

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 13

Annual Progress Report on Climate Change Action Plan & Mission Zero



Paper for noting

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present Members with the annual progress report on the National Park Authority Climate Change Action Plan 2019-20.
- 1.2 To update Members with priorities for action in 2020 and beyond, including the creation of our Mission Zero Route Map.
- 1.3 To present Members with a proposed target date for achieving organisational Net Zero status by 2030.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Board members are asked to:

- (i) **Note** the annual progress report on the Climate Change Action Plan 2019/20.
- (ii) **Note** the priorities for climate focused action for 2020 and beyond.
- (iii) **Note** progress on developing our Mission Zero Route Map.
- (iv) **Consider** the proposed timescale for the National Park Authority to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2030

3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and Our 5-year Plan

National Park Partnership Plan:

Outcome 1: Natural Capital
Outcome 3: Climate Change
Outcome 4: Land Partnerships
Outcome 5: Recreation Opportunities
Outcome 8: Visitor Management
Outcome 10: Placemaking
Outcome 11: Sustainable Growth
Outcome 12: Sustainable Population

Our 5-Year plan:

Priority 3: Sustainable Organisation
Priority 5: Placemaking & Sustainable
Communities
Priority 8: Communication and
Engagement

4. Background

- 4.1 On 18th March 2019, Board were presented with the first annual review of our first Climate Change Action Plan for the National Park. From this meeting we set out a

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Climate Change Action Plan which highlighted the actions prioritised for the 2019/20 year, both at a corporate level and across the National Park.

- 4.2 Since this Climate Change Action Plan was created the context around Climate and Nature Emergencies has rapidly evolved. The [Board paper](#) approved on the 9th December 2019 outlined how we plan to move forwards with 'Mission Zero Route Map', i.e. how we will deliver net zero emissions. When complete the Route Map and its associated annual delivery plan will replace our current Climate Change Action Plan.
 - 4.3 The first part of this paper (section 5), will summarise the findings of the activity within the Climate Change Action Plan for the period 2019/20 ([Appendix 1](#)).
 - 4.4 The second part to this paper (sections 6 – 9), will look to the year ahead, and outline our draft climate related priorities, including progress with the development of our Mission Zero Route Map and a proposed timescale for becoming a NetZero organisation.
5. Climate Change Action Plan 2019/20 Review – [Appendix 1](#)
- 5.1 The current plan is structured into four delivery areas; our three organisational themes of Conservation & Land Management, Visitor Experience and Rural Development, plus Corporate Services and Governance.
 - 5.2 Overall we have worked to focus our activity on sections within the Climate Change Action Plan that are aligned to [National Park Partnership Plan indicators of success](#) and which are currently not performing as is needed to achieve the outcomes in the Plan, or those areas which were priorities within our Annual Operational Plan for 2019/20.
 - 5.3 Due to limited in-house capacity and specialist expertise, there are still areas where we do not have fully formed methods of measuring outcomes or impact, such as flood mitigation. This will need to improve as we progress with the development of our Mission Zero Route Map.
 - 5.4 Full details of delivery can be found in Appendix 1, but Members are asked to note key headlines from 2019/20:
 - We successfully submitted our annual report on climate change activity to Scottish Government;
 - We ran a Climate Change Awareness Week for staff in October;

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- Through the launch of our Trees and Woodlands Strategy and through the allocation of over £21,000 in grants we have seen nearly 2000 trees planted, in over 9 locations, and over 452ha of Scottish Forestry tree planting grants approved;
- Of the 25 applicable planning applications received by the Park Authority, 21 included use of a technology to reduce emissions (84%), with some including more than one. This is a significant improvement on last year's figures (44%);
- We continue to develop further climate change educational resources for use across all engagement activity, with a focus on the forthcoming COP26 in Glasgow later this year;
- Our total organisational emissions continue to decrease year on year. The figure for 2018/19¹ was 223.8tCO₂e, a 38% reduction from our baseline figures in 2013/14 and a 12% annual decrease from 2017/18. The saving equates to approximately 6000 average UK household days of electricity usage or the equivalent of 1000 computers being used for a year, though is based largely on amendments to emissions calculation factors, rather than significant organisational reductions on sites other than HQ;
- We have 10 eVehicles and 2 hybrids in our fleet, meaning our road fleet is now approximately 37% electric or hybrid;
- We have started to measure the number of hours of volunteer activity spent on positive climate action projects within the National Park, such as tree planting. This equated to c. 1036hrs in 2019/20;
- Our ICT policy has also been reviewed with the inclusion of a specific section around sustainability and the active decision making around equipment use and need.

Areas for improvement:

- Despite funding becoming available from Peatland ACTION for 3 projects in 2019/20 no projects were delivered due to:
 - Funding confirmed too late for delivery within financial year;
 - Adverse weather conditions preventing access to restoration sites by machinery;
 - Contractor capacity.
- This is a significant loss of positive peatland restoration activity, and something we are actively working with Scottish Government to resolve this for 2020/21 delivery and beyond;
- Our staff and Board member business travel (use of own vehicles or 'grey fleet') increased. We saw an 18% increase on miles travelled from the 2016/17 data;

¹ This figure is calculated retrospectively for annual reporting to the Scottish Government.

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- We continue to monitor all new build development applications to assess the level of 'climate friendly design'. Early results show that there has been some progress in this area, however we need to ensure that we continue to monitor the implementation of these planning conditions;
- We have gathered baseline data on the volumes of corporate waste produced, however in line with our Litter and Waste Strategy additional work is required to understand in more detail where our waste is coming from and what it is comprised of. Once we know this in more detail, we would look to reduce these waste streams.

