nature action with shared learning and wider community benefit.
3.	**More participation**	i. Encourage uptake of the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge and create more youth, community and partner opportunities to shape climate action.	Communities, young people, businesses, schools, volunteers and partners can influence decisions and see how their input is used.

		ii. Provide targeted advice, training and resources to support lower-carbon, climate-ready choices.	
4.	**Community-led resilience**	i. Support community-led projects, resilience planning, trusted communication, emergency advice and local support networks to strengthen local climate resilience. ii. Use learning from severe weather and local experience to strengthen future climate adaptation action.	Communities and local partners are better prepared for severe weather, disruption and climate-related emergencies.
5.	**Business and food resilience**	i. Provide local information on climate risks, impacts and adaptation to help businesses and partners prepare and respond. ii. Support local growing, food hubs, community food partnerships and adaptation measures at growing sites.	Businesses, partners and community food networks are better able to plan for disruption and maintain local resilience.
6.	**Health and climate justice**	i. Embed health equity and just transition principles across climate delivery to ensure fair outcomes. ii. Prioritise support for people and places most exposed to climate risks, poor health, fuel poverty or transition barriers.	Climate action supports wellbeing, green skills, fair local benefit and targeted support for communities facing the greatest barriers.

Measures	Year	Figure
Number of Climate and Nature Pledge signatories	March 2026	39 organisations 76 individuals
Community resilience plans	2025	3
Number of new pocket parks/areas for growing food		LOIP indicator

Links with other themes
Empowerment connects every theme by helping people understand choices, shape local solutions and benefit from action — from affordable transport and retrofit to green skills, circular economy, nature-based solutions and community resilience.

5. Shared benefits and cross-cutting risks

5.1 Shared benefits

How climate action creates shared benefits

Benefit created	Mobility	Buildings	Circular	Energy	Risk	Nature	Empowerment
Healthier people and places	●	●		●		●	●
Cleaner air	●	●		●		●	●
More nature and biodiversity			●		●	●	●
A just transition	●	●	●	●	●		●
Skills and green jobs		●	●	●		●	●
Stronger local economy	●	●	●	●		●	●
Better places to live and move around	●	●			●	●	●
Lower flood risk					●	●	●
Resources used wisely		●	●			●	
Carbon stored in nature						●	
Warmer, affordable homes		●		●			

Legend: ● shows where a theme can make a direct

5.2 Cross-cutting risks and dependencies

Several risks and dependencies apply across all seven delivery themes.

Cross-cutting risk or dependency	Implication for delivery
Funding and investment	Delivery depends on sustained capital and revenue funding, viable finance models, investable project pipelines and alignment with national funding programmes.
Data, evidence and monitoring	Gaps in emissions, climate risk, asset, social, nature and delivery data could weaken targeting, prioritisation and progress reporting.
Partner capacity and governance	Many actions rely on delivery by partners, landowners, utilities, public bodies, businesses, communities and regional or national agencies.
Skills and supply chains	Progress depends on access to specialist skills, local supply chains, workforce transition support and sufficient delivery capacity across sectors.

Public acceptability and behaviour change	Changes to homes, travel, land use, resources and services need clear communication, practical alternatives, visible benefits and fair engagement.
Affordability and fairness	Climate action could widen inequalities unless costs, disruption, access and benefits are considered early and support is targeted where need is greatest.
Climate risks and system interdependencies	Flooding, heat, storms, water stress, coastal change and cascading infrastructure disruption may affect delivery unless resilience is built into planning, design, maintenance and review.
Policy, technology and market uncertainty	Changing policy, regulation, costs, technologies and markets may affect delivery pace, sequencing and investment confidence.

6. Consultation and participation

Delivering Aberdeen's climate ambitions will depend on shared ownership, collaboration and ongoing participation across the city. The Routemap builds on Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts, co-created with stakeholders in 2022, and brings them together into a single area-wide Routemap.

