

National Climate Resilience Summit

13:30-16:00, 01 October 2021, online event

Summary report

On 1 October 2021, chief executives, directors and other senior leaders from 70 organisations in Scotland participated in the Scottish Government-hosted **National Climate Resilience Summit**. This Summit was an opportunity to raise collective ambitions for an inclusive, resilient, net zero Scotland and demonstrate support for a global deal on adaptation at COP26 in Glasgow.

Delegates were welcomed by the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Michael Matheson MSP and the Summit's chair Kersti Berge, Scottish Government Director for Energy and Climate Change. In plenary, **presentations** were given by Maggie Ngwira, Climate Challenge Programme Malawi and Baroness Brown, Chair of the CCC's Adaptation Committee. Case studies were shared by from Nuin-Tara Key, Deputy Director for Climate Resilience at the Californian Governor's Office for Planning and Research and James Curran, Chair of Climate Ready Clyde. All presentations and Q&A sessions are now available to view on the [Adaptation Scotland website](#).

Dialogue sessions were held in **breakouts** covering: Adapting transport, infrastructure and built environments; Rural resilience and regional action; Transforming finance; and Supporting a fairer, greener, wellbeing economy. Discussions were co-chaired by a mix of public, private and third sector leaders representing the partnership approach needed to tackle the climate emergency. The major themes emerging from the sessions were the need for collaboration across sectors, culture change, getting governance right at the regional scale, making change acceptable to people, and the need to unlock more finance options for adaptation. Details and notes of the dialogues are available in Annex A of this report.

A National Climate Resilience Summit **ambition statement** was proposed to provide delegates with an opportunity to demonstrate and communicate enhanced ambition and collective leadership on climate resilience through their own networks and channels, in support of a global deal on adaptation at COP26. More than 50 organisations and senior leaders have to date endorsed this statement or committed to taking it to their board or appropriate governance structures.

- **Action:** Organisations endorsing the Summit's ambition statement are encouraged to communicate this collective ambition through their own channels and networks as appropriate during COP26.

See Annex B for the text of the statement and a full list of the signatories so far. It remains possible for organisations to endorse or commit to considering the statement ahead of COP26 or afterwards, if you are interested please contact Iain.Thom@gov.scot.

Annex C of this report provides background information on the context to the Summit and the event delivery partners.

Next steps

The National Climate Resilience Summit will be a reference point for greater collaboration, supporting collective action to transform Scotland into a climate resilient nation.

In the short term, the Summit's ambition statement expresses support for an ambitious global deal at COP26 which addresses adaptation and resilience needs in a fair and just way. Organisations endorsing the statement are encouraged to communicate this through their own channels and networks as appropriate during COP26

Organisations wishing to further embed climate adaptation into culture, corporate governance and organisational priorities are encouraged to explore the resources available (such as via Adaptation Scotland) to make use of best practice and past experience.

At a national level, the Scottish Government is both focused on delivery of the current Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024, and recognises that in light of the CCC's Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk more needs to be done to build resilience as part of Scotland's just transition to being a net-zero nation.

The findings of the National Climate Resilience Summit, and those of Scotland's Just Transition Commission and Climate Assembly, as well as the ongoing collaboration across sectors will help to shape further action and the development of the next statutory adaptation programme, which is expected to be published in 2024.

Adaptation Scotland is a programme funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Sniffer



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Adaptation
Scotland
supporting climate change resilience



Annex A – Summary of dialogue sessions

Adapting Transport, Infrastructure and Built Environments

Chaired by Hugh Gilles (Director of Roads in Transport Scotland) and Hannah Smith (Institute for Civil Engineers - ICE).

Most Prevalent Theme

- Collaboration - The cross-cutting nature of the challenge posed by adaptation and recognition that we need to exploit synergies, ensure join-up and work collaboratively across organisations and sectors.

Other key recurring Themes

- Interconnectedness – The interconnected and cross sectoral nature regarding the impacts of climate change; the possibility of cascading infrastructure failures and associated wider impacts.
- Communication/Messaging – The need for open dialogue with all stakeholders, including the public, on the need for adaptation, relevant costs and the impacts of climate change; the need for clear non-jargon messaging and language between and with all stakeholders.

Supporting a fairer, greener, wellbeing economy

Chaired by Annabel Turpie (Director for Marine Scotland) and Julie Proctor (Greenspace Scotland).

