



Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy Hub

# Delivering a Sustainable Glasgow Together

A charter promoting and celebrating ambitious Glasgow business action to achieve net-zero carbon by 2030

June 2021



**Sustainable Glasgow**



GLASGOW  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**Balfour Beatty**





The Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy Hub Charter is a commitment by leading businesses and employers in Scotland's largest city, and host of COP26, to take action within their own organisations and sectors to contribute to a green recovery and radically reduce the City's carbon emissions.

In 2020, Glasgow City Council's Climate Emergency Working Group made 61 recommendations ranging across all areas of city activity. Few of them can be delivered by the Council alone and they therefore set both a context and a significant challenge for a city-wide partnership. The climate emergency report sets, in effect, a new approach to an already familiar agenda for partners to consider and it is proposed that the City's response to its recommendations is led through Sustainable Glasgow.

The Green Economy Hub Charter represents a step on the path to a 'new normal' of sustainable business practice in a thriving green city.

Sustainable Glasgow also recognises that the City is driven by a large population of small to medium enterprises (SMEs) who may require significant support to deliver against the commitments in this Charter. Those SMEs who sign up to the ambition of delivering this Charter may be able to access support through Scotland's sustainable business support ecosystem which includes Business Gateway, Scottish Enterprise, Zero Waste Scotland, the Energy Savings Trust and SEPA.

For further information and support for SMEs to deliver the ambition of this charter, please see the **Supplementary note for small to medium enterprises** at [www.sustainableglasgow.org.uk](http://www.sustainableglasgow.org.uk)



# Charter Pledge

As representatives of key businesses and employers in Glasgow, we, the “City Climate Champions” of the Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy Hub Charter hereby undertake to:

Effect significant and demonstrable change in our business practices resulting in an accelerated reduction in climate emissions that contribute to Glasgow’s net-zero carbon target.

In doing this we will:

## Operations

- Share within a month of signature what action we are currently taking to address climate change and our current emissions.
- Take demonstrable actions to contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions (by COP26 in November 2021 and beyond).
- Publish online (by November 2021 latest) our plan to cut carbon emissions within our organisation with identified [annual/biannual/other] target dates for progress.
- Include in this plan a commitment to engage across the whole value chain to drive emissions reductions.
- Set out how we will embed assessment of climate impact into all organisational and investment decisions.

## Influence and Leadership

- Communicate our approach to tackling climate change and promote the importance of greater efforts to tackle climate change.
- Share learning with members of the Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy Hub and other city organisations looking to accelerate action on climate change.
- Roll out climate literacy for staff, including the management team as a minimum.
- Promote, support and enable employee choices and behaviours to contribute positively to a net-zero future.
- Maximise the impact of procurement across the value chain to accelerate emissions reductions with particular focus on capital investment decision making.

Where **applicable** to our organisation we will also:

## Transport

- Integrate the sustainable travel hierarchy into our organisation’s operations and future business planning and target a long-term improvement on pre-2020 levels.
- Prioritise sustainable and active regional travel choices by our workforces.
- Invest in a switch to zero emission company owned vehicles.

## Buildings & Facilities

- Commit to a clear programme of deep retrofit of the organisational estate.
- Switch all energy use to sustainable energy sources and commit to purchasing heat/power from local district networks if available and viable for our organisation.
- Explore the potential of the organisational estate to generate renewable and sustainable energy and contribute to increased greenspace, biodiversity and sequestration.
- Prioritise locally sourced, seasonal, **sustainable food** for our employees and/or customers and integrate the **food waste hierarchy** into our organisation’s operations and future business planning.

Signed by the City Climate Champions for Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy.



