

## Legislation and National Policies, Strategies and Plans that relate to Adaptation in Scotland

This document provides an overview of legislation and national policies, strategies and plans that relate to climate adaptation in Scotland. A summary of each Act or strategy is provided, highlighting its relationship with climate adaptation.

Policy or Strategy	Summary and Relevance to Adaptation
<a href="#">Climate Change Scotland Act 2009</a>	<p>The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 creates the statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland. It set targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to be reached by the year 2050 and outlines annual and interim (2020) targets to be achieved. The <a href="#">Climate Change Bill</a> was introduced to the Scottish Parliament in May 2018 amending the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to <a href="#">increase the 2050 target to 90% reduction in all greenhouse gases by 2050</a>.</p> <p>The Act also creates the statutory framework for climate change adaptation in Scotland. It requires a Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) to be created to address the risks identified for Scotland in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). The Climate Change Act 2008 commits the UK Government to carry out and produce a CCRA for the UK every five years.</p> <p>In addition, Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act states that a “public body must, in exercising its functions, act: in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of (Scotland’s climate change) targets; in the way best calculated to help deliver any (Scottish adaptation programme); and in a way that it considers most sustainable”. This means that all public sector organisation must ensure their activities and programming are designed so as to best deliver any Scottish statutory adaptation programme. The second statutory <a href="#">Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme</a> (SCCAP) will be released in 2019.</p> <p>The Climate Change (Scotland) Act thus makes climate adaptation a statutory requirement for all Scottish public bodies, with mandatory reporting of progress. The Act places duties on public bodies to report on their adaptation and mitigation actions annually. These reporting results are publicly available on the <a href="#">Sustainable Scotland Network website</a>.</p>
<a href="#">Civil Contingencies Act (2004)</a>	<p>The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 establishes a coherent framework for emergency planning and response in the UK. The Act outlines local arrangements for civil protection and establishes a statutory framework of roles and responsibilities for local responders. Category 1 responders (organisations at the core of emergency response e.g. emergency services, local authorities) are subject to the full set of civil protection duties. They are required to: assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning; put in place emergency plans; put in place Business Continuity Management arrangements and inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency. This work should be supported by Category 2 responders who are ‘co-operating responders’ (e.g. utility companies and transport providers).</p> <p>The Act relates to being better prepared and more resilient to emergencies. Climate adaptation plays a significant role in identifying risks and reducing the impacts by coordinating response to long term changes in the frequency and intensity of severe weather events.</p>
<a href="#">Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act</a>	<p>The Act introduces a more sustainable and modern approach to flood risk management, suited to the needs of the 21st century and to the impact of climate change. It creates a more joined up and coordinated process to manage flood risk at a national and local level. Specific</p>

<p><a href="#">2009</a></p>	<p>measures within the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A framework for coordination and cooperation between all organisations involved in flood risk management</li> <li>• Assessment of flood risk and preparation of flood risk management plans</li> <li>• New responsibilities for SEPA, Scottish Water and local authorities in relation to flood risk management</li> <li>• A revised, streamlined process for flood protection schemes</li> <li>• New methods to enable stakeholders and the public to contribute to managing flood risk, and;</li> <li>• A single enforcement authority for the safe operation of Scotland's reservoirs.</li> </ul> <p>Further information on the Act and related activities can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Flooding can already have a devastating effect on those affected. With climate change likely to alter rainfall patterns and bring more heavy downpours, we expect flood risk to increase in the future. This could impact on properties and infrastructure – with serious consequences for our people, heritage, businesses and communities. These impacts may be cross cutting, affecting physical, social and economic structures and assets. Adaptation can help identify flood risk and take action to prepare for or respond to flood incidents.</p>
<p><a href="#">Planning (Scotland) Act 2006</a></p>	<p>This Act makes provisions relating to town and country planning as well as planning for business improvement districts. Part 1 of the ACT is the National Planning Framework, a spatial plan for Scotland to set out in broad terms government consideration for development and use of land could over the coming 20-30 year time period. <b>Key Planning outcomes for Scotland include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A successful <b>sustainable place</b> – supporting <b>economic growth, regeneration</b> and the creation of <b>well-designed</b> places</li> <li>• <b>A low carbon place</b> – reducing our carbon emissions and adapting to climate change</li> <li>• <b>A natural resilient place</b> – helping to protect and enhance our natural cultural assets and facilitating their sustainable use</li> <li>• <b>A connected place</b> – supporting better transport and digital connectivity. Other sections of the Act relate to development plans, management and enforcement.</li> </ul> <p>Adaptation can help enable and achieve these outcomes, particularly through protecting the natural environment. Planning and investment in community regeneration is a major opportunity to implement measures that will enable these locations to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, adaptation should be included in spatial and development planning to recognise the varying climate impacts across different locations and communities.</p>
<p><a href="#">Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004</a></p>	<p>These regulations prescribe functional standards for buildings. They apply to construction, conversion and demolition of buildings and also to the provision of services, fittings and equipment in or in connection with buildings.</p> <p>Climate change will have an impact on the design, construction, management and use of our buildings and surroundings. Whether retrofitting existing or building new, it is likely that there will be issues with water management (in flood and drought), weather resistance and overheating. Increased severe weather events, rainfall and temperatures may impact building fabric and the health and wellbeing of building inhabitants.</p> <p>New construction as well as retrofitting of current buildings should consider future climate changes and take adaptation actions accordingly.</p>

