Scotland's Climate Change Declaration
Annual Progress Report 2012/13

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration was signed by all 32 Scottish local authorities in 2007. The Declaration is a voluntary public statement made by local authorities which acknowledges the reality and potential implications of climate change, and their associated responsibility to respond to climate change effectively.

As signatories of the Declaration, The Highland Council is committed to taking action in the following areas:

1. Providing effective governance, leadership and management on climate change;
2. Reduction of corporate greenhouse gas emissions from our estate, services and functions;
3. Taking action to reduce emissions from the local authority area;
4. Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to adapt to the impacts of climate change; and
5. Developing effective partnership working and climate change communications.

This report provides an update on our progress in these five key areas for 2012/13.

SECTION 1: GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

1.1 Climate Change Governance

The Council has had plans in place for reducing carbon emissions from 2006. It launched its Carbon Clever Initiative in 2013. This is described below.

In April 2012, the Highland Council published its first climate change adaptation strategy for the Highland region: "Adapting to Climate Change in Highland". This document was approved at the Council meeting. The document aims to gather evidence, present regional information, and equip local decision makers with the appropriate tools to adapt to the effects of a changing climate. It was developed in consultation with multiple stakeholders and with guidance and advice from "Adaptation Scotland", and is discussed in further detail in Chapter 4.

The Council's progress towards mitigating and adapting to climate change is within the remit of the Resources Committee, and reports to all Committees are required to identify the climate change or Carbon Clever implications.

1.2 Highland Council Programme

Working Together for the Highlands (2012-17), revised and updated in 2013, details the Council's programme of priorities for delivery over the next five years. The programme sets out 129 actions across seven themes, which focus on working together for: the economy; children and young people; caring communities; better infrastructure; better housing; empowering communities; and strong and safe communities.

Climate Change is considered through all seven themes with a continuing commitment to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration. The revised programme introduces Carbon CLEVER Highlands, which has the goal of a carbon neutral Inverness in a low carbon Highlands by 2025. This initiative was agreed at a meeting

of the Highland Council in June 2013, and has been developed with input from all Services.

In addition to this cross-cutting commitment on climate change there are 14 other commitments which relate to climate change and reducing the carbon emissions from both the Council's operations and from the Highland region. These are:

- The Council will continue to reduce carbon emissions from its operations and work to meet the new target in the Carbon Management Plan (CMP) of a 21% reduction between 2011/2012 and 2020;
- The Council will support and invest in appropriate opportunities presented by renewable energy, particularly wave and tidal power. We will continue to develop the Highlands as a centre for research & development, fabrication and engineering;
- The Council will seek to identify means whereby communities can participate in and benefit from the development of renewable energy across the Highlands;
- The Council will promote energy efficiency in Highland schools, and build on the success of our 'eco schools';
- The Council will provide more safe cycle tracks and 'walk to school' pathways where appropriate, and will encourage healthier and greener methods of travel;
- The Council will work with the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and Network Rail to secure improvements, reduced journey times and fairer pricing on the Highland rail network, to protect and modernise the sleeper service and to develop new commuter rail opportunities around our urban centres;
- The Council will introduce a plan for sustainable, integrated transport through the Highlands, including consideration of a statutory Quality Bus Partnership and support for schemes, such as the introduction of a 'Cool Rider' for young people;
- The Council will work with the Scottish Government and other partners, to improve cycle safety across the Highlands, and expand cycle routes;
- Working with partner agencies, the Council will draft a Green Transport Strategy;
- The Council will increase opportunities for recycling and achieve a 57 % rate of recycling household waste by 2017;
- The Council will ensure the provision of allotments and the maintenance of green spaces and public parks across the Highlands and encourage various schemes such as community growing;
- The Council will deliver an ambitious Housing Capital Programme, utilising innovative environmentally sustainable methods to build new council houses and achieve the Scottish Housing Quality Standard for existing housing stock;
- The Council will work in partnership with organisations in the Highlands to improve our use of video conferencing, teleconferencing and webcasting technology – efficiently and effectively reaching every part of the Highlands; and
- The Council will support communities to be more resilient to climate change and extreme weather events, by implementing the Council's Climate Change Adaption Strategy.

1.3 Single Outcome Agreement

The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) for the Highland region was revised in 2013. This document outlines how the Highland Community Planning Partnership (CPP) will deliver progress in the region to meet the Scottish Government's National outcomes between 2013/14 and 2018/19. The SOA contains a number of outcomes

which relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Most notably, under the Environment theme, the outcomes are:

- Manage sustainably the outstanding natural heritage of the Highlands to optimise the economic, health and learning benefits;
- To increase and develop the use of renewable energy;
- A carbon neutral Inverness in a low carbon Highlands by 2025;
- Reducing fuel poverty;
- Supporting communities to be resilient to extreme weather events; and
- Improving access to the outdoors.

Work to influence community carbon emissions and partnership working within the Highland CPP is led by SNH, with the Council's Development & Infrastructure Service coordinating the Highland Environment Forum which meets bi-annually. The Environment Manager works closely with the Climate Change Team to encourage organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors to take action.

