



Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation

Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 14th May 2024

Climate Change (NZ2030 & NZ2050) Update

For Information

Purpose	To present the latest progress report on meeting the Council's ambition to enable Net Zero by 2030 and support the county's Net Zero 2050 work in line with the current Corporate Objectives – delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change.
Content	The report concludes that the monitoring and scrutiny of the Council's Climate Change agendas has been successful throughout 2023-24 with sound governance in place, resulting in a high level of outcomes. Emissions data represents 2022-23 Welsh Government submission.
Councillors are being asked to	Endorse the contents of the report
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Andrea Lewis Battery recycling (Cllr C Anderson)
Lead Officer(s)	Mark Wade, Director of Place & Geoff Bacon, Head of Property Services
Report Author	Rachel Lewis (Rachel.lewis@swansea.gov.uk)
Legal Officer	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer	Ben Smith
Access to Services Officer	N/A

1. Background

- 1.1 The 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' corporate wellbeing objective has been in place for 2 years. The objective has three clear workstreams:
 - Swansea Council NZ2030
 - Swansea Net Zero 2050
 - Nature Recovery
- 1.2 This report focuses on the first two items in sections 2&3 - a follow up to last years scrutiny report specifically on Swansea Net Zero 2030 activity during the period of 2022-23, plus an additional update on the Net Zero 2050 wider Swansea programme.
- 1.3 A separate report will be presented on the Nature Recovery element at the May 14th meeting.
- 1.4 The report also includes section 4 which provides an update on performance monitoring on both the Net Zero 2030 and Net Zero 2050 steps, success measures and KPI's during 2023-24.
- 1.5 Finally, section 5 notes a specific request for more information on the recycling of batteries.

2. Swansea Council Net Zero 2030 ambition

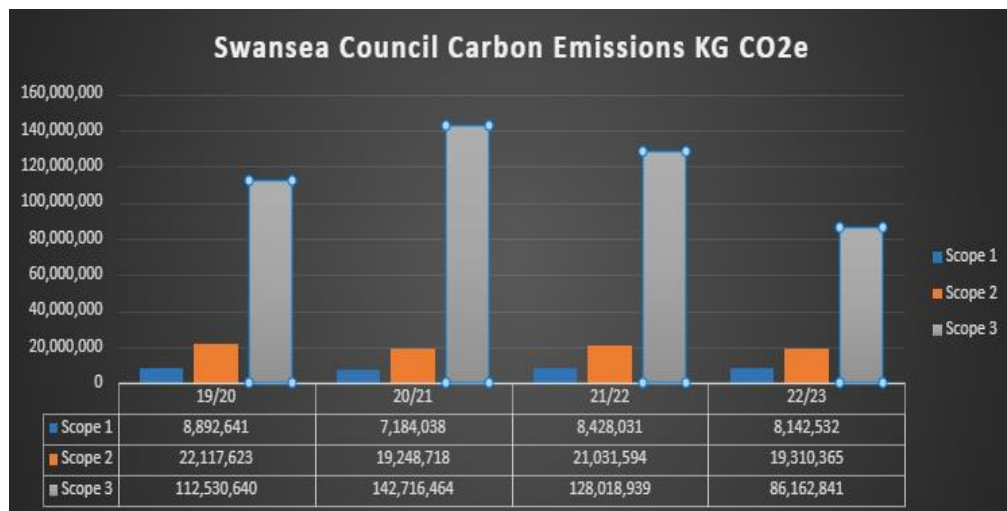
The Net Zero Programme centres on implementing the Net Zero Delivery Plan which comprises thirty key transformative actions, to support the ambition for Swansea Council to be a net zero business by 2030.

Swansea Council has reduced scope 1&2 emissions for the 2022-23 period. *Please note the Welsh Government reporting cycle operates on the previous full year of data.* See **Appendix 1** for Welsh Government report.

2.1 Swansea Council Carbon Footprint (Scope 1 & 2)

Scope 1 & 2 Emissions	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
	kg CO2e	kg CO2e	kg CO2e	kg CO2e
Fleet and Equipment	6,071,863	5,016,347	6,100,463	5,729,507
Buildings and Energy	22,117,62	19,248,718	21,031,594	19,310,365
Business Travel	575,168	129,319	285,794	615,015
Street Lighting	2,245,610	2,038,372	2,041,774	1,798,009
Sub Total emissions	22,692,791	19,378,037	21,317,388	19,925,381
Land based Emissions	-5,849,311	-5,849,311	-5,594,070	-6,702,325
Carbon Emissions	25,160,95	20,583,445	23,865,555	20,750,752

2.2 Swansea Council continues to reduce its carbon footprint.



To note, Scope 3 figures include municipal waste, new ways of working and supply chain. As a council currently supporting large redevelopment and investment programmes, along with a programme to build new homes, the supply chain figures are to be expected, and show parity with similar Welsh city's eg Cardiff.

