

Edinburgh Climate Commission Minutes

Minutes from the second meeting of the Edinburgh Climate Commission, held on 27th August 2020. Due to the ongoing social distancing regulations, the meeting was held over Zoom.

Attendees:

Dr Sam Gardner

Bridie Ashrowan

Teresa Bray

Sophie Eastwood

Clare Foster

Alex Hilliam

Diarmaid Lawlor

Adam McVey

Andrea Nicholas

Kaisie Rayner

Professor Dave Reay

Welcome and Update

The meeting began with a welcome from Dr Sam Gardner, and apologies from those not able to attend. A brief update was given on the reception of the Commission's Green Recovery report, and an outline for future plans to ensure a green recovery continues to be promoted in the city. Commissioners were given the opportunity to highlight any news or information they felt the Commission should be aware of.

City Partnerships

Clare Foster (lead on the City Partnerships project) gave a presentation outlining the aims and points for discussion for the City Partnerships project (the second part of the Commission's work plan for 2020). Commissioners discussed how to engage stakeholders across the city, while being sensitive to the different sizes and capacities of businesses and organisations. The possibility of a compact or pledge was raised, with the challenges of granularity and sufficient ambition being highlighted. It was felt that while the Commission must catalyse action and convene city stakeholders, it was important to set clear parameters for the project.

Commissioners discussed the importance of measuring progress and impact in the City Partnerships project, and the possibility of fostering climate action in the city through public and private sector

projects. It was felt that the Commission had the ability to create demand for complex projects that required multiple, cross sector stakeholders, and in order to do this, would need better visibility of what projects were being planned and developed in the city.

DISCUSSION: CITY COMPACT

One of the Commission's key recommendations for a Green Recovery was to *design and agree a city compact for net zero, to which public and private city partners sign up and commit*. We propose this means securing a collective commitment from businesses and organisations in Edinburgh to accelerate their business strategies/recovery plans to support the City's Net Zero target. The key questions being considered by the Commission are:

- What should be in a *City Compact for Net Zero* that makes it a strong, ambitious commitment that is relevant to businesses and organisations across the city?
- How would the Compact achieve visibility and transparency, in terms of both making the commitment, and the measurability and progress of sustainability outcomes?
- How do we best engage city stakeholders in shaping and committing to a City Compact?

Closing Remarks

Sam Gardner thanked everyone for their time and Clare Foster for the presentation. Commissioners were to provide feedback on the key questions for the City Partnerships project, and volunteer themselves to be part of the working group by 14th September. The working group will then develop a work plan to take the project forward.

Actions

- Provide feedback on presentation and key questions, volunteer for working group.
- Secretariat to research examples of pledges/compacts from other cities.
- Council to provide existing research on carbon footprint breakdown by sector/organisation in Edinburgh.