SNH is tasked with reporting performance against the environmental outcomes of the SOA and the Council regularly produces performance information and reports to support that process. The next full SOA performance report will be for year 2014/2015, and will be submitted to the Scottish Government.

1.4 Internal Management of Tackling Climate Change

The Highland Council Carbon Management Plan 2013 - 2020 (CMP) provides a framework for reducing carbon emissions from the Council's internal operations. A number of key individuals are responsible for taking actions to meet specific targets within the plan. A Carbon Management Officers Group meets frequently to discuss progress towards the targets set out in the CMP and to consider any other climate change related issues/developments.

The Climate Change team (formerly the Sustainability team) has a strategic overview of progress towards reducing the Council's carbon emissions and in 2012/13 sits within the Policy and Reform team of the Chief Executive's Office.

Monitoring: The Council has an electronic Performance & Risk Management System (PRMS) which automates performance information for monitoring and reporting performance against programme commitments, including those for climate change. The system enables actions and indicators to be flagged using RAG (Red, Amber, Green), this is then reported at quarterly performance reviews for each Service in the Council and can also be used for preparing reports for the Finance Housing and Resources Committee and Council meetings.

Importantly, PRMS is a fully delegated model allowing lead officers to update progress on their responsibilities each month. This provides greater flexibility in reporting options. All reporting to senior management is electronic and completely paperless.

In 2010, the Highland Council introduced Climate Screenings of all papers going to committee that require the agreement of action. This covers all committees and all

subject matters and is in addition to those Policy, Plans and Strategies requiring SEA or EIA.

1.5 Leadership

Best Value 2 Report

In May 2010 the accounts commission published their findings following a best value 2 audit of Highland Council. The study found that there has been excellent progress in reducing public service energy use and reducing carbon emissions. It also found that the Council has well-developed arrangements for promoting sustainability. It recognised that the Council has clearly defined aims and objectives, with strong leadership and commitment shown on sustainable development by senior members and officers. It acknowledged sustainability as a corporate priority and featured prominently in strategic plans such as the SOA, Strengthening the Highlands and the Corporate Plan, and with SMART targets.

Due to this progress, there has not been a requirement for any further external scrutiny of the Council's achievement of environmental outcomes since then . This is set to continue, as an early indication from the Audit Scotland Assurance and Improvement Plan shows that no scrutiny will be required for matters relating to sustainability, which includes carbon emissions, at the Council between 2013 and 2016.

Carbon Trust Accreditation

The Carbon Trust Standard accreditation is a national, independent assessment and is awarded to organisations who have measured, managed and reduced carbon emissions across their own operations through good management practices, and are committed to reducing them year on year. The Highland Council was awarded the Carbon Trust Standard in 2009 and was recertified in 2011 and 2013. Achieving this award publicly recognises our efforts and achievements in reducing carbon emissions and provides tangible proof to employees and residents that we are committed to making future reductions.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Council installed four publicly accessible fast EV charging points in 2013, as part of Transport Scotland's "Electric Vehicle" initiative. The fast chargers are owned by the Council and are located in Inverness, Fort William, Kingussie and Helmsdale.

The Scottish Government has offered Highland Community Planning Partnership £150,000 grant aid to supply publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points at locations throughout the Highlands. The Government has stipulated chargers at 50 mile intervals on the primary road network and serving main cities as a priority using rapid chargers. As a result, the proposed locations for rapid chargers, are: Inverness, Fort William, Kingussie and Helmsdale. These locations are within 50 miles of rapid chargers already confirmed for Ullapool, Tyndrum, Pitlochry and Scrabster. It is the Government's intention to continue electric vehicle charging funding next and in subsequent years to enable the installation of rapid charging facilities across Scotland.

Fuel Efficient Driver Training
296 members of staff undertook fuel efficient driver training in 2012/13, which was part-subsidised by Transport Scotland and delivered by the Energy Saving Trust. The training focused on the adoption of fuel efficient driving techniques, helping to reduce fleet fuel costs and emissions.

Adapting to Climate Change
In April 2012, the Highland Council published its first climate change adaption strategy for the Highland region: "Adapting to Climate Change in Highland". This strategy is discussed in further detail in Section 4.

1.6 Priorities for the year ahead
A major priority for the year ahead is to take action in respect of the strategic Carbon CLEVER themes set out in the revised Carbon Management Plan for the period 2013-2020. This document, discussed in further detail in Chapter 2, sets out a strategic plan for reducing carbon emissions at the Council, including targets, a detailed list of projects and actions to achieve these targets, and a communication strategy. Progress towards the Council reducing its carbon emissions in 2013/14 will be reported in November 2014 to the Resources committee. Work will continue to embed carbon management across the Council.

SECTION 2: REDUCING THE LOCAL AUTHORITY'S OWN 'CORPORATE' GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM ITS ESTATE, SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS.

2.1 Scope of measuring greenhouse gas emissions
The Highland Council Carbon Management Plan (CMP) 2009-12 was completed in April 2012, and reviewed by the Finance, Housing & Resources Committee in August 2012, who agreed that a revised CMP should be developed. The revised and updated CMP for 2013-2020 was agreed at the Finance, Housing & Resources Committee in April, 2013.

