

Delivering the Climate Change Plan, together.

APSE Energy Summit 2026

22 October 2026.



How did we get here?

The **Climate Change Plan** was **laid in Parliament in March 2026** and is the **first in Scotland** to:

- ❖ be based on **carbon budgets**
- ❖ assess policies against the **just transition principles**, and
- ❖ include estimates of **costs and benefits**

Key steps in the development of the Climate Change Plan:

- ❖ Framework for Carbon Budgets set up in **primary legislation**
- ❖ **CCC advice** on carbon budget levels for each five year period up to 2045
- ❖ **Draft CCP** developed and published in October 2025
- ❖ 120 day period of **Parliament scrutiny** and 12 week **public consultation**
- ❖ A **Climate Change Plan Advisory Group** met throughout the CCP development process and included representatives from local government, business, NGOs, academia and trade unions,



Timeline for publication of the Climate Change Plan

**Climate Change
(Emissions
Reduction Targets)
(Scotland) Act
2024**

5 November 2024

**Draft Climate
Change Plan
Published**

6 November 2025

**Final Climate
Change Plan
Published**

24 March 2026

**Climate Change
(Scotland) Act
2009 (Scottish
Carbon Budgets)
Amendment
Regulations 2025**

19 June 2025

**Parliamentary
Scrutiny**

6 November - 5
March 2026



Overview of the Climate Change Plan

The CCP:

- Covers a **15 year period** (2026-2040)
- Includes **150+ actions** to reduce Scotland's emissions
- Outlines policies for **Scotland as a whole** not just the Scottish Government
- Is **reviewed every 5 years**

The CCP is designed to:

- Deliver Scotland's first three **carbon budget targets**, contribute to **net zero by 2045** and provide **co benefits**.
- Deliver a **just transition** for workers and communities
- Continue to maximise the **economic opportunities of transition**
- Improve **health and wellbeing** outcomes and co benefits



Climate Change Plan sectors

The CCP includes policies and proposals to reduce emissions across **7 sectors**:

- Energy Supply
- **Transport** (Including International Aviation and Shipping)
- Business and Industrial Process and NETs
- **Residential and Public Buildings**
- **Waste Management**
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)
- Agriculture

