

# National Park Authority Board Meeting



Agenda Item 7

## Climate Change Action Plan 2018/19

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### *Paper for noting*

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present Members with the National Park Authority Climate Change Action Plan 2018-19.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Board members are asked to:

- (i) **Note** the Climate Change Action Plan 2018/19.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 In 2009, Scottish Government's Climate Change (Scotland) Act set world-leading greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, including a target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050 from emission levels in 1990/95. In early 2017 the Government proposed a new Climate Change Bill with even more ambitious emissions reduction target of up to 90% by 2050. This combined legislation contains the key commitments for the Scottish Government and places Scotland at the forefront of global efforts to tackle climate change.
- 3.2 As the National Park Authority, we have both the desire and a statutory duty to protect and enhance the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, and we have been identified by Scottish Government as a major public body player in tackling climate change. We recognise that climate change will have far reaching effects on Scotland's economy, its people and its environment and we are determined to play our part in rising to this challenge. We aim to promote sustainable land use and management practices that better capture carbon and help mitigate against climate change. By taking an integrated approach to land use planning, we can also help deliver significant adaptation to and resilience against climate change for our communities and wildlife.
- 3.3 Our National Park Partnership Plan and Corporate Plan set strategic outcomes and priorities related to climate change. The National Park Partnership Plan (2018-23) shows our focus on collaborative land and water management projects which capture carbon and reduce flooding impacts. Within our forthcoming Corporate Plan (2018-23) we will outline how we as an organisation will contribute towards reaching Scottish Government targets by minimising our carbon emissions, working together with partner organisations to deliver action plans, and build climate resilient

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services, processes and projects. We also aim to raise awareness of the negative effects of climate change on the Park-wide scale.

- 3.4 In 2016 a corporate Climate Change Group was established by staff, with voluntary membership drawn from all service areas across the organisation. Chaired by the Director of Conservation and Visitor Operations the group's purpose is to:
- Take an organisational lead in the identification and facilitation of actions that support progressive climate change mitigation and adaptation for the National Park Authority and National Park;
  - To meet Scottish Public Bodies Climate Change Duties, and;
  - To act as ambassadors for Climate Change action in the National Park Authority and embed positive behaviour change across those who visit, live and work in the National Park.

The group has been the driving force behind the creation of this first National Park Authority Climate Change Action Plan.

- 3.5 In 2016, supervised students from Strathclyde University carried out Energy and Carbon Audits at National Park Authority buildings at Carrochan, Balmaha Visitor Centre and Callander. The audits identify costed measures where savings could be made on energy use, and therefore on greenhouse gas emissions. The suggested measures in these audits form part of the content of this action plan.

## 4. Action Plan

- 4.1 This document is a corporate action plan and has been drawn up to help us work together to tackle climate change, and has been compiled with input from all operational managers. The plan is structured into four delivery areas; our three organisational themes of Conservation & Land Management, Visitor Experience and Rural Development, plus Corporate Services and Governance. The plan contains:
- Actions that we are already doing and have either a direct or indirect benefit to climate change
  - Actions/projects that were identified through the Energy and Carbon Audits carried out by Strathclyde University in 2017
  - Aspirations for other climate change related projects
- 4.2 The action plan does not specifically identify the resources required for implementation, as moving forward these will be dealt with during the normal budget setting and Annual Operational Planning processes, but actions are considered

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realistic and achievable. The Plan is intended to be a dynamic, working document which will feed into our Annual Operational Plan process and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

- 4.3 As a public body, we are under a statutory obligation as part of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act to report annually to Scottish Ministers on how we are complying with our climate change duties. Our Climate Change Action Plan will help to streamline the information that is fed into our reporting to Scottish Government. Each of the actions will be recorded and monitored in a way that will support consistent annual reporting, which demonstrates progress and improvement in our practices.
- 4.4 The Climate Change Group will oversee the ongoing delivery of the action plan. However responsibility for individual project monitoring and reporting lies with the responsible operational manager.
- 4.5 An annual progress report on the delivery of this action plan will be produced before the end of March 2019 and this will be presented to the Board for noting.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Board Members are now presented with Appendix 1, which outlines the detail of the Climate Change Action Plan.

### **Appendix 1 – National Park Authority Climate Change Action Plan 2018-19**

**Author:** Simon Jones, Director of Conservation and Visitor Operations  
**Executive Sponsor:** Simon Jones, Director of Conservation and Visitor Operations  
**Board Sponsor:** Angus Allan