A reduction in waste has been realised from the transition from Landfill to Incineration, which was completed in April 2022, so due to the reduction in Emission factors on WG reporting this has resulted in a large reduction on waste emissions. As an authority this now puts us in line with other local authorities in this category. Actual tonnage of waste is on par with the previous year and the focus remains on reduction, repair, and recycling.

2.3 The council continues to work towards a 30-point action plan for Net Zero 2030:

Swansea Council Net Zero – 30 Actions by 2030

Buildings & Energy	Fleet & Mobile Equipment	Land Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decarbonise our public estate by reviewing our asset management strategy. Reduce the energy consumed across the council's buildings and estate. Encourage employee behaviour change through training and process improvement Decarbonise street lighting with more LED's Ensure all new buildings are constructed to the highest possible sustainability standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition the Council's fleet to zero emission equivalents in accordance with the Welsh Government's expectation of light commercial vehicles by 2025 and other vehicles by 2030 Establish a fleet vehicle charge point infrastructure that supports this transition Optimise fleet vehicle use and efficiency Establish integrated data systems for GHG measurement Revise and approve the appropriate supporting policies, procedures and working practices Decarbonise Grey Fleet travel Decarbonise mobile plant equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP policy reviewed to protect land soils and habitats rich in carbon Increase terrestrial Central Area GI to 26% Tree planting areas mapped county wide 1000s new trees planted 30% of protected sites (local nature reserves, etc.) in positive management for biodiversity
Waste	New Ways of Working	Supply Chain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage circular economy values within Swansea Council – to minimise and prevent - reduce, reuse, recycle, Reduce operational single use plastics wherever possible Reduce operational waste e.g. food, paper Encourage operational recycle and repair. Reduce Construction Waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop emissions data monitoring processes Reduce commuting miles Deliver agile working policy Develop staff active travel plan Implement Healthy Travel Charter in Swansea Council Develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to Net Carbon Zero in our supply chain by 2050 Through forward planning and innovation develop new specifications for our contracts that deliver Net Carbon Zero Map and monitor our progress, with appropriate prioritisation and target setting

Despite the positive progress on Swansea Council emissions reduction, the project will remain on the corporate risk register as RED due to costs / budget issues around meeting the 2030 target. The good work will continue, and situational awareness is improving. We will continue to leverage grants as available and will work within existing budgets. The agenda will continue to face many challenges through to 2030, as per the recent internal audit review, see **Appendix 2**. The programme will continue to be monitored through the CC&NR programme board and steering group governance mechanism.

3. Swansea Net Zero 2050 ambition

3.1 2050 general update

Electricity & Heat Generation	Transport	Residential Buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete first phase of Blue Eden Develop Energy Parks e.g. Tir John Solar Farm Support delivery of Regional Energy Plan Support delivery of Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integrated and affordable public transport system Safe active travel networks across the county to recognise work and leisure hubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More EV charging points Residents aware of and able to access advice and funding for home improvements to cut carbon emissions More Homes built to Swansea Standard Decarbonisation of Housing Stock Continue to finance the Energy Awareness Hub through SPF Aim for 30% of (non –residential) Council buildings with wildlife features Swift boxes installed during retro fit projects where appropriate

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retro fit project for private homes to be piloted
Industry & Business	Agriculture	Waste & Circular Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards Carbon Zero training developed and delivered to businesses to aid decarbonisation with partners. • Grants for SME's to aid decarb from SPF anchor project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunity for healthy, local food production and sales • 3 projects undertaken through EPF to look at which community groups are involved in promoting the food agenda, what is the current state of play regarding farming and one looking at what plans the big suppliers to Swansea have in place to cope with CC. • Officer support for Bwyd Abertawe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve Welsh Government recycling targets • Promote the waste hierarchy and prevent, reduce, or reuse materials wherever feasible • Continue to monitor technologies and engagement with partners to recycle a wider range of waste material types • Plastic Free July to be promoted through events run by EPF • Initial funding for Library of Things • Pilot project for End of Term with SU and UWTSD to divert from landfill
Education and Engagement	Enriching our Natural Resources	LULUCF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting green skills and job creation through networks • School on Energy Sparks and moved to Sigma to monitor energy consumption. Decarb Plan written for practical behaviour change to cut usage and emissions. • Staff training – eLearning modules created for CC&NR with 00 staff completed module 1. Face 2 Face training delivered to different service areas. Toolbox talks for staff and public on energy, helping wildlife and water written. • Environmental Partner Framework set up and delivering projects • Engagement, Comms Plan developed • 3 events to be run across Swansea in 2024 – GBGW, Plastic Free July and another on September to engage the people of Swansea over the year • Workshops being delivered for the new A&M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Infrastructure policy for city centre delivered and one for county being developed • Training on installation and maintenance developed and delivered with partners • Tree Policy developed and awaiting approval • LNRAP delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDP in review • Digital twinning project for COP with WG and partners to deliver 3D digital model of Swansea

The council continues to work on the 2050 net zero ambition. Projects and engagement are subject to funding and therefore there are risks associated with that.

