

Forum 2 Monitoring and Evaluating Climate and Environment Action

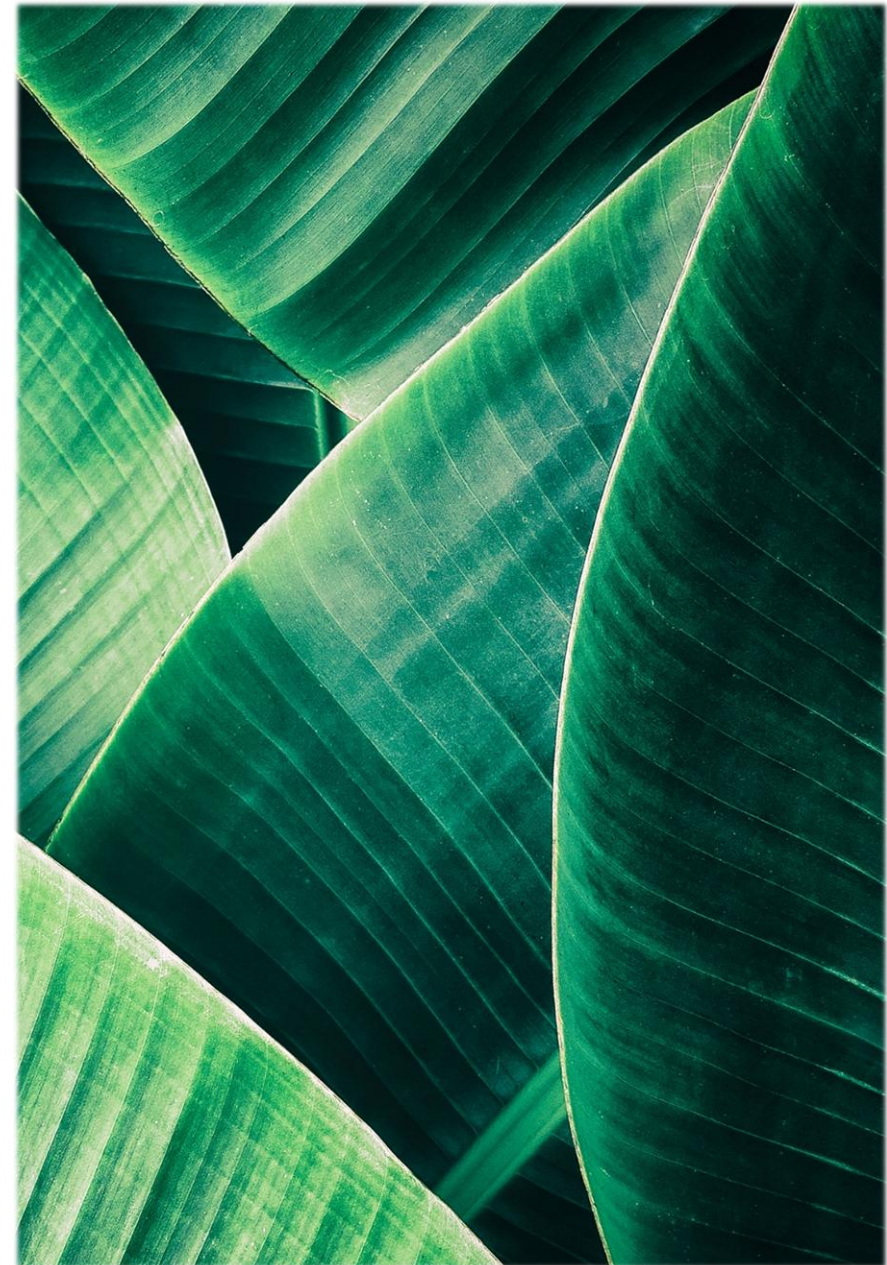
Thursday 4th December
2026

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Agenda

1. Introduction
2. The important of Monitoring and Evaluation
3. Considerations and Insights
 - a) Mitigation
 - b) Adaptation
 - c) Wider Environmental Action
4. Solutions!
5. Conclusion and Discussion



The Challenge

The Importance of Monitoring and Evaluating Climate and Environment Action



How do we....

- a) Demonstrate progress in reducing emissions against a carbon budget?
- b) Improve adaptive capacity in relation to the changing climate?
- c) Align with other important environmental action?

Considerations and Insights: Mitigation



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We all have ‘net zero’ targets or equivalent – how do we demonstrate progress in a robust and accurate way?

- ‘Net Zero’ targets and carbon budget: Understanding what we are measuring - District emissions vs Council Emissions
- All Greenhouse Gases (CO₂e) or Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) – what is in scope in your budget?
- Understanding Scope 1-3 Emissions (Note Emissions factors)
- Alignment with regional ambitions/targets
- Ensure that reporting is part of the governance cycle
- Make sure you are tracking your renewables
- Local Plan (reporting on progress and design standards)
- Accessibility – plain English, minimise jargon!

Considerations and Insights: Adaptation

The impacts of a changing climate are being increasingly felt. How do we improve our 'adaptive capacity'?

- Baseline... Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment: understanding your district context
- Adaptation Reporting Power, Round 4 (ARP4) and National Adaptation Programme (NAP3)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) - Consider alongside Ecosystems Services, Nature-Base Solutions, Natural Capital, Biodiversity Net Gain (...But avoid double counting!), Local Nature Recovery Schemes
- Risk awareness – Corporate Risk Register for climate impacts on council services
- Relationships with landowners/managers and the role of other statutory bodies and charities alongside Council Operational Services



Wider Environmental Action and Cross-cutting themes



Where does your climate and environment functions sit (are they in the same part of the structure?) – importance collaboration and buy-in with other services

Utilise and plan for Internal reporting (Cabinet/Council and Scrutiny functions) to facilitate political engagement

What is in and out of scope? (climate vs environment)

Align with other internal strategies and targets where possible (e.g. transport, housing, greenspace, flood risk etc)

Make sure it is measurable!