Carbon budget
2026-2030
43% of Baseline

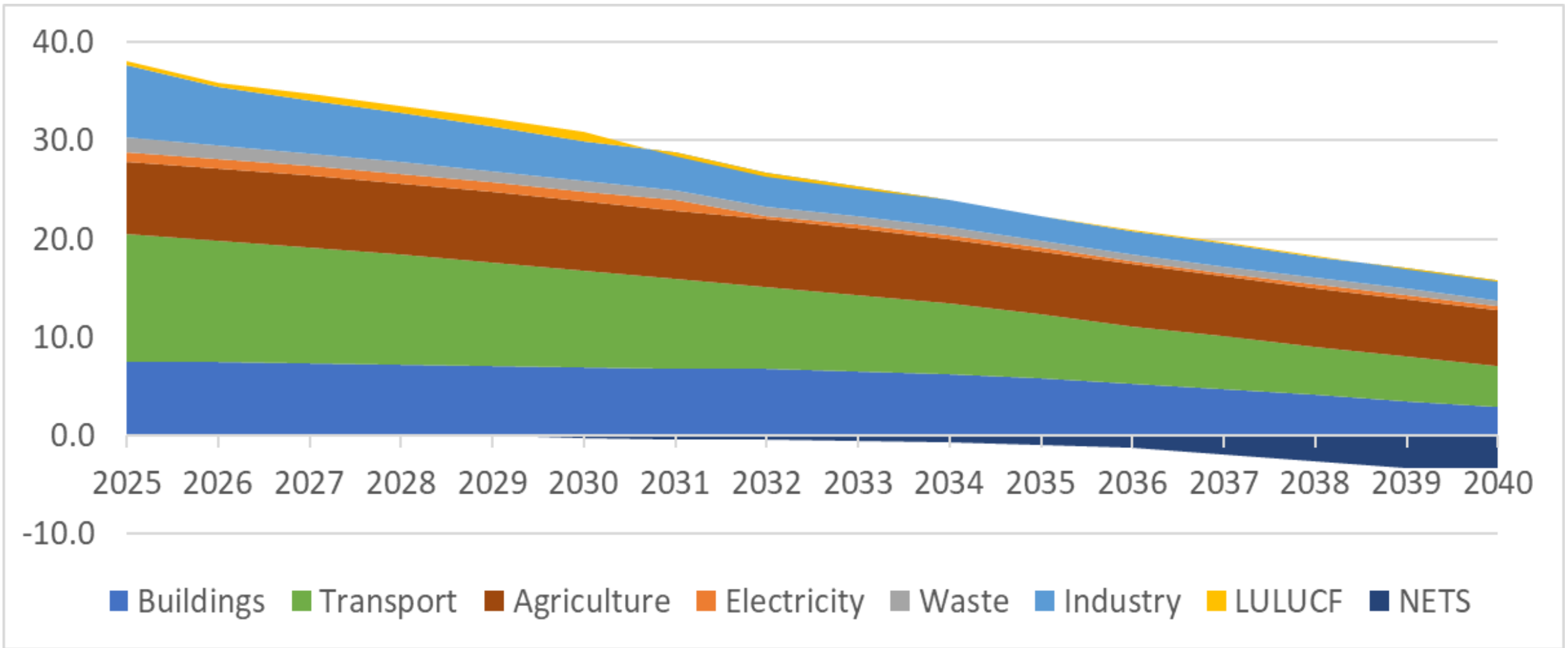
Carbon budget
2031-2035
31% of Baseline

Carbon budget
2036-2040
20% of Baseline

Carbon budget
2041-2045
6% of Baseline



Climate Change Plan Sectoral Pathway to 2040



Key Policies in the Climate Change Plan

Key CCP Policies

Accelerate EV adoption and set a draft **target to reduce emissions from cars** in the first carbon budget (2026-2030) by at least 16% from today's levels (2023).

Decarbonise buildings by 2045, where reasonable and practicable to do so

Increase annual woodland creation every year until 2030, to 18,000 hectares per year.

Increase peatland restoration to more than 400,000 hectares by 2040.

Continue to support Acorn Transport and Storage (T&S) Project **and the Scottish Cluster.**

Rollout NETs over carbon budget periods

Expand the scope of the **UK Emissions Trading Scheme** (ETS) in partnership with other parts of the UK

Continue the delivery of the **Agricultural Reform** Route Map.



Benefits of the Climate Change Plan

Direct financial benefits

- Delivering all the policies in the CCP is estimated to deliver **direct financial benefits totalling £42.3 billion** to the Scottish economy over the lifetime of the CCP from 2026 to 2040.
- Most direct financial benefits are expected to go to **households and businesses in Scotland**. This is largely driven by transport action, e.g. switching from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to electric vehicles is expected to deliver lower running and maintenance costs.

Co-Benefits

- Beyond the quantified direct benefits outlined in the plan, further **indirect benefits** from climate action will support the wellbeing of people across Scotland, including:
 - ✓ Benefits of improved air quality
 - ✓ Addressing dangers of excessively cold homes
 - ✓ Increased physical activity associated with active travel



Just Transition

- The Climate Change Plan aims to deliver net zero while avoiding the mistakes of past economic transitions. It is the first of its kind to be underpinned by statutory **Just Transition Principles** – including assessment of how the policies and proposals will affect sectors, regions and jobs.
- **Just Transition indicators** are included in the monitoring framework and are organised into four outcome themes:
 - Communities and Place;
 - People and Equity (spatial and financial);
 - Jobs, Skills and Economic Opportunities;
 - and Environment and Biodiversity
- Just Transition indicators aim to promote understanding of whether we are achieving a just transition alongside progress on our emissions reduction pathways.