See **Appendix 3** link for full review presented to the CC&NR STC in December 2023.

3.2 Climate and Nature Charter Signatories Group

The Climate and Nature Charter Signatories has been in existence as a group for just over one year, with the first meeting held online in January 2023. There are currently 15 members from a range of organisations. These are organisations who signed the Charter recognising the need to work collaboratively for net zero 2050 and for nature recovery.

The group undertook a branding project to enable messaging and identity for the net zero Swansea ambition. This was undertaken with students from UWTSD, with some members of the Charter Signatories judging the work. The Swansea Project Zero branding was officially launched in November 2023 by The Leader and Deputy Leaders of the Council, together with the Signatory Group members at the Green Business Conference.

Opportunity to make a significant contribution towards the goal of collaborative working for the net zero 2050 ambition was made very early on, with the availability of grant funding, through SPF, for the independent development of an Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Swansea. This is being developed at present. It will identify key priorities and an action plan that will enable proper forward planning with meaningful actions to be taken by those that deliver services across the authority as well as ensure the communication and engagement for a more resilient Swansea takes place.

3.3 Environmental Partner Framework update

The Environmental Partner Framework (EPF) is proving a successful way of delivering projects identified as needing to be carried out either for internal information gathering or for Swansea community engagement. Since the framework was put in place in March 2022 the EPF has delivered 16 projects to benefit the net zero ambition. These range from behaviour change projects to more direct emissions reduction projects.

The projects delivered in 2022 -23 were mainly fact finding, foundation projects whereas in 2023 -24 these have been mainly behaviour change engagement projects that have used the information from the previous year to formulate and plan for project delivery.

Two behaviour change projects will be part funded into 2024 -25 with the ambition that future financial input from Swansea Council will be minimum, with the funding being used to kick start annual events across Swansea and to run a pilot project with both universities to divert waste from landfill at the end of the summer term.

4. Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments

The tables below show efforts against both Swansea Council NZ2030 and Swansea 2050 streams of the 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' wellbeing objective for the 2023-24 period.

4.1 Wellbeing objective steps

Steps to achieving the Well-Being Objective	Mar 24	
	Assessment of Overall Progress	RAG
Collectively support the wider Swansea ambition, working alongside Climate Charter signatories, PSB, citizens, schools, businesses, community groups and environmental partners to help deliver the Welsh Government ambition of Net Zero Wales by 2050.	Schools on Sigma. Training delivered and more schools engaging with system than before. EPF has delivered 6 projects with 2 still being delivered and running into next financial year. Energy Awareness Hub continuing with SPF funding - on track with funding spend and deliverables. Signatories A&M project continuing with workshops due to be delivered in early summer and Strategy due for completion by Dec 24. Mapping completed and expected to go to PSB shortly. Working with some Early Years providers to help reduce energy consumption. Part of WG group for CC Adaptation.	Green
Net Zero Wales by 2050	.	
Develop a Swansea Adaptation and Mitigation Plan.	Consultants working on background requirements for workshops etc to be delivered by summer 24. All ongoing.	Green
Support delivery of the first phase of the Blue Eden Lagoon project.	Land Transaction talks are progressing with Heads of Terms being reviewed in detail. UK Govt, Heat Networks Design Unit grant bid successful and this will fund a Detailed Project Development (DPD) report.	Green
Progress the development of a council-operated solar energy farm at the City's Tir John site.	Now linked in with the Swansea Energy and Transport Hub and Port Redevelopment Project.	Green
Aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements.	Ongoing project work across County. New GI enhancements underway e.g. Sandfields, High St, Townhill	Green
Support and enable the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and develop a wider EV charging strategy.	Funding has been awarded for 2024/25	Green
Progress discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub.	Swansea Council discussions with Transport for Wales (TFW) are progressing.	Green
Work towards announcing new Active Travel routes, which develop the built and natural environment and encourages higher levels of physical activity.	Funding has been awarded for 2024/25	Green