Ways to measure

- GHG Protocol – Scope 1 & 2, consider Scope 3
- CDP disclosure – internationally comparable (but beware what happened to SCATTER tool)
- DESNZ – LA Area bases GHG statistics
- Toolkits! E.g. LGA/LP GHG Accounting Toolkit
- Alignment with Regional/Combined Authorities, Partner Authorities
- Adaptation – ARP4, NAP3, LNRS
- Make use of APSE and other networks (NZ Hubs) to learn from others and share best practice
- Regular Reporting cycle to Cabinet and Council, Regular, timetabled Scrutiny updates, Cross-party Working Group/Party
- Clear and Concise – avoid jargon and make it accessible
- Partnership (internal and external)



Key Challenges



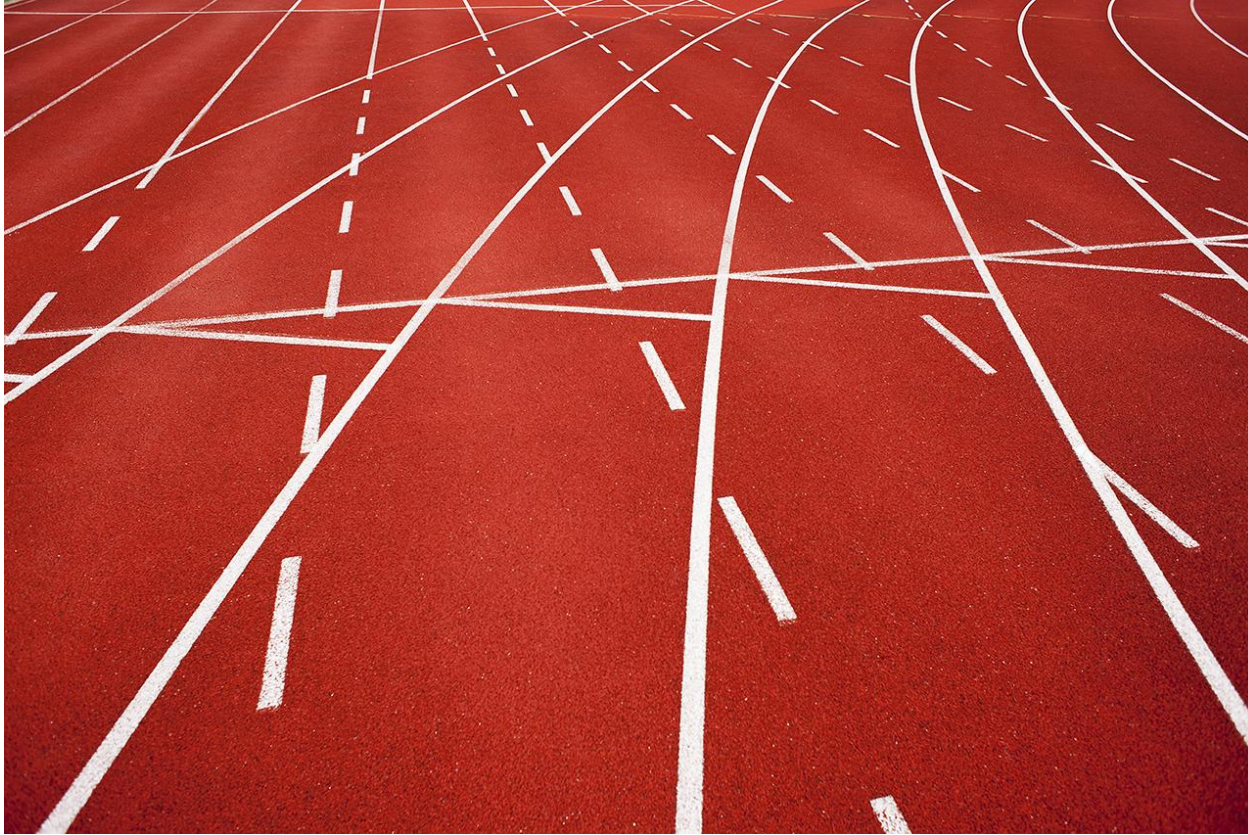
- Lack of statutory duty for LAs (but need to ensure that statutory duties/plans do take into account climate)
- Consequent cycle of 'boom and bust': how to resource M&E in these circumstances
- Scope 3 – difficult to accurately assess, should improve over time
- Science-based targets are hard to achieve (by design) – this needs articulating
- Adaptation often treated as the 'poor relation' of climate change action (though this is changing as the impacts become more apparent)
- Consider the overlap with other environmental priorities
- Minimise jargon
- Beware 'greenwash'! (accidental or otherwise)

Solutions!

- Reporting: use a recognised standard that aligns with best-practice and is comparable
- Commit to regular reports and work with members – keep it on the political agenda and use the Scrutiny process (this should help with resources)
- Ensure buy-in from internal and external stakeholders
- Mitigation and Adaptation need equal billing to ensure a comprehensive response
- Objectives and Targets need to be measurable
- Science-based targets are, by their nature, challenging – that's ok!



Conclusions and Discussion



Discussion:

How can we stay on track?

Does this align with your experiences?

How has your authority resourced climate action monitoring and evaluation?

Have I missed anything?

Thank you!

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