



Scottish Climate Intelligence Service

Annual Impact Report

2025/2026

Executive Summary

Welcome to the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service's (SCIS) **Annual Impact Report 2025/2026**.

This highlights SCIS's progress in building capacity among all 32 local authorities in Scotland to effectively design, deliver and monitor area-wide climate action using ClimateView.

In Year 2, SCIS;

- Maintained high engagement with all 32 councils, and **increased officer engagement by 25%** compared to Year 1
- Delivered bespoke **support plans to 100% of Scottish councils**
- Supported councils to collate **over 1200 climate interventions on ClimateView**, which fed into Scotland's first nationally collated intervention insights report on the pace and scale of Scottish climate action

To read more about SCIS's impact for Year 2, jump to page 8 of the report.

At the end of this report, we share our plans for the year ahead, which continue to place Scottish local authorities' needs, priorities and goals at the heart of our work.

1. Messages From Our Co-Directors



Clare Wharmby



Judi Kilgallon

What a year 2025/26 has been for SCIS!

High points have been delivering with the team up to full strength, delivering our first collated interventions report and building a closer relationship with policy-makers through our National Sprint.

SCIS is all about using evidence and insight more effectively to unlock climate action in Scotland but to do this, we need to build relationships based on trust and support.

Thank you for coming with us on the journey.

2. Introduction to the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service (SCIS)

2.1 What is SCIS?

Building on the expertise of the Improvement Service and ECCI, SCIS is about using evidence and insights to strengthen councils' capacity, capability, and confidence to deliver climate action in Scotland. The programme combines the ClimateView data platform with practical support that is nationally consistent and locally tailored. To learn more about SCIS, explore our website [here](#).

2.2 How is SCIS helping?

Local authority climate action has the potential to reduce emissions, improve health, create cosier homes and maintain Scotland's beautiful landscapes. SCIS supports local authorities on this journey by focusing on three key areas;

- Targeted support for councils
- Strengthening data and evidence
- Working in partnership



3. Our Work In 2025-2026

3.1. Targeted Support for Councils

SCIS's Local Authority User Journey 2025/2026 offered a hybrid support model, which paired national cohort-based training with bespoke local authority support plans. This enabled councils to translate shared learning into context-specific action and impact.

Overall, **100% of Scottish local authorities** engaged in the programme in 2025/2026, with officer engagement levels increasing by 25% compared to Year 1. This saw a total of **129 local authority officers** engaged in the programme this year.

All of the workshops and training sessions on Teams have been so well run, really clear step by step for everyone as we all start to use the new system
- LA Officer

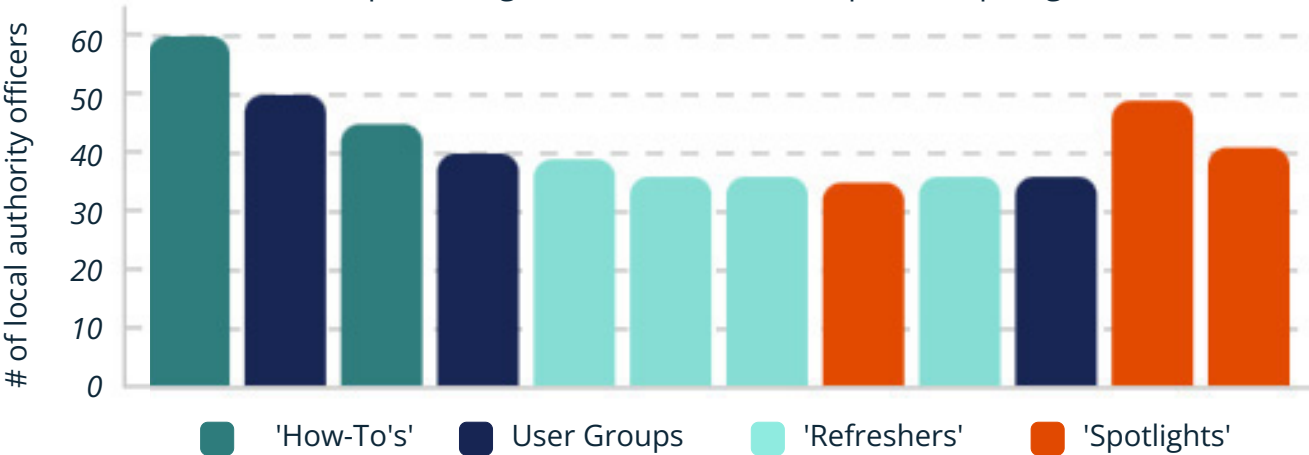
Really constructive open conversations - felt supported and in the journey together
- LA Officer

