

# Edinburgh Climate Commission: 2020 Work Plan

---

## Introduction

Following feedback from Commissioners, this paper outlines a proposed Commission work plan for Year 1. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, changes have had to be made to outputs and ambitions for the Commission's first year.

## Priorities for 2020 Work Plan

A key focus for 2020 is to establish and operationalise a strong and effective Climate Commission, and operating principles for the Commission based on Commissioner feedback are summarised in the accompanying document on Commission operations.

The prioritised areas proposed for the Commission's 2020 Work Plan are:

- 1. Shaping and Supporting a Green Recovery Plan** for the city, as a direct response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This is to ensure the city's economic response to COVID-19 is consistent with and supports the target to be Net Zero by 2030.
- 2. City Partnerships for Net Zero.** Engaging key stakeholders who can stimulate, share and scale delivery of essential actions across the city. This is to ensure the commitment to Net Zero is shared and adopted across key city stakeholders, and enabled by critical influencers and delivery partners. This would have a particular focus on the business sector.
- 3. Accelerating City Activity.** Identifying and enabling impactful projects and programmes across Edinburgh to be scaled or replicated. This is to ensure that best practice is identified, recognised and encouraged to deliver maximum impact across the city.
- 4. Developing a long-term Action Framework.** Shaping a place-based city framework for future actions. This would develop a consistent, effective and easily deployed approach to areas such as action partnerships and impact evaluation for Commission-supported projects.

These are in priority order and delivery will spread over the remainder of 2020. The Green Recovery Plan is the immediate focus (2-3 months). Delivery will be enabled by effective partnerships, and better understanding of current city activity (4-6 months). The action framework will be developed in 2020 to underpin Commission activity for the longer term.

## Commission Support and Resources

The Commission is supported by the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation and it can draw expertise, knowledge and resources from the University of Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh Council, and other city partners to support its work. It can also draw on the knowledge, expertise and resources of the academic and city partners in the PCAN project.

Commission work is also supported by the EIT Climate-KIC funded *Healthy Clean Cities Deep Demonstrator* programme, an EU-funded programme supporting cities to accelerate towards carbon neutrality by 2030. Edinburgh is one of only 15 European cities chosen to participate and can benefit from investment and expertise to support complex system change. The City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation are the lead partners in Edinburgh, and are supported by four Design Partners with expertise in data and economic analysis, investment, engagement and systems innovation. This expertise and resource, and the connections and insights from other European cities, can be called on to support the work of the Commission.

Deep Demonstrator programme priorities and deliverables complement and support the work of the Commission, helping to develop the city sustainability plan and a portfolio of low carbon investments. It focusses on responding to the unique challenges the city faces, and helping to catalyse the most impactful actions through a portfolio of experiments designed to test innovative approaches and stimulate investment.

## Working Principles

The Commission's work will Challenge, Catalyse, and Convene by advising and supporting city partnerships, which can deliver action and impact in reducing the city's carbon footprint and target a sustainable economy.

As outlined in the accompanying summary of *Commission Operations Feedback*, it has been agreed that the Commission will:

- identify areas where it can uniquely accelerate action and lead to tangible impact
- focus on areas where decision dynamics are delaying city action
- provide independent challenge and advice to the City of Edinburgh Council and other city partners
- lead task and finish groups around priority areas, bringing additional stakeholders into the Commission programme
- ask Commissioners to take the lead on areas aligned to their expertise



Commission Priority	Outcomes	Outputs	Methods
<p><b>A 'Green Recovery Plan' in Response to Covid-19</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An expert-informed position for the Council, city and Scottish Government on what green recovery needs to look like in Edinburgh.</li> <li>• Ensure sustainability is not side-lined in recovery from economic impact and incurred debts of Covid-19 emergency measures.</li> <li>• Ensure sustainability is embedded into City of Edinburgh and other economic development partner's city stimulus packages.</li> <li>• Edinburgh's economy experiences a swift recovery from the impact of Covid-19, with city growth also securing significant reductions in carbon</li> </ul>	<p><b>Commission Paper: Principles for a Green Recovery Plan</b></p> <p>A clear position statement and call to action from the Commission on how Edinburgh should emerge post-COVID, to be widely communicated. This would be targeted with clear asks of city partners, Scottish Government, citizens and relevant national bodies.</p> <p>This will highlight, from a carbon reduction perspective, key opportunities to address and pitfalls to avoid in a recovery plan to re-build a city economy delivering a secure and sustainable future for its citizens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Recovery Team to meet on May 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• An economic perspective will be sourced to support the Commission.</li> <li>• Commissioners to input into relevant sections and recovery themes.</li> <li>• Bankers without Boundaries/Dark Matter Labs approached to provide economic expertise to support.</li> <li>• Provide guidance and principles for the City of Edinburgh and other economic development partners to mainstream sustainability into city stimulus packages.</li> <li>• Partners: Bankers without Boundaries, Dark Matter Labs, ECCI</li> <li>• Delivery Partners: include Scottish Enterprise, SCDI, SNIB, Scottish Government, other public bodies.</li> </ul>