The CMP 2013-2020 aims to reduce Highland Council carbon emissions by 3% per annum. It sets out a strategy for emissions reductions and cost savings from those carbon emitting activities that can be monitored and influenced. Carbon emissions are broken down into six sectors: Energy use in buildings; Staff travel; Fleet; Internal waste; Street lighting; and Water. For the purpose of reporting, carbon emissions are calculated as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) using the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Guidelines for Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

2.2 Progress
2012/13 was the fifth and final year of implementation of the CMP 2009-12, after the Finance, Housing & Resources Committee agreed to roll it forward for a further year in August 2012. The Council's total CO_2 emissions from all sectors in 2012/13 was 60,691 tonnes, an increase of 1,847 tonnes (3 %) over the previous year. Over the five year period of the CMP, a reduction in carbon emissions of 10% was achieved. Figure 2.1 below shows progress towards the targets of the CMP 2009-12, with further detail shown in Table 2.1. Progress was slower than anticipated in 2012/13, due to increased heating demand and an extended winter road maintenance season due to a significantly colder than average winter.

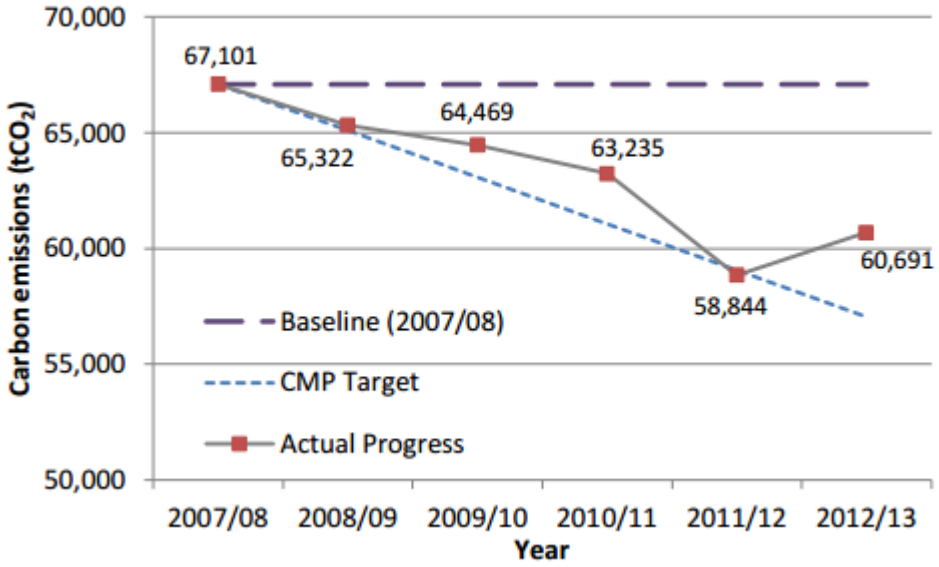

Figure 2.1: Highland Council carbon emissions against CMP targets 2007/08-2012/13.

Table 2.1: Highland Council Carbon emissions (2007/08-2012/13).

= emissions increase | **= emissions saving** | **= savings exceeding target**

	CO_2 emissions (tonnes)			% change in CO_2 emissions		
	2007-08	**2011-12**	**2012-13**	**2011/12-2012/13**	**2007/08-2012/13**	**CMP Target**
Target 1 : Energy Use in Buildings						
Electricity	23156	21722	22772	+5%	-2%	
Gas	4110	3836	4990	+30%	+21%	
Oil	16828	11569	11844	+2%	-30%	
Total:	**44094**	**37127**	**39605**	**+7%**	**-10%**	**-12%**
Target 2: Staff Business Travel						
Business Miles	1406	1956	1616	-17%	+15%	
Lease Miles	433	307	326	+6%	-25%	
Training Miles	196	60	80	+33%	-59%	
Equivalent Car hire Miles	459	247	184	-26%	-60%	
Member Miles	200	155	137	-12%	-32%	
Home Carers	909	635	661	+4%	-27%	
Support Workers	190	11	9	-18%	-95%	
Re-located Miles	20	126	95	-25%	+375%	
Total:	**3813**	**3497**	**3109**	**-11%**	**-18%**	**-12%**
Target 3: Fleet *Baseline of 2008/09						
Vehicles Petrol	126*	79	80	+1%	-37%	
Vehicles Diesel	9436*	8350	8002	-4%	-15%	
Vehicles Gas Oil	1028*	810	1147	+42%	+12%	

Total:	**10595***	**9239**	**9229**	**0%**	**-13%**	**-5%**
Target 4: Internal Waste						
Internal Waste Top 40	336	194	133	-31%	-60%	
Waste–Primary Schools	540	582	374	-36%	-31%	
Waste–Secondary Schools	515	486	317	-35%	-38%	
Total:	**1391**	**1262**	**825**	**-35%**	**-41%**	**-20%**
Target 5: Street Lighting	**7065**	**7556**	**7785**	+3%	+10%	**-6%**
Target 6: Water Top 100	**141**	**163**	**138**	-15%	-2%	**-10%**
TOTAL	**67099***	**58844**	**60691**	**+3%**	**-10%**	**-12%**

2.3 Action
The Highland Council reduced carbon emissions through implementation of projects and actions. A detailed list of these can be seen in the Carbon Management Plan 2013 – 2020.