4.2 Wellbeing objective success measures

Success Measures	Mar 24	
	Assessment of Overall Progress	RAG
Reported to Welsh Government on Swansea Council 2022-23 emissions.	Report successfully submitted to WG for 22/23. Final summary received for review internally.	Green
Progressed phase 2 of the public buildings retrofit programme.	FPR7 Report to be submitted to Cabinet for approval to proceed with the energy efficiency and renewable projects detailed in the High Level Assessment reports; including approval to finance projects by Welsh Government Funding Programme, managed by Salix Finance.	Green
Delivered a second year of projects with our environmental partner.	Project slow to come in during last financial year but some successful projects were delivered and completed with 2 being delivered across the 23/24 and 24/25 financial years. Some projects already lined up for 24/25.	Green
Agreed a development model and progressed with the Tir John solar farm development.	Swansea Council Planning Committee approved planning permission (6th Jun 23). Now linked in with the Swansea Energy and Transport Hub and Port Redevelopment Project.	Green
Agree and announce progress on the Blue Eden project with our development partner.	Further announcements will be made at key stages of progression.	Green
Built strong collaborative working relationships with climate charter signatories on the 2050 Swansea agenda.	Climate Signatories continuing with A&M as above. Work also looking at the 9 areas for Net Zero Wales and what projects could be run and who to potentially bring on board to assist. Commitment/time of Signatory members an issue.	Green
Begun to implement our ULEV Transition Strategy 2021-2030, with over 150 ULEV vehicles and fleet charge points.	117 ULEV vehicles deployed in fleet of approximately 950. 110 charge points installed for fleet vehicle use. reviews of ULEV Transition Strategy, Home to Work arrangements and fleet utilisation to be undertaken in 2024. Significant overall financial barriers to ULEV transition remain. Fleet renewals will continue to seek green fleet viable options	Amber
Continue with the LED street lighting installation programme.	2,890 LEDs fitted in 23/24, 3.4% reduction in CO ² emissions compared to 22/23. CO ² reductions would have been higher but the government determined emissions factor used in the calculation of CO ² emissions has increased for the first time since 2014-15.	Green
Produced a series of Climate Change and Nature Recovery e-training modules.	201 staff completed training in 2023/24. Need to do another drive for staff to complete the course.	Green

4.3 Wellbeing objective performance measures 2023-24

2023-24	KPI measure	KPI actual
CCNR1	Numbers of trees planted during the year across the council.	350
CCNR2	The increase in number of council locations with renewable energy sources.	40
CCNR3	Number of Members and officers that have completed Climate Change and Nature Recovery Training.	201
CCNR4	Number of projects delivered through the Environmental Partners Framework to support ambition of Swansea Net Zero 2050.	4
CCNR5	Percentage of the Council fleet which are Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs).	12%
WMT009b	The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated.	70.82%

5. Battery Recycling

Household batteries include the following: car batteries, disposable household batteries, battery operated small electrics (e.g. power tools, toothbrushes) etc. These batteries are collected by a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) who are responsible for the targeted recovery and recycling of household electrical items sold by producers in the UK.

There are no recovery targets for non-household electrical items, including commercial batteries. This means that the Council would need to seek outlets if it was required to dispose of non-household batteries.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Whilst Swansea Council is 'on its way', both the net zero 2030 and 2050 work is currently proving a challenge with the NZ2030 target being raised as a RED risk corporately. This is in light of concerns over resources, technological advancement, skills, supply chain, and inability in some areas of the council to fully commit to the agenda in some areas due to conflicting pressures and funding.

Continued consideration needs to be given to embedding climate change and nature recovery impacts into all council wide activity, reporting and governance.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

8. Finance Implications

- 8.1 It remains unclear whether any substantial financial assistance will be forthcoming from Welsh or UK governments to meet all or any of the costs given this Council, like all others, face a plethora of other legal obligations and a stark outlook in real terms for public finances for the foreseeable future of the decade.

- 8.2 No significant future budgets have been provided for any indicative costs to date to be met by the Council. This reflects the explicit presumption that the Council will not be expected to fund costs out of core spending, but that alternative external sources of finance will be provided by national governments. However, consideration should be given to spend to save initiatives, for example future phases of the ReFit programme.

8.3 As has been previously reported, Cabinet and Council will have to have due regard to this in all future budget setting and MTFP decision rounds.

9. Integrated Assessment Implications

9.1 This report is for information only and an IIA is not therefore required.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Welsh Government Swansea Council Emissions report 2022-23

Appendix 2: Swansea Council Internal Audit Report March 2023

Appendix 3 – CC&NR STC report Dec 2023 – Net Zero 2050 Update [Report - Corporate Template \(swansea.gov.uk\)](#)