

SEA Post-Adoption Statement: PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@gov.scot

Or

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SEA Post-Adoption Statement: PART 2

An SEA Post-Adoption Statement
is attached for:

Climate Action Plan (CAP)

The Responsible Authority is:

East Dunbartonshire Council

SEA Post-Adoption Statement: PART 3

Contact Details

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Neil Samson

Date

22nd July 2026

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT POST-ADOPTION STATEMENT

Climate Action Plan



sustainable thriving achieving

East Dunbartonshire Council

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SEA Post-Adoption Statement: PART 4

Introduction

The Council has recently adopted the [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#). The CAP sets out a framework and action plan to achieve the Council's net zero targets: net zero for all Council activities by 2045, and for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2036. It also aims to strengthen resilience to the on-going effects of climate change, while maximising co-benefits of the transition to improve sustainable development.

The CAP provides over-arching strategic direction to ensure that the Council meets its statutory net zero and adaptation duties, while also supporting sustainable development. The CAP uses modelling based on the Climate Change Committee (CCC) to identify actions required to deliver on its net zero targets. The success of the CAP relies on the alignment of all relevant programmes, plans and strategies with the CAP's objectives in addition to key partners' contributions to emissions reductions and climate change adaptation. Notably, the Council only has direct influence over approximately a third of area-wide emissions, which underscores the need for a collaborative approach.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The CAP has been subject to the process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This has included:

- Taking into account the views of the Consultation Authorities regarding the scope and level of detail that was appropriate for the Environmental Report.
- Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft Plan, which included consideration of:
 - The baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
 - Links between the strategic action with other relevant policies, plans, programmes, strategies and environmental objectives;
 - Existing environmental problems affecting the strategic action;
 - The strategic action's likely significant effects on the environment (positive and negative);
 - The mitigation measures envisaged;
 - An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives chosen;
 - Monitoring measures to ensure that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- Consulting on the Environmental Report.
- Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding the CAP content.
- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan to identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and to taking appropriate remedial action. The key findings are incorporated into the following sections.

Post-Adoption Statement

The Post-Adoption Statement demonstrates how the findings of the SEA have been taken into account in the adopted CAP. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Post-Adoption Statement will demonstrate:

- The integration of environmental considerations into the CAP;
- How the findings of the Environmental Report have been taken into account;
- How opinions expressed, from both the Community and Consultation Authorities, during the consultation of the Environmental Report have been taken into account;
- The reasons for choosing the CAP as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives; and,

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- The measures to be taken to monitor the significant effects identified through the implementation of the CAP.

Section 1: Key Facts	Section 1 details the CAP remit and the enabling legislation.
Section 2: Environmental Considerations	Section 2 details how environmental considerations have been integrated into the CAP and notes how the environmental problems identified in the Scoping and Environmental Reports have been addressed.
Section 3: Consideration of Alternatives	Section 3 details the methods adopted to develop the CAP.
Section 4: Consultation	Section 4 sets out the responses received from the Consultation Authorities and other interested parties, which are of relevance to the SEA Environmental Report. It states the actions taken as a result of the responses received from the Consultation Authorities. *Note – No response submitted by SEPA on the Draft CAP ER.
Section 5: Monitoring	Section 5 details the monitoring required to ensure compliance with the CAP.
Section 6: Conclusion	Section 6 summarises how the SEA process has informed the development of the CAP.
Appendix 1: Consultation Responses to the Draft CAP Environmental Report	Consultation responses received from NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland in response to the draft CAP Environmental Report. *Note – No response submitted by SEPA on the Draft CAP ER.

Section 1: Key Facts

Responsible Authority: East Dunbartonshire Council

Title of PPS: Climate Action Plan (CAP)

What prompted the PPS? Legislation and regulatory provision: The Scottish Government has set a target to achieve net zero emissions by 2045¹ through a carbon budget-based process enacted in 2024.² The Scottish Government's 2020 [Climate Change Plan update](#)³ guides action to meet national budgets which are to be set every 5 years. A further draft of the third Scottish Climate Change Plan is expected to accompany secondary legislation on the carbon budgeting process.

This legislative framework has been further bolstered through [Scotland's Climate Change Plan 2026-2040](#) (CCP). The new CCP sets out the policies and proposals Scotland will need to take forward to enable set carbon budgets to be met between 2026 and 2040.