# Large Enterprise Champions

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Glasgow City Council: Susan Atkinson Date: 20th May 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce: James Smith Date: 17th May 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

ScottishPower: KSA Date: 20th May 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

University of Strathclyde: James McQuade Date: 20th May 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

University of Glasgow: Shirley Date: 13th May 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Scottish Enterprise: Allan McQuade Date: 28th May 2021



CLIMATE CHAMPION:

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde:  Date: 17th May 2021

CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Skills Development Scotland:  Date: 8th June 2021

CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Wheatley Group:  Date: 1st June 2021

CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Clyde Gateway:  Date: 21st May 2021

CLIMATE CHAMPION:

SPT:  Date: 18th May 2021

CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Glasgow Airport:  Date: 12 May 2021

CLIMATE CHAMPION:


Deloitte:  Date: 12th May 2021



## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

ACS Clothing: ANTHONY BURNS, A Burns Date: 17th May 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Babcock:  Date: 17th May 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

CLIMATE CHAMPION: 

Scottish Water: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 19th May 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Balfour Beatty:  Date: 17th May 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Edrington: Scott McCroskie Date: 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Organisation Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

## CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Organisation Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021





## Small & Medium Enterprise Champions

We aspire to delivering the commitments of this Charter with the support of Scotland's sustainable business support ecosystem and our fellow Champions from the Large Enterprise community.

### CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Organisation Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

### CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Organisation Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

### CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Organisation Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

### CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Organisation Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

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Organisation Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

### CLIMATE CHAMPION:

Organisation Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021



# Delivering a Sustainable Glasgow Together

[www.sustainableglasgow.org.uk](http://www.sustainableglasgow.org.uk)

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**Sustainable  
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Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy Hub

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**Supplementary note for small to medium enterprises**

June 2021



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# Introduction

The Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy Hub Charter is a commitment by leading businesses and employers in Scotland's largest city, and host of COP26, to take action within their own organisations and sectors to contribute to a green recovery and radically reduce the city's carbon emissions.

Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy Hub is for those organisations who are committed to being leaders in the race to net-zero and who are dedicated to moving forward, faster, together.

The Charter aims to be accessible to businesses of all sizes. In engaging with small to medium enterprises (SMEs) during the development of the Charter, it has been recognised that SMEs are keen to sign up but that they may require some additional support to do so. This supplementary note therefore aims to provide some useful information to assist SMEs to be able to commit to the charter and deliver ambitious carbon emissions reductions.

Delivering the aims of the charter will provide significant benefits to signatories, potentially including cost reductions as a consequence of reducing carbon emissions, more efficient business processes, enhanced knowledge of stakeholders and stronger brand differentiation in line with consumers' increasing desire for green options.

Climate change requires all businesses to act, so while the Charter targets a high ambition level, it also recognises that businesses who are in the early stages of their climate action work need a route to be able to commit to the Charter, continue to engage on their progress and learn from businesses further along in their journey.

Therefore, while the Charter is deliberately ambitious and will by nature challenge businesses of all sizes, it has been designed to be flexible enough that businesses with high ambition levels can commit regardless of their starting point. This note lays out some of the benefits of signing up to the Charter, outlines the high-level process of setting and tracking carbon targets, provides some key definitions and highlights specific support available to the SME community.



# Setting and achieving carbon reduction targets

## What's in it for my business?

Customers now place increasing value on environmental, sustainability and governance aspects, so setting and achieving carbon reductions is a key way for businesses to maintain a competitive edge. The good news is that in many cases, efforts to reduce carbon throughout your business value chain will also reduce costs.

## How do I set and achieve carbon reduction targets?

The process of setting and achieving carbon reduction targets can be challenging at first, but there are support systems available to help SMEs with the process (see **How to access support** below), and the process itself also provides side benefits in terms of knowing your business better and being able to set more ambitious strategies for the future.

### Stage 1

The first stage is to develop your footprint. This is where you take stock of greenhouse gases that your business directly and indirectly emits each year. Businesses usually start with Scope 1 and 2 (see definition below), setting a target for these emissions, then once they have confidence in their process and data, they move on to measuring Scope 3 and setting a target across their whole value chain. A useful free starting point to calculate your carbon footprint is the **Carbon Trust's SME Carbon Footprint Calculator**.

For many businesses, the majority of Scope 1 and 2 emissions will come from gas heating or diesel or petrol fleet vehicles and the emissions related to the electricity the business consumes.

### Stage 2

Once you have your footprint, the next stage is to set reduction targets. The aim is to be as ambitious as possible, but some emissions may be harder to remove than others and you may wish to test out some scenarios for how achievable the proposed target may be for your business. You will need buy-in from the senior leaders within your organisation as delivering the targets may require changes to the way in which your business operates.