<p><a href="#">Roads (Scotland) Act 1984</a></p>	<p>This Act makes provision regarding roads in Scotland. Our transport networks, such as roads, are vital to our health and wellbeing and economic prosperity. The effect of climate change on these infrastructure systems will be varied. They are likely to be impacted by an increase in disruptive events such as flooding, landslides, drought, and heatwaves. Our infrastructure is closely inter-linked and failure in any area can lead to wider disruption across these networks and thus necessitates effective adaptation to be taken now to present future negative consequences.</p>
<p><a href="#">Marine (Scotland) Act 2010</a></p>	<p>The Marine (Scotland) Act involves duties to protect and enhance the marine environment. The main measures of the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Marine planning:</b> a new statutory marine planning system to sustainably manage the increasing, and often conflicting, demands on Scottish seas</li> <li>▪ <b>Marine licensing:</b> a simpler licensing system, minimising the number of licences required for development in the marine environment</li> <li>▪ <b>Marine conservation:</b> improved marine nature and historic conservation with new powers to protect and manage areas of importance for marine wildlife, habitats and historic monuments</li> <li>▪ <b>Seal conservation:</b> improved protection for seals and a new comprehensive licence system to ensure appropriate management</li> <li>▪ <b>Enforcement:</b> a range of enhanced powers of marine conservation and licensing</li> </ul> <p>Marine ecosystems – from plankton through to fish, mammals and seabirds – are already being affected by climate change alongside other pressures, particularly fishing. Changes will continue, with rising temperatures likely to change species and their distributions. The changes will present both threats and opportunities to marine and coastal ecosystems including fisheries and aquaculture.</p>
<p><a href="#">Scottish Soil Framework</a></p>	<p>The Scottish Soil Framework sets out the vision for soil protection in Scotland, and formally acknowledges the important services soils provide to society. It raises awareness about the services provided, and pressures faced, by soils. The soils of Scotland provide a wide range of environmental, economic and societal benefits. Soils and climate are intimately linked. Climate has a direct influence on processes of soil formation and partially determines the extent to which soils can perform individual functions. We rely on soils to sustain biodiversity, support agriculture and forestry, regulate the water cycle and store carbon. Soils and vegetation may be altered by changes to rainfall patterns and increased temperatures, as well as the way we use the land, and can be addressed via adaptation actions.</p>
<p><a href="#">Land Use Strategy 2016-2021</a></p>	<p>The Land Use Strategy 2016-2021 out the strategic vision, objectives and principles for Sustainable Land Use in Scotland. Its vision is a Scotland where the importance of land resources are recognised, understood and valued, so that the plans and decisions about land deliver improved and enduring benefits, enhancing the wellbeing of the nation. It aims to achieve this through land based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland’s prosperity and responsible stewardship of Scotland’s natural resources with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use.</p> <p>The act relates to ecosystem services, which we depend upon, including water purification, climate regulation, timber or energy as well as key less tangible benefits such as recreation and relaxation spaces. Nature is being affected by changes in climate and impacts such as the spread of pests and diseases have serious consequences. Nature also has an important role to play in helping people and places adapt to climate change – for example by providing natural flood defences and cooling. Climate change adaptation will be important to safeguarding these assets and ecosystem services.</p>

<p><a href="#">Scottish Biodiversity Strategy</a></p>	<p>Scotland's biodiversity strategy, sets out how the government will conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future. The Scottish Government designates the two strategy documents '<a href="#">2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity</a>' and '<a href="#">Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands</a>' together as comprising the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Climate change may affect the delicate balance of Scotland's ecosystems and transform Scotland's habitats and biodiversity, adding to existing pressures. Some distinctive Scottish species may struggle and could be lost, invasive non-native species may thrive, while a degraded environment may not be able to sustain productive land or water supply. Increased risks of pests and diseases may also occur as a result of a changing climate. Actions relating to biodiversity should consider the effects of climate change and how steps can be taken to adapt.</p>
<p><a href="#">Scottish Forestry Strategy</a></p>	<p>The Scottish Forestry Strategy is the Scottish Government's framework for the forestry sector with a vision for Scotland's forests to be diverse and strong; in tune with the environment; employing many people in a wide range of enterprises; and providing the many other services and benefits that people need, now and for the future. A warming climate has the potential to improve growing conditions in Scotland and increase the productivity of our agriculture and forestry. However, climate change will also pose a number of threats, from more variable and extreme weather to the spread of pests and diseases, which may limit this potential.</p>
<p><a href="#">Scotland's Economic Strategy</a></p>	<p>Scotland's Economic Strategy sets out a framework for a competitive and fairer Scotland. It is centred around the pillars of increasing competitiveness and tackling inequality. Boosting competitiveness through entrepreneurship, innovation and exploiting new commercial opportunities is believed to be core to supporting the nation's long-term economic growth.</p> <p>Business supply chains, assets and infrastructure are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Disruption to supply chains and opportunities for adaptation services could affect investment and business operations. It is important to consider how industry sectors relevant to your organisation/ location may be affected and factor this in to work to support business and economic development.</p> <p>The strategy does acknowledge that in addition to increase competitiveness it is imperative to reduce inequality and these two pillars are strongly interdependent. Reducing inequality is vital to create conditions for sustainable economic growth as well as a fair and just society. Climate change may exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities or inequalities and adaptation actions should be guided by the principles of climate justice. People and communities experiencing multiple causes of vulnerability are often most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Understanding how climate impacts may affect vulnerable groups can help make action to reduce poverty and inequalities more effective.</p>

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