Partnership working with local government

Local authorities are **key delivery partners** who are well placed to:

- tailor climate action to local circumstances
- support place-based delivery
- help manage the regional impacts of the transition

Partnership working with local government is **underpinned by clear accountability**, with work ongoing on **milestones, risks and monitoring**

Local authorities have a **wider leadership role** and **lead on a range functions vital to delivering emissions reduction** in the following the CCP sectors:

- Transport
- Heat
- Waste



Climate Change Plan key policies: Transport

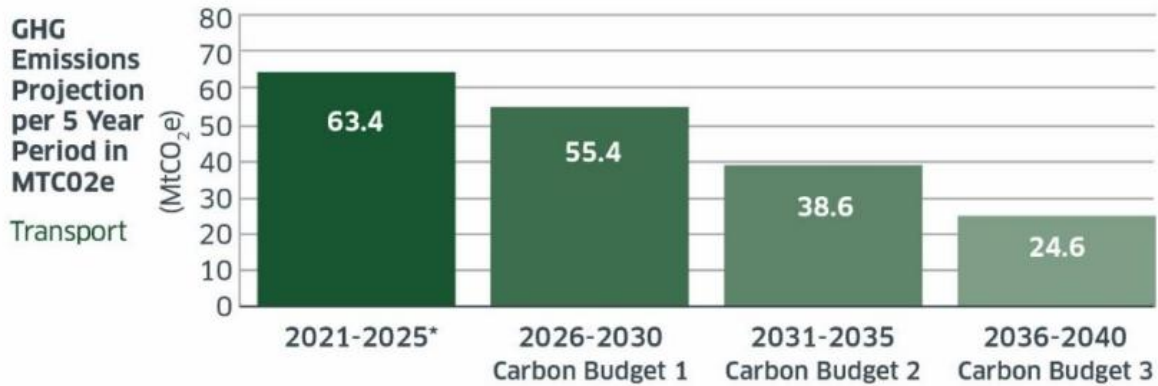
❖ **Policies to reduce car use**, such as free bus travel, investment in public and active transport, and local schemes.

❖ **Consumer incentives to encourage EV uptake** by households, sole traders and micro businesses to make the transition to EVs.

❖ **Vehicle Emissions Trading Scheme** and ZEV Mandate: legislation and sales targets to encourage sales of lower emission and zero-emission cars and vans.

❖ **Early investment in HGV infrastructure and vehicle replacement**, to support the private sector to transition to Zero-Emission HGVs.

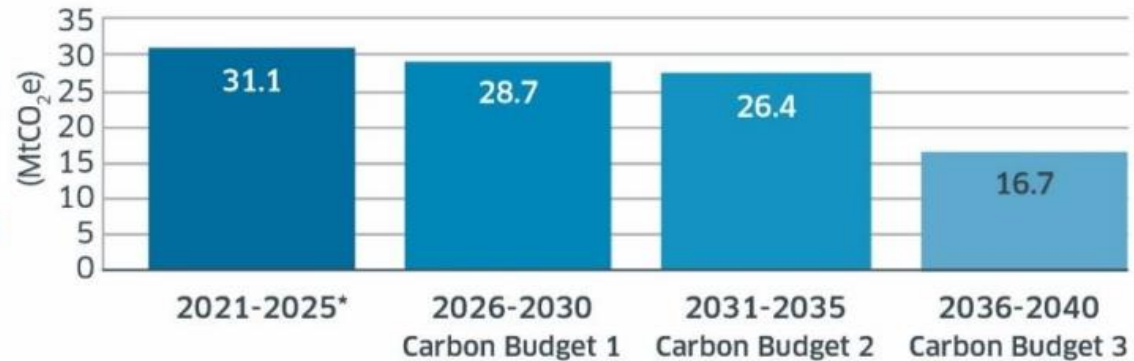
❖ **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) & Project Willow**: The Scottish Government is considering options for increasing SAF production and use in Scotland. SAF is one of the key technologies available to support the decarbonisation of the aviation sector.