3.1.A. National Cohort Training

SCIS offered **6 different types of national cohort training** to local authorities.

Type of Training	Description
'How-To' workshops	Practical training on ClimateView platform and systems
'Spotlight' sessions	A collaborative space to share emerging programme thinking and to enable council co-design of this in practice
'Focus' sessions	A topic-specific session delivering targeted support to enhance use of the ClimateView platform
'User Group' meetings	Quarterly forums for strategic programme updates, local authority input, and shared learning and community building
'Refresher' workshops	An inclusive environment for new and existing officers to revisit fundamentals of the programme
'Drop-In' sessions	A dedicated space for real-time problem solving and troubleshooting

Image 1. Local Authority Officer Engagement Across 'How-To' Workshops, User Group Meetings, 'Refresher' Workshops and 'Spotlight' Sessions



3.1.B. Local Authority Support

SCIS balanced local authorities' needs for both standardised and flexible support through the rollout of 'Local Authority Support Plans'.

SCIS engaged with **100% of Scottish councils** to better understand their priorities, goals and support needs for the year ahead. These conversations informed the development of **32 bespoke support plans** to build local authority capacity around ClimateView.

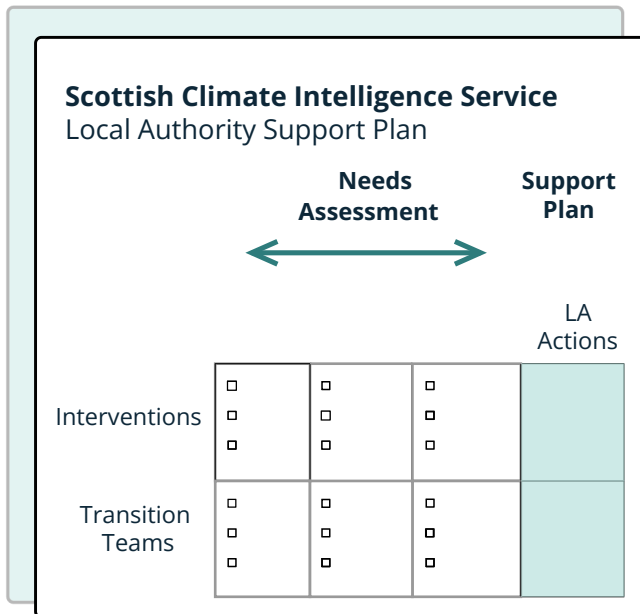


Image 2: A simplified visual of SCIS's Local Authority Support Plan

Each plan was centered around five key themes;

1. Interventions:

Using ClimateView to collate a clearer picture of local climate action

2. Transition Teams

Establishing coordinated cross-council teams that use ClimateView to share ownership, planning, delivery and tracking of local climate action

3. Transition Pathways

Creating accessible and achievable transition plans with actionable yearly targets

4. Decision-making

Using data-driven ClimateView insights to better inform decision-making

5. Wider Engagement

Using ClimateView as a transparent and accessible communication tool to engage the public and wider council members on area-wide climate plans

Support plan conversations surfaced local authorities' **top 3 priorities; interventions** (38%), **transition teams** (25%) and **wider engagement** (22%). These priorities directly informed the development of a) national cohort training and b) local authority-specific support for the year ahead, both of which were well received.