When you set your targets, it can help to highlight the reputational value of being ambitious – sustainability is climbing in importance for customers.

You may wish to sign up to the **SME Climate Commitment**, or set a Science Based Target through the route offered to SMEs to set robust carbon reduction targets, though this is not essential for the purposes of the Glasgow Charter. See **Definitions** below for more information about the Science Based Targets initiative.



### Stage 3

The next stage is to develop an action plan for achieving the target. This could mean identifying opportunities to reduce energy or fuel use or making plans to decarbonise your electricity tariff or heating systems.

This could also mean looking at material usage and resource consumption in your operations. Better resource management and adoption of circular economy strategies can reduce emissions.

Use the mitigation hierarchy when you develop your plan – Avoid/Prevent, Minimise, Restore/Rehabilitate, Offset.

For example, you might start by looking at how you can use less energy, fuel or materials by making your buildings more energy efficient, consolidating driving routes to reduce fleet journey lengths or reusing materials.

You may need to prioritise some big-hitting actions to happen sooner, or set some actions to happen in future, for example when vehicle leases renew or offices are refurbished. You also may not know how you will achieve all of the reductions you want to at this stage, as some solutions may not yet be available.

#### Some examples of action plans for reference:

- **ACS Advanced Clothing Solutions Circular Economy Ambitions**
- **SP Energy Networks Annual Sustainability Plan**

Engagement with support networks (see **How to access support** below), other businesses and your customers or stakeholders can help you to identify and prioritise the actions which will deliver the most benefit.

### Stage 4

The final stage is to transparently report on your activities and reductions and keep continually reviewing and improving your actions to deliver more carbon reductions. It can help to engage and collaborate with other similar businesses or members of your supply chain to share case studies and best practice. Businesses signing up to the Charter will have access to a platform for reporting progress and sharing best practice.

#### Do I need to have developed a carbon footprint and targets before signing the charter?

Whilst it's ideal that you have measured your carbon footprint and set targets before signing up to the charter, we recognise that this might not be possible for all SMEs within the timescale. In the case that you are not able to measure your footprint and set a target before signing the charter, you are still able to sign up to the ambition of the charter, providing information about your timeline for footprinting and target setting and any carbon reduction activities you have planned.





# Definitions

**Greenhouse Gases:** Natural and human-made gases which trap heat in the earth's atmosphere, causing global heating. The primary greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (c.81% of UK emissions), followed by methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases.

**Carbon:** 'Carbon' is often used as a shorthand for all greenhouse gases as carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas.

**Carbon Scopes:** Carbon emissions are grouped into three categories called Scopes. Scope 1 relates to direct carbon emissions from owned or controlled sources, such as fuel combustion. Scope 2 relates to the indirect carbon emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling. Scope 3 relates to all other indirect emissions within the value chain.

**CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e):** Metric used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of their global-warming potential (GWP) in comparison to the GWP of carbon dioxide. For example methane has a global warming potential of 28 x carbon dioxide, so methane emissions are multiplied by 28 to indicate their CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, enabling like-for-like comparison.

**Net Zero:** Achieving balance between Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions produced and removed from the atmosphere. At time of writing a single global definition of Net Zero has yet to be agreed. This is expected to be clarified by the UN-backed Science Based Targets Initiative in November 2021, but it is expected that the definition may recommend that targets cover scopes 1, 2 & 3, that reported reductions must align with a 1.5°C pathway and that residual emissions must be specifically removed rather than offset.

**Carbon Neutrality:** Making or resulting in no net release of CO<sub>2</sub>e into the atmosphere. Targets must cover scopes 1 & 2, whereas Scope 3 is encouraged but optional. Carbon neutrality can apply to specific products or services instead of the whole company and offsetting is allowed.

**Absolute Zero:** Eliminating all emissions across Scopes 1-3 without the use of carbon removal or offsetting.

**Science Based Targets:** Targets adopted by companies to reduce GHG emissions that are in line with climate change science and the Paris Agreement. <https://sciencebasedtargets.org/>

**Embodied Carbon:** Emissions associated with the creation of a product, namely GHG emissions arising from raw materials, energy and industrial processes used in the processing, manufacture and delivery of materials, products and components.