Following the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020, public bodies are required to report on:

- A target date for achieving zero direct emissions;
- Targets for reducing indirect emissions;
- An outline of how the body will align its spending plans and resource use to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering emissions reduction targets;
- An outline of how the body will publish its progress on delivering reduction targets; and
- Where applicable, what contribution the body has made to deliver Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Additional climate targets that apply to public bodies include the following:

- Zero direct emissions by 2045 in compliance with national targets and interim benchmarks to monitor progress.
- Zero direct emissions from all estate buildings by 2038.
- Net zero targets for indirect emissions that clearly state what is included.

Subject: Climate change (mitigation and adaptation) – other subjects that are included are transport, building and heat decarbonisation, sustainable communities, natural environment, consumption and waste, business, supply chains, investment and digital infrastructure and food and agriculture.

Period covered: The Climate Action Plan will cover the period from 2026-2040 to align with the new Scottish Climate Change Plan. The Council has a statutory duty to support the delivery of these targets and will be required to report to the Scottish Government on progress towards contributing to their delivery on an annual basis and the Plan will set the context for this reporting.

Frequency of updates: Progress on delivering the actions from the CAP will be reviewed at least annually.

¹ Scottish Government (2019) [Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#)

² Scottish Government (2024) [Climate Change Bill passed - gov.scot](#)

³ Scottish Government (2020) [Supporting documents - Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 - update - gov.scot](#)

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Responsible Authority: East Dunbartonshire Council
Area covered by the PPS: East Dunbartonshire Council area.

Purpose of the PPS: The Climate Action Plan (CAP) sets out a framework and action plan to achieve the Council's net zero targets: net zero for all Council activities by 2045, and for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2036. It also aims to strengthen resilience to the on-going effects of climate change, while maximising co-benefits of the transition to improve sustainable development.

The CAP provides over-arching strategic direction to ensure that the Council meets its statutory net zero and adaptation duties, while also supporting sustainable development. The CAP uses modelling based on the Climate Change Committee (CCC) to identify actions required to deliver on its net zero targets. The success of the CAP relies on the alignment of all relevant programmes, plans and strategies with the CAP's objectives in addition to key partners' contributions to emissions reductions and climate change adaptation. Notably, the Council only has direct influence over approximately a third of area-wide emissions, which underscores the need for a collaborative approach.

CAP Outcomes: The CAP mission, objectives and themes were developed based upon key points from East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), the Council's Climate Conversation and Draft CAP consultation, a comparative analysis of other Council approaches, relevant Impact Assessment processes and independent input from the environmental consultant firm, Ricardo. Thematic actions have been established to contribute to net zero targets and the CAP's governing and monitoring framework which underpin each theme.

The Mission for the CAP is as follows:

East Dunbartonshire is carbon neutral and climate resilient with a better quality natural and built environment conducive to healthier, more active lifestyles and flourishing biodiversity. Decisive action has achieved a just and inclusive transition that has created high value jobs, investment, and equipped people with the knowledge and skills to thrive in a low-carbon, wellbeing economy.

The objectives for the CAP are set out below:

Objective 1 – Prioritise Council spending plans and resource allocation to reduce emissions, support adaptation and deliver on the Council's net zero targets with a presumption against expenditure, investment, and infrastructure that would hinder achievement of net zero and increased climate resilience.

Objective 2 – Set ambitious, interim targets on the path to net zero emissions for the Council and the East Dunbartonshire area accompanied by a robust framework for transparent monitoring and review, and effective governance.

Objective 3 – Integrate climate considerations including biodiversity gain into all Council decision-making processes by developing a standardised approach to climate change risk and impact assessments

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encompassing all council decision making processes, policies, plans and strategies.

Objective 4 – Improve climate change awareness, strengthen community resilience, and encourage behaviour change to promote a just transition and reduced vulnerability.

Objective 5 – Maximise the social, economic and environmental co-benefits of local climate action including nature-based solutions achieving efficient use of natural resources and improving health and well-being outcomes.

These objectives are actioned through 8 themes, which organise key actions to reach net zero and build climate resilience:

1. Transport:

Switching to significantly more walking, cycling and zero carbon public transport modes, making car-free living more viable across East Dunbartonshire and converting Council fleet vehicles to zero carbon fuels.

2. Buildings and Heat Decarbonisation:

Retrofitting buildings to become energy efficient, carbon neutral and resilient to a changing climate with the Council leading by example on the decarbonisation of its buildings. Maximising local renewable energy generation and increasing system resilience, while facilitating the electrification of heat including through smart electricity usage.