Delivery will require action from communities, public bodies, businesses and education, with clear roles, stronger climate literacy, trusted communication, transparent action and community climate action helping to turn ambition into practical change.

The Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board has supported the refresh by reviewing priorities, evidence, delivery arrangements, ClimateView project information and progress reporting. Public consultation and ongoing engagement will test whether the Routemap priorities, delivery approach and proposed actions reflect community and stakeholder needs, using accessible formats, youth engagement routes, partner networks and targeted engagement with communities most affected by climate impacts or transition change.

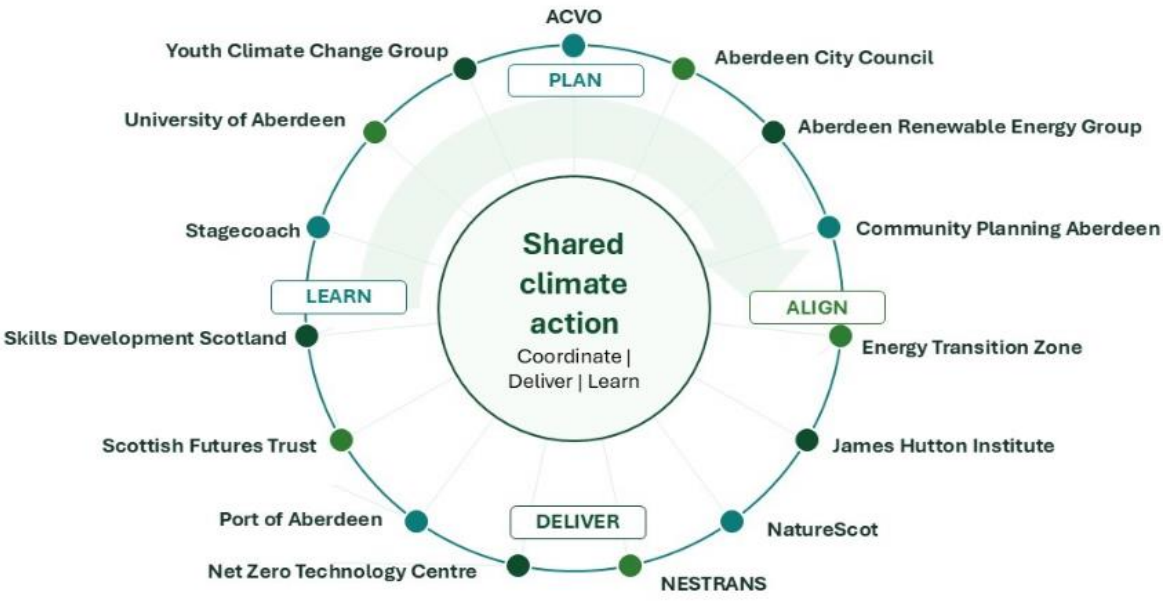
Alongside formal consultation, the Routemap will recognise wider ways residents and communities can influence delivery, including community leadership, local campaigns, events, scrutiny and other participatory approaches.

Feedback will be reviewed and used to shape delivery, with clear feedback loops showing what was heard, what changed and how engagement continues to influence action through ClimateView.

7. Governance and partnership delivery

Delivery will operate as a single city-wide climate programme, linking governance, themed delivery, investment planning, progress tracking and review.

The **Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board** will provide partnership oversight, helping partners agree priorities, review progress, manage risks, unblock barriers and escalate issues where wider decisions or support are needed.

