

Edinburgh Climate Commission Minutes

26 November 2020

Minutes from the Climate Commission meeting, held on 26th November 2020. Due to ongoing social distancing restrictions, the meeting was held on Zoom.

Attendees:

Dr Sam Gardner (Chair)

Bridie Ashrowan

Teresa Bray

Sophie Eastwood

Clare Foster

Alex Hilliam

Andrew Kerr

Diarmaid Lawlor

Adam McVey

Calum Murray

Daisy Narayanan

Andrea Nicholas

Professor David Reay

Welcome

The meeting began with a welcome from Dr Sam Gardner, and apologies from those not able to attend. Clare Hopton, from NHS Lothian, was introduced to Commissioners as she was joining discussions around the Commission's work plan. New members of the secretariat, Alix Davies and Charlotte Otter, were also formally introduced to Commissioners.

City Climate Compact Update

Clare Foster, the lead for the City Climate Compact work stream, gave Commissioners an update on the Compact since the last meeting. The project has centred on the key questions of 'what, why, when and who', to guide engaging the public and private sector on climate

action in Edinburgh. Echoing the message of the Commission's report on a green recovery, the Compact will work to ensure Edinburgh is moving 'Forward, Faster, Together'.

Key city stakeholders will work with the Commission to celebrate and encourage climate action in Edinburgh, while providing the opportunity to share knowledge and best practice ahead of COP26. Commissioners will help by growing this network and providing feedback when necessary. The Compact will be launched in the coming weeks.

Presentation – Jørgen Abildgaard, Executive Climate Programme Director, City of Copenhagen

A presentation on the innovative measures Copenhagen is taking in order to become a climate neutral city by 2025. These measures are based on a four pillars: energy consumption, energy production, green mobility and city administration. Jørgen answered questions from Commissioners on the issues of biomass and district heating, transport and mobility, and Copenhagen's co-creative strategy.

Presentation – Paula McLeay, City of Edinburgh Council

A presentation from the Council on their upcoming Sustainability Strategy. The presentation outlined the economic costs and opportunities of climate action in the city, citizen engagement feedback, plans for the City Vision and Council Business Plan in 2021.

Finally, it showed challenge areas for the Sustainability Strategy: transport, heating and energy efficiency, green development and growth, a wellbeing economy, and becoming a climate ready city.

Discussion

Commissioners were divided up into break out rooms to discuss how the Commission could best support the development of the Council's Sustainability Strategy.

Discussion points included:

- How the Commission could engage with other voices and expertise to strengthen their input into the strategy, collating best practice from other cities
- How the Commission can provide support on difficult decisions
- How to promote a holistic, whole city approach to addressing emissions.

The Commission would have to be clear about scope, encourage public mandate for climate action, and reflect the scale of the 2030 ambition.

Closing Remarks



Dr Sam Gardner thanked everyone for their time and the speakers for their presentations. A new working group would now be set up for the next part of the Commission's work plan, supporting the development of the Council's Sustainability Strategy. This group would be meeting more regularly, and all Commissioners would be invited to meetings.

The University of Edinburgh will also be supporting this work by providing a literature review of Net Zero plans and best practice from across the UK.

Actions

- Commissioners to contact Sam and Alix if they are interested in taking a leading role in the working group.