

Adaptation Scotland

supporting climate change resilience



Adaptation Scotland Interim impact report

January 2015 – June 2016

Foreword

Sniffer is now half way through delivering the current three year Adaptation Scotland programme. As this report shows, in these first 18 months our approach has resulted in better understanding of the impacts of climate change and significant action to address these challenges.

We believe a climate ready Scotland can only truly be achieved by all sectors of society working together. By emphasising the importance of collaboration and collective action throughout all of our activities, we have created a network of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners dedicated to achieving this goal. Through our projects and events we help this network to share its knowledge, take action and continue to grow. In this way our small delivery team is able to drive momentum for adaptation progress across many organisations, sectors and places.

Our work is providing a strong foundation for organisations to achieve the ambitious goals of the current Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme. It is also paving the way for the next Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme, due in 2019.

As Scotland looks forward to hosting the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference in June 2017, I am confident that the Adaptation Scotland programme will continue to support and strengthen the ability of Scotland's organisations, businesses and communities to increase resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Scotland has the potential to be a world leader in adaptation and we at Sniffer are committed to deliver nothing less.

Ruth Wolstenholme

Managing Director, Sniffer

Adaptation Scotland provides advice and support to help organisations, businesses and communities in Scotland prepare for, and build resilience to, the impacts of climate change.

We work with a range of partners including those with interests in policy, research and practical implementation.

The programme is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by sustainability charity Sniffer.

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**Adaptation
Scotland**
supporting climate change resilience

 **sniffer**
knowledge brokers
for a resilient Scotland

Why adapt?

Scotland's climate is already changing with increases in temperature, changes in rainfall, sea level rise and more extreme events becoming the new normal. Work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will help to limit the extent of future climate change, but past and present day emissions mean that we can't turn back the clock and prevent the changes in climate that are already occurring.

Adapting to climate change is about supporting our economy, environment and society to develop with future climate in mind. It's about reducing impacts like increased flood risk or damage to buildings and infrastructure, and making sure that the steps we take to adapt create opportunities and wider benefits for society.

Adaptation Scotland is helping organisations, businesses and communities across Scotland to identify opportunities to reduce climate risks and take action to increase resilience.

Our work is designed to

- ▶ Increase understanding and confidence in tackling adaptation
- ▶ Inspire and enable collaboration and solutions to adaptation challenges
- ▶ Develop leaders who can influence adaptation across society
- ▶ Support local and global efforts to adapt



The who

Effective adaptation requires collaboration across traditional boundaries, regular input from leading research specialists, and responsive leadership to facilitate partnership working.

The Adaptation Scotland programme is delivered by Sniffer, drawing on over 20 years' experience of delivering knowledge based solutions to resilience and sustainability issues, and is funded by the Scottish Government. Our Programme Board is made up of representatives from across the Scottish Government and directs all aspects of the programme work plan and activities.

Development of our work programme is supported by an expert Advisory Network made up of senior

representatives from the public sector, business, communities and academia. This Network helps to identify ideas and opportunities for progressing adaptation challenges and provides feedback on all of our activities, ensuring our projects are based on the most up to date science and deliver the best possible benefits for Scotland and our partners.

Our project partners are drawn from across society, including some of Scotland's biggest public authorities and key public agencies, such as SEPA and Transport Scotland. Some of our partners work with us for years as part of multi-year partnership projects; others make valuable contributions for shorter periods.

Our Advisory Network and project partners include:





The how

Adaptation Scotland enables organisations, businesses and communities to play an active role in Scotland's adaptation journey. We do this by providing expert advice to Government, building capacity for organisations and communities, and supporting the development of adaptation partnerships. Shared responsibility and joint action are key principles that underpin all our activities, because no single organisation, business or community can adapt to climate change alone. It is by working together that we will create a climate ready Scotland.

To achieve these goals, Adaptation Scotland focuses on four key areas:

- ▶ Supporting strong adaptation policy
- ▶ Building adaptation skills, confidence and leadership
- ▶ Establishing collaborations and partnerships for action
- ▶ Promoting Scotland's adaptation successes at home and internationally

Supporting strong adaptation policy

The links we have created within the research and academic sectors mean Scotland's adaptation policy is developed using the best available science and research. We support evidence gathering for the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment and the Adaptation Sub-Committee independent assessment, ensuring the risks to Scotland from climate change, and our progress at addressing them, is accurately captured and understood. We also contribute expertise to developing new evidence, such as the National Coastal Change Assessment and the next generation of climate projections, creating a firm foundation for future planning. Our partnership with ClimateXChange enables us to help shape policy relevant research, and our innovative adaptation tools and resources help policymakers quickly get to grips with the challenges they face.

