

4 LOCAL AUTHORITY FORUM

18 February 2021



The fourth Local Authority Forum (LAF) was attended by around 40 delegates from Scotland's Local Authorities.

The forum welcomed Richard Dryburgh, Senior Policy Officer working in Climate Change Behaviours and Engagement in the Scottish Government, who gave a presentation and Q+A on the Draft Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change.

COSLA shared an update from the Local Government evidence session with the Local Government and Communities Committee on the Climate Change Plan Update.

Aberdeenshire Council and South Ayrshire Council gave an overview of their own approaches, challenges and progress on Carbon Accounting.

June Graham shared a conceptual outline of the proposed SSN Net Zero Manual and some suggested starter topics.

Key member questions, discussions and comments

Carbon accounting/budgeting:

- Responsibility - Widen the responsibility beyond the climate change team, across different services. Issues with boundaries when energy consumption is divided across built estates. What happens if Directorate/Service exceeds annual budget?
- Project emissions - Who calculates emissions savings for proposed projects and how does each service area do that? Joel at Aberdeenshire Council advised that PBD template Q3b was useful but members' can also make use of [Carbon Footprint Project Register \(CFPR\) tool](#).
- Carbon assessment - All projects should be subject to some form of carbon accounting assessment. (Potential topic for future LAF)
- Decarbonisation - The issue isn't all about capital. Consider revenue consequences of shift from gas to electric heating. How is electricity grid decarbonisation factored into the council targets? Lack of price parity between gas and electricity.
- Construction - Scottish Funding Council project looking at the energy performance gap in construction projects. (Potential topic for future LAF)

Draft Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change:

- Key points around the capacity and scale of engagement activity required, particularly with those harder to reach. Develop ways of engaging communities and colleagues that are not active.
- Scottish Government is keen to look at supporting closer working with public bodies and LA's on public engagement and behaviour change.

Useful links

- [Draft Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change Consultation \(Deadline extended to 31 March\)](#)
- [Scottish Government Public Engagement Strategy presentation recording + slides](#)
- [Local Government CCPu evidence session recording](#)
- [COSLA written statement - CCPu](#)
- [Scottish Government Climate Change Plan Update](#)
- [Local Government Benchmarking Framework: My Local Council Tool + Overview report + Examples](#)
- [Heat in Buildings Strategy Consultation](#)

Upcoming events:

- [The Power of Public Food \(Food for Life Scotland\)](#)
- [The future of ICT \(Zero Waste Scotland\)](#)

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Approaches to Carbon Accounting from Aberdeenshire Council and South Ayrshire Council
- Presentation from Scottish Government on the Draft Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change
- Progress on SSN Net Zero Manual

Next Forum: 18 March 2021
View future dates [here](#)