Increasing the Installed Capacity of Renewables
A major focus over the past year has been on the further installation of biomass boilers. These are considered to be low carbon heating systems as the trees that are cut down for fuel use are re-planted, maintaining a continuous carbon cycle. Biomass boilers have been installed to replace carbon intensive oil and electric based heating systems which were previously installed in buildings which are off the gas grid.

As of 31st July 2014, the Highland Council had over 15 MW installed capacity of renewable technologies, Table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Highland Council Installed Renewable Capacity, 31st July, 2014.

Renewable Energy Technology	Installed Capacity (kW)
Biomass	13,991
Ground Source Heat Pump	706
Solar Photo Voltaics	582
Wind	141
Air Source Heat Pump	84
Solar Thermal	25.3
Total	**15,539.3**

ICT Contract
The Council has invested over £14m in the transformation and modernisation of its ICT infrastructure and systems. Following a full inventory of ICT equipment the contract providers, Fujitsu, estimated that ICT equipment accounts for 6% of electricity used in Highland Council buildings. A refresh of 6,400 curriculum computers from 2011-2014 is currently underway. This new equipment is expected to reduce energy use of ICT equipment by 59%.

2.4 Priorities for the year ahead

The key priority for 2013/14 will be the implementation of the projects and actions detailed in the revised CMP, and reporting on area-wide emissions, such as those arising from energy use in Council housing, municipal and household waste etc. Targets are aligned to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and to this end, the plan will ensure Highland Council fulfils its duties as a "Major Player".

The CMP also contains a communication strategy and a list of actions to ensure that carbon management becomes fully embedded across all Council Services and operations by 2020.

SECTION 3: TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE THE EMISSIONS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA

3.1 Highland Area-wide Emissions

In June 2014, DECC published revised Local Authority Carbon Dioxide figures showing estimated carbon dioxide emissions for Local Authority areas (for those sectors under the influence of local authorities), for the years 2005-2011, Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Highland region total per capita $C0_2$ emissions, 2005-2011.

Year	Per capita - Industry and Commercial (tonnes)	Per capita - Domestic (tonnes)	Per capita - Road Transport (tonnes)	Per capita - Total (tonnes)
2005	4.7	3.5	2.8	11.0
2006	4.4	3.5	2.8	10.7
2007	4.2	3.4	2.8	10.5
2008	4.2	3.4	2.7	10.3
2009	3.7	3.1	2.6	9.4
2010	4.1	3.3	2.6	10.0
2011	3.8	2.9	2.6	9.3

Per capita CO_2 emissions in Highland have decreased from 10.0 tonnes in 2010 to 9.3 tonnes in 2011. This reflects the national trend in Scotland, where the average CO_2 emissions per capita have fallen from 7.5 tonnes in 2010 to 6.9 tonnes in 2011.

Table 3.2: Highland region total $C0_2$ emissions, 2005-2011.

Year	Industry and Commercial (kt)	Domestic (kt)	Road Transport (kt)	Grand Total (kt)	Population ('000s, mid-year estimate)	Per capita Emissions (t)
2005	1024.3	762.7	610.5	2397.6	218.1	11.0
2006	969.3	774.8	621.1	2365.2	220.8	10.7

2007	951.7	767.6	637.9	2357.1	224.0	10.5
2008	957.4	769.5	605.9	2332.7	227.0	10.3
2009	836.0	719.3	603.8	2159.2	228.8	9.4
2010	938.8	768.2	600.7	2307.7	230.7	10.0
2011	890.5	671.8	593.5	2155.8	232.7	9.3

The overall total emissions for Highland decreased in 2011 over that recorded in 2010 from 2307.7 to 2155.8 kilo tonnes of CO_2 (Table 3.2). In Scotland, the Highland region is the fourth largest producer of total CO_2 emissions (Table 3.3), and the largest per capita (Table 3.4). Due to the remote nature and large geographical area of Highland, most areas are out with the mains gas network and rely heavily on the use of oil and electricity, which have relatively higher carbon emissions. This results in the Highland region producing proportionally greater emissions than elsewhere in Scotland. In addition, the prevailing weather is characterised by a typically colder climate than elsewhere in the UK which leads to a higher heating demand. The large area and dispersed nature of the population results in residents needing to travel relatively long distances to work and access services and therefore associated high carbon emissions.

Table 3.3: Highest CO_2 emission producing Scottish Local Authorities in 2011.

	Local Authority	**Total ktCO_2**
1	Glasgow City	3105.3
2	Edinburgh, City of	2781.8
3	Fife	2515.5
4	Highland	2155.8
5	North Lanarkshire	1922.2

Table 3.4: Highest regional per capita CO_2 emissions for Scottish Local Authorities, 2011.