3. Sustainable Communities:

Ensuring that planning and patterns of development make low-carbon lifestyles and local resilience more viable with a presumption against proposals that would lead to additional emissions or create dependence on high-carbon transport and infrastructure.

4. Natural Environment:

Restoring, protecting and enhancing greenspaces and biodiversity as the climate continues to change.

5. Consumption and Waste:

Reducing the emission intensity of consumption through responsible buying of goods and services and zero carbon waste management.

6. Business and the Economy:

Supporting businesses to become carbon neutral and climate resilient, capturing job opportunities, bolstering investment to thrive in a low-carbon, wellbeing economy while supporting a just transition to ensure that nobody is left behind.

7. Supply Chains, Investment and Digital Infrastructure:

Driving forward carbon neutral supply chains by reducing emissions from the Council's supply chain and investments, and exploiting digital and technological opportunities that drive forward decarbonisation in order to leave East Dunbartonshire less exposed to climatic hostility,

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hazards and financial vulnerability including exposure to stranded assets.

8. **Food:** Establishing a resilient sustainable supply chain, with food and drink produced locally and enhanced community food growing, in addition to supporting movement to a plant-based diet.

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Section 2: Environmental Considerations

2.1. Integration of Environmental Considerations in the Climate Action Plan

2.1.1. This chapter highlights how environmental considerations have been integrated into the final CAP. Table 1 highlights how the environmental problems identified in the Scoping and Environmental Reports have been addressed through inclusion of actions or the alteration of existing actions within the CAP.

Table 1: Implementing Environmental Considerations

SEA Topic	Relevant Environmental Issues	How the CAP/SEA ER have addressed the issues
Population and Human Health	East Dunbartonshire has datazones which fall into the top 25% most deprived areas in Scotland; these datazones are located in Auchinairn, Hillhead and Harestanes, Lennoxtown and Twechar.	The CAP addresses these issues through focusing on improving energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty. The CAP includes specific measures for council estates and vulnerable communities. The Environmental Report evaluates how energy efficiency measures will benefit vulnerable communities whilst avoiding adverse environmental effects.
Population and Human Health	Some town centre environments within East Dunbartonshire are neglected, run down and in need of regeneration; this includes the Council estate. Carbon management options will improve the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings. Corporately, improvements will include those within the Council estate and could present benefits for townscape and the attractiveness of our localities.	The CAP incorporates regeneration strategies for town centres particularly focusing on energy efficiency improvements in council buildings and promoting sustainable urban development. The SEA evaluates at a high level the environmental effects of regeneration proposals ensuring that carbon management and energy efficient improvements align with wider environmental objectives.
Population and Human Health	Fuel poverty affects approximately 28% of households in East Dunbartonshire and are	The CAP provides context around fuel-poor households through energy efficiency measures. Specific actions include area wide

Population and Human Health

estimated to be higher for pensioner households, with the Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS) reporting that 40% of pensioner households in East Dunbartonshire are fuel poor. Extreme fuel poverty – where more than 20% of household income is spent on fuel affects 6% of East Dunbartonshire households. This rises to 12% of pensioner households. Drivers of fuel poverty including income profiles, energy efficiency and the cost of fuel will be a key priority of the CAP with opportunities to mitigate against the impacts. Opportunities aimed at areas of deprivation will tackle issues such as fuel poverty, ensuring that our communities have access to efficient and affordable energy.

East Dunbartonshire Council is the largest local employer in the area. The CAP presents an opportunity for significant changes within the Council estate and practices. There is also scope to target other employers and organisations to make changes in order to reduce carbon emissions with the Council leading by example. Businesses and organisations that operate within East Dunbartonshire will be included within the scope of the Action Plan in order to identify appropriate action to take forward in order to demonstrate a collaborative approach to achieving net zero targets.

actions on energy efficiency related retrofits (albeit this is not specific to instances of fuel-poverty) and developing methods to ensure the housing estate stock aligns with climate change and relevant sustainability policies.

The SEA assesses at a strategic level how energy efficiency measures interact with environmental objectives particularly evaluating the sustainability of energy efficiency interventions and their impacts on vulnerable groups.

The CAP establishes the Council as a leader in carbon reduction, implementing significant changes in operations and practices while engaging with other local businesses to achieve net zero targets through collaborative approaches.