Most Prevalent Theme

- Collaborative Working – For the complex projects there are lots of parties involved, so collaboration and learning and sharing is vital. There should be a shift in mentality and so the pursuit of the agenda, i.e. climate resilience/adaptation, is greater than employees' commitment to their individual companies/agencies. The private sector taking on a stakeholder role could perhaps enable collaboration.
- Culture Change – The overarching theme which ran through most of the points was the need for a shift in the culture of all parties involved.

Other key recurring Themes

- Education and profile – Education across the piece is important but also ensuring company boards understand the issues and the potential solutions which could be implemented. So more emphasis on education to the individuals who can make the most change.
- Quantifying Understanding Metrics (such as risk and costs avoided) - Organisation mind-set needs to change to better understand risk, this will make it real for business' in the short term. There is also an opportunity to further develop 'Costs Avoided' predictions to further incentivise potential change.

Rural resilience and regional action

Chaired by Andrew Scott (Director for Agriculture and Rural Economy)

Most prevalent theme:

- Getting governance right at the regional scale – regional approaches are what will buy in the public support and make the connection to people.
- Action on adaptation and resilience needs to be acceptable to people, people can be persuaded but it needs to be accessible to them.

Other key themes:

- The importance of ensuring a link to national economic strategy – creating vision for what Scotland needs to be known for. In terms of priority we need a critical path to drive practical change over the near term. This includes the need for existing public agencies to get behind a shared vision for Scotland, with water, industry, land use all included.
- Delivering at pace and scale can only be driven at a regional scale – though enabling and empowerment.
- Integrating adaptation with existing processes, including at the local level (e.g. place-making and national planning policies)
- Just fairness – how do we include people on the journey, and include opportunities to give sense of hope and vision.

Transforming finance

Chaired by Kevin Quinlan (Director for Environment and Forestry) and Paul Watkiss (of Paul Watkiss Associates, climate adaptation consultancy group).

Most Prevalent theme

- The need for more understanding of how to progress finance options for adaptation action.

Other key themes

- Making links to mitigation – where private financing is being sought for mitigation action, there may be opportunities to build in adaptation action too (e.g. peatlands).
- Understanding private finance needs - the need to be creative and reinvent what the public sector sells to private investors to include adaptation. Need to demonstrate the social and governance (ESG) side of the investment as well as economic.
- Knowledge/Knowledge exchange - a crucial part in unlocking finance for adaptation.

ANNEX B – Wording of Ambition Summit and list of organisations or individuals who have endorsed or committed to consider the statement at board level.

National Climate Resilience Summit ambition statement

Scotland is already experiencing warming, with more extreme weather events and rising sea levels and these changes will continue due to the locked-in effects of global climate change. As a nation we must prepare for these changes in order to protect our places, communities, businesses and nature. This will include understanding climate risk and vulnerabilities, planning and implementing adaptation actions, unlocking finance and supporting transformational change at local, national and international levels. The Climate Change Committee’s recent Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk is clear it will be impossible to achieve a just transition to net zero or tackle inequalities more widely without also addressing climate risks, and that the time for us to build resilience is now.

As delegates to the National Climate Resilience Summit we support collective action to transform Scotland into a climate resilient nation. As part of this journey, we:

1. support enhanced understanding and action on climate risk and look forward to collaborating across sectors;
2. will further embed climate adaptation in our culture, corporate governance and organisational priorities as an immediate priority and throughout 2022 and beyond; and
3. express our support for an ambitious global deal at COP26 which addresses adaptation and resilience needs in a fair and just way.

First Name	Last name	Role	Organisation
Lucy	Stanfield-Jenner	Chair Of The Board	2050 Climate Group
Angela	Scott	Chief Executive	Aberdeen City Council
Jim	Savege	Chief Executive	Aberdeenshire Council
Joe	Docherty	Hseq Director	Amey
Jim	Macdonald	Chief Executive	Architecture & Design Scotland
Iain	Murray	Managing Director	BEAR Scotland Ltd
Grant	Moir	CEO	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Catherine	Pearce	Innovation manager, Sniffer	Climate Ready Clyde
Calum	Mackenzie	Head Of Property And Infrastructure	Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar

