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Future



Clackmannanshire
Council

Climate Change Strategy Strategic Environmental Assessment

Screening Determination Report

30 APRIL 2024

Screening determination for Clackmannanshire's Climate Change Strategy

This statement sets out the Council's determination under [Section 8\(1\) of the Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#) on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the Clackmannanshire Climate Change Strategy.

SEA screening process

The Screening process involved consulting the following Consultation Authorities on whether the Climate Change Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects:

- NatureScot
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

In addition to consulting the above bodies, the Council has also taken into account the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act in determining whether or not the Interim Climate Change Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects.

The Council submitted a Screening Report to the Consultation Authorities on 22nd of March 2024 and received replies on 19th of April 2024. The responses are shown below:

Consultation Authorities	Likelihood of Significant Environmental Effects	Comments
NatureScot	Yes	NatureScot is content with the decision to screen this Plan into the SEA process.
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Yes	The Screening & Scoping Report (Section 4.1) anticipates the potential for both positive and negative effects for cultural heritage from the CCS. Based on the information provided, we are content with this approach.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Yes	In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have reviewed the screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act. In regard to our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets and climatic factors) we agree with the conclusions of the screening report that the proposed PPS may have significant environmental effects.

The Consultation Authorities are in agreement with the Council that the Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects.

It is therefore the Council's view that the implementation of the Interim Climate Change Strategy is anticipated to result in substantial environmental benefits through mitigating CO₂ emissions and enhancing resilience against the impacts of climate change. While the anticipated effects are predominantly positive, the strategy will be subject to the SEA process to ensure that any projects stemming from the strategy are meticulously designed to mitigate any potential adverse impacts to the greatest extent possible.

Yours sincerely,

Nerxhana Tallushi

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Screening Report

Responsible Authority:	Clackmannanshire Council	
Title of the plan:	Climate Change Strategy	
What prompted the plan: (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	In response to the Scottish Government's acknowledgment of the climate emergency, Clackmannanshire Council is actively pursuing the development of a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy, aligning with the requirements outlined in the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) Scotland Order 2015. Endorsed by Clackmannanshire Council on August 19, 2021, this strategy aims to establish a comprehensive framework ensuring that all key decisions, financial allocations, and planning methodologies are geared towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2045.	
Plan subject: (e.g. transport)	Climate Change	
Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div> <p>An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Section 5(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 5(4) </div> </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div> <p>An SEA is <u>not</u> required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Section 5(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Section 5(4) </div> </div> </div> </div>	
Contact details:	Lawrence Hunter Energy & Sustainability Team Leader lhunter@clacks.gov.uk Tel: 07976262584	Nerxhana Tallushi Climate Change & Energy Officer ntallushi@clacks.gov.uk Tel: 07309178825
Date:	29/02/2024	

<p>Context of the Plan:</p>	<p>This Strategy sets out a framework to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions for the Council’s own operations by 2040 at the latest and for the Clackmannanshire area by 2045 at the latest.</p> <p>In line with the ambitions of this motion, this strategy will also ensure that the need to address climate change is embedded in future Council plans and strategies. Clackmannanshire Council’s main strategic documents, including but limited, Regional Energy Masterplan, Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, Corporate Plan 2018-22, Be the Future, and Local Development Plan 2020 - 2030 - set out aspirations to achieve sustainability and aims to make the area more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Incorporating net zero targets and stronger means of restricting high-carbon spending and planning into these reports would be a major opportunity to limit the development of initiatives that are incompatible with net zero targets.</p> <p>The strategy will also align with national strategic documents like the Scottish Governments Climate Change Plan and Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland.</p>
<p>Description of the Plan:</p>	<p>The overall Climate Change Strategy aim is identifying means of maximising the financial, economic and social benefits of a transition to net zero. It includes means of aligning all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions with a shift to net zero greenhouse gas emissions in addition identifying emission reduction opportunities to initiate the development of a thematically based Climate Emergency Action Plan.</p> <p>This Strategy also recognises the extensive activity that the Council has previously undertaken to reduce emissions and will aim to add value to this work by augmenting coordination, facilitating robust data gathering, catalysing green decision making across all council service areas and positioning Clackmannanshire to maximise the inward investment and job-creation potential of the transition to net zero.</p> <p>The strategy has been shaped by input from community groups, young people, residents and businesses who attended a series of monthly Climate Change Forums around in Clackmannanshire from September 2022 to March 2023.</p> <p>Since it is expected that opportunities for decarbonisation will evolve based upon input from consultations in the short-term and from technological advances, new legislation and further engagement in the medium to long-term, it constitutes a starting point rather than an exhaustive list of opportunities.</p> <p>The priorities are defined from the consultation within Council Services and Climate Change Forums and will relate to areas where the Council considers it should direct action under each of the priority themes. The six themes are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy, Heat and Buildings 2. Low-carbon Transport 3. Waste, Recycling and the Circular Economy 4. Biodiversity, Carbon Storage and Agriculture 5. Adaptation, Planning and Organisational Capacity 6. Economic Development and Sustainable Procurement.