	<p>emissions and socio-economic inequalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scottish Government 'asks' for financial and regulatory frameworks to stimulate a just and green city recovery with economic, social and environmental sustainability.</li><li>• Engage and build on community and local-led initiatives that have developed during Covid-19.</li></ul>		
--	---	--	--

Commission Priority	Outcomes	Outputs	Methods
<b>City Partnerships for Net Zero</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement of key stakeholders from across Edinburgh.</li> <li>Gain commitment from these stakeholders to the Net Zero by 2030 target and delivery of tangible action across the city.</li> <li>A collective analysis of 'how the city is doing' to be on track for 2030' - cohesion of plans, buy-in and contribution of city partners, investment in plans underway.</li> <li>An ask of city partners, calling on them to consider the economic case for carbon reductions and ensure growth supports economic, social and environmental outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>City Pledges: City Partners Committing to Net Zero Target</b></p> <p>Pledges from key city partners and stakeholders to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support the city ambition and Commission work plan</li> <li>commit to future climate strategies and business investments which support the 2030 target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioners' to draw on personal and professional networks into leading businesses.</li> <li>Identify and focus on e.g. largest emitters; largest employment bases; city-region supply chains.</li> <li>Interviews with or surveys of leading businesses in the city.</li> <li>Establish current sustainability actions, the extent to which sustainability is integrated into future business plans, and how.</li> <li>Ask for public commitments and visible actions to Net Zero 2030.</li> <li>Commission and City Partners can use MSc students writing dissertations on PCAN and the business sector, for example providing the students with questions for which the Commission specifically needs answers.</li> <li>Partners: include University of Edinburgh PCAN Research Group, Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>

Commission Priority	Outcomes	Outputs	Methods
<p><b>Accelerating City Net Zero Activity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and qualify examples of good practice in Edinburgh, in order to encourage and support replication and scaling up.</li> <li>• Identifying harmful activities that need to stop in line with achieving Net Zero, e.g. current investments with an embedded carbon legacy.</li> <li>• Bring clarity to areas where decision-making dynamics are delaying city action.</li> <li>• Provide clear advice on what practices businesses should be avoiding or ending.</li> </ul>	<p><b>City Actions: Identified Portfolio of Most Impactful City Projects</b></p> <p>Publication of Edinburgh-based best practices in sustainability, which the Commission will champion for upscaling and replication city-wide.</p> <p><b>City Decisions: Position Papers on Challenge Areas</b></p> <p>Position papers giving a Commission view on the most testing city challenges and choices, e.g. Future City Tourism, Transport, Construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioners to highlight and share existing positive activity happening in Edinburgh.</li> <li>• ‘Call for evidence’ from city organisations and public in order to build up portfolio, as used by Scotland’s Infrastructure Commission. (Commissioners can promote through own networks).</li> <li>• Interviews with delivery partners to understand why and how these have been successful.</li> <li>• Need to establish how harmful activity is going to be identified.</li> <li>• A sectoral focus on particular thematic or challenge areas.</li> <li>• Commissioners drawing on personal and professional networks for good practice examples and sector knowledge.</li> <li>• Partners: include University of Edinburgh PCAN Research Group, Commissioner organisations e.g. SFT, Changeworks, Sustrans.</li> </ul>

Commission Priority	Outcomes	Outputs	Methods
<p><b>Development of Long-Term Framework for Action</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring a strong and functional Commission, with continuous evaluation of its impact and value.</li> <li>• Establish a framework for future actions for the Commission.</li> <li>• Reporting framework: KPIs, outputs, carbon budgets.</li> <li>• A consistent approach for evaluation of city projects from a climate impact perspective.</li> </ul>	<p><b>A City Model: A Consistent Approach to Enabling and Measuring Impact</b></p> <p>Commission Impact Framework published, outlining: KPI's; City Carbon Budgets; City-Region Partnerships for Decarbonisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission to agree relevant KPIs, outputs and impact measures.</li> <li>• External team from Edinburgh University can assist with development of carbon budgets.</li> <li>• Once recruited, the City of Edinburgh Council Carbon Management post can develop and share Council KPIs and carbon management and budgeting framework.</li> <li>• Partners: include University of Edinburgh, PCAN academic partners, Healthy Cities design partners.</li> </ul>

**2020 Commission Workplan: Proposed Timelines & Priorities**

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>1: Shaping and Supporting a Green Recovery Plan</b>									
<b>2: City Partnerships for Net Zero</b>									
<b>3: Accelerating City Activity</b>									
<b>4: Developing a long-term Action Framework</b>									