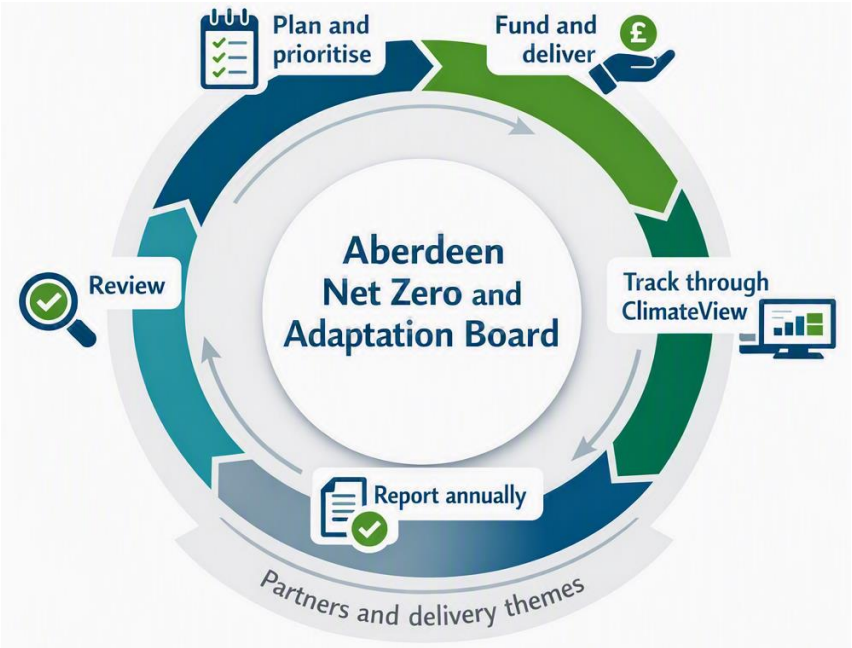


A shared delivery loop helps partners coordinate climate action across Aberdeen.

A short-life task and finish group will strengthen the Routemap delivery model by reviewing governance, funding and investment arrangements; clarifying roles and decision routes; identifying partner or finance dependencies; and recommending practical improvements to move priority actions from strategy into funded delivery. The group will report to the Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board with clear recommendations, timescales and ownership for implementation.

Delivery will depend on shared evidence, practical action, long-term collaboration and investment confidence. Barriers relating to governance, funding, finance, ownership or partner dependencies should be escalated through the task and finish group or agreed governance route, with practical recommendations brought back to the Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board.

An annual delivery cycle will bring together partner updates, ClimateView data and theme reporting on actions, indicators, milestones, risks, dependencies and funding gaps. The Board will use this reporting to review progress and agree priorities for the next delivery period.



Each theme will identify supporting partners and set out a clear delivery route. Actions will move through a simple pipeline from evidence and feasibility to funded delivery, monitoring and review, helping partners focus on activity that contributes to Net Zero, Adaptation and Just Transition outcomes.

This approach recognises that no single organisation can deliver the transition alone. Success will depend on coordinated action between the Council, public bodies, communities, businesses, infrastructure providers, research and education institutions, neighbouring local authorities and regional and national partners.

7.1 Roles and responsibilities

Role	Primary responsibilities
Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board	Oversight of plans, approach, reporting. Drive partnership delivery.
Decision-makers and budget holders	Consider emissions, adaptation, sustainability and just transition implications in decisions, business cases, procurement and programme prioritisation.
City and regional partners	Lead and contribute to actions across energy, transport, housing, land use, infrastructure, economy, skills, health, resilience and community planning. Provide updates on agreed interventions, indicators, milestones and co-benefits.
Aberdeen City Council	Provide civic leadership; coordinate ClimateView updates and reporting; align relevant plans, policies and investment decisions; and support partnership delivery.
Communities and place-based partners	Provide local insight, support co-design, behaviour change, community resilience and place-based action.

7.2 ClimateView and delivery

The Scottish Climate Intelligence Service supports climate planning across all 32 Scottish local authorities by providing emissions data and access to ClimateView for scenario modelling. In Aberdeen, ClimateView has informed this Routemap by bringing together emissions, actions and adaptation projects.

Published alongside the Routemap and regularly updated, Aberdeen ClimateView will show emissions data, planned and in-progress actions, delivery status, partners, timescales, milestones, dependencies and expected co-benefits.

ClimateView will support delivery discussions and annual review by highlighting progress, gaps and areas needing further development, funding or partner action.