<p>What are the key components of the plan?</p>	<p>The Climate Change will promote a series of priority strategic themes, an assessment of the current baseline, governance arrangements, specific actions across a range of sectors as well as progress monitoring and reporting structures to achieve the set target. The key components of the Climate Change Strategy are likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Role of Clackmannanshire Council <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Internal Emissions b) Spending Alignment c) External Emissions • Net Zero Delivery Framework <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Climate Emergency Board b) Climate Emergency Working Group c) Climate Change Forum d) Climate Emergency Action Plan • Strategic Themes and Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Prioritised action plan containing emission reduction opportunities has by aligning all major decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions across the six themes of Energy, Heat and Buildings; Low-carbon Transport; Waste, Recycling and the Circular Economy; Biodiversity, Carbon Storage and Agriculture; Adaptation, Planning and Organisational Capacity; Economic Development and Sustainable Procurement.
<p>Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?</p>	<p>The strategic vision and aim are influenced by the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan which has been subject to a SEA. There are actions in the Climate Emergency Action Plan that derives from other plans/strategies which have been subject to a SEA, such as Local Development 2020-2030.</p>
<p>In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:</p>	<p>Strategic Themes and Actions are likely to require screening.</p>

**Identifying interactions of the plan with the environment and
Considering the likely significance of any interactions**

Plan Components	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues	Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
The Role of Clackmannanshire Council	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	This component consists of information regarding the Council emission historic emission data serving as evidence base for the Strategy, so it does not intend to have any environmental effects.	Unlikely to have any significant impact
Net Zero Delivery Framework	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	It was determined that this element was background information to inform the development of the Strategic Themes and Actions including public engagement response and the governance bodies monitoring the actions.	Unlikely to have any significant impact due to being concerned with the use of data
Strategic Themes and Actions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>The strategy seeks to achieve a reduction of CO2 emissions through Clackmannanshire area with anticipated positive impacts on Climatic Factors and Population and Human Health.</p> <p>The strategy aims to acknowledge and facilitate the transition from a fossil fuel-based economy to one that is carbon-neutral and resilient. The foreseen positive effects on Population and Human Health include improvements in energy usage efficiency, reduced energy demand, and alleviation of fuel poverty.</p> <p>However, the implementation of certain initiatives may potentially lead to localized negative environmental impacts, such as the development of new infrastructure for renewable energy like battery storage, etc.</p>	<p>The implementation of the Climate Change Strategy is anticipated to result in substantial environmental benefits by mitigating CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience against the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>While the anticipated effects are predominantly positive, it is imperative to ensure that any ensuing projects stemming from the strategy are meticulously designed to mitigate any potential adverse impacts to the greatest extent possible.</p>

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

Apart from the overall aim to reduce the CO₂_{eq} within Clackmannanshire area, the strategy will also help:

- empower communities to respond to challenges from a just transition to net zero;
- maximise the inward investment and job-creation potential;
- building on the community engagement through the Climate Change Forums to develop collaborative solutions.

Consequently, a high-level, strategic assessment will be carried out on the draft Strategy and core themes of future Council plans and strategies, some of which have already been subject to SEA. The SEA of the Climate Change Strategy will therefore help inform these documents, while also providing the opportunity for a more focused delivery at that level.

Specific actions that may be included in the Climate Change will be subject to environmental assessment and the action plan will be monitored to evaluate the level of environmental impact. A sifting exercise will be applied to identify the actions that have already subject to SEA.