Support has been fantastic
- LA Officer



Always on hand to support when any questions or concerns arise. Have adapted to us regardless of how far or behind we are in the process

- LA Officer



Positive [support] plan with clear direction
- LA Officer



3.2. Strengthening Data and Evidence

ClimateView is a data platform that enables all 32 councils in Scotland to better plan, deliver, monitor and attract investment for net zero delivery.

To strengthen this data and evidence, SCIS's data team focused on 5 key areas;

3.2.1. Development and Management of SCIS's Area Wide Emissions Inventory

SCIS continued to develop and manage the Scottish Area-Wide Emissions Inventory on behalf of all 32 local authorities, ensuring a consistent and robust evidence base for climate action across Scotland.

In 2025/26, the **inventory was enhanced** through the incorporation of Home Analytics data, significantly improving the quality and accuracy of domestic emissions data across all local authorities.

Calculations and quality assurance for the 2023 inventory were completed and

uploaded to all ClimateView boards, alongside continued **methodological development** in areas such as ferries and AFOLU emissions with the support and guidance of experts.

To support accessibility and transparency, SCIS also produced a user-friendly **inventory methodology summary report** to help officers better understand the inventory and its underlying datasets.

Really useful tool for monitoring, communication and engagement running scenarios,

- LA Officer



ClimateView will be an extremely useful tool moving forward with tracking progress towards net zero

- LA Officer

3.2.2. Annual Emissions Inventory Reports Redesign and Delivery

In Spring 2026, SCIS met **100% of its demand** for 2023 Annual Emissions Inventory Reports (AEIRs), which amounted to a total of **29 tailored reports** for opted-in local authorities.

The report structure was refreshed to directly respond to local authority feedback.

Each report provided detailed area-wide emissions analysis across key sectors, alongside practical insights to support local climate planning and delivery.

The refreshed reports strengthened the accessibility, clarity, and usability of emissions data, enabling officers to better understand emissions trends and progress over time.

3.2.3. Platform Development and New Features

Working closely with ClimateView, SCIS supported new platform functionality in response to local authority needs and feedback (see examples on overleaf).



Example 1

Importing/exporting many interventions at once was time consuming. Councils asked for this to be less burdensome.

SCIS co-designed a bulk intervention import/export function on ClimateView saving local authorities time and energy.

Example 2

ClimateView only modeled one emissions reduction pathway at a time. Councils asked for multiple-scenarios modeling.

SCIS successfully advocated for a multiple-scenarios modeling feature, which enables councils to identify the pathway that best suits their area.

Example 3

Councils collated the same cross-border interventions multiple times leading to unnecessary duplicated effort. Councils asked for a more streamlined process.

SCIS launched the Intervention Library, enabling councils to share learnings, adapt successful interventions to local contexts and avoid duplication of effort.

3.2.4. Independent Methodology Verification

SCIS commissioned an **independent review** of its area-wide emissions inventory methodology to strengthen confidence in its robustness and credibility.

Aether provided third-party validation and constructive recommendations for refinement, which SCIS took on board. The final report has been published and shared with local authorities.

We had a great experience working with SCIS...The knowledgeable SCIS team engaged in detailed discussions, were transparent in sharing their work and very receptive.

Our review found that the methodology and data were robust...SCIS data will be valuable for local authorities going forwards

- Katie King, Director, Aether

3.2.5. Carbon Calculators

In Spring 2026, SCIS launched **user-friendly carbon calculators** designed to support local authorities in understanding the emissions impact of different interventions.

The calculators were tested by local authority officers who provided feedback to shape functionality and usability. The calculators now provide an accessible and practical way for councils to make evidence-informed decisions.



[The carbon calculators] were great and I came away more educated on what the tool hoped to do.

