



Event Report - Climate Ready Clyde Risk and Opportunity Assessment Launch

31 October 2018

The key findings of our Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment for the Glasgow City Region were launched on the 31 October. The event, chaired by James Curran, Chair of Climate Ready Clyde, welcomed over 80 senior politicians and decision makers from Scotland and throughout the UK.

Climate change will see the city region grapple with rising temperatures, more intense rainfalls and storms and rising sea levels. If action is not taken to address the risks of climate change, they will have profound consequences for the city region.



Overview

Over the past year and a half Climate Ready Clyde members have worked with the stakeholders from across Glasgow City Region and beyond to develop a detailed shared understanding of the risks and opportunities of climate change. The Risk and Opportunity Assessment is the first step to developing a Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Glasgow City Region.

A shared challenge with cities around the world

The launch of the key findings of the Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment coincided with World Cities Day, which promotes cooperation among countries to meet the opportunities and address the challenges of our increasingly urbanised world, as well as contribute to the sustainable urban development. The theme for the day was *Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities*, which aligns with the key messages of our assessment that calls for urgent action to build climate resilience across all sectors of the city region.

Our launch event began with a short video-link to the U.N Habitat Summit main event held in Liverpool, a city that has transformed itself through regeneration and sustainable urban development.

Understanding our climate risks and opportunities

Kathryn Brown, Head of Adaptation at the Committee on Climate Change provided an overview of the current and future climate risks for Scotland, drawing on the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment's Scottish data.

Along with a discussion of the current Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme, which is undergoing a review and refresh, Kathryn provided some insights into what the Glasgow City Region can do to adapt to climate change. She noted that building up our evidence base and raising awareness of climate risk and adaptation action among the public, private and public sectors is critical.



Kit England, Climate Ready Clyde manager then narrowed the focus from Scotland to the Glasgow City Region, introducing the key findings of the climate risk and opportunity assessment. He explained that adapting to climate change and building climate resilience will ensure that the Glasgow City Region continues to be a great place to live and work. Adaptation can help contribute to developing a competitive, low carbon economy that addresses inequalities, strengthens communities and makes our city region a fairer, better place to live.

More action needed – New, stronger or different policies or tangible implementation activities – over and above those already planned – are needed in the next five years to reduce long-term vulnerability to climate change.

Build understanding and capacity – More work is needed in the next five years to develop the City Region's response to this risk or opportunity, including allocating resources, filling significant evidence gaps or reducing the uncertainty in the current level of understanding to assess the need for additional action.

Sustain current action – Current or planned levels of activity are appropriate, but continued implementation of these policies or plans is needed to ensure that the risk continues to be managed in the future. This includes any existing plans to increase or change the current level of activity.

Watching brief – The evidence in these areas should be kept under review, with long-term monitoring of risk levels and adaptation activity so that further action can be taken if necessary.

The assessment has identified key risks and opportunities for the city region, and categorised them into one of four types of action that we need to take to 2025 to ensure that the long terms impacts of climate change are managed (see Box 1). These classifications are based on the size of the risk or opportunity through to the end of the century, along with the shortfall in current or planned action in place. Crucially, they account for benefits of action in the next five years, and collectively will be used to help prioritise the kinds of actions that should be included in the forthcoming adaptation strategy and action plan.

The report considers all aspects of life in the Glasgow City Region, with risk and opportunities groups into the themes shown in Box 2 below.

To support the risk and opportunity assessment, Paul Watkiss undertook a study of the economic implications of climate change in the Glasgow City Region. The report assessed the economic costs of recent climate extremes, and considered the benefits of adaptation to build resilience to

climate risk. The study found that the annual average economic impact of extreme events and climate change are estimated to be over £100 million each year in the Glasgow City Region alone by 2050 if no action is taken.



Managing our climate challenges for a prosperous city region

After hearing about how climate change will shape the city region in the future, delegates had a chance to hear about the work already underway throughout Glasgow City Region to build resilience to climate risks, and to make the most of climate opportunities.

- **Gerry Cornes, Chief Executive at East Dunbartonshire Council and Chair of the Land Use and Sustainability Portfolio for the Glasgow City Region** gave the attendees some insights into work underway to build resilience to climate impacts in East Dunbartonshire.
- **Dr Andrea Coulson, of the University of Strathclyde's Business School** discussed the benefits and opportunities that can be gained from creating a better business by accounting for climate risk. She explained that climate adaptation is now a strategic priority among financial providers, and that business cases need to account for physical climate risk.
- **Councillor Anna Richardson, Convenor for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction at Glasgow City Council** discussed the ways in which Glasgow is working to put people at the heart of building climate resilience.