Adaptation will be delivered through a coordinated, risk-led approach embedded across all Routemap themes. This will strengthen resilience across communities, infrastructure, public services, businesses and the natural environment, while supporting emissions reduction, nature recovery and just transition outcomes.

8. Funding and investment

Investment is a critical delivery condition for the Routemap. Aberdeen will need to move from strategic ambition to a costed, investable programme that supports net zero, adaptation and a just transition.

National adaptation evidence shows that early, planned investment is more cost effective than responding after impacts occur. The Climate Change Committee's *A Well-Adapted UK* investment

analysis estimates that adaptation across the UK would require around £11 billion per year across the actions it costed, with major requirements in cooling, flood risk management, water storage, efficiency and demand-side measures.

Net zero investment will require priority projects, costs, finance models, public and private funding routes, infrastructure dependencies, skills and supply-chain capacity, and clear local benefits.

ClimateView will support investment planning by distinguishing funded projects already in delivery from unfunded priorities that need further development, funding or investment support.

Developing an area-wide investment pipeline is a Board priority, including investment needs, finance opportunities and key delivery dependencies.

9. Monitoring, reporting and review

9.1 Monitoring

The Monitoring Framework will use a focused set of measurable indicators to track progress on emissions reduction, adaptation, nature recovery, just transition and delivery. Wherever possible, indicators will be drawn from existing datasets to avoid duplication.

Headline indicators will track overarching progress, while theme-level measures and milestones, set out in each section, will connect long-term outcomes to delivery actions and annual reporting.

Headline indicators	What it measures	Year	Figure
Greenhouse gas emissions Aberdeen City ($ktCO_2e$)	Overall progress towards net zero	2024	1,030.5 ktCO2e
Emissions per person (tCO_2e)	Emissions reduction relative to population	2024	4.4 tCO2e
Emissions per km2	How concentrated greenhouse gas emissions are across an area	2024	5 kt CO2e

$ktCO_2e$ – kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
tCO_2e – tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

9.2 Reporting

The annual Aberdeen Net Zero and Aberdeen Adapts progress report will provide a transparent overview of city-wide climate action and outcomes. It will combine headline indicators with updates on delivery, milestones and priority projects across each Routemap theme.

The annual report will be informed by ClimateView updates, theme delivery reporting, partnership input, and review by the Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board. It will reflect updates to the ClimateView platform and provide the basis for identifying where further development, funding, partner action or governance decisions are required.

9.3 Review and update

The Routemap will be reviewed regularly to reflect updated emissions data, climate risk evidence, national policy, funding opportunities, technological change and lessons from implementation. Annual monitoring and reporting will help identify where delivery actions, indicators, timescales, risks or priorities need to be updated.

A full review of the Routemap will take place at least every five years. An earlier review may be triggered by material changes, including significant changes in national policy, statutory duties, climate risk

evidence, funding conditions, delivery performance, partner commitments, or major city-wide opportunities and risks.

Each full review will consider whether the Routemap's priorities, themes, focus, indicators and measures remain fit for purpose and whether any changes are needed to strengthen delivery, reflect new evidence or respond to emerging risks and opportunities.

10. Alignment to Global Goals

The Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Routemap aligns to the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

1 No poverty - Generating clean energy and improving energy efficiency will help to alleviate fuel poverty. Principles of 'community wealth building' and a 'just transition' underpin Empowerment, Energy Supply and the Buildings & Heat themes.

2 Zero hunger - Supporting local food growing, including orchards and market gardens is included in the Natural Environment theme. Reducing food waste is also part of the Circular Economy theme.

3 Good health and wellbeing - Increased tree cover and clean energy generation can contribute to improved air quality and help to improve health. Expanded use of blue green infrastructure and active travel can contribute to health and well-being.

4 Quality education - Actions to support wider engagement with schools will support global citizenship education and education for sustainable development.