Cultural Heritage

There are a large number and variety of cultural heritage assets in East Dunbartonshire including the Antonine Wall (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Forth and Clyde Canal which require protection and management, but also contribute to East Dunbartonshire as a tourist destination.

Climate change poses a threat to the historic environment due to rising temperatures and increased rainfall. The CAP presents strategic opportunities to address these impacts by exploring climate change effects on historic environments and developing promoting the reuse and retrofit of traditional buildings within a circular economy framework and supporting sustainability goals through adaptive conservation approaches.

The CAP sustainable communities theme acknowledges the need to better understand the risks and protections for landmarks noting that cultural heritage preservation is closely linked to climate change.

The SEA evaluates the impact of climate actions on heritage assets highlighting that ensuring climate change risk is considered in decision-making could ensure historic assets are protected from changing weather patterns. It also deals with the effects on heritage assets from retrofits and upgraded building fabric.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

East Dunbartonshire has a wide range of designated and non-designated sites, including those of ecological importance and protected species. This is seen through a number of Local Nature Conservation Sites and Important Wildlife Corridors, Tree Preservation Orders and Local Nature Reserves. East Dunbartonshire also has 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The CAP integrates biodiversity protection with climate action including measures to protect and enhance natural habitats while supporting carbon reduction goals. This includes the Council's plan to commission a Nature-based investment study to understand offsetting opportunities for East Dunbartonshire.

The SEA Framework evaluates biodiversity protection through:

- Assessment of CAP impacts on protected species and habitats.
- Evaluation of habitat enhancement opportunities.

Both native and ancient woodland should be managed to conserve important biodiversity and heritage features. The CAP should help promote the restoration of ancient, native and semi-natural woodland,

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in line with the Clyde Plan Forestry and Woodland Strategy,

River and canal corridors in East Dunbartonshire contribute significantly to wide ranging habitats and biodiversity. The natural environment plays a considerable role in healthy lives and supports the management of carbon and associated emissions. In addition, the natural environment contributes to East Dunbartonshire as an economic and habitable centre.

The CAP will include opportunities to address the local ecological emergency with options to protect, manage and enhance biodiversity and habitats and to prevent fragmentation of habitats.

Soil and Geology

There are a number of potentially contaminated land areas in East Dunbartonshire along with vacant and derelict land sites which are underutilised.

There are several sites in East Dunbartonshire that have been identified as peatland. Peatland and carbon rich soils have a role as a carbon sink locally.

There are 36 sites identified as being geologically diverse, of which 34 have been assigned as Local Geodiversity Site (LGS). The area also hosts 1 RIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) and 1 SSSI of geological importance.

The CAP addresses soil protection and enhancement particularly focusing on peatland preservation for carbon sequestration and remediation of contaminated sites.

The SEA evaluates:

- Impact of CAP actions on soil quality.
- Protection of carbon rich soils and peatland.
- Opportunities for contaminated land remediation.

Landscape

East Dunbartonshire has a number of areas with high/moderate scenic value as well as specific landscape characters and settings across the Council area, including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills.

The CAP should promote resilient landscapes, protect designated landscape areas and landscape character and help increase access to green and blue spaces.

Landscape character, scenic value and particularly local distinctiveness are an area which can positively impact East Dunbartonshire's communities and contribute to health and wellbeing benefits.

The CAP promotes landscape resilience whilst protecting designated areas and improving access to green spaces, integrating climate adaptation with landscape preservation.

The SEA assesses:

- Visual impacts of climate interventions.
- Protection of landscape character.
- Integration of green infrastructure.
- Enhancement of areas of scenic value.

Water Quality

There are a number of watercourses in East Dunbartonshire including the Forth and Clyde Canal, River Kelvin, Allander Water and Luggie Water with varying levels of quality. These assets require protection in order to reduce, prevent or offset any adverse impacts of initiatives explored through the CAP. Action should seek to improve water quality.

The CAP includes measures to protect and improve water quality while implementing climate adaptation strategies that consider water resource management.

The SEA framework evaluates:

- Water quality impacts of CAP measures.
- Flood risk management .
- Protection of water resources.
- Sustainable drainage opportunities.

The CAP addresses air quality through emissions reduction strategies particularly around transport, integrating air quality improvements with carbon reduction goals.

Air Quality

Unacceptably high levels of air pollution can be harmful to the environment and human health. East Dunbartonshire currently has two designated AQMAs (Bishopbriggs and Bearsden Cross). These are managed through Air Quality Management Plans and the emerging Air Quality Strategy. The CAP will present an opportunity to address the proportion of emissions impacting air pollution arising from corporate activities and area-wide.