After the presentations, round table discussions were held to identify actions and goals to build climate resilience throughout the city region. Ideas focussed on building collaboration to empower communities, organisations and businesses to engage and get involved in creating sustainable solutions. Conversations focused on the importance of working collaboratively to develop an integrated, strategic approach that aligns national and local adaptation goals. Mainstreaming adaptation into the way we plan, design, undertake and fund work is critical to building resilience, and delegates were able to draw on the presentations and key findings to come up with their own priority areas for action in Glasgow City Region.



After a round table discussion of the city region's climate ready future, delegates were asked to make a pledge to take action that drives resilience in the city region. While it wasn't mandatory, it was great to see many delegates participating and expressing their willingness to get involved in the development, implementation and mainstreaming of a city region adaptation strategy and action plan.

Pledges focused on the need to build climate resilience into planning and design, and making it a part of the way the Glasgow City Region operates at every level. Pledged ranged from progress on active transport options, to building on the knowledge base of the risk and opportunity assessment. All the pledges made it clear that Glasgow City Region is optimistic about the future, and ready to start working collaboratively and inclusively to create a climate ready future.



Next steps and how to stay involved

In the next two months, Climate Ready Clyde will finalise the full set of information from its Risk and Opportunity Assessment and publish this online, before moving on to develop the City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, due in April 2020. There will be plenty of opportunities to stay involved in this process but in the meantime, you can get in touch with us on Twitter (@climareadyclyde) or by emailing the secretariat at climareadyclyde@sniffer.org.uk

Climate Ready Clyde would like to thank all the presenters and delegates for their active participation and willingness to share our optimism for a climate ready future for the Glasgow City Region.



Attendees

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Zarina	Ahmad	CEMVO Scotland
Scott	Allan	Inverclyde Council
Gavin	Barrie	Scottish Government
Kersti	Berge	Scottish Government
Anne Marte	Bergseng	ClimateXChange
Anna	Beswick	Sniffer
John	Binning	SPT
Duncan	Booker	Glasgow City Council
Kathryn	Brown	Committee on Climate Change
Jennifer	Cassells	East Renfrewshire Council
Dr Andrea	Coulson	University of Strathclyde
Peter	Craig	South Lanarkshire Council
Stephen	Curran	Eco-Congregation Scotland
Ronnie	Dinnie	West Dunbartonshire Council
Graham	Edmond	Transport Scotland
Isabel	Glasgow	Clyde Marine Planning Partnership
Gerard	Grattan	On Purpose
Robin	Grenfell	Macquarie
Lesley	Hinshelwood	South Lanarkshire Council
Max	Hislop	GCV Green Network Partnership
Stephen	Howard	K-Matrix
Ewan	Hyslop	Historic Environment Scotland
Martin	Johnston	NHS
Russell	Jones	University of Glasgow
Cara	Labuschagne	Committee on Climate Change
Alan	Lafferty	East Renfrewshire Council
Catherine	Lambert	Clydeplan
Joe	Larner	Homes for Scotland
John	Lauder	Sustrans
Rene Sommer	Lindsay	Sniffer
Clair	Lourie	Scottish Enterprise
Calum	MacDonald	SEPA
Fiona	Macleod	Edinburgh City Council
Dorothy	McDonald	Clydeplan
Michael	McGlynn	South Lanarkshire Council
Michael	McPake	North Lanarkshire Council
Stewart	Miller	University of Glasgow
Sonia	Milne	Glasgow City Council
Melinda	Morris	Sniffer
James	Murray	Glasgow City Council
Ellie	Murtagh	Sniffer
Julie	Nicol	East Renfrewshire Council
Robert	Nicol	COSLA
Dougie	Peedle	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Rebecca	Petford	EAUC
Alex	Ramsay	North Lanarkshire Council

Graham	Ross	Austin-Smith:Lord
Lucy	Starling	NHS
Robert	Steenson	North Lanarkshire Council
Tammy	Swift-Adams	Homes for Scotland
Stuart	Tait	Clydeplan
Faye	Tester	SGN
Niall	Urquhart	East Dunbartonshire Council
Kerry	Wallace	Scottish Natural Heritage
Paul	Watkiss	Paul Watkiss Associates
Mark	Williams	Scottish Water
Ruth	Wolstenholme	Sniffer
Roddy	Yarr	University of Strathclyde