5 Gender equality - A 'just transition' should consider gender equality and the aims of delivering a 'just transition' feature throughout the Routemap.

6 Clean water and sanitation - Improving water use efficiency through the effective use of resources and the expanded use of blue green infrastructure will contribute to protecting and restoring water related ecosystems, rivers and aquifers. Increased tree cover will also support the water environment.

7 Affordable and clean energy - Generating clean energy, extend the heat network, increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix and improve the energy efficiency of buildings will contribute to universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

8 Decent work and economic growth - Encouraging effective use of resources will support local business to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and create jobs in the process.

9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure - Encouraging the effective use of resources and low-carbon enhancements to infrastructure will support and encourage local stakeholders and researchers to further innovate.

10. Reduced inequalities - Increasing energy efficiency and effective use of resources will help to alleviate fuel poverty and deliver a 'just transition' protecting and sustaining income growth of those facing most socio-economic challenges.

11. Sustainable cities and communities - Improving building quality, protecting and enhancing open spaces, resilient design of infrastructure, reducing losses from weather impacts all contribute to a sustainable city.

12. Responsible consumption and production - Minimising waste, encouraging the effective use of resources, improving data capture, encouraging sustainable procurement and the wider engagement with citizens will all increase greater awareness of the links with climate action.

13. Climate action - Reducing emissions, increasing the resilience and build standards of city assets, climate risk management and embedding climate considerations into city-wide activities and decision-making are all contributing to climate action.

14. Life below water - Improving water use efficiency through effective use of resources and the expanded use of blue green infrastructure will contribute to protecting and restoring water related ecosystems, rivers and aquifers. Increased tree cover will also support the water environment.

15. Life on land - Increasing nature-based solutions and reversing the harm will contribute to overall biodiversity gain and potentially support and protect habitats for wildlife.

16. Peace, justice and strong institutions - Transparent governance, benchmarking and public reporting of climate action will strengthen institutions and participation. The Empowerment theme is most relevant.

17. Partnerships for the goals - Embedding climate considerations across plans, programmes and strategies will improve policy coherence and strengthen partnerships in Aberdeen and beyond.

11. Glossary

Abstraction: The removal of water from any source, either permanently or temporarily.

Blue-green infrastructure: A connected network of natural and designed green and water spaces, such as parks, trees, rain gardens, wetlands, rivers and sustainable drainage systems, that help manage water, reduce flooding, support nature and improve places.

Carbon budget: A limit on the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions over a set period, used to guide decisions and track progress.

Carbon insetting: Reducing or absorbing emissions within your own land, supply chain, or area rather than buying offsets elsewhere.

Carbon offsetting: Paying for emissions reductions somewhere else to compensate for your own emissions.

Carbon sequestration: Storing carbon naturally (e.g. in forests, soils, peatlands) or using technology.

Climate change: Long-term changes in the Earth's climate system (temperature and weather patterns), primarily caused today by increased greenhouse gas emissions from human activities like burning fossil fuels.

Climate adaptation: Action to adjust land, nature, buildings and processes to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Climate mitigation: Action to reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions to slow or prevent climate change, such as by improving energy efficiency, tree planting or using low carbon energy.

Climate risks: The potential impacts of climate change on land, nature, buildings, processes, and people, such as flooding, overheating, diseases and storm damage.

Decarbonisation: Reducing carbon emissions across sectors like energy, transport, and buildings.

EPC: Energy performance certificate

Fluvial flooding: Flooding of rivers and waterways, accumulation of water over areas that are not normally submerged.

Global warming: The gradual rise in the Earth's average temperature due to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gases (GHGs): Gases (e.g. CO_2, methane) that trap heat in the atmosphere.

Groundwater flooding: Rainfall increases natural water levels underground, this results in it rising to the surface causing flooding.

Gullies: Roadside drainage inlets that collect surface water runoff and direct it into the underground drainage network**.**

Invasive non-native species: Those that have been transported outside their natural range and that damage the environment, economy, our health and the way we live.