	Local Authority	**Per capita tCO_2**
1	Highland	9.3
2	Clackmannanshire	8.9
3	Shetland Islands	8.9
4	Moray	8.8
5	Dumfries and Galloway	8.6

3.2 Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

DECC also publish an annual dataset of regional CO_2 emissions that includes an estimate of the removal of CO_2 from the atmosphere through Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), Table 3.5. The addition of area-wide CO_2 emissions and LULUCF can be calculated to understand whether the Highland region is a source or a sink of CO_2. The region has been a net source of CO_2 in all years since 2005, with this being highest in 2005 at 713.1 kilo tonnes.

Table 3.5: Effect of LULUCF on regional CO_2 emissions in Highland 2005-2011

Year	Total Domestic, Industrial and Transport Emissions ($ktCO_2$)	LULUCF ($ktCO_2$)	Total + LULUCF ($ktCO_2$)
2005	2397.6	-1684.5	713.1
2006	2365.2	-1715.6	649.6
2007	2357.1	-1750.9	606.2
2008	2332.7	-1773.3	559.4
2009	2159.2	-1752.8	406.4
2010	2307.7	-1836.0	471.7
2011	2155.8	-1834.3	321.5

In 2011, 13 of the 32 local authorities in Scotland had negative LULUCF values with the Highland region recording the largest value of these, Table 3.6. The total CO_2 removed by LULUCF in these 13 local authorities in 2011 was 5,915 thousand tonnes, with Highland and Dumfries & Galloway Council areas alone accounting for 57 % of this national sequestration.

Table 3.6: Highest Scottish local authority LULUCF removal values (CO_2e), 2011.

	LA Region Name	LULUCF ($ktCO_2$)
1	Highland	-1834.3
2	Dumfries & Galloway	-1535.5
3	Argyll & Bute	-574.9
4	South Ayrshire	-355.5
5	Scottish Borders	-315.4

National values of LULUCF are predicted to decline, with LULUCF potentially becoming a source of CO_2e in Scotland, Figure 3.1; see Thomson & Hallsworth (2012) for further details. It is therefore important that we do more to understand the impact of land use change on emissions, both locally and nationally, in order that we safeguard our important land assets.

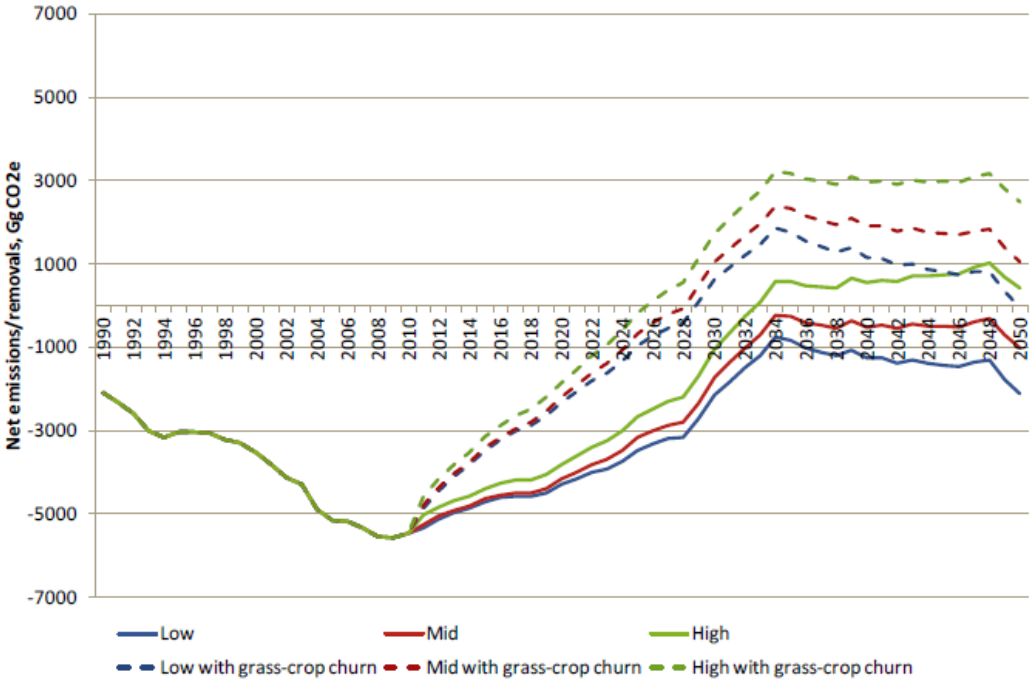

Figure 3.1: Scotland LULUCF sector emissions scenarios, 1990-2050.

3.3 Action to reduce area wide emissions

Highland Renewable Energy Strategy:

The Highland Council Programme covering the year 2012-13 contains the following commitment to renewable energy:

"The Council will support and invest in appropriate opportunities presented by renewable energy, particularly wave and tidal power. We will continue to develop the Highlands as a centre for research & development, fabrication and engineering."

The performance of this commitment is measured by progress in achieving the following two indicators:

- Increase installed capacity of renewable energy to 2908 MW by 2017.
- Three demonstrated wave and tidal projects to be implemented by March 2017.