The SEA assesses:

- Air quality impacts of CAP measures
- Transport emission reduction measures

Mitigation measures are presented as part of the SEA findings in relation to potential negative effects from construction.

Climatic Factors

Domestic emissions account for the largest proportion of carbon dioxide in East Dunbartonshire, and emissions from transport account for the largest proportion of NO₂ and PM10 emissions. Furthermore, Council carbon emissions contribute to approximately 5% of local emissions annually. This contributes to the effects of climate change, which include changing temperatures and rainfall patterns, and increased incidences of extreme weather events. The CAP will present an opportunity to address the proportion of emissions

The CAP addresses emissions from both domestic and transport sources including specific measures for council operations and area-wide activities to reduce climate impacts.

The SEA evaluates:

- The effectiveness of emission reduction measures.
- Climate adaptation impacts.
- Resilience to extreme weather and
- Flood risk management.

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impacting on localised climate change arising from corporate and area-wide activities.

Climate change has a direct link to flood risk. The SEPA Flood Risk Map has identified several locations within the East Dunbartonshire Council area which could have significant impacts on communities.

Material Assets

As a result of interventions that will be explored within the CAP there are potential changes to the transport network, including Council related uses, material use in refurbishing and construction of the Council estate and other private developments and waste associated with construction.

The CAP includes strategies for sustainable material use in construction and refurbishment, promoting circular economy principles in council operations and development projects.

The SEA assesses:

- Sustainability of material choices.
- Circular economy opportunities.
- Transport infrastructure impacts.
- Waste management implications and

Mitigation measures are presented as part of the SEA findings in relation to potential negative effects from construction.

Section 3: Consideration of Alternatives

3.1. Consideration of Alternatives within the CAP

- 3.1.1. The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the effects of 'reasonable alternatives' to be identified, described and evaluated. The Act states that the Responsible Authority shall give 'the reasons for choosing the plan, or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered'.
- 3.1.2. As there is no direct legislative requirement driving the development of a CAP, the direction in which the CAP is developed could be completed through a number of alternative options that explore the three strands of the proposed CAP; mitigation, adaptation and carbon management within the Council. The alternatives are explored within Table 3.3 of the ER.
- 3.1.3. By selecting to develop a CAP for East Dunbartonshire in its current strategic direction it will provide for strategic options to be explored with greater benefits and linkages between the CAP mitigation and adaptation strands. This approach has also shown to deliver more climate co-benefits for East Dunbartonshire in order to contribute to net-zero targets and significantly improve the resilience level of the Council and area-wide. Major positive impacts were also anticipated for all SEA environmental factors.
- 3.1.4. The thematic approach, along with the detailed action for each theme, have been assessed along with reasonable alternative scenarios (where appropriate) in order for the SEA process to identify and mitigate all significant environmental impacts and provide the Sustainability Team with the best environmental options. Through the assessment of the impacts of all alternatives, the Environmental Report, played a key role to inform and determine the Council's preferred options for the CAP.
- 3.1.5. However, the environmental assessment also, where appropriate, proposes further alternatives or suggested alterations. This process guides any required mitigation measures in order to reduce any potential adverse impacts or to suggest enhancements to those receptors that provide potential positive impacts to East Dunbartonshire.

Section 4: Consultation

4.1. Environmental Report Consultation Responses

- 4.1.1. The Environmental Report, which provided details of the likely environmental effects of the CAP, was published for consultation with the SEA Consultation Authorities from 19th September 2020 – 19th December 2025. The consultation on the Environmental Report provided an opportunity to respond to the findings of the report and influence the final CAP.
- 4.1.2. **Table 3** sets out the responses received from the Consultation Authorities, which are of relevance to the SEA Environmental Report. It states the actions taken as a result of the responses received.

Table 3: Consultation Responses

Consultee	Consultation Response	Incorporating Consultation Response
NatureScot	Thank you for consulting NatureScot on the Climate Action Plan and its Environmental Report. I have reviewed these documents on behalf of NatureScot in relation to our natural heritage remit. Our comments on the Climate Change Action Plan are included in Annex 1. Comments in relation to the findings of the Environmental Report are included in Annex 2.	Noted – Annex 1 comments are dealt with through the CAP Report of Consultation and direct changes in the CAP. Annex 2 comments for the SEA ER are noted below.
	Page 27, final row - The whole of five SSSIs are in East Dunbartonshire (Bargeny Hill, Cadder Wilderness, Manse Burn, Sculliongour Limestone Quarry and South Braes) as well as a substantial part of Mugdock Wood SSSI and parts of Corrie Burn SSSI.	Text updated within the Final ER to reflect comments.
	Page 53 "Support East Dunbartonshire Council's Biodiversity Duty?" should read "Support delivery of East Dunbartonshire Council's Biodiversity Duty?"	Text updated within the Final ER to reflect comments.