Supporting the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties

We worked with Public Bodies Duties team and Climate Leader Officer Group members to develop adaptation reporting and guidance as part of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Mandatory Reporting process.

Input to key research

We collaborated with ClimateXChange on research on adaptation finance and Scottish adaptation indicators.

We provided adaptation science input to the National Coastal Change Assessment, the UKCP18 non-government user group, the Infrastructure Operators Adaptation Forum, and the UK Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership.

Building capacity & increasing knowledge

We designed and hosted adaptation training for Sustainable Scotland Network members and members of the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges.

7 training sessions run with the Sustainable Scotland Network and the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges.

Creating new tools: Climate Ready Places

Our web-based and printable Climate Ready Places resources detail over 80 adaptation interventions across 6 typical Scottish 'places' (City, Suburbs, Coastal, Uplands, Lowlands & Industrial). All interventions are based on robust scientific data, providing both a visually engaging resource to introduce adaptation to a lay audience, and a gateway to more detailed information for policy-makers.

So far Climate Ready Places has been used as part of the Scottish Government's Climate week, to inform the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority's Clydeplan Main Issues Report 2015; incorporated into Scottish Natural Heritage's e-learning system (with over 100 members of staff completing the module since May 2016) and their annual climate change duties report for 2014/15; used by Education Scotland to introduce young people to adaptation; and by Planning Aid Scotland in training their network of 400 planning experts. www.sniffer.org.uk/climatereadyplaces/



Adaptation actions captured in our climate ready places resource



SSN and EAUC members trained in adaptation

Building adaptation skills, confidence and leadership

Through our Adaptation Learning Exchanges, we bring together Scotland's growing adaptation community. By providing tailored events, joint working groups and one-to-one support, we have created a hub where many of Scotland's most influential organisations share good practice, collaborate on new projects and promote the adaptation agenda across the country. New members continue to join our Learning Exchanges, attracted by its record of success.

Accelerating adaptation progress

We have stimulated a rapid increase in adaptation planning among Adaptation Learning Exchange participants including NHS Health Boards, local authorities and universities.

35 organisations participating in our ALE's

59 individuals participating in the ALE's

Protecting against climate risks

We have supported Scottish Water, Historic Environment Scotland, Aberdeen City Council and NHS Facilities Scotland to complete thorough climate risk assessments.

6 Risk Assessment Task Group sessions

Promoting adaptation

Our Adaptation Learning Exchange members have been promoting adaptation among professional networks for risk managers, engineers and the universities and colleges sector.

Driving change in Aberdeen

On joining the Adaptation Learning Exchange in 2014, Aberdeen City Council aimed to push climate change adaptation up the agenda internally, and to reach out to regional and sectoral partners to build collective capacity. Eighteen months later, through a combination of workshops, one-to-one support and participation in a dedicated practitioner-led risk working group, Adaptation Scotland has helped Aberdeen City Council to make significant progress. Climate risks are now fully incorporated into the corporate risk register and staff across departments are taking part in work to develop a city wide adaptation strategy through the Aberdeen Adapts project.

"Participation in the ALE programme has allowed Aberdeen City Council to develop an approach to embedding climate change in the corporate risk process that will be crucial to increasing city resilience."

Alison Leslie, Sustainable Development Officer,
Aberdeen City Council



1/3 of Scottish Local Authorities participate in Adaptation Learning Exchanges



**OVER
500**

people engaged through ALE community engagement projects

Putting adaptation into planning with PAS

Adaptation Scotland worked with national charity PAS (Planning Aid Scotland) to develop new ways of engaging communities on adaptation as part of planning and place making.

Adaptation Scotland ran three co-designed adaptation training workshops for PAS's network of planning volunteers. Through these events in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee we used our innovative Climate Ready Places resource to train an initial cohort of twenty-five expert planning volunteers, enabling them to bring their new knowledge of adaptation to their work with PAS and their own professional roles within the wider planning community.

With our support PAS went on to incorporate the adaptation knowledge in to their Go Garnock locality planning process and their Charretteplus® community visioning exercise in Cupar and Fauldhouse.

Over 365 participants in the Go Garnock locality planning process used a modified Scottish Place Standard to rate their views on their local area, including its perceived level of climate resilience, and four school sessions enabled PAS to trial a new set of child-friendly climate cards with 120 young people and their teachers. Both of these new resources have the potential to be widely used as locality planning gathers pace in Scotland.

With regular opportunities to engage with PAS volunteers through established training cycles, and a raft of new resources demonstrated to successfully bring adaptation into existing planning processes, Adaptation Scotland and PAS have, together, built a strong foundation on which to raise the profile of climate resilience in the wider Scottish planning community and the communities it serves.