By the end of 2012/13, a total of 1471 MW had been consented. However, this figure does not include old hydro schemes, small-scale renewable energy schemes and certain other types of renewable technology, which are therefore additional. The Council's target is based on a wide range of technologies contributing to capacity, and these contributions increasing over the coming years. There is an ongoing increase in installed renewable energy capacity in Highland, with onshore wind energy and hydro being the main contributors at the end of 2012/13.

The Council has had meetings with the prospective developers of the Pentland Firth wave and tidal schemes, Kyle Rhea tidal scheme and Moray Firth offshore wind schemes. MeyGen submitted their application for Phase 1 of the Inner Sound tidal development and the Council agreed to grant planning permission for associated onshore developments. A Pilot Marine Spatial Plan for the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters is currently being prepared. Grid reinforcements, vital to significant expansion of renewable energy generation in Highland, are being progressed. The Council made submissions to the Scottish Government on National Developments and other issues for National Planning Framework 3.

The Council, in consultation with stakeholders, has prepared the North Highland Onshore Vision. This document sets out plans for onshore requirements to support marine renewable schemes, with consideration of site suggestions being taken forward through the Wick and Thurso Charrettes held in February 2013 and the forthcoming Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan.

The Highland Renewable Energy Strategy and Planning Guidelines (HRES) identifies the capacity in the Highlands for a range of renewable energy, provides locational guidance and supports economic development. Policies for renewable energy are incorporated into the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) together with Onshore Wind Energy: Interim Supplementary Guidance. The Council approved Small-Scale Wind Turbine Proposals: Interim Supplementary Guidance following public consultation on draft guidance. The new policy and guidance supersedes parts of the strategy and planning guidelines of HRES relating to on-shore wind energy. It is important though to note that HRES and the Renewable Energy Resource Assessment on which it is based continue to provide an overarching strategy and much useful information to those involved in renewable energy development, including onshore wind. The Council is continuing to develop its guidance, particularly in relation to landscape and visual considerations, including cumulative impact, and will carry out any further revisions required in order to comply with changes to national planning policy and wild land mapping.

Council Housing

Whilst the Council does not have direct control over the energy used in council houses, it does have an indirect effect in terms of implementing energy efficiency schemes and the installation of renewable technologies and is investing in reducing the carbon footprint of our council housing estate in line with rising Scottish Housing Quality standards.

Carbon emissions from the Council Housing stock have been calculated by the Housing and Property Service as 50,910 tonnes CO_2 for 2012/13 - a reduction of 25% from 2011/12. This figure was determined by evaluating the energy systems within the property stock of 13,487 houses using the National Home Energy Rating (NHER) scheme. The NHER method was selected because the calculation takes account of the space and water heating, cooking, lighting and appliances, along with the local environment and regional variations.

The energy efficiency of Council Housing is also assessed as part of the SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) benchmarking framework. The energy

efficiency of Highland Council Houses was 80.0 % in 2013 compared to 47.9 % in 2011/12. The target is to achieve 100% energy efficiency by 2015.

The Scottish Housing Quality Standards contain specific requirements for energy performance of the Council Housing stock. The Highland Council Energy & Sustainability Team, part of the Housing and Property Service, provide support in a range of ways to help with the delivery and maintenance of these standards. Further support is to be given with the drive towards affordable living and advice; and support and training will be provided to assist tenants towards the Government's aims. The Energy & Sustainability Team will participate with external energy authorities, agencies, and community groups to assist in the delivery of energy efficiency advice and initiatives.

Waste

Between 2011-12 and 2012-13 The Highland Council collected the following municipal waste:

- Waste sent to landfill has reduced by 12.6% from 90,056 to 78,711 tonnes.
- Overall waste arisings has reduced by 7.1% from 149,574 to 138,895 tonnes.
- Waste recycled has decreased slightly by 1.3% from 58,379 to 57,631 tonnes but the overall recycling rate increased from 39.0% to 41.5% (municipal recycling rate).

The reduction in waste sent to landfill from 2011/12 continued into 2012/13. The effects of the alternate weekly collection continued to be noted; Inverness and Sutherland alternate weekly collections commenced in April and July 2012, respectively. Whilst total waste arisings reduced, the tonnage of recyclate collected in 2012/13 was similar to that collected in the previous year. External measures such as the economic downturn may have influenced the amount of waste generated and any improvements in the economy is likely to negatively affect further reductions in landfill and waste arisings.

Climate Challenge Fund (CCF)

In 2012/13, 16 projects in the Highlands attracted nearly £1.5 million in funding on a range of projects from promoting local eating and cycling, to initiatives for positive behavioural change and awareness raising of climate change issues, Table 3.7.

Table 3.7: Projects funded by the CCF in Highlands, 2012/13.