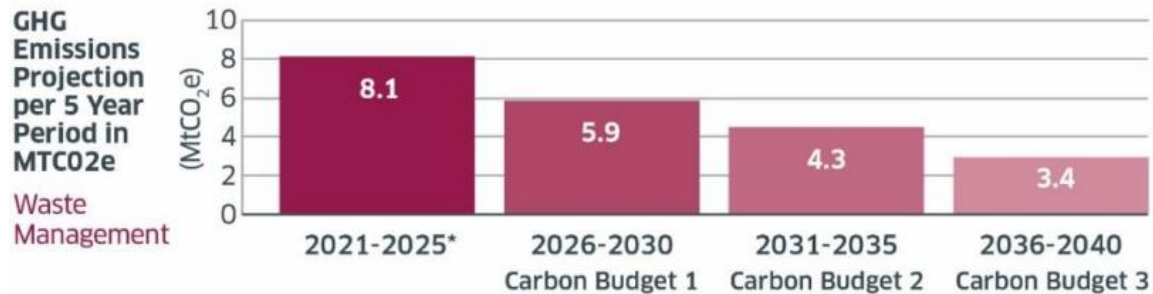
Climate Change Plan key policies: Buildings (Residential and Public)

- 1. A target for decarbonising heat systems by 2045:**
We will also publish a Heat in Buildings Strategy and Delivery Plan.
- 2. Financial support for energy efficiency:** To enable progress towards our decarbonisation goal while reducing fuel poverty by providing advice and financial support for energy efficiency.
- 3. Heat Networks:** We are developing plans to boost heat networks by requiring certain properties to change from fossil fuel heating systems when a heat network is available.
- 4. Heat in Buildings Programme:** We will continue to deliver a programme of support schemes and advice services which are designed to support a wide range of groups to decarbonise heat in our buildings.

GHG
Emissions
Projection
per 5 Year
Period in
MTCO₂e
Residential
and Public



Climate Change Plan key policies: Waste Management



- 1. Measures to further reduce landfill emissions**, including the forthcoming ban on biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill, gas capture opportunities and reviewing and targeting materials currently landfilled to identify and drive alternative management routes.
- 2. Measures to reduce waste and ensure producers take greater responsibility for the environmental impact of their products**, including action on textiles, delivering the Deposit Return Scheme for single-use drinks and containers and reforms to extended producer responsibility schemes (e.g. packaging and batteries).
- 3. Actions to reduce waste**, including supporting households and businesses to cut food waste and helping to make reuse and repair the norm.
- 4. Actions to modernise recycling**, including a new co-designed statutory Code of Practice for household waste and recycling services, and statutory local recycling and reuse performance targets.



Delivering the Climate Change Plan: Transport

Scottish Government

28 actions in CCP to support transport decarbonisation

- EV charging infrastructure rollout
- Zero-emission vehicle uptake
- Car use reduction target
- Active and sustainable travel investment
- Skills support for a Just Transition

UK Government

Key policy and regulatory levers

- Vehicle Emissions Trading Scheme (VETS)
- Electricity system planning and investment
- HGV decarbonisation regulation
- Taxation and incentives for zero-emission vehicles

Local Authorities

Critical delivery partners

- Local transport planning and infrastructure
- Active and sustainable travel delivery
- Fleet decarbonisation and procurement
- Supporting behaviour change and car use reduction
- Place-based delivery aligned to local Net Zero ambitions

- **Local authorities are central to delivering transport decarbonisation** on the ground through planning, infrastructure investment, fleet decarbonisation and sustainable travel initiatives.



Place based delivery of the Climate Change Plan

Partnership working with local authorities is being delivered through several initiatives:

- **Climate Delivery Framework** overseen by Ministers, COSLA and council leaders.
- **COSLA:** partnership working, including through the CDF.
- **Sustainable Scotland Network:** public sector network supporting climate action and sustainability.
- **SOLACE:** Local authority leader network supporting collaboration and net zero delivery.
- **Scottish Climate Intelligence Service:** supports design, manage, deliver plans for emissions reduction.

Collaborative delivery with local government is complemented by working with communities, businesses and others who can ensure climate action reflects local needs.

Other work with local partners includes Climate Action Hubs and Enterprise Agencies.

Place-based implementation of policies is focused on community engagement, supporting behavioural change and addressing local impacts e.g. Local Just Transition Plans.



Thank you

