

30 GREEN GLASGOW FAST FACTS

Glasgow has pledged to become the UK's first Net Zero carbon city by 2030.

The **Glasgow Climate Plan** is the city's flagship sustainability policy, which sets out its green ambitions and response to the global climate and ecological emergency. Here are 30 reasons why the city is on track to meet its aspirations:

1. Glasgow comes from the Gaelic word 'Glasghu' meaning "**Dear Green Place**" and the city more than lives up to its name with over 90 parks and gardens, eight of which have won the UK's coveted Green Flag award. At 32%, Glasgow has the second largest proportion of **green space** for its residents of any European city.
2. It is predicted that there will be **£1.5bn of new investments in low-carbon and renewable energy fields** in Glasgow the next 10 years. The Glasgow region has over 12,000 renewable energy sites, producing nearly 4,000,000 MWh of energy annually – more than any other UK city (UK govt. statistics, where a "site" is an individual public or private location or scheme that produces renewable energy, such as a windfarm or PV installation).
3. Among more than 500 global cities, **Glasgow is the city least vulnerable to the effects of climate change** and has the 4th lowest exposure to environmental risks overall.
4. The **People Make Glasgow Greener** strategy sets out plans and vision to see the city move from 'steam, to green' – more information at the [Glasgow Sustainable Policy and Action Plan](#).
5. **Pollok Park** is Glasgow's largest park and the city's only Country Park. Its extensive woodlands and gardens provide a quiet sanctuary for both visitors and wildlife. Including the city's herd of Highland Cattle. It is also the verdant setting for the world-renowned Burrell Collection, which will re-open in 2022, and Pollok House.
6. **Third most green place to work and live in the UK:** Glasgow was ranked against other cities on the supply of environmentally friendly office space; ultra-low emissions vehicle usage; access to electric vehicle charging stations; supply of cycle parking spaces at rail stations and air quality.
7. **Sustainable Glasgow** is a ground-breaking partnership which aims to position Glasgow as a leading city in the development of the green and wider circular economy.
8. **Sustainable Glasgow Business Charter** launched in June 2021: By encouraging and supporting businesses from across Glasgow to commit to sustainable business practices, the Sustainable Glasgow Business Charter will help support the city's

Climate Plan and its target to be net-zero carbon by 2030 and one of the most sustainable in Europe.

9. The **£154 million Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre** takes 90% of the waste that would have gone to landfill and turns it into renewable electricity, making a substantial contribution to the decarbonisation of Glasgow's electricity. The world leading waste processing plant was built through a joint venture between Viridor and Glasgow City Council. The plant also has options to connect to future heat networks being planned in the city and will be a key piece of infrastructure in the city's race to be net-zero carbon by 2030.
10. In 2017, **Glasgow Convention Bureau** became the first ever Convention Bureau to win a **Green Tourism Award** and was the first convention bureau in the world to join **Tourism Declares**, which launched in January 2020 as a voluntary initiative to align tourism and travel with the target to cut global emissions in half by 2030.
11. Glasgow is ranked the 4th **most sustainable conference destination** in the world and the only UK city to be included in the Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS-Index). Prior to the pandemic, Glasgow hosted 20 energy, sustainability and low carbon industry-related conferences over a 24-month period; boosting the city's economy by more than £23 million. The city has a growing reputation for business and academic excellence in the energy, sustainability and low carbon industries and as a result, is attracting an increasing number of conferences in these fields including, most prominently, the **26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties** (COP26).
12. **Climate Neutral Innovation District**: an ambitious multi-stakeholder project to create a 100% renewable climate neutral and climate resilient area around Merchant City and High Street, the original birthplace of Glasgow. The partnership brings together a range of innovative measures and interventions that make use of our local natural and physical resources in this part of the city to enable a large-scale transition to a more sustainable and climate ready.
13. **Glasgow's Smart Canal** is one of only a few such schemes in the world and uses sensors and predictive weather technology to provide early warning of wet weather before moving excess rainfall into the Forth & Clyde Canal in the north of the city.
14. **World's largest fleet of Hydrogen powered refuse collection vehicles**: A £10.5m funding package is allowing Glasgow to purchase 19 hydrogen-powered refuse collection vehicles, which means that Glasgow will become home to the largest fleet of hydrogen-powered bin lorries in the world. Glasgow City Council also seeks to create a **fleet of zero emission vehicles** by the end of 2029. More than 100 new electric cars are already in use and work is ongoing to convert up to 20 smaller lorries to dual fuel hydrogen.
15. **The Clyde Gateway project** saw contaminated and derelict land in the East End transformed into the Athletes Village at Dalmarnock for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Low-carbon district heating systems provide heat to 700 highly energy efficient homes, as well as to the Emirates Arena, Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, and a 120-bed super care home.
16. **Progress on social housing**: retaining the best of Glasgow's distinct built heritage of red and golden sandstone tenements, whilst working to ensure it is fit for the future through their retrofit to **Passivehaus standards** - an entirely voluntary building performance standard based around the principle of reducing heating demand to a

very low level rather than relying on renewables.