Just transition: An approach to climate action that is fair and inclusive, ensuring that benefits are shared and that people are supported through change.

LULUCF: Land use, land use change, forestry sector.

Nature: The combination of living (plants & animals) and non-living things (air, water, soils, etc.) and systems (forests, oceans, cycles).

Nature-based solutions: Actions that use natural systems, such as trees, green spaces and waterways, to reduce climate risks, support biodiversity, improve human health and more.

Nature loss: Decline in biodiversity due to pressures like habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change.

Nature recovery: Actions to restore habitats and increase wildlife populations.

Net zero: Balancing the amount of greenhouse gases released with the amount removed from the atmosphere.

Resilience: The ability of land, nature, buildings, processes and people to withstand and recover after climate impacts.

Riparian planting: Planting trees, shrubs and other vegetation along rivers, streams and burns to stabilise banks, slow run-off, improve water quality, support wildlife and reduce flood risk.

Soil compaction: Compressing soil particles, reducing space for air and water.

Soil sealing: Covering soil in impermeable materials such as concrete or asphalt.

Storm surge: A storm-driven rise in sea level, caused mainly by strong winds and low air pressure, which can combine with high tides and waves to increase coastal flood risk.

Surface water flooding: Occurs when an extremely heavy downpour of rain saturates the urban drainage system and the excess water cannot be absorbed.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS): Water management systems to drain and manage water in a more sustainable way, lessening the risk of flooding by slowing down run off.

Swales: Can refer to a natural landscape feature or one designed to manage water run-off.

Trash screen: A metal screen or grille installed at culverts, watercourse inlets or drainage structures to prevent debris, vegetation and litter from entering and causing blockages.

Urban Heat Island Effect: When urban areas are warmer than nearby rural areas because buildings, roads and other hard surfaces absorb and retain heat, especially at night.

UK Climate Projections (UKCP18): show a range of plausible future climate conditions for the UK and Scotland, helping understand likely changes under different emissions scenarios.

Water-level gauges: Monitoring devices installed in rivers, burns or other water bodies that measure water levels and provide data to support flood forecasting, risk assessment and operational respons

12. Appendices

Appendix A – Current Policy and Legislative Drivers

International drivers
Aberdeen's local climate action contributes to global commitments to cut emissions, build resilience, protect nature and support sustainable development. International agreements such as the Paris Agreement and Glasgow Climate Pact set the direction for faster emissions reduction and stronger adaptation, while the UN Sustainable Development Goals highlight the wider benefits for health, equality, sustainable communities, responsible consumption, economic opportunity and nature.

UK drivers
UK legislation and policy provide the wider framework for carbon budgets, climate risk assessment, adaptation planning and the low-carbon energy transition. For Aberdeen, these drivers are important because they shape action on infrastructure, health, ecosystems, water, businesses, communities and the city's role as a major energy hub.

Scottish drivers
Scottish Government policy provides the principal framework for climate action within Aberdeen. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act and subsequent Climate Change legislation establish Scotland's statutory commitment to become net zero by 2045.

Scotland's Carbon Budgets
Scotland's carbon budget framework sets the pathway to net zero by 2045. Introduced through the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024, it replaces annual and interim targets with four multi-year budgets covering 2026–2045. Each budget sets the permitted share of baseline emissions for the period, based on advice from the independent Climate Change Committee:

- First Carbon Budget (2026-2030): 43%
- Second Carbon Budget (2031-2035): 31%
- Third Carbon Budget (2036-2040): 20%
- Fourth Carbon Budget (2041-2045): 6%

Scotland's Climate Change Plan
This Routemap provides Aberdeen's local contribution to Scotland's Climate Change Plan and the statutory pathway to net zero by 2045. It translates national decarbonisation priorities into place-based action across buildings and heat, transport, energy, circular economy, nature, business, communities and governance.