Project Name	Organisation Name	Area of Activity	Total Awarded (£)
Sandown Community Garden	Sandown Community Garden- Nairn Allotment Society	Food Growing	4,000.00
Cannich Hall Refurbishment	Strathglass & Affric Community Company Ltd	Eco refurb	25,400.00
Black Isle Travel - Pilot	Transition Black Isle	Transport	194,741.47
The Caithness Carbon Challenge	Pentland Housing Association	Behaviour change	101,767.20

Greening Rum	Isle of Rum Community Trust	Multi stranded	19,475.00
Kirkhill Centre Forward	Kirkhill District Amenities Association	Energy efficiency	53,476.00
R U up 4 it! - a teenage led waste reduction project	Ross shire Waste Action Network - RoWAN	Multi stranded	179,447.46
Lochaber Initiative on Fuel and Energy LIFE	Lochaber Environmental Group	Awareness raising	115,130.73
Wee Footprints "Small steps towards low-carbon parenting	Highland Real Nappy Project	Awareness raising	211,837.30
North Coast Energy Efficiency Advice Project	Melness and Tongue Community Development Trust	Multi stranded	105,162.00
Pure Power for Lochbroom	Ullapool Community Trust Ltd	Awareness raising	67,370.00
Applecross Energy Efficiency	Applecross Community Company	Energy efficiency	65,689.00
Insulating the War Memorial Hall	Ardersier War Memorial Hall Association	Eco refurb	84,451.00
Eat Cycle Work Play - Local!	Velocity cafe and bicycle workshop	Food & Transport - Cycling	242,628.24
Ardgay Public Hall Cogitation	Ardgay Public Hall	Energy efficiency	750.00

3.4 Priorities for the year ahead

There are many key priorities for the year ahead for reducing community greenhouse gas emissions. The Council will take active steps in reducing community CO_2 emissions, in line with Carbon CLEVER initiative, by making energy efficiency improvements to its buildings, improving the fabric of its Council houses and by implementing schemes to reduce the amount of municipal and household waste being sent to landfill. The Council will also take appropriate opportunities to increase the installed capacity of renewable energy technologies in the region.

The Council will continue to offer support, advice and encouragement to communities wishing to apply for CCF funding and will actively seek to involve them in joint working through the Highland Environment Network (Chapter 5.2). We will also promote the Green Deal in an appropriate manner, and develop policy on community growing. The Highland Council will continue to support the Highland Climate Change Declaration (Chapter 5.3), reporting annually on its carbon emissions, working with partners, and actively recruiting new signatories.

SECTION 4: ASSESSING THE RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND WORKING WITH OTHERS TO ADAPT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1 Identifying, and adapting to, Climate Impacts

In April 2012, the Highland Council published its first climate change adaptation strategy for the Highland region: "Adapting to Climate Change in Highland". This

document was approved following consideration through the Rural Affairs and Climate Change Strategy Group.

The document aims to gather evidence, present regional information, and equip local decision makers with the appropriate tools to adapt to the effects of a changing climate. It was developed in consultation with multiple stakeholders and with guidance and advice from “Adaptation Scotland”. The report uses the latest UK Climate projections, information on past climate trends and weather events to help identify current climate risks as well as future threats and opportunities.

A series of workshops were conducted with all seven Council Services, with various community groups and certain interest groups. Highland Council participated in workshops and research coordinated by partner organisations in the region and nationally, and in the EU knowledge exchange projects Clim-ATIC and ROADEX. The first draft of the report was publically consulted on in 2011.

The report identifies the risks climate change poses to the Highland region, but also presents a list of actions that can be implemented to adapt to climate change. These actions are divided into those that build adaptive capacity (creating supportive institutional frameworks and developing appropriate policies) and those that deliver adaptation action (take practical actions to either reduce vulnerability to climate risks or to exploit positive opportunities). In all, 52 actions were identified, and these will be monitored and reviewed annually.

4.2 Priorities for the year ahead

The priority for the coming year is to update the “Adapting to Climate Change in Highland” strategy to reflect the revised commitments in the Council’s Programme and to continue to carry out actions which build adaptive capacity and deliver adaptation action throughout the Highlands. Working in partnership with the Scottish Cities Alliance we are aiming to commission a “mini-Stern” report for Inverness / the Highland region, to be completed in Summer 2014 (Chapter 5.1).

SECTION 5: DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Partnership Working

The Highland Environment Forum

The Community Planning Partnership Performance Board established an Environment Forum which makes recommendations to the Community Planning Partnership Performance Board in delivering the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The Highland Environment forum meets bi-annually and is coordinated by the Highland Council’s Development & Infrastructure Service.

Membership of the Highland Environment Forum is drawn from a wide range of public, private and voluntary organisations.

Scottish Cities Alliance
The Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA) is a collaboration of Scotland's seven cities, the Scottish Government, and the Scottish Council for Development and Industry. The partnership aims to attract external investment, stimulate economic activity, create new jobs and business opportunities and develop Scotland's potential as a competitive and world class place to live, work, visit, invest and do business.

A key theme of SCA is "Sustainable Cities", which are cities making or having made the shift to a low carbon economy by maximising resource efficiencies. Being a member of SCA provides opportunities for partnership working and sharing good practice with the other cities in Scotland. Work currently being completed by SCA includes attracting investment for "Smart Future Cities", and developing a joint bid for funding to commission "mini-Stern" reports for the seven cities. A "mini-Stern" report would identify the economic impacts and opportunities of climate change to Inverness, and possibly the wider Highland region.