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Consultee	Consultation Response	Incorporating Consultation Response
	Page 54 "Protect habitats and species that have Protected Species status, including Invasive Non-Native Species?" should be split into two questions "Protect habitats and species that have Protected Species status?" and "Reduce the extent of Invasive Non-Native Species?"	Text updated within the Final ER to reflect comments.
	Page 55 "Result in improvements or remediation to promote the community use of vacant, derelict and contaminated land?" should be "Result in improvements to or remediation of vacant, derelict and contaminated land?" The community use element is captured on page 56 under Material Assets.	Text updated within the Final ER to reflect comments.
SEPA	No response provided by SEPA on the Draft CAP or corresponding SEA ER.	
Historic Environment Scotland	We are content with the assessments in these appendices. In particular we found that Appendix F was useful for providing additional clarification of the Community Policy assessments in Appendix E.	Comments noted and no modification required.
	Thank you for consulting us on this Plan and its Environmental Report (ER). We received the consultation on 13 October 2025. We have reviewed the documents in relation to our main area of interest for the historic environment. We are generally content with the proposed Plan and the findings of the ER, subject to our comments below.	Noted
	Section 2.1: Relationship with other Plans, Programmes, and Strategies	Section 2.1 and Appendix A updated to reflect the 2023 Strategy update.
	We note that this section references <i>Our Place in Time (2014)</i> , in line with our scoping response dated July 2022. Please be	

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Consultee	Consultation Response	Incorporating Consultation Response
	aware that as of 2023, this has been superseded by Our Past, Our Future as the strategy for the historic environment.	
	Section 3.5.1.3: Themes We welcome that both positive and negative effects on the historic environment are considered as part of the assessment and largely agree with the resulting scores. Regarding Theme 2 – Building and Heat Decarbonisation, the positive relationship between the retrofitting specifically of historic buildings (a ‘fabric first’ approach) could have been explored in more detail in the assessment. However, we agree the overall narrative provided in the commentary.	Noted
	Section 4.1: Mitigation Measures We welcome the inclusion of issues relating to cultural heritage and potential mitigation measures, and find that these are mostly appropriate. We recommend expanding the issue of “visual degradation of heritage landscapes” to include impacts to not solely landscapes but also the settings of heritage assets, the characters of townscapes and/or conservation areas, etc. Please note also that such impacts are often not just visual in nature but can also include changes to traffic, noise, etc. Potential mitigation measures responding to visual impacts should also not rely on screening but should consider mitigation by design in the first instance. We agree that	Anticipated issues/impacts for cultural heritage updated along with the mitigation measures to reflect the response received.

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Consultee	Consultation Response	Incorporating Consultation Response
	mitigation for these issues should be confirmed with us and/or the council as relevant prior to construction.	
	Section 4.2: Monitoring We recommend that you consider an alternative monitoring indicator for ‘visitor numbers and engagement with cultural heritage sites’ as visitation to heritage sites is not a direct result of the vision, objectives, nor themes of the proposed plan or the findings of the environmental assessment. You may wish to consider identifying an indicator that would align more closely with the issues identified in the assessment for building adaptation and decarbonisation, such as the scale of building retrofit within the council area, particularly of historic buildings.	Monitoring indicators for cultural heritage updated to reflect the response received.

Section 5: Monitoring

5.1. Monitoring Framework

- 5.1.1. The Environmental Report contained a monitoring framework, which set out the proposals for monitoring the effects of the CAP. This allowed the Consultation Authorities to provide comments and suggestions regarding the monitoring proposals, which were taken into action when establishing the final monitoring framework contained within the ER.
- 5.1.2. Monitoring of the significant environmental effects will be carried out in line with both the SEA and Plan monitoring framework by the Council and any other relevant bodies in order to implement remedial action, if required, as a result of unforeseen environmental impacts over the life of the Plan, or in line with the relevant review stages.