Climate Change Plan priority	How the Routemap contributes	Relevant themes
Reduce emissions from buildings and heat	Retrofit, fabric-first improvements, LHEES, heat networks, low and zero carbon heat, fuel poverty support and resilient buildings.	Buildings, Heat and Infrastructure; Energy
Reduce transport emissions	Reduce car dependency, support 20-minute neighbourhoods, public transport, walking, wheeling, cycling, EV charging, fleet decarbonisation and resilient routes.	Mobility
Decarbonise energy and support clean power	Offshore wind, decentralised energy, local generation, storage, heat networks, hydrogen, carbon capture opportunities, grid readiness and energy resilience.	Energy and Empowerment
Reduce waste and consumption emissions	Waste prevention, reuse, repair, recycling, circular procurement, circular construction, materials exchange and circular business models.	Circular Economy
Support industry and green economy transition	Skills, supply chain diversification, business resilience, clean energy jobs, investment and innovation.	Energy; Circular Economy; Empowerment
Protect and enhance carbon stores in nature	Soils, trees, woodlands, habitats, blue-green infrastructure, nature-based solutions and biodiversity recovery.	Natural Environment; Climate Risk
Deliver a just transition	Fuel poverty reduction, community participation, skills, health, access, affordability and distribution of local benefits.	Empowerment; Buildings; Mobility; Energy
Monitor progress and adapt delivery	ClimateView, emissions baselines, indicators, annual delivery cycle, partnership reporting and statutory climate reporting.	Governance, Delivery and Review

Scotland's National Adaptation Plan

This routemap provides Aberdeen's local contribution to the Scottish National Adaptation Plan by translating national adaptation outcomes into place-based delivery. It connects climate risk evidence with action across buildings, infrastructure, transport, energy, water, nature, business, health and communities.

SNAP outcome	How the Routemap contributes	Relevant themes
Nature connects	Protects, restores and connects habitats; expands blue-green infrastructure; safeguards soils, trees, watercourses and nature-based solutions.	Natural Environment; Climate Risk Mobility; Buildings
Communities	Builds climate understanding, participation, community resilience, preparedness and fair access to support.	Empowerment, Just Transition; Buildings; Climate Risk

Public services and infrastructure	Embeds climate risk in buildings, transport, energy, water, digital, health and critical infrastructure planning.	Climate Risk; Buildings; Mobility; Energy
Economy, business and industry	Supports business resilience, water efficiency, supply chain resilience, circular economy, food security and a just energy transition.	Energy; Circular Economy; Climate Risk; Empowerment
Cross-boundary and international risks	Recognises supply chain, food, materials, energy market, pest and disease risks, though this could be made more explicit.	Circular Economy; Food; Climate Risk; Natural Environment

Level	Driver	Net Zero	Adaptation	Nature	Just Transition	Relevant Themes
International	Paris Agreement	✓	✓		✓	All
International	Glasgow Climate Pact	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
International	https://sdgs.un.org/goals	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
UK	Climate Change Act 2008	✓	✓		✓	All
UK	UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 / CCRA3		✓	✓		Climate Risk; Natural Environment
UK	A Well Adapted UK Fourth Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk (CCRA4-IA)	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
UK	UK Hydrogen Strategy	✓			✓	Energy
UK	Biomass Strategy 2023	✓	✓	✓		Energy; Natural Environment
UK	UK Battery Strategy	✓			✓	Mobility; Energy
UK	UK Emissions Trading Scheme	✓				Circular Economy; Energy
UK	Great British Energy Act 2025	✓			✓	Energy; Empowerment
Scotland	Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Scotland	Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019	✓			✓	All
Scotland	Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024	✓			✓	All

