

**Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Roseanna Cunningham MSP**

CLIMATE READY SCOTLAND - SHOWCASING SCOTLAND EVENT

Good morning and welcome to the 'Climate Ready Scotland' showcase.

Here we have the leading examples of adaptation in Scotland today, as we seek to respond to the threats and opportunities arising out of climate change impacts.

Climate adaptation solutions are helping to ensure that our ecosystems, habitats and species remain in good condition and are better able to withstand climate change.

Notably, Peatland ACTION is helping to re-establish the active peat forming process in degraded peatlands.

We are also trying to improve our understanding of climate change impacts on Scotland's marine environment.

With our built heritage, Historic Environment Scotland, working in close partnership with our environment protection agency SEPA and the British Geological Survey, have undertaken a climate change risk assessment of over 300 properties in care,

and are now more informed in prioritizing conservation and maintenance programmes.

Climate change can affect our local economies, both positively and negatively.

That is why projects such as those at Balruddery Farm and at Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, that pilot adaptation within farming and forestry, respectively, are extremely important.

I am always greatly inspired by those communities that come together, perhaps in response to an extreme weather event or an associated impact, to ensure that in future they are more resilient.

For that reason, I am pleased to see the Weathering Change project featured. This is an action based climate resilience research project in North Glasgow aimed at bringing people and organisations together.

Unfortunately, it is often the most deprived communities that suffer the greatest impact of the effects of climate change, both at home and abroad, and we need to find ways to help them prepare in advance for climate change impacts.

We also need to ensure that all parts of society are fully engaged in preparing for climate change climate.

I applaud the conference organisers who have purposefully involved young decision makers from the Youth Parliament, Young Planners, and 2050 group, together with schools.

Young people are being actively involved in developing local adaptation strategies and adaptation lesson plans have been prepared for schools.

One thing that has struck me in many of these successful adaptation projects, is the recurring characteristic of working in partnership.

This is vital in times of limited resources. Working in isolation can stretch an organisation and it may struggle to properly respond to the full range of climate change risks and opportunities. It may even find it difficult to discharge its fundamental statutory responsibilities.

True partnership working can help organisations plug skills, data and resources gaps, can improve communication between partners and can reduce delay. Organisations will be more able to deliver comprehensive risk assessments, strategies, action

plans, climate resilient services, processes and projects when working in partnership.

In Scotland, some trail blazing adaptation partnerships are emerging.

Edinburgh Adapts published a Vision and an Action Plan containing over 100 adaptation actions earlier this year and Aberdeen Adapts is currently shaping the city's first climate adaptation strategy.

Glasgow itself is fast becoming a 'Living Lab' for resilience, and research will drive innovative solutions.

As I said earlier, Climate Ready Clyde is being launched by partners here today. This is a first for a City Region and they now move forward to prepare a risk assessment, strategy and action plan.

Responding to climate change risks and opportunities can be a challenging and complex discipline, not least because of international uncertainties on mitigation and potentially different climate change scenarios.

Adaptation Scotland resources such as ‘Climate Ready Places’ help to de-mystify climate change and suggest practical solutions.

Further resources are on the horizon, including a toolkit for major development which the Scottish Government has funded through Climate Ready Clyde.

To conclude, we think these case studies illustrate that Scotland is making good progress on our adaptation commitments.

We would very much welcome your thoughts and ideas as we start to prepare for our second adaptation programme in 2019.

Word count – 650 words (4 minutes)