



Update from the SSN Chair, 30 September 2021

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first letter from me as SSN Chair since taking over in August, aiming to keep you up to date on the work being undertaken by SSN on your behalf. In this letter I will cover four items;

1. Goodbye and thanks to Kate Dapr .
2. Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport.
3. Forthcoming Guidance for Net Zero.
4. Hold the date - Wednesday 8th December.
5. Climate Change Reporting 2020/21

1. Goodbye and thanks to Kate Dapr .

It is with huge gratitude that we say [farewell to former Chair Kate Dapr ](#) who has served on the SSN Steering Group for over 4 years, and latterly as Chair since March 2019. Her work on our behalf has been outstanding and we all wish her well in her new venture. I have now taken over this role, having previously served as vice chair, and I am determined to carry on with the excellent work that Kate has delivered.

2. Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport.

Recently myself and Kate met with Mr Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport when we were able to brief him on the work being undertaken by SSN, and hear his priorities having recently taken over this portfolio. It is fair to say that Mr Matheson appreciated the work that we are doing and how SSN can be one of the key bodies that will help to deliver the Scottish Government goals on climate change. Mr Matheson shared with us that his key priorities are driving forward delivery, skills necessary for action, and how to access funding. These three priorities were overlaid with the need for a just transition so that no one is left behind. I look forward to SSN working with the Scottish Government to ensure that we are all pulling together towards our common goals.

3. Forthcoming Guidance for Net Zero.

SSN and Scottish Government officials have been working on updated guidance on the transition to Net Zero for Public Bodies and this is due for publication shortly. Since this is still a work in progress, I will not comment further at this time, other than to say we plan for this to answer as many as possible of the questions that those of us at the 'sharp end of delivery' have been asking. We will let you know when the new guidance will be published as soon as we can.

Sustainable Scotland Network

Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, University of Edinburgh, High School Yards, Edinburgh, EH1 1LZ

0131 650 5326 | info@sustainableScotlandnetwork.org | www.sustainableScotlandnetwork.org

4. Hold the date - Wednesday 8th December.

Put the 8th December in your diary for our post COP 26 conference. This will be a (virtual) conference and workshop where we expect to cover: a post COP view of where we are now; a walk through the new Public Bodies Guidance and an exploration of how to fill the skills gaps for climate action.

5. Climate Change Reporting 2020/21.

As you may be aware, the Scottish Government has funded the Sustainable Scotland Network to manage public bodies climate change reporting for 2020/21. SSN produced [guidance](#) earlier this year to support public bodies complete their submissions by 30 November 2021.

Everyone I speak to feels that the time is now upon us to move to a new level of delivery on the road to net zero, however many people also point out the challenges that we face in this. That is why SSN is focussed on collaboration and sharing best practice (and when things have not gone quite to plan!) so that we can all learn and work together.

I would be delighted to hear from you if you have any insights that you want to share, or information you need, so that we can develop our work to accommodate your needs.

Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts.

John Wincott

SSN Chair | SSNChair@ed.ac.uk

Environmental Services Coordinator, Fife College | johnwincott@fife.ac.uk