

Conference 2026



Delivering on Scotland's Climate Priorities: Resilience, Emissions and Just Transition

Wed 17 June 2026 | 09:00–13:00 | Online

[**Register now**](#)

The SSN Conference 2026 is an essential event for all those working in and with Scotland's public bodies and those eager to see positive action on climate and sustainability during the term of the newly elected Scottish Government.

The conference brings together SSN members from across the public sector, alongside leaders, partners, stakeholders and experts in climate change mitigation and adaptation, to take stock of Scotland's public sector climate priorities, share challenges and solutions, and identify ways of scaling up impact in the years ahead.

Programme	
Welcome and Scene Setting Dr John Wincott, Chair of the SSN Steering Group	9.00–9.10
Delivering on Scotland's Climate and Sustainability Commitments: Challenges and Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Andy Kerr, Director General Net Zero, Scottish Government• Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive, Fife Council and SOLACE Scotland lead on climate change	9.10–9.50
Keynote Address: Becoming Well-Adapted to the Risks of Climate Change Emma Pinchbeck, Chief Executive, Climate Change Committee	9.50–10.30
Break	10.30–10.40
A Well-Adapted Scotland: Public Sector Priorities Panel session with the Climate Change Committee and members of the SSN Adaptation Subcommittee	10.40–11.50
Break	11.50–12.00
Our National Climate Emergency: Truth, Justice, Progress Prof. Mike Berners-Lee, Professor in Practice, Lancaster University, Chair of the National Emergency Briefing, and author of 'A Climate of Truth'	12.00–12.50
Next Steps to Build Momentum	12.50–13.00

Conference Speakers



Dr Andy Kerr,
Director General Net Zero, Scottish Government

Dr Andy Kerr has held leadership roles in organisations including start-ups, commercial trading business, and innovation agencies over the past two decades. Most recently, as Chief Strategy Officer of Climate-KIC, Europe's climate innovation agency, he was accountable for: the development and testing of systemic climate solutions in agri-food, forest and land use change, landscape-scale resilience, city regeneration, circular economy, business start-ups. Previously, Andy was founding director of the award-winning Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), co-Director of Scotland's Centre of Expertise on Climate Change, ClimateXChange, and a Professor of Practice at the University of Edinburgh.



Ken Gourlay,
Chief Executive, Fife Council and SOLACE Scotland lead on climate change

Ken Gourlay is the Chief Executive of Fife Council and Returning Officer for Fife. He has been Chief Executive since July 2023, and has worked at the Council for 30 years over two spells. Ken graduated from Dundee University with an Honours Degree in Civil Engineering and is a Chartered Civil Engineer. He later completed an MBA at Sunderland University whilst working for North Tyneside Council.



Emma Pinchbeck,
Chief Executive, Climate Change Committee

Emma is the Chief Executive of the Climate Change Committee, the UK's national climate advisor. The body advises on the country's Carbon Budgets and Climate Change Risk Assessments and does annual assessments of the Government's progress.



Professor Mike Berners-Lee,
Professor in Practice, Lancaster University, Chair of the National Emergency Briefing, and author of 'A Climate of Truth'

Mike Berners-Lee consults, thinks, writes and researches on sustainability and responses to 21st century problems. He is the author of acclaimed books, including *A Climate of Truth*, *There is No Planet B* and *How Bad Are Bananas?* The carbon footprint of everything. As founder and director of Small World Consulting he helps organisations of all sizes and sectors to address the challenges of the Anthropocene. He is a professor at Lancaster University, where his research includes supply chain carbon modelling, sustainable food systems and the environmental impact of ICT. In February 2025, he was awarded the Planet Earth Award by the Alliance of World Scientists for his work on seeking solutions to environmental challenges. He is chair of the National Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis, which was held in November 2025 at Central Hall Westminster and is now being screened across the UK and beyond for communities to move from awareness to action.