Since we have a carbon budget (and count reductions by teams) I was worried it was duplication, but it turns out it is a convoluted process for our housing team to give estimates so the tool will be welcomed

- LA Officer



3.3. Working in Partnerships

Plans for local emissions reduction are being led by local authorities but cannot be delivered by them alone.

Throughout 2025/2026, SCIS continued to strengthen its role as a key strategic partner in Scotland's climate landscape, supporting collaboration, policy development, and shared learning across local, national, and international levels.

SCIS engaged **37 wider stakeholders** critical to supporting a coordinated delivery of net zero.

Engagement activity focused on a number of crosscutting themes, including adaptation, just transition, health, wider co-benefits, and energy systems.

I was lucky enough to attend the recent Moray Climate Action Network workshop where an overview of SCIS was given.

The tool seems super user-friendly, informative, and streamlined!

- Local Delivery Partner, NHS



3.3.1. Nationally

SCIS continued to demonstrate its growing relevance in shaping national climate policy and delivery.

Scotland's Draft Climate Change Plan: 2026-2040



Two key aspects of SCIS's approach to area-wide emissions reductions were recognised and adopted within Scotland's Draft Climate Change Plan (CCP) 2026-2040;

- SCIS's monitoring and evaluation framework
- The co-benefits methodology and analysis used by SCIS

(See Annex 3 and pages 16+17 of the CCP, respectively).

With respect to SCIS's co-benefits analysis, initial findings estimate that the wider co-benefits of Scotland's draft CCP could "deliver over £6.3 billion worth of value to Scotland between 2025 to 2040".

These robust insights on progress and wider societal opportunities and considerations enable Scotland's CCP to be better informed. This supports decision-making that is just, equitable and effective.

SCOTLAND'S DRAFT CCP
COULD DELIVER OVER

£6.3
BILLION
WORTH OF WIDER
BENEFITS TO SCOTLAND
BETWEEN 2025 TO 2040



The SCIS programme was recognised in the Climate Emergency Response Group (CERG) report '[Embedding delivery in Scotland's Climate Change Plan: Improving Design, Governance and Implementation](#)' for its novel approach to large scale climate delivery.



On top of that, SCIS provided evidence to the Local Government and Planning Committee and Net Zero Committee.

The programme also engaged closely with COSLA and wider national stakeholders through fora including the National Transport Strategy Board and the Climate Delivery Framework Political Group.

Lastly, SCIS launched its 'National Sprint' series with Scottish Government and Transport Scotland.

Through three targeted workshops with key policymakers, SCIS aimed to co-design improved approaches to multi-level climate delivery by identifying local and national intelligence needs and sharing practitioner and programme insights.



The staff are knowledgeable and helpful and listen to the issues facing Local Authorities and feed these back to the Scottish Government

- LA Officer

3.3.2. Internationally

SCIS' innovative approach to climate governance and delivery gained increasing recognition in 2025/2026.

ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) globally championed SCIS as an [implementation case study](#) at its Daring Cities 2025 Bonn Dialogues, held alongside

the UNFCCC SB62 Climate Talks, as well as at New York Climate Week 2025. These events explored how SCIS supports Scottish councils to structure fundable, trackable and coordinated climate transitions.

Local authorities in Scotland are leading on climate action. SCIS is...enabling expertise between local and national government and the feedback we have had from elected members has been really positive

- Gillian Martin, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action, NYC Climate Week 2025



On top of that, SCIS was also featured as a best practice exemplar of regional climate coordination by the [Just Transition Commission](#).

Finally, SCIS championed climate leadership and transparency by sharing its learnings and unique methodology with interested parties. This included local authorities from England and Sweden, the Dutch Government as well as Canadian stakeholders.



