

# Climate Change at the Highland Council

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# Climate Change Overview

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# Climate Change Overview

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## Background & National Targets

- Scottish Govt: reduce emissions of GHG by 42% by 2020 & 80% by 2050. Council = “Major Player”, with statutory duty to help achieve targets.
- Generate equivalent of 100% of gross annual electricity demand from renewables by 2020
- 11% of heat demand from renewables by 2020
- 12% reduction in energy consumption by 2020.

# HC Progress to Date

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- Carbon Management Plan 2013 - 2020 – targets 3% reduction in emissions year-on-year to 2020, as well as introducing Carbon CLEVER initiative.
- To date, Council has achieved 5% reduction against baseline – we need 10% reduction this year alone to catch up. Realistic?
- Energy consumption (esp. electricity) = big problem. Consumption going up, as are costs.
- How do we address this, when resources are historically scarce?



# Moving Forward?

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## Capital Investment

- Carbon CLEVER – £500k capital budget.
- £250k for energy efficiency projects in 17/18.
- Looking at lighting, renewables, and our school estate.
- Implementation of simple measures – auto-hibernate of ICT equipment when not in use, for example. Big saving in schools.
- Ultimately though, behaviour change / awareness raising initiatives will be required.

# Highland Climate Challenge

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## Gamification Tool for Schools

- Pilot online application which teaches pupils (and teachers) about energy, sustainability & climate change.
- Also motivates them to make reductions to their carbon footprint (& hopefully take this behaviour home).
- Uses game-like features to motivate real-world activities – pupils earn points by recording personal energy / carbon-reducing activities, and compete against classmates / other schools.
- Overall target (the “Epic Meaning”) is for all pupils to “bank” certain amount of energy / carbon, with tangible real-world equivalent e.g. make Avoch Primary carbon neutral.

# Consultations

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## Climate Change Plan / Energy

- Scottish Govt. recently launched consultations on draft Climate Change Plan and Scottish Energy Strategy
- Climate Change Team coordinating responses on behalf of Council and partners.
- Big opportunities (esp. re energy) for demonstrator projects in Highland - SEEP.
- Plans and targets are **very** ambitious.
- Happy to share draft consultation responses with HEN.

# “Green Champions”

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## Refresh Network to Engage Staff

- Climate Change team alone can't do much to change people's behaviour at work.
- Still a significant disconnect / lack of understanding re impacts of individuals' behaviours i.e. impacts not immediately felt at local level.
- Need a dedicated team of Green Champions to support us & keep low carbon behaviours high on agenda.
- Recruiting and training staff (and new Councillors!) over summer, then quarterly targets / themes to work towards (waste, energy, transport etc).
- Examining rolling out carbon budgets for individual services, rather than simply corporate carbon reduction target – Green Champions will be key to success of this initiative.

# Waste, Food Growing & Allotments

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## Innovation & Community Empowerment

- Food waste a big problem – new regs = no organic waste to landfill from 2021.
- Looking at innovative way to use food & horticultural waste to produce high-value products & attract inward investment.
- Also, Climate Change Team now responsible for allotments and development of Highland food growing strategy (requirement under Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015).
- £50k capital pot to help support food growing projects throughout the region in 2017/18.

# Earth Hour 2017

## Lots of Activities...

- 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – 8.30 – 9.30pm
- Film at Eden Court – How To Let Go. Screening at 8.15pm followed by Q&A with Climate Change team.
- Stargazing event – Highland's Astronomical Society – 8.15pm
- Various events at libraries across Highland.
- Lights going off at Inverness Castle, Eilean Donan, Ruthven Barracks, Packhorse Bridge etc.



# Questions?

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