Ailsa	Raeburn	Chair	Community Land Scotland
Jamie	Farquhar	National Manager For Scotland	Confor
Paul	White	Director	CPT Scotland
Ben	Twist	Director	Creative CarbonScotland
Esther	Black	Director Of Corporate Operations	Crown Estate Scotland
Douglas	Proudfoot	Executive Director	East Lothian Council / ESECRD
Rebecca	Petford	Scotland Programme Manager	EAUC
Simon	Hodgson	CEO	Forestry And Land Scotland
Derek	Robertson	Chief Executive	Green Action Trust
Julie	Procter	Chief Executive	greenspace scotland
Alex	Paterson	Chief Executive	Historic Environment Scotland
Nicola	Barclay	Chief Executive	Homes For Scotland
Nick	Blyth	IEMA Policy and Practice Lead / Also Chair ISO Climate Change Coordinating Committee	IEMA
Adam	Donnan	CEO	Institution Of Environmental Sciences
Louise	Macdonald	National Director	IoD Scotland
Gordon	Watson	Chief Executive	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Nick	Halfhide	Director Of Nature And Climate Change	NatureScot
Mary	Morgan	Chief Executive	NHS National Services Scotland

JAMES	Mckinstry	Head Of Asset & Procurement	North Lanarkshire Council
Roddy	Mackay	Head Of Planning, Development & Regulatory Services	Orkney Islands Council
Laura	McIntyre	Head of Policy and Commissioning	Renfrewshire Council
Sara	Thiam	Chief Executive	SCDI
Ewan	Wallace	Chair	SCOTS (Society Of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland)
Catherine	Topley	CEO	Scottish Canals
Donald	Macaskill	Chief Executive	Scottish Care
Ciara	Commins	CCPM Programme Manager	Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF)
Philip	Revell	Convenor	Scottish Communities Climate Action Network
John	Thomson	Acting Director Of Finance & Procurement	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Carol	Raeburn	Director	Scottish Flood Forum
Peter	Reekie	Chief Executive	Scottish Futures Trust
Sarah-Jane	Laing	CEO	Scottish Land & Estates
Hamish	Trench	Chief Executive	Scottish Land Commission
David	Ritchie	Head of Partnerships & Engagement	Scottish National Investment Bank
Claire	Mack	Chief Executive	Scottish Renewables
Douglas	Millican	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Scottish Water
David	Harley	Head of Water & Planning	SEPA

Ruth	Wolstenholme	Managing Director	Sniffer
Martin	Valenti	Director For Net Zero	South of Scotland Enterprise
Roy	Brannen	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Transport Scotland
Andrew	Tyler	Scotland Hydro Nation Chair	University of Stirling
Roddy	Yarr	Executive Lead Sustainability	University Of Strathclyde
Kirsten	Urquhart	Chief Executive (interim)	Young Scot
Iain	Gulland	Chief Executive	Zero Waste Scotland
Wendi	Wheeler	Sustainability Strategy Manager	Scotland's Railway / Network Rail
Iain	Munro	Chief Executive	Creative Scotland

Annex C – The context for the Summit - the climate risks for Scotland and COP26

Scotland is already experiencing warming, with more extreme weather events and rising sea levels already locked-in from past emissions. As a nation we must prepare for these changes to protect our places, communities, businesses and nature, now and in the future.

The Climate Change Committee's latest [Independent Assessment of UK Change Risk](#), which Baroness Brown spoke to during the Summit, is clear that it will be impossible to achieve net zero without addressing climate risks, and that the time for us to build resilience is now.

In the light of the CCC's assessment, the Scottish Government acknowledged that more needs to be done to build resilience as part of the just transition to being a net-zero nation and in June 2021 the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Michael Matheson MSP [announced](#) plans to host a National Climate Resilience Summit to connect leadership across the public and private sectors.

COP26 is the world's best chance to deliver a global deal that supports the goals of the Paris Agreement and delivers lasting action towards a resilient Net Zero future in a way that is fair and just. The Scottish Government believes that COP26 must move the world from promises to action, and mobilise the ambition, finance, resources and joint working needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement goals. The National Climate Resilience Summit took place on 1 October, one month ahead of the start of COP26 in Glasgow, aiming to raise collective ambitions for an inclusive, resilient, net zero Scotland and demonstrate support for a global deal on adaptation at COP26.

Event delivery partners

The National Climate Resilience Summit was hosted by the Scottish Government and delivered in partnership with sustainability charity Sniffer under the Scottish Government funded Adaptation Scotland programme. The digital production company was Speakeasy.