



Scotland's public sector network on sustainability and climate change



The Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) is Scotland's public sector network on sustainability and climate change.

We support over 600 members across Scotland's public sector on their journey to net zero.



We work with over 180 public bodies across:

- Educational Institutions
- Integration Joint Boards
- Local Government
- National Health Service
- Transport Partnerships
- Other public bodies such as NDPBs



We aim to improve efficiency and effectiveness of public sector action by providing coordinated advice on and access to:



Consistent guidance and methodologies



Tools and frameworks for improving public sector climate action



Professional training and advice



Sharing good practice and peer-to-peer learning

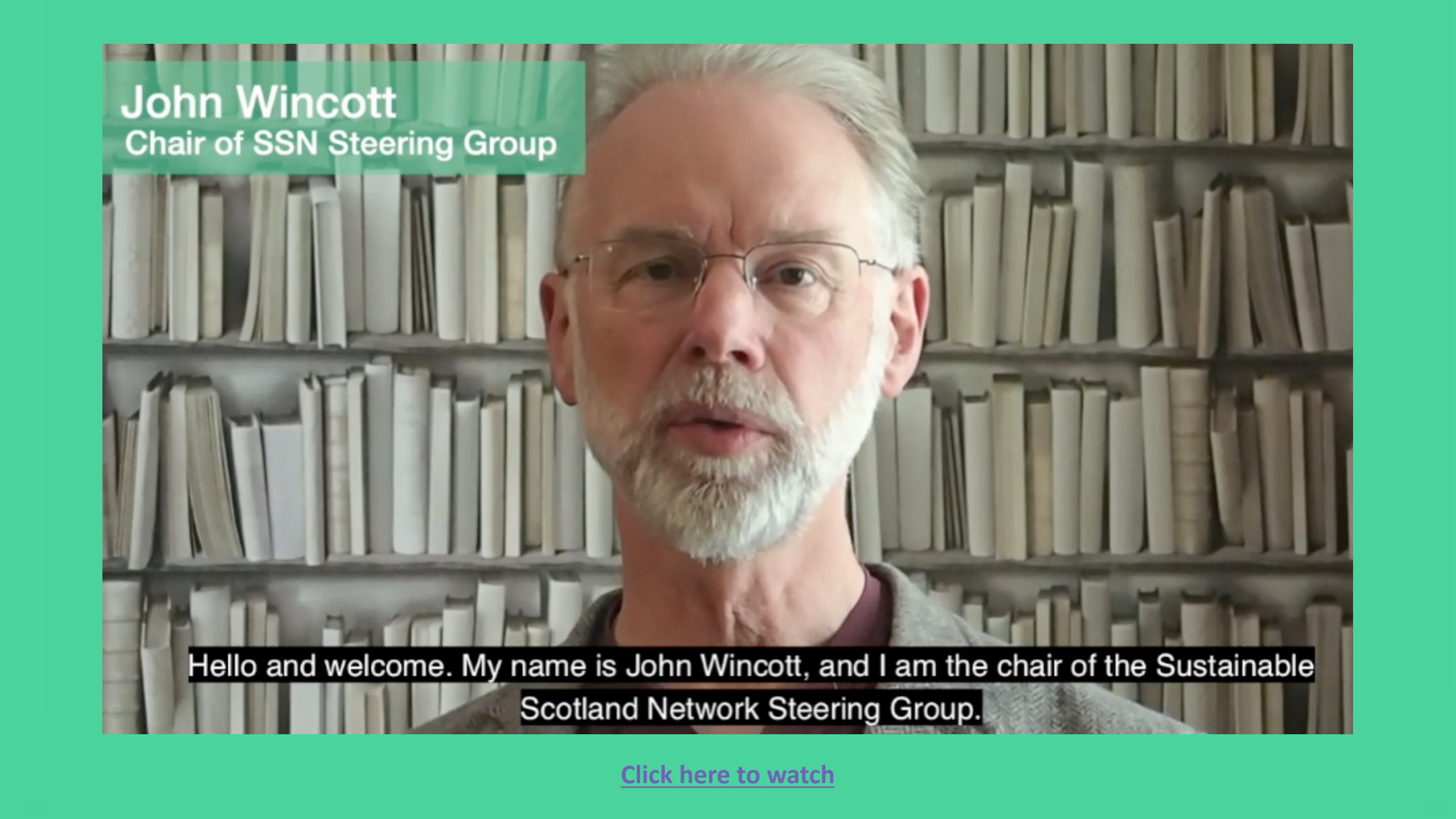


Policy engagement and knowledge exchange

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# OUR MEMBERS INCLUDE





**John Wincott**  
Chair of SSN Steering Group

**Hello and welcome. My name is John Wincott, and I am the chair of the Sustainable Scotland Network Steering Group.**

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# SCOTLAND'S PUBLIC SECTOR RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY





Across the public sector, organisations are developing strategies, plans, targets and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

These plans and projects address net zero places, supply chains and net zero organisations – as public bodies use their various functions to tackle climate change.



# We aim to support public sector action in three inter-linked thematic programmes:

- *Collaborating to develop Net Zero Places*
- *Leveraging influence towards Net Zero Indirect Emissions*
- *Networking to achieve Net Zero Public Sector Organisations*



# COLLABORATING TO DEVELOP NET-ZERO PLACES



Place-based action has tremendous scope to influence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions whether within a local community, town, city, rural or regional setting.



## Place based action in Ayrshire

In Ayrshire, SSN has been working to support North, East and South Ayrshire Councils, the wider Community Planning Partners, and a new multi-stakeholder Officers Network to support a green recovery towards net zero in the region.



*Lorna Jarvie, Coordinator for Sustainability and Fleet at South Ayrshire Council and a member of the SSN Steering Group, discusses this collaboration in more detail.*



A portrait of Lorna Jarvie, a woman with long dark hair, smiling. The background is a colorful vertical striped pattern in shades of blue, orange, and white. The image is framed by a green border.