17. **The UK Geoenergy Observatory in Glasgow:** an at-scale research infrastructure project comprising 12 boreholes, fenced research compounds and surface monitoring equipment for investigating shallow, low temperature, coal-mine-water heat energy, heat storage resources and environmental change. Results will help in understanding the processes and impacts of this heat source and heat store as a sustainable way of heating homes and businesses in our cities.
18. **The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP):** a collaborative partnership helping to sustainably drain the Glasgow city region, better service existing communities, unlock potential development sites and build greater resilience to long-term climate change, ensuring that aspirations for regeneration and growth are supported by improved infrastructure capacity.
19. **The Clyde Climate Forest** will see 18 million trees – ten trees per resident - planted in both urban and rural parts of Glasgow City Region over the next decade, delivering a broad range of climate and ecological benefits.
20. **Whitelee Windfarm** is the UK's largest onshore windfarm, and the second largest in Europe. Located just 20 minutes from central Glasgow, its 215 turbines generate up to 539 megawatts of electricity, enough to power over 350,000 homes. It is owned and operated by Scottish Power who have pledged to help radically reduce Glasgow's carbon emissions by signing up to become a 'Climate City Champion'.
21. **Cathkin Wind Turbine** is a 3MW wind turbine that stands atop the Cathkin Braes, next to the mountain bike track installed for the XX Commonwealth Games in 2014. The turbine was a joint venture between, Glasgow City Council and SSE and provides renewable electricity onto the Glasgow electricity grid, contributing to the decarbonisation of the city's electricity supply.
22. Glasgow has been investing in **Solar PV** for the last 10 years, with solar arrays on the roofs social housing, primary schools, office buildings, and soon to be atop multi-storey car parks, providing renewable energy for electric vehicle charging. The city has also partnered with local community energy groups to see solar arrays owned by the community group sited on council buildings, with the energy sold to the council and the revenues used for local community benefit.
23. **Low Emission Zone:** As the first established outside of London, the zone is expected to help to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide and other internal combustion sourced pollutants, which will improve air quality and make Glasgow a cleaner, healthier and more pleasant place to be.
24. **177 Bothwell Street Development:** Set to be Glasgow's largest and most sustainable office building, 177 Bothwell Street will be fully electric with zero carbon emissions - powered by 100% renewable energy from a nearby wind farm.
25. **The first 'Net Zero Homes'** of their kind in Scotland are under construction (in Airdrie) utilising advanced construction methods and gas-free energy solutions combine to reduce carbon emissions arising from lightning, heating, pumps and fans to a rate less than or equal to zero.

26. Glasgow is one of just four regions to trial a world-leading scheme and was chosen due to high local demand for public Electric Vehicle chargers. Residents can take part in the UK's first on-street smart metering charging EV charging scheme – **Agile Streets** – to save hundreds of pounds a year and support the green energy revolution. In addition, Glasgow city centre is laid out on a compact, grid system making it an incredibly **walkable** destination, with a **cycle hire** scheme offering 500 bikes for public hire at 67 locations across the city for longer journeys.
27. **Sighthill M8 Bridge**: the landmark new cyclist and pedestrian bridge under construction over the M8 is forecast to bring significant economic, environmental and social benefits to Sighthill. When completed, this 'Street in the Sky' will provide a new active travel corridor between the city centre, Sighthill and North Glasgow.
28. **First City in the UK to sign the Circular Cities Declaration**, which is designed to help accelerate the transition from a linear to a circular economy in Europe, and thereby create a resource-efficient, low-carbon and socially responsible society.
29. Glasgow is in the process of investing £1.1 billion over 35 years to expand the **Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network**.
30. **Glasgow City Region** encompasses areas of outstanding natural beauty including Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, part of which lies in West Dunbartonshire; the Campsie Fells located in East Dunbartonshire; Dams to Darnley Country Park in East Renfrewshire; North Lanarkshire's Carron Valley; South Lanarkshire's Leadhills; Gleniffer Braes Country Park in Renfrewshire and Inverclyde's Greenock Cut located within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. Glasgow is a principal Gateway to Scotland.

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