SCIS Programme Impact 2025/2026



100%

OF SCOTTISH COUNCILS

engaged in the SCIS programme
in 2025/2026

1500+

INTERVENTIONS

analysed in SCIS' first 'Nationally
Collated Intervention Insights' report

100%

OF OPTED-IN COUNCILS

(29) were provided with an Annual
Emissions Inventory Report

40+

SOCIALISATION SESSIONS

delivered to local authorities across
Scotland

32

BESPOKE SUPPORT PLANS

designed and delivered to all local
authorities in Scotland

25%

MORE OFFICERS ENGAGED

in Year 2 compared to Year 1, bringing
the record to 129 officers in a year

6

SCOTTISH COUNCILS

set bespoke climate targets in SCIS's
'Transition Pathways' workshop

3

PUBLISHED DASHBOARDS

with 5 more councils publishing
their ClimateView dashboard soon

1

ROBUST METHODOLOGY

for area-wide emissions inventory
successfully audited by Aether

4. Local Climate Delivery in Action

4.1. Interventions

Interventions are actions taken to deliver emissions reductions

By collating interventions in ClimateView, SCIS supports;

- **Climate change officers** to monitor intervention progress and identify funding and delivery gaps and opportunities in one place
- **Council service areas** to effectively collaborate with one another using a shared language
- **Heads of service/elected members** to use data-driven insights to make better informed decisions
- **The public** to explore an accessible, transparent and user-friendly platform, aiding understanding of climate action happening in their area, why and the range of benefits this will bring

4.1.1. Nationally Collated Intervention Insights Report

In Year 2, SCIS supported councils to collate 1256 interventions on ClimateView. This is an 82% increase in interventions compared to Year 1, bringing the total lifetime number to 1518 local authority climate interventions (as of January 2026).

LOCAL AUTHORITIES
HAVE ADDED A TOTAL OF
1518
INTERVENTIONS
TO CLIMATEVIEW
(AS OF JANUARY 2026)

Using these interventions, SCIS produced its first ever '**Nationally Collated Intervention Insights' report.** This provided 5 never-seen-before insights on;

1. The Scale and State of Scottish Local Authority Climate Action
2. Scottish Councils' Key Pathways, Gaps and Opportunities to Net Zero
3. Local Authority Barriers to Net Zero in Scotland
4. Scottish Councils' Reported Carbon Reductions
5. Wider Synergies of Local Authority Climate Action

This novel and ever-growing evidence base represents a pivotal milestone for Scottish climate policy. This enables us to better understand if and how national ambitions translate into local climate delivery and, where further local authority support.

Using these insights, SCIS is engaging with key national stakeholders such as Scottish Government, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, SSN and the Climate Delivery Framework Political Oversight Groups to support sector-wide learning and impact.



4.2. Transition Teams

A 'Transition Team' is a concept used by SCIS to define a coordinated cross-council group that uses the ClimateView platform to share ownership, planning, delivery and monitoring of local climate action

A Transition Team (TT) is far more than just another council team. It offers an innovative model to climate governance, planning and delivery that supports strong coordination, communication and the use of a shared evidence base across and between councils. These are critical prerequisites for effective local climate action.

Just like local authorities, TTs can come in all shapes and sizes. Indeed, they may already exist, albeit under a different name. According to 28 local authority officers surveyed, **54% of councils already had something resembling a transition team** while a further **29% are working to establish one**.

54%
OF COUNCILS SAMPLED (28)
**ALREADY HAD
SOMETHING RESEMBLING
A TRANSITION TEAM
WHILE A FURTHER
29%**
**ARE WORKING TO
ESTABLISH ONE**



It's imperative to have conversations for collaboration. I think ClimateView will have a great impact with teams across councils

- LA Project Manager

Spotlight: East Lothian Council's Transition Team

As a one-person Climate Team, forming a multidisciplinary transition team was a valuable step in delivering area-wide climate action. In January 2026, East Lothian established a transition team called the Net Zero County Team, consisting of representatives from key sectors critical to addressing climate change e.g., transport, fleet, housing and heat.