**Lorna Jarvie**

Coordinator for Sustainability and Fleet  
South Ayrshire Council

**In 2019, I delivered a report to the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership highlighting the climate crisis.**

[Click here to watch](#)

# Importance of collaborating to develop net-zero places

- Establish strong links to be made with regional partnerships
- Encourage best practice to be shared across the network
- Development of further collaborative projects being championed and taken forward



# LEVERAGING INFLUENCE TOWARDS NET-ZERO INDIRECT EMISSIONS





The Scottish Government recommends that each public sector organisation sets targets on influencing their indirect emissions. Work focusing on minimising embodied emissions, and reducing travel, water and waste impacts.

Getting to grips with Scope 3 emissions will become increasingly more crucial in terms of meeting net zero targets.




## Collaborating to support net-zero indirect emissions

SSN worked in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland to support the development of a commuting tool and tackle embodied carbon in office equipment.



*Fraser Millar, an Environmental Analyst at Zero Waste Scotland outlines the influence towards net-zero emissions.*





**Fraser Millar**

Environmental Analyst, Zero Waste Scotland

Hi there, my name is Fraser Millar and I am an Environmental Analyst with Zero Waste Scotland.

[Click here to watch](#)

## Concluding remarks

- Working in collaboration with SSN enabled access to the public sector stakeholders and expert knowledge
- Stakeholders were instrumental in testing tools, providing feedback, and participating in case studies
- Using the tools indicated a material change to organisations' carbon footprint



# NETWORKING TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS



## **Standalone targets will not achieve net zero direct emissions for the public sector by 2045**

Targets must be underwritten by a clear pathway and milestones that demonstrate transparency, agility to respond to new innovations and unexpected change, and recognition of measures needed to address residual emissions at the most effective scale and pace.

*In response to the climate emergency, many public sector organisations have been putting in place strategies to support their journey to net zero.*



## Achieving net-zero public organisations

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park published its Mission Zero Route Map, establishing a clear plan of action on investment in carbon reduction projects, estate changes, investment on low carbon transport options, and initiatives to support positive behaviour change.