Section 6: Conclusion

6.1. The Influence of SEA on the CAP

- 6.1.1. The SEA process has played an important role in shaping and refining the CAP through systematic consideration of environmental effects from implementation of the Mission, Objectives, Themes and component actions across each SEA topic. By identifying potential effects during the development process, the SEA has helped evaluate how energy efficiency measures benefit vulnerable communities while avoiding negative environmental effects.
- 6.1.2. The assessment process has reinforced the importance of considering both direct and indirect environmental effects. This has led to enhanced recognition of co-benefits, particularly around energy efficiency improvements in vulnerable communities, protection of heritage assets from climate change, biodiversity protection and enhancement, flood resilience, air quality improvements through emissions reduction, and community wellbeing outcomes.
- 6.1.3. The identification of environmental issues through the SEA process has helped inform the CAP's approach to implementation. The iterative nature of the SEA process has supported refinement of CAP measures to better address challenges such as, energy efficiency in council buildings, retrofitting existing buildings, protecting carbon-rich soils and peatland and implementing climate adaptation strategies while maintaining a focus on core climate objectives. This has resulted in a more integrated approach that recognises the interconnected nature of climate action and environmental protection.
- 6.1.4. Through the assessment process, several specific recommendations were identified. The SEA evaluates the effects on heritage assets from retrofits and upgraded building fabric, assesses opportunities for contaminated land remediation, evaluates the integration of green infrastructure, and considers sustainable drainage opportunities. The assessment presents mitigation measures as part of the SEA findings in relation to potential negative effects from construction, particularly regarding air quality and material assets.
- 6.1.5. The assessments highlighted the importance of incorporating best practice construction methods to minimise temporary effects during implementation, along with the need for climate-resilient design in new infrastructure development. The assessments also highlighted the importance of incorporating nature-based solutions and sustainable drainage opportunities, along with the need for climate-resilient design in addressing flood risk management. For waste management, the assessment emphasised the importance of improving data collection from Council operations to better target reduction measures. For material assets, the assessment emphasised the importance of sustainable material use in construction and promoting circular economy principles in Council operations.

- 6.1.6. One influence of particular importance has been the recommendation to develop and implement a Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) process. This process will ensure climate change considerations are mainstreamed into all relevant Council decision-making, spending decisions, and policy-making processes. The integration of this process into the Council's existing impact assessment framework has been identified as adding significant value to the implementation of the CAP.

Appendix 1: Consultation Responses to the Proposed Plan Environmental Report

PCS-20007008 SEPA Response to SEA01741

Sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk to sea_gateway@gov.scot

To Whom It May Concern,

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
SEA01741
Climate Action Plan
East Dunbartonshire Council

Thank you for your Environmental Report (ER) consultation submitted under the above Act. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government (SG) SEA Gateway on 13th October 2025 in relation to the above application.

In line with the procedures previously agreed between SEPA and the Scottish Government SEA Gateway, we will not be submitting comments on this ER.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Lee Harkness
Senior Planning Officer


Scottish Environment
Protection Agency
Buidheann Dìon
Àrainneachd na h-Alba
For the future of our environment

informed@planning.nature.scot to sea_gateway@gov.scot

Our ref: CEA182004 ~~Informed~~DECISION 103255

Your Ref: 01741

Dear Lorena,

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: East Dunbartonshire Council Climate Action Plan

Thank you for consulting NatureScot on the Climate Action Plan and its Environmental Report. I have reviewed these documents on behalf of NatureScot in relation to our natural heritage remit.

Our comments on the Climate Change Action Plan are included in Annex 1. Comments in relation to the findings of the Environmental Report are included in Annex 2

Should you wish to discuss any of the comments detailed in this response, please do not hesitate to contact Jimmy Hyslop at jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot.

Yours sincerely,

Lyndsey Kinnes

Operations Manager - West Central Scotland

Annex 1: Detailed Comments on Climate Action Plan

Page 12 "Improved public transit links to discourage care use" should be "Improved public transport links to discourage car use"

Page 40 "Trailing 20 mile per hour zones in Bearsden and ~~Twechar~~." should be "Trialling"

"These routes should be promoted to encourage use, modal shift, and behavioural change." While the Long Distance Routes are excellent facilities for recreational and tourism activities, their routes, the terrain and surfacing mean that they will not support modal shift or behavioural change to support the Climate Action Plan.

Page 49 "In Scotland, 6,388 heat pumps and 25,875 solar power systems were fitted to homes and businesses in 2023, representing a 113% and 174% increase respectively."