The Highland Environment Network (HEN)
In 2012/13 the Highland Council continued its funding of the Highland Environmental Network (HEN), a voluntary organisation serving the Highland area. The Council has a service level agreement to ensure that HEN acts to coordinate community action on climate change and sustainable development across Highland by providing a central point of contact for community groups interested in learning about how they can take action and what support is available.

5.2 Progress towards the Highland Climate Change Declaration
In June 2010, the Highland Climate Change Declaration (HCCD) was established with fourteen Highland organisations across the public, private, and voluntary sectors signing up to the joint regional climate change declaration, committing to:

- Measure their carbon footprint and reduce it by 3% per year;
- Provide an annual update of progress;
- Share information and work with partners in Highland to promote good practice; and
- Encourage businesses and communities to take action.

The number of signatories to the declaration has grown each year in 2012/13, 22 organisations committed to the HCCD. The Highland Council were responsible for collecting data from the signatory organisations and collating an annual report up until 2010/11. This responsibility was assumed by Scottish Natural Heritage in 2011/12 to which the Highland Council submitted its annual report in October 2012.

5.3 Communication
The timely and accurate communication of carefully chosen messages to specific individuals and groups is a key component of the Council's work to tackle climate change. Examples of actions and events which took place in 2012/13 included:

Eco-Schools: By March 2013, all 218 schools in Highland had gained a Bronze Eco-award or greater, with 43% of Highland schools having attained the highest award of Green Flag status.

Green Ambassadors: Following concerted recruitment, there are now over 140 Green Ambassadors across Council services and buildings ensuring that climate

change and sustainability messages are not only cascaded from Senior Management but are distributed and discussed at individual site level.

Bike Week: Staff throughout the Highlands took part in Bike Week in June 2013. A Dr Bike clinic was held at Council Headquarters, which allowed staff to have their bike given a health check and have minor repairs carried out free of charge.

Earth Hour: The Council took part in WWF's Earth Hour initiative – an annual global event to highlight the threats of climate change. Urquhart Castle, Inverness Castle and Eilean Donan Castle joined other Highland sites and thousands of iconic global structures by turning off their lights for the hour.

5.4 Priorities for the year ahead

A key priority for the year ahead is the commissioning of a "mini-Stern" report through the Scottish Cities Alliance. We will also continue our commitment to the Highland Climate Change Declaration, working in partnership with Highland organisations to mitigate against climate change and to update the Declaration in order to align it with the Carbon CLEVER Highlands vision. Where appropriate, we will pursue opportunities to work in partnership with other national and European organisations to mitigate against, and adapt to, climate change.

In 2013/2014, the Council will also continue to develop its support for community growing, a practice which has multiple benefits to communities including: reducing health inequalities; promoting health, wellbeing and recovery; sustainability; reducing carbon emissions; community development; and/or economic benefit. As part of this work a wider consultation on community growing with interested parties such as Council Members, members of the public, council staff, community planning partners and existing community growing organisations will occur. There will be an increase in the provision of allotment sites in Highland to facilitate community growing, with four additional allotment sites being provided by The Highland Council in 2014.

The Council will also seek to utilise social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, more effectively throughout 2013/14, to share and promote good practice with the public and stakeholders in respect of climate change.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

A major highlight at the Highland Council in the past year has been the development of Carbon CLEVER Highlands, which introduces the vision of a carbon neutral Inverness in a low carbon Highlands by 2025. Carbon CLEVER Highlands sets a clear, ambitious target and has the potential to extend to all Council functions whilst opening up new channels to engage with stakeholders across the Highlands. Other highlights of the past year include:

Energy Use in Buildings

Over the baseline year of 2007/08 total emissions savings of 10% have been achieved from energy use in buildings. The greatest savings have been achieved through the replacement of oil based heating systems with alternatives such as biomass boilers. The progress can also be attributed to:

- Renewable energy installations
- Energy efficiency actions e.g. a more efficient ICT estate
- Improved insulation and heating controls
- Awareness raising and behavioural change
- Improved monitoring and scrutiny of energy use
- Changes to staffing and estate

This reduction in consumption has resulted in the Highland Council avoiding costs of £1.12 million during 2012/13. Had consumption remained at 2007/08 levels the total energy bill for 2012/13 would have been £10.2 million rather than £9.1 million. This saving should increase in future years as a result of the replacement of many oil heating systems with biomass boilers.

Staff Travel

Over the baseline year of 2007/08 staff travel carbon emissions have decreased by 704 tonnes (18%), exceeding the target set by the CMP of 572 tonnes (15%). Staff and Members are now travelling 2,153,589 fewer miles than they did in 2007/08. Had business travel remained at 2007/08 levels, the Council would have incurred an additional £559,961 in costs during 2012/13. This includes costs associated with business miles claimed but also public transport, car hire and subsistence costs. Savings have been achieved through:

- The implementation of a Business Travel Hierarchy asking staff to consider alternatives to using their own car for business travel
- Reducing travel, subsistence, and accommodation budgets by approximately 12% per year
- Increased management scrutiny of staff travel
- Producing travel reports for sites, promoting and incentivising active travel, promoting and training staff in video conferencing
- Promoting car sharing and other behaviour change projects, such as FuelGood driver training.