*Heather Reid, a board member from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority discusses this in more detail.*





**INTRODUCING OUR  
MISSION  
ZERO  
ROUTE MAP**

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# How organisations can take steps towards net-zero

- Setting organisational targets for net-zero
- Transitioning towards an all-electric fleet of vehicles
- Utilising technology such as air source heat pumps and solar panels, where appropriate



# COLLABORATING AND NETWORKING

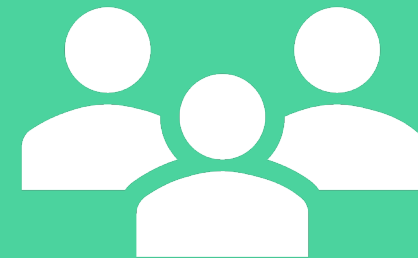




SSN is a multi-stakeholder initiative, supported by hybrid-funding from the Scottish Government and across its membership.

As well as working closely with SSN public sector members, SSN also works with a range of organisations to provide support to public bodies, to champion climate action, and to mainstream climate change into public body governance and management.

# OUR PARTNERS



We work closely with colleagues in the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, the Improvement Service and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges, as well as the Scottish Government.

SSN also collaborates with the private and voluntary sector, to accelerate climate action in Scotland.



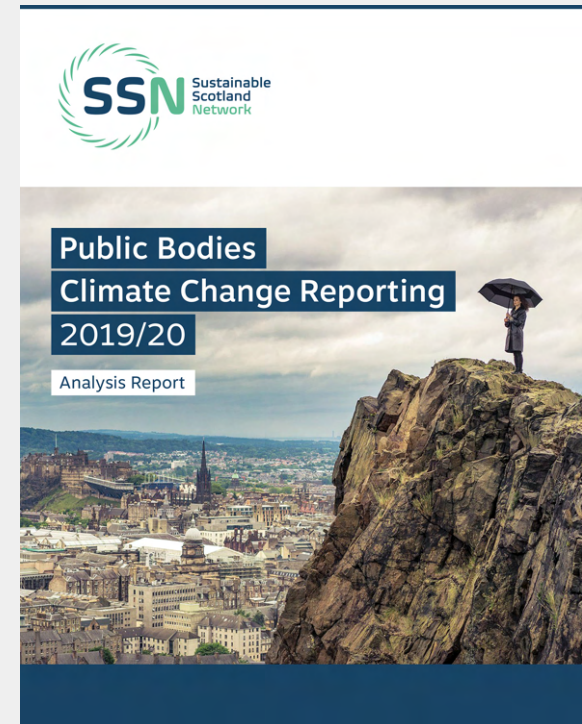
# REPORTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE



## Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting

Since 2015, SSN has coordinated the Scottish public sector's annual mandatory climate change reporting and analysis, on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Each year Scotland's public sector reports on climate action in relation to governance and management, corporate emissions, adaptation, procurement. Public bodies are also encouraged to report their wider influence, including their place-based climate action.





**George Tarvit**  
Sustainable Scotland Network

Hello, I am George Tarvitt. I am here at COP26 representing the Sustainable Scotland Network.

[Click here to watch](#)



*“SSN have been an invaluable network for the University of Strathclyde and myself personally. My participation in the Steering Group has accelerated my personal growth in both the public and sustainability sectors.*”

*Like many public sector organisations, the University has set ambitious climate change targets and needs the support of SSN to help enable sector wide action.”*

**David Charles, Head of Climate Action at University of Strathclyde**

*“The SSN and its Secretariat keep Inverclyde Council informed about policy and initiatives with respect to climate change and environmental sustainability. The SSN further provides space with which to engage with colleagues throughout the Scottish public sector, finding out about the actions they have taken to improve environmental performance and make useful connections”*

**Paul Murphy, Carbon Reduction Officer at Inverclyde Council**

# Where to find us

- *Get in contact and find out more at [sustainablescotlandnetwork.org](https://sustainablescotlandnetwork.org)*
- *Connect with us on twitter [@SSNScotland](https://twitter.com/SSNScotland)*
- *Email us on [info@sustainablescotlandnetwork.org](mailto:info@sustainablescotlandnetwork.org)*
- *Sign up to our [newsletter](#) for all the latest updates*



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SSN Conference

# COP26... What now?

## Building Public Sector Capacity to Deliver on Net Zero

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

09:30 – 16:00