Is this an increase on total provision at the end of 2022 or of the fittings for 2022 only?

Page 70 Suggest adding word underlined, "Changing weather patterns are driving longer growing seasons and more frequent droughts, which cause drier vegetation, can drain damaged peatland habitats and increase the risk of wildfires."

Page 71 Figures 29 and 30 illustrate the impacts of

- peatland which has been degraded as a result of drainage and erosion, and
- healthy peatland

on the environment not the "Tangible differences and impacts on peatland habitats" of extreme weather and climate change of the text. Consider changing to "Tangible differences between damaged and healthy peatland habitats and their impacts are illustrated in Figures 29 and 30 below."

Page 74, 4.3 The links in the two bullet points do not take the reader to the desired destination

"Completed delivery of the Greenspace Improvement Plan in Waterside and Rosebank.

Completed delivery of the Bearsden Air Quality Action Plan."

Annex 2: Detailed Comments on the Environmental Report

Page 27, final row - The whole of five SSSIs are in East Dunbartonshire (Bargany Hill, Cadder Wilderness, Manse Burn, Sculliongour Limestone Quarry and South Braes) as well as a substantial part of Mugdock Wood SSSI and parts of Corrie Burn SSSI.

Page 53 "Support East Dunbartonshire Council's Biodiversity Duty?" should read "Support delivery of East Dunbartonshire Council's Biodiversity Duty?"

Page 54 "Protect habitats and species that have Protected Species status, including Invasive Non-Native Species?" should be split into two questions

"Protect habitats and species that have Protected Species status?" and

"Reduce the extent of Invasive Non-Native Species?"

Page 55 "Result in improvements or remediation to promote the community use of vacant, derelict and contaminated land?" should be "Result in improvements to or remediation of vacant, derelict and contaminated land?" The community use element is captured on page 56 under Material Assets.



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By email to: sea_gateway@gov.scot

Lorena Gebran
Climate Change Policy & SEA Officer
East Dunbartonshire Council

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131 668 8716
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300020233
Your ref: 01741

19 December 2025

Dear Lorena Gebran

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
East Dunbartonshire Council - Climate Action Plan
SEA Environmental Report

Thank you for consulting us on this Plan and its Environmental Report (ER). We received the consultation on 13 October 2025. We have reviewed the documents in relation to our main area of interest for the historic environment.

We are generally content with the proposed Plan and the findings of the ER, subject to our comments below.

Environmental Report

Section 2.1: Relationship with other Plans, Programmes, and Strategies

We note that this section references *Our Place in Time (2014)*, in line with our scoping response dated July 2022. Please be aware that as of 2023, this has been superseded by [*Our Past, Our Future*](#) as the strategy for the historic environment.

Section 3.5.1.3: Themes

We welcome that both positive and negative effects on the historic environment are considered as part of the assessment and largely agree with the resulting scores.

Regarding Theme 2 – Building and Heat Decarbonisation, the positive relationship between the retrofitting specifically of historic buildings (a 'fabric first' approach) could have been explored in more detail in the assessment. However, we agree the overall narrative provided in the commentary.

Section 4.1: Mitigation Measures

We welcome the inclusion of issues relating to cultural heritage and potential mitigation measures, and find that these are mostly appropriate. We recommend expanding the issue of "visual degradation of heritage landscapes" to include impacts to not solely landscapes but also the settings of heritage assets, the characters of townscapes and/or conservation

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areas, etc. Please note also that such impacts are often not just visual in nature but can also include changes to traffic, noise, etc. Potential mitigation measures responding to visual impacts should also not rely on screening but should consider mitigation by design in the first instance. We agree that mitigation for these issues should be confirmed with us and/or the council as relevant prior to construction.

Section 4.2: Monitoring

We recommend that you consider an alternative monitoring indicator for 'visitor numbers and engagement with cultural heritage sites' as visitation to heritage sites is not a direct result of the vision, objectives, nor themes of the proposed plan or the findings of the environmental assessment. You may wish to consider identifying an indicator that would align more closely with the issues identified in the assessment for building adaptation and decarbonisation, such as the scale of building retrofit within the council area, particularly of historic buildings.

Further Information

None of the comments contained in this letter constitute a legal interpretation of the requirements of the [Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#). They are intended rather as helpful advice, as part of our commitment to capacity building in Strategic Environmental Assessment.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Cailee Mellen. You can contact them by email at cailee.mellen@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland