Climate Ready
Scotland

Scotland's partnership approach

Scotland is taking a strategic approach
to climate change adaptation across policy,
practice and research.

Climate change is affecting all of Scotland –the natural and historic environment, business and industry, and our communities and people.

Adapting to climate change is a dynamic process. Our work is founded on strong legislation and Government policy alongside a solid commitment across society to work together to prepare for the impacts of climate change. Creating resilient communities goes hand-in-hand with sustaining a resilient natural environment and building resilient businesses.

The building blocks for good adaptation

In Scotland we have taken a leading strategic approach to climate change adaptation policy. This has been challenging to implement – but we are making substantial progress.

The Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009 introduced some of the most ambitious climate change legislation in the world. Every five years the Scottish Government is required to prepare a Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP), the first of which began in May 2014. Implementing the SCCAP is now mid-way through its first cycle and progress has been independently assessed by the Committee on Climate Change's Adaptation Sub-Committee. The Scottish Government also publishes annual reports charting progress on implementing the programme of policies, proposals and overarching objectives.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 includes Public Bodies Climate Change Duties. Public Bodies have an obligation to act in the way that best supports implementation of the objectives in the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme and are required to report progress annually providing an opportunity for scrutiny and celebrating success.

The 2nd UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, published in January 2017, is a vital part of the evidence base that will be used to develop the next Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme, due in 2019.

Partnerships

Adaptation works best when it involves partners from the public sector, businesses and communities working together – and linking to the research community, as well as across local, national, European and international scales.

Adaptation decisions will often affect a large geographical area and cost more than each organisation can fund on their own. Our policy framework acknowledges this and supports collaborations and pooling resources to achieve maximum impact.

'Climate Ready Scotland' shows how partners are making adaptation a reality across Scotland. The projects featured are examples of how our Climate Ready Future can become a reality if we share ideas and all play our part in making adaptation happen.

Research

Good adaptation decisions build resilience. So they need to be based on the very best knowledge and data about how our climate is changing and the impacts this is having.

Research across the natural environment, the built environment, infrastructure and health and well-being is contributing to a well-established adaptation research base in Scotland. We work closely with partners in the United Kingdom, Europe and internationally, both on specific adaptation issues and on monitoring and evaluating adaptation actions.

Scotland is also at the forefront of innovation in linking policy-makers and the research community. In 2011, ClimateXChange was established as a centre of expertise to provide independent advice, research and analysis to support the Scottish Government as it develops and implements on adapting to the changing climate and the transition to a low carbon society.

Scottish academic institutions and delivery organisations are involved in several FP7 and Horizon 2020 projects. This includes CLIMSAVE, OPERAS, IMPRESSIONS, and now the Smart Mature Resilience project – with each using Scotland as a case-study or exemplar at the science-policy-practice interface.

Climate Ready Places

The amount of information on climate change risks and potential adaptation measures in Scotland is increasing – at the national level, within sectors, and for specific locations. However, it can be difficult to access the breadth of information and consider it in an integrated way.

The Climate Ready Places resource takes six typical Scottish 'places' and identifies:

- the key climate change impacts and risks identified for Scotland; and

- the adaptation measures that could contribute to a climate ready (adapting) place.

The resource can be used by anyone with an interest in exploring adaptation ideas, from planning professionals to school children, community groups to corporate business.

What we have achieved

- Climate impacts in Scotland are described in an accessible way to a range of audiences

- Creating a bank of ideas for adaptation actions suitable for different locations

Partners

Adaptation indicators – capturing the 'state of the nation'

Over 100 indicators are used to measure and monitor progress in building a Climate Ready Scotland.

RISK/OPPORTUNITY and **IMPACT** indicators explore what Scotland faces as a result of current climate change, and quantifies the impacts.

ACTION indicators look at whether current policy and climate change adaptation actions are having the desired effect.

The indicators are multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral – a 'one-stop-shop' providing data, insight and analysis relevant to a wide range of government policy teams, agencies, NGOs, local authorities, planners and others working towards climate resilience.

What we have achieved

- Inform and analyse risks identified for Scotland in the UK's Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)

- Show progress towards the objectives set out in Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP)

- Inform the independent assessment of the SCCAP carried out by the Adaptation Sub-Committee of the UK Committee on Climate Change

Partners

Adaptation Scotland

Adaptation Scotland is helping organisations, businesses and communities to work together to identify opportunities to reduce climate risks and take action to increase resilience. Adaptation Scotland is a programme funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by sustainability charity Sniffer.

Everyone can benefit from free training, resources and access to a wide range of projects that are designed to:

- Increase understanding and confidence in tackling adaptation
- Inspire and enable collaboration and solutions to adaptation challenges
- Develop leaders who can influence adaptation across society
- Support local and global efforts to adapt

What we have achieved

- Enabling organisations to increase progress and implement strong adaptation planning, policy and actions
- Creating a network of adaptation leaders who are driving progress across many organisations and sectors
- Enabling partnership working, planning and adaptation action across key locations

Partners

Glasgow Living Lab

Glasgow itself and the surrounding City Region is fast becoming a 'livinglab' for resilience: Utilising Big Data through Glasgow's Future City programme and work at the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde; investigating urban heat island and green infrastructure at Caledonian University; comprehensive modelling of drainage and flood risk for the city-region; exploring how climate change will affect different sectors with Universities from all over the United Kingdom, and a detailed study of coastal change and sea-level rise in the Firth of Clyde. Research informs adaptation in Glasgow and is increasingly driving innovative solutions .

What we have achieved

- Utilising Big Data through Glasgow City Council and University of Strathclyde's £24m Future City programme
- Research fellowships to explore how climate change will affect water supplies, food production, soils, and transport
- Investigating how green infrastructure can address urban heat island effects and flooding comprehensive modelling of drainage and flood risk for the city-region
- Assessing impacts of coastal change and sea-level rise in the Firth of Clyde for the Regional Marine Plan

Partners