

# Tackling the Climate Emergency: a whole organisation approach

**Douglas Duff – Head of Planning & Economic Development**

*[Douglas.duff@Falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:Douglas.duff@Falkirk.gov.uk)*

**Mari-Claire Morgan – Lead Officer Climate Change**

*[Mariclaire.morgan@Falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:Mariclaire.morgan@Falkirk.gov.uk)*



**Falkirk Council**  
Development Services

# Climate Emergency

- Falkirk Council declared a Climate Emergency in September 2019
  - Commits the council to move toward carbon neutrality, with Grangemouth being the first carbon neutral town, in the area, by 2030.
  - Falkirk council is currently per capita the highest emitting council in Scotland
  - Despite this Falkirk are reducing our emissions at roughly the same pace as other areas
- What does this mean for the Council?
    - Carbon neutrality – what does it mean?
    - Is it achievable?
    - Possible actions?

By  
KIRSTY PATERSON,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY  
REPORTING SERVICE

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**Falkirk Council has declared a climate emergency as councillors from all sides of the chamber agreed to redouble their efforts to tackle climate change.**

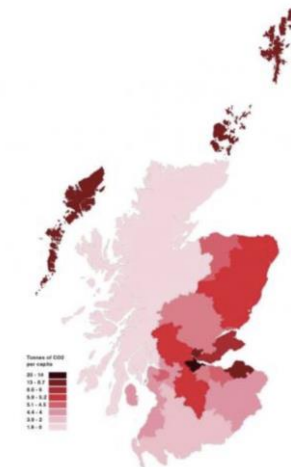
This included a pledge to make Grangemouth its first carbon neutral town and the area 'net zero' by 2030.

The SNP's environment spokesman Councillor Paul Garner told the meeting: "While the problem can seem overwhelming, we can turn things around. But we must move from climate talk to climate action."

The debate was sparked by Labour councillor Joan Coombes, who urged the council to look at ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Falkirk.

She said: "No-one can argue that we are in an emergency situation and that there is a growing public awareness of the crisis and widespread concern, not least among young people who are anxious for their own and others futures.

"Given that our area has three or four of the highest polluting sites in Scotland – in just one site we've got 2.5 million tonnes of carbon being produced – it's important that it's not just national governments but local authorities should also take a lead."



# Engaging with sustainability across the council

- Programme for Government; commits to early action to achieve net zero.
- Embed climate change, sustainability and adaptation within organisational governance
- Review of all policies and align outcomes required by recently ratified Climate Bill
- Develop LHEES and map out how it will interact with the wider community
  - Build on community partnerships to ensure an area wide approach focusing on maintaining delivery of core services despite the changing climate.



# A whole organisational approach

- Ensure that **all strategic decisions**, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are **in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030**.
- Ensure biodiversity goes hand in hand with any sustainable agenda
- Explore opportunities to offset our emissions
- Explore carbon capture opportunities and how this can enhance the diversity of energy solutions with Falkirk Area



# Falkirk and Grangemouth Growth and Investment Deal

- Falkirk and Grangemouth contribute significantly to Scotland's GVA – with a rich blend of nationally-important industrial assets, reputation for high-value manufacturing, vital post-Brexit export gateway in the form of its container port and internationally-recognised tourist attractions.
- Need to diversify industry and build resilience in Grangemouth for industry
- The proposed Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone Growth Deal has the potential to realise a genuine return for UK and Scottish Government investment, delivering an estimated 5,400 jobs and increased GVA of £230m for the Scottish economy.



# Benefits to the local community and economy

- Diversification and biodiversity
- Resilience for Economy as we decrease our reliance on fossil fuels.
- Falkirk is battling socio-economic factors that are increasingly widening the gap between the poorest and wealthiest sections of its population.
- Adult qualification levels in Falkirk are 7.6% below the Scottish average. High levels of fuel poverty and disadvantage still exist. Poor health is a factor too, with 30% of the population suffering from one or more health conditions, and 21% affected by a long-term condition.
- By committing to a Growth Deal, the Scottish and UK Governments can help Falkirk Council and its partners drive a more inclusive type of growth in the area including; the creation of high-value jobs; improved access to work, skills and education, that all residents can benefit from.
- Developing improved visitor and cultural facilities around these we will increase dwell time in the Falkirk area and help disperse tourist from our main cities.
- This work will be underpinned by a programme of employability and skills development to improve access to jobs, raise incomes and engage communities – ensuring the benefits are felt by all residents.
- Small local businesses will benefit from a community wealth focused procurement process.



# Projects and progress

- To date, the project register captures 94 projects, expecting to save a total of **13,000 tCO2e** by 2022/23.
- In 2018/19, 1,235 tCO2e were saved, representing 2.5 % of the Council's carbon footprint
- A total of 27 projects have been commissioned in the last few years including:
  - Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Scheme (LED lighting to several school, leisure and SW buildings, micro CHP installations, Solar PV installations)
  - Street lighting LED replacement – Phase 1 (& ongoing)
  - Graeme High LED replacement
  - Beancross PS/Nethermain PS – Refurbishment of heating system and LED lighting
  - Carrongrange High School – Biomass boiler Total installed capacity = 250 kW
  - 3 Solar PV projects (Kinnaird PS, Carrongrange High PS, Carron PS)

Other projects are in the feasibility study stage, the associated carbon savings calculations for which have yet to be finalised.. **As such, the overall anticipated savings could be substantially higher.**



# Projects continued...

New projects currently installed or proposed, and that will lead to CO2 savings from 2019 or later include:

- CHP extension Callendar Park
- Private Wire Callendar Park
- Double glazing upgrade– 1,500 properties/annum from April 2020 over a 10 year period
- External wall insulation for 104 properties located in Carronshore and Polmont
- LED Street Lighting lantern replacement programme
- LED lighting projects in schools (Mitie schools, Graeme High, Boness Public School, Grange PS, Drumbowie, Sacred Heart, Blackness, Shieldhill, Beancross)
- Other LED lighting projects (The Forum, Kinneil Civic Recycling, Carronbank House,
- Solar Canopy/EV charging facility at Falkirk Stadium, and roll out of more extensive EV charging network and EV fleet vehicles
- Park Power project





# Enabling Projects

In addition, enabling projects, contribute to a shift to a low-carbon economy, have been introduced. Such projects are delivered across Council service areas and tie into several corporate objectives.

## **Northern Connections (INTEREG),**

- European project - Falkirk Council, along with Scottish Enterprise, have partnered up with 21 other European partners to deliver energy efficiency and technological innovation, by establishing a Living Lab within the Grangemouth area.
- Currently, this work ties into several other large scale projects such as, the Falkirk/Grangemouth Growth Deal and the Grangemouth Flood protection scheme.

Similar projects include:

- Council-wide ban of single use plastics
- Double glazing upgrade
- External wall insulation
- Behaviour change projects incl. fuel efficient driver training
- Installation of EV charging points
- Launch of Falkirk Active Travel Hub
- Numerous biodiversity and peatland restoration projects
- E Bike scheme





**Questions?**

**Nope?...Great!**