Scotland	Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (Scottish Carbon Budgets) Amendment Regulations 2025	✓			✓	All
Scotland	Scotland's Climate Change Plan 2026–2040	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Scotland	Scotland's National Adaptation Plan		✓	✓	✓	All
Scotland	https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-bodies-climate-change-duties-statutory-guidance/	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Scotland	https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Scotland	https://www.gov.scot/publications/heat-buildings-strategy-achieving-net-zero-emissions-scotlands-buildings/	✓			✓	Buildings & Heat
Scotland	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2021/9/contents	✓			✓	Buildings & Heat; Energy
Scotland	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/10/contents	✓			✓	Buildings & Heat; Empowerment
Scotland	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/sdsi/2022/9780111053935	✓			✓	Buildings & Heat; Energy
Scotland	https://www.gov.scot/collections/new-build-heat-standard/	✓				Buildings & Heat
Scotland	https://www.gov.scot/publications/heat-buildings-supply-chains-delivery-plan-towards-industry-green-heat/	✓			✓	Buildings & Heat; Energy
Scotland	Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024	✓		✓	✓	Circular Economy
Scotland	Scotland's Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030	✓		✓	✓	Circular Economy
Scotland	Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland	✓		✓	✓	Circular Economy; Natural Environment
Scotland	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2021/410/contents/made	✓		✓		Circular Economy
Scotland	Food Waste Reduction: Action Plan	✓		✓		Circular Economy
Scotland	Net Zero Nation: Public Engagement Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓	Empowerment
Scotland	National Just Transition Planning Framework	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Scotland	Green Industrial Strategy	✓			✓	Energy; Empowerment
Scotland	Offshore Wind Policy Statement	✓		✓	✓	Energy; Natural Environment
Scotland	Hydrogen Policy Statement	✓			✓	Energy
Scotland	Hydrogen Action Plan	✓			✓	Energy
Scotland	Energy Networks Vision to 2030	✓	✓		✓	Buildings & Heat; Energy
Scotland	Transport (Scotland) Act 2019	✓			✓	Mobility
Scotland	National Transport Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mobility
Scotland	National Flood Resilience Strategy		✓	✓	✓	Climate Risk; Natural Environment

Scotland	Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045		✓	✓	✓	Natural Environment
Scotland	UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024		✓	✓	✓	Empowerment
Scotland	Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2024		✓	✓	✓	Natural Environment
Regional	Regional Economic Strategy 2035	✓	✓		✓	Energy; Empowerment
Regional	NESTRANS 2040 Regional Transport Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mobility
Regional	North East Flood Risk Management Plan 2022–2028		✓	✓	✓	Climate Risk
Aberdeen	Climate and Nature Emergency Declaration	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Aberdeen	Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Aberdeen	Local Outcome Improvement Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Aberdeen	North, South, Central Locality Plans	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Aberdeen	Local Housing Strategy	✓	✓		✓	Buildings & Heat
Aberdeen	Aberdeen Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy	✓			✓	Buildings & Heat; Energy
Aberdeen	Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board	✓	✓	✓	✓	All

Appendix B – Emerging and In-Development Drivers

Level	Driver	Net Zero	Adaptation	Nature	Just Transition	Relevant Themes
UK	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/uk-emissions-trading-scheme-scope-expansion-waste	✓				Circular Economy; Energy Supply
Scotland	Heat in Buildings	✓			✓	Buildings & Heat; Energy Supply
Scotland	Social Housing Net Zero Standard	✓			✓	Buildings & Heat
Scotland	Energy Performance Certificate Reform	✓			✓	Buildings & Heat
Scotland	https://www.gov.scot/policies/building-standards/	✓	✓		✓	Buildings & Heat
Scotland	Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan	✓	✓		✓	Energy Supply; Empowerment
Scotland	National Performance Framework Review	✓	✓	✓	✓	All

Regional	Grampian Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment		✓	✓	✓	Climate Risk & Resilience; Natural Environment; Empowerment
Aberdeen	ClimateView Scenario Modelling and Monitoring	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
Aberdeen	Natural Environment Strategy		✓	✓	✓	Natural Environment
Aberdeen	Local Transport Strategy Refresh / Mobility Delivery Updates	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mobility
Aberdeen	Aberdeen City Waste Strategy Refresh	✓		✓	✓	Circular Economy