The group aims to better communicate and coordinate collaborative funding opportunities across service areas. To do this, team members use a simplified intervention capture form to collate and share interventions, while meeting every two months to maintain momentum.

Over the coming months, these interventions will be developed further in ClimateView. This helps to build a clearer picture of climate action in East Lothian and to streamline future funding applications by having shovel-ready projects collated in one digital repository.



4.3. Transitions

This involves creating accessible and achievable transition plans with actionable yearly targets

Scottish local authorities each have unique priorities, challenges and area-wide emissions footprints. The same can be said for their transitions to Net Zero.

A place-based approach to transition modeling not only delivers area-wide emissions reductions and wider co-benefits but also contributes to Scotland's transition to Net Zero. For this reason, creating an understandable, actionable and achievable local transition plan is key.

In 2025/2026, SCIS supported **6 local authorities to explore their transition pathways** for domestic heat and personal transport. These included Aberdeenshire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Fife and Stirling Councils.

Thanks to ClimateView's agile and live interface, these workshops enabled councils to do the following;

6 LOCAL AUTHORITIES EXPLORED THEIR TRANSITION PATHWAYS USING CLIMATEVIEW

- **Ambition and Gap Analysis:** By modeling the impact of existing and potential future strategies on area-wide emissions
- **Transition Tailoring:** By developing emissions reductions pathways that best suit the geography, challenges and opportunities in their local area
- **Tangible Action Planning:** By breaking down long-term targets into their tangible yearly counterparts

Don't just take our word for it, here is what local authority officers who engaged in our Transition Pathways workshops had to say;

An interesting workshop which enabled the discussion on barriers and pathways to decarbonisation of domestic heating systems

The workshop is a useful way to engage other services into Climateview

Feedback from our colleagues is that they found it useful and enjoyed the back-and-forth of disagreeing with the targets, methodology and then discussing solutions based on what they do on a daily basis

It has supported us thinking in more depth about our pre-defined climate objectives and policies which I foresee will enable a stronger step forward in achieving these aims



4.4. Wider Engagement

Using ClimateView as a transparent and accessible communication tool to engage the public and wider council members on area-wide climate plans

Local authorities in Scotland are directly responsible for only **2–5% of area-wide emissions**, making effective collaboration with wider stakeholders essential to delivering Scotland's Climate Change Plan.

SCIS supports wider engagement by providing the evidence and insights needed to engage key partners — including public bodies, major local organisations, developers, and investors — whose action, investment, and insights are critical to delivering area-wide emissions reduction.

SCIS's support for wider engagement consists of 3 main approaches;

1. Socialisation Sessions
2. Partner Interventions
3. Dashboard Publication

4.4.1. Socialisation Sessions

SCIS delivered **over 40 socialisation sessions to 25 local authorities across Scotland**.

These sessions are designed to engage wider council service areas or area-wide delivery partners. They support local authority climate change officers to...

- Introduce new stakeholders to both SCIS and the ClimateView platform
- Equip stakeholders with a common language and evidence base to strengthen effective collaboration and to advance multiple shared priorities at once
- Encourage intervention collation to identify future opportunities for collaboration

Spotlight: MorayCAN

SCIS supported a partner engagement workshop delivered by Moray Climate Action Network, bringing together over 40 representatives from regional organisations, businesses, community groups, and local residents. The session

introduced participants to ClimateView, regional emissions data, and the role of interventions in delivering local climate action, particular mobility targets.

The workshop created valuable opportunities for collaboration and shared learning, with partners subsequently beginning to identify and share interventions with Moray Council to strengthen Moray's area-wide climate action picture on ClimateView

4.4.2. Partner Interventions

Understanding and collating partner interventions are a critical first step to achieving net zero. This is because the majority of area-wide emissions reductions sit beyond the direct control of local authorities. Progress therefore depends on coordinated action from a wide range of partners, including other public sector organisations, businesses, developers, infrastructure providers, and community organisations.