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Appendix 1

## Climate Change Action Plan 2018/19

Project	Description	Outputs	Staff lead	Other Delivery Bodies	Measurements
<b>Conservation &amp; Land Management</b>					
<b>1 Carbon capture – woodlands, forests &amp; peatlands</b>	<b>What is being done?</b> Increase carbon capture through expansion of native woodlands and forests and restoration of degraded peatlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of Trees &amp; Woodlands Strategy</li> <li>• Partnership working at Strathard and The Great Trossachs Forest</li> <li>• Influencing decisions on woodland/forest design plans</li> <li>• National Park Grants for small-scale tree planting</li> <li>• Promotion on forestry grant schemes through Integrated Land Management Plans</li> <li>• Installation of dams and re-profiling of hags at public and private peatlands utilising Peatland Action Funding</li> <li>• Participation in Moorland Indicators of Climate Change Initiative (MICCI) schools project</li> </ul>	Nicola Colquhoun Alan Bell	NTS FCS SNH	Woodland expansion (Ha)  Peatlands restored (Ha/Kms)  Nos. pupils involved in MICCI projects
<b>2 Land management to reduce flood risk</b>	<b>What is being done?</b> Managing woodlands, forests, peatlands and waterways upstream to reduce risk of downstream flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Flood Management techniques trialled in Strathard Project</li> <li>• Assessing natural flood management potential of Loch Lomond catchment, as part of Clyde &amp; Lomond Local District Plan</li> <li>• Engaging in flood management schemes for Aberfoyle and Callander</li> </ul>	Nicola Colquhoun Derek Manson	FCS SEPA Stirling Council Community Partnership	Land under active flood management (Ha/ Sq.Kms)

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Visitor Experience					
<p><b>3</b> <b>Raising awareness and action through engagement</b></p>	<p><b>What is being done?</b> Utilising Rangers, Education and Volunteer teams engage with public and learners about tackling climate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ranger-led climate change sessions</li> <li>• Training on climate change for volunteers – including practical action (e.g. tree planting, woody debris dams)</li> <li>• Develop a case study for schools as part of Curriculum for Excellence with a theme of 'Climate Change in the National Park area'</li> <li>• Inclusion of climate change in John Muir Awards and Junior Ranger programme</li> </ul>	<p>Martin Page Charlie Wallace</p>	<p>Education Scotland  SNH  Local authorities  John Muir Trust</p>	<p>Number of Ranger-led sessions  Number of climate change volunteer days  Case study complete and uploaded to website  Number of JMA awards &amp; Junior Rangers inc. climate change session</p>
<p><b>4</b> <b>Sustainable Capital infrastructure</b></p>	<p><b>What is being done?</b> Reduction in GHG and energy footprint of our built infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and contract administration processes reviewed and improved to reduce footprint (e.g. using recycled materials and improving insulations)</li> </ul>	<p>Alan Murray</p>	<p>Contractors &amp; Consultants</p>	<p>Carbon and energy footprint of new builds</p>

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Rural Development					
<b>5</b> <b>Increasing Climate Change resilience of development</b>	<b>What is being done?</b> Promoting climate change adaptation measures in new developments, through Landscapes, Ecology and Planning input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design of A83 'Rest and Be Thankful' to include debris catch pits and scrub woodland establishment for slope stabilisation.</li> <li>Trunk road design of A82</li> <li>Implementation of flood risk policy for ongoing planning applications</li> </ul>	Alan Bell Bob Cook	Transport Scotland  Local Authorities  SEPA	Number of referenced climate change adaptation measures within new development
<b>6</b> <b>Mitigating Climate Change impact of development</b>	<b>What is being done?</b> Reduction in greenhouse gas and energy footprint of new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstration of how proposed buildings meet a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through minimising overall energy</li> </ul>	Bob Cook	Developers, Builders & Agents	Number of referenced climate change mitigation measures within new development
Corporate Services & Governance					
<b>7</b> <b>Being a 'Climate Ready' organisation</b>	<b>What is being done?</b> Embedding Climate Change action as a cross cutting theme into all our areas of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of Scottish Public Body annual Climate Change report</li> <li>Support the Climate Change Group</li> <li>Implementation and annual review of Climate Change Action Plan</li> <li>Awareness raising and training sessions held for staff and Board to drive behaviour change across the organisation</li> </ul>	Simon Jones Climate Change Group	Scottish Sustainability Network  Adaptation Scotland (Sniffer)	Annual report submitted Action Plan Number of Climate Change Group meetings Reviewed  Number of training/awareness sessions held

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<p><b>8</b> <b>Reducing our carbon footprint and waste levels</b></p>	<p><b>What is being done?</b> We will identify and implement opportunities for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and waste from our operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of staff and Board travel to reduce business emissions</li> <li>• Migrating our vehicle fleet to being fully fuel efficient/electric</li> <li>• Reduction of physical servers and associated power usage reduction.</li> <li>• Ensuring PC's are not being left on at night.</li> <li>• Production of Climate Change e-Learning module for all staff to complete</li> <li>• Production of a Sustainability Policy for Procurement</li> <li>• Service areas to produce an action plan for migrating to paperless operations</li> </ul>	<p>Simon Jones Executive</p> <p>Operational Managers</p>	<p>Scottish Sustainability Network</p> <p>Adaptation Scotland (Sniffer)</p>	<p>Calculation of business emissions % of fleet being fuel efficient/electric</p> <p>Number of physical servers Climate Change</p> <p>e-Learning module produced</p> <p>Sustainability Policy for Procurement produced</p> <p>Service area action plans produced</p>
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