**Capital Carbon:** Emissions associated with the creation, construction and end of life treatment of entire assets such as buildings or infrastructure.

**Circular Economy:** A circular economy is where products or systems are created with the intention of increasing life-span and adding as much value as possible along the way. It's an approach to business where everything has value and nothing is wasted. In simple terms, it can be explained as 'make, use, remake' as opposed to 'make, use, dispose'.



# How to access support

## Direct support

Those SMEs who sign up to the ambition of delivering this Charter may be able to access support through the Scottish Business Sustainability Partnership which includes Business Gateway, Scottish Enterprise, Zero Waste Scotland, the Energy Savings Trust, Circular Glasgow and SEPA.

In the first instance, please contact Business Gateway on [Business.Gateway@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:Business.Gateway@glasgow.gov.uk) and the team will direct you to the information and support you need.

Organisation	Description
<a href="#">Sustainable Glasgow</a>	'Council-led initiative formed in 2010 to make Glasgow a world-leading centre for sustainable policy, innovation and action. It has partners from housing, communities, business, universities, enterprise and education.'
<a href="#">Business Gateway</a>	'Offers professional resources and support to help anyone starting up or growing a business, including workshops, events, news and advice'
<a href="#">Scottish Enterprise</a>	'Scotland's business advice, support and funding agency'
<a href="#">Energy Savings Trust</a>	'Energy Saving Trust is a British organization devoted to promoting energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the sustainable use of energy, thereby reducing carbon dioxide emissions and helping to prevent man-made climate change.'
<a href="#">Zero Waste Scotland</a>	'Zero Waste Scotland provides free expert advice on the circular economy to help businesses cut waste and carbon emissions to meet net zero targets and end the climate crisis'
<a href="#">SME Climate Hub</a> • <a href="#">Useful tools</a>	'The SME Climate Hub represents a global network of like-minded businesses seeking to improve themselves, their community and the planet'
<a href="#">Goal 13 Impact Hub</a>	<p>'The Goal 13 Impact Platform is an initiative led by 6 partner organisations (CBI, A4S, Chapter Zero, the Met Office, Dell Technologies and Deloitte).</p> <p>The objective of the initiative is to build an open repository of corporate climate actions to facilitate learning and collaboration in the run up to COP26. Each partner is contributing value in kind, and the repository will be free to access.'</p>



Organisation	Description
<a href="#">Supply Chain Sustainability School</a>	'The Supply Chain Sustainability School is a free learning environment, upskilling those working within, or aspiring to work within, the built environment sector. We focus on 17 key topics of sustainability, as well as addressing topics in offsite, digital, procurement, lean construction and management. Membership gives access to thousands of learning resources and CPD-accredited content. The School also offers CPD training and networking activities.'
<a href="#">The Carbon Trust</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Resources</a></li><li><a href="#">Steps to energy savings for SMEs</a></li></ul>	'An expert partner for businesses, governments and organisations around the world – supporting them in realising ambitious plans for a sustainable, low carbon future. We believe that environmental sustainability and economic prosperity can go hand-in-hand as we address the climate crisis.'
<a href="#">Science Based Targets</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Resources</a></li></ul>	'Lead the way to a zero-carbon economy, boost innovation and drive sustainable growth by setting ambitious, science-based emissions reduction targets.'
<a href="#">Circular Glasgow</a>	'An initiative of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, working alongside key partners Zero Waste Scotland and Glasgow City Council, Circular Glasgow offers your business, no matter the size, a powerful proposition to help lead the way through innovation, design thinking and new circular business models.'
<a href="#">SEPA</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">One Planet Prosperity</a></li><li><a href="#">Sector Plans</a></li></ul>	'The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is Scotland's principal environmental regulator, protecting and improving Scotland's environment.'
<a href="#">Defra Carbon Conversion factors</a>	'The government conversion factors for greenhouse gas reporting are for use by UK and international organisations to report on greenhouse gas emissions.'



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