Capturing and understanding these interventions helps local authorities to;



- ✓ build a clearer picture of local climate activity
- ✓ identify common funding and delivery gaps
- ✓ identify opportunities for alignment and investment
- ✓ enable shared learning and best practice and
- ✓ strengthen collaboration and better coordinate delivery

To develop this area of the programme, SCIS is trialling different approaches to partner intervention collation, ensuring that each approach is easy and accessible for partners to engage with (see example below).

Spotlight: Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) Intervention Collation Pilot

SCIS partnered with SPT, East Renfshire and South Lanarkshire Council to pilot a new approach for

capturing and sharing regional partner interventions within ClimateView in a consistent and streamlined way.

The pilot informed the development of the ClimateView Intervention Library - a shared central repository of partner interventions which councils can easily access, and adapt on their own boards.

The pilot identified opportunities to improve reporting alignment and manage cross-border interventions. These learnings help to create a scalable approach for wider regional partner engagement across Scotland.

4.4.3. Dashboard Publication

SCIS empowered **3 councils to publish their dashboard** (Aberdeenshire, Glasgow and Dundee), with 5 more councils planning to follow suit soon. This is a major milestone on a local authority's journey with SCIS as a published dashboard clearly indicates councils' commitment to climate action, leadership and transparency.

Unlike historic climate action plans often found in static PDF formats, these live and agile dashboards are transparent and engaging communication tools that promote knowledge sharing.

A published dashboard empowers stakeholders to understand their area's emissions profile, current and planned interventions, why they are being taken, the benefits they can deliver and overall progress towards net zero.

As more local authorities publish their dashboard publicly, a real-time picture of climate action in Scotland will be developed. This will support shared learning and the exchange of best practice across councils, accelerating effective climate action.

Furthermore, this novel approach to climate planning aligns with improvements called for by Environmental Standards Scotland's in their [Climate Change Delivery Investigation - Improvement Report](#).



Spotlight: Aberdeenshire Council's Dashboard Publication

In September 2025, Aberdeenshire Council made history by being the first Scottish council to publish their digital ClimateView dashboard as part of the SCIS programme.

Their dashboard provides an overview of the climate challenge in Aberdeenshire and shows what needs to be done to reach their Net Zero 2045 goal.

By using a nationally consistent emissions dataset and approach, Aberdeenshire Council leads a nationwide movement helping Scotland transparently and collaboratively work together toward net zero.

In response to publication of their dashboard, Cllr Sarah Dickinson, Chair of Aberdeenshire Council's Sustainability Committee, said:



It is a real honour to set the first piece in this nationwide picture of climate action. Through the ClimateView dashboard, we've shared a live overview of our emissions profile, more than 70 key transition actions that we are taking, and our progress towards net zero in an easily digestible format.

Achieving net zero is a massive undertaking, and one that requires corresponding funding, collaboration, and dedication from public and private bodies. Our hope is that this work will pave the way towards more collaboration and new funding opportunities that enable local authorities to play their part in building a sustainable and resilient future for their communities.

- Cllr Sarah Dickinson, Chair of Aberdeenshire Council's Sustainability Committee



5. Forward Look

In Year 3 of the programme (2026-2027), SCIS will;

- **Continue to build SCIS's capacity and expertise** to better understand and support local authorities
- **Deliver bespoke support plans to each local authority** in line with each council's unique and evolving needs, goals and priorities
- **Support wider engagement** across council service areas and local delivery partners, to the benefit of local authorities in Scotland
- **Enhance multi-level governance and dialogue by sharing local authority insights** with Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to better align national ambitions with local delivery





The Scottish Climate Intelligence Service's (SCIS) Annual Impact Report 2025/2026 highlights the progress SCIS has made in building local authority capacity for net zero planning, monitoring and delivery through the use of the ClimateView platform.

This report has been produced by SCIS's Impact and Engagement Officer on behalf of the SCIS Team.

May 2026