Establishing collaborations and partnerships for action

Adaptation is a challenge where we really are all in it together. Our partnership projects, covering three of Scotland's biggest urban areas and our only UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, turn this challenge into an opportunity to do things differently. We break down traditional institutional barriers, getting the key players in the room so they can create adaptation action plans that are inclusive, innovative and responsive to local priorities.

Climate Ready Clyde

The Climate Ready Clyde initiative, originally developed by Adaptation Scotland, has secured significant investment to support the establishment of a regional adaptation strategy and action plan for the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Region.

Climate Ready Biosphere

Our Climate Ready Biosphere project resulted in a Climate Ready Vision and Action Plan endorsed by all Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere partners.

15 Partnership actions agreed

Aberdeen Adapts

Our Aberdeen Adapts projects is underway, jointly led by Adaptation Scotland, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen University. It will lead to a city wide adaptation strategy for Aberdeen.

7 partner organisations working to develop the project

Creating partnerships with Edinburgh Adapts

Edinburgh Adapts is a joint initiative by Adaptation Scotland and the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP). Beginning in spring 2015, this project brought together over fifty stakeholders at five innovative workshops and a series of one-to-one meetings. As a result, in the autumn Edinburgh Adapts will publish the city's first Adaptation Action Plan, containing over 100 committed adaptation actions and over 20 further aspirational actions. The accompanying Vision document sets out the project partners' adaptation aims for two key landmark dates, 2025 and 2050, and illustrates the benefits of becoming a climate ready city.

"By working closely with Adaptation Scotland on the Edinburgh Adapts Project, the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership has been able to enhance collaboration between key organisations and communities to develop an Adaptation Action Plan that truly benefits all stakeholders."

Councillor Lesley Hinds, Chair of the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership



OVER
100

Over 100 Edinburgh Adapts partnership actions agreed

1,789,500



people live in the area covered by Climate Ready Clyde

Promoting Scotland’s adaptation successes at home and internationally

In this first 18 months of our work programme, we co-led a successful bid to bring Europe’s flagship adaptation conference to Glasgow in 2017, supported three of Scotland’s major cities in taking part in the EU Mayors Adapt initiative, helped to build a strong international consortium to bid for €5million of Horizon2020 funding, and showcased Scotland’s adaptation progress at a number of international events.



| ECCA 2017 | International city partnerships | Showcasing Scotland |
|--|--|--|
| <p>The European Climate Change Adaptation Conference will bring over 1000 delegates from the continent, and beyond, to Glasgow in June 2017. It will provide an excellent opportunity to promote Scotland’s adaptation successes and show that we are a country at the forefront of the field.</p> | <p>Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling are now members of EU Mayors Adapt initiative, with Glasgow earning a place on the Rockefeller network of 100 Resilient Cities. Opening the door to additional funding, knowledge exchange and innovative tools, being part of these networks will help Scotland become climate ready faster.</p> | <p>Adaptation Scotland has brought Scotland’s story to events and organisations ranging from the International Institute of Environment and Development, Climate Ireland and the Australian National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility. By showing off what Scotland has to offer we have created new partnerships and opportunities for knowledge exchange.</p> |

Outcomes and learning

We have come a long way to reach this half way point in our work programme, with Scotland making steady progress on its journey to becoming a climate ready nation. The lessons learned in these first 18 months have been captured through robust monitoring and evaluation, and will ensure the second half of the Adaptation Scotland work programme takes us even further on our adaptation journey.

Building new partnerships and incorporating adaptation thinking takes time and effort, but experience has shown these approaches work. Adaptation cannot be put under one heading or left to one sector; it must be woven through the fabric of our businesses, public institutions and communities. Our partners tell us the seemingly simple act of bring together key people for networking events or workshops helps to create momentum for change and gives space for new, effective collaborations to develop.

The legislative framework of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties has generated energy behind adaptation efforts and increased awareness, but our feedback shows this energy is put to best use when coupled with capacity building actions, so that the work that gets done is that which will have the biggest impact. The first year of data on Public Bodies reporting shows many sectors are forging ahead, however many still need support.

Every adaptation project is unique, bringing with it different challenges, varied risks and diverse stakeholders. In response we have created unique tools, like our Climate Ready Places, brought innovative elements to our events, like live vision sketching and project pitching sessions, and built new professional partnerships to bring in the best experts the adaptation world has to offer.

Scotland's approach to adaptation is driving change at home and drawing attention from abroad. In the next half of our programme we aim to reach even further.

 **33** stakeholder events held  **478** participants

 **1387**
Twitter followers



561
Newsletter subscribers



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Sniffer is a registered charity delivering knowledge based solutions to resilience and sustainability issues.

www.sniffer.org.uk

Scottish Charity No. SC022375, Company No. SC149513.

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