5.5 Summary of activity 2019/20

The second Climate Change Action Plan for the National Park Authority has seen further steps made in helping to tackle this global issue at an organisational and local level.

As a relatively small organisation we have limited financial and staff resources to focus on climate change actions and therefore moving forward we need to identify potential sources of external funding and technical support to help delivery.

However, in order to make a shift towards our ambition of achieving NetZero emissions, we also need to make further, more fundamental shifts in policy and practice.

6. Climate Priorities for 2020/21 and beyond

- 6.1 Since the last Board meeting in December 2019, we have been working on further understanding our corporate climate impacts and opportunities. Collectively these can be summarised in terms of three focus areas:

Engagement: Our role in providing clear climate messages in order to inspire and stimulate action from staff, Board members and volunteers, around climate behaviour change and personal choices, such as travel and consumption.

Mitigation: Activity which focuses on how to reduce our emissions, such as converting our vehicle fleet to electric and using renewable energy sources.

Adaptation: Activity which helps to prepare for the inevitable changes to lifestyles and the environment from the impacts of climate change, such as working to ensure that ensuring our buildings and ICT networks are fit-for-purpose in a future climate where

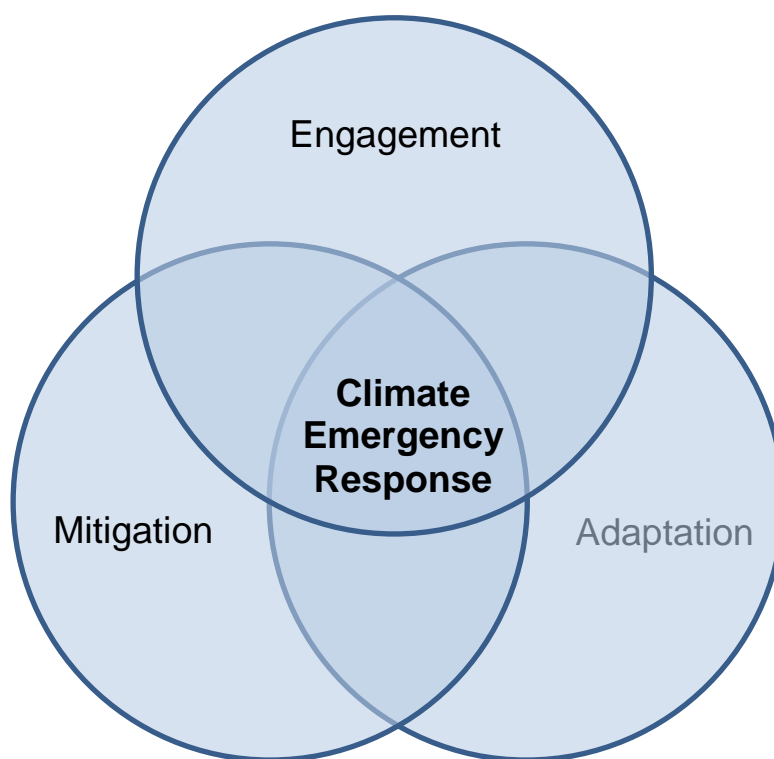
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intense rainfall and storm events could cause disruption to business infrastructure and continuity.

Aiming to deliver all three focus areas will increase our effectiveness in responding to the climate emergency, as outlined in the diagram below.



- 6.2 Over 2020/21 we will continue with our programme of actions in line with the main delivery areas highlighted in Appendix 1, but with a view to refining and improving this with our forthcoming Mission Zero Route Map, which is discussed further below.

7 Achieving NetZero

- 7.1 Having reviewed the 2019/20 Climate Change Action Plan, it becomes clear that in order for us to make better progress to NetZero we need to make a shift, at scale, in our climate related delivery across a range of different levels. These include, developing our organisational climate narrative and vision, embedding actions across all teams through the inclusion of climate within our Annual Operational Plan,

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policies and procedures, and increasing our level of ambition, and prioritisation of emissions reducing activities.

- 7.2 This work is still very much in development, and we do not yet have the resources and information needed, but using the Mission Zero Route Map to guide us, we can still continue our journey and learn as we go. It is intended that the draft Route Map will come to Board in June 2020.
- 7.3 The first significant steps on our journey towards NetZero as a National Park Authority are agreeing what lies within the boundary of our NetZero ambition, and understanding our key emissions in relation to these activities. These include emissions from:
- Fleet activity (land, water and grey)
 - Staff and Board non-fleet travel (public transport and taxis for business use)
 - Electricity, Gas and Water use across all owned or managed sites
 - Woodchip use for bio-mass boiler at Carrochan
 - Waste production across all owned or managed sites.
- 7.4 We report in line with Scottish Government requirements for emissions categorised into 3 'Scopes':
- Scope 1: Direct emissions from our owned or controlled sources, such as vehicles.
- Scope 2: Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heating etc.
- Scope 3: All other indirect emissions that occur through delivery of our organisational activities, such as those associated with any purchased items.
- 7.5 After analysis of our existing data, we can identify that currently our biggest emissions areas are our fleet and energy use across our sites and therefore efforts in these areas will make the greatest contributions towards reducing our overall emissions.
- 7.6 As well as reducing emissions we will also be working on:
- Reviewing policies and procedures to support positive climate (and nature) action
 - Improving our data gathering on emissions across all activities
 - Training / education and engagement of staff, Board members and volunteers
 - Reviewing governance; management and integration of climate/nature emergency into decision making at all levels

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- Reviewing other areas of business, where we have an impact through indirect emissions, such as procurement, the influence through our planning function and the management of our estate.

8 Proposed NetZero timescale

- 8.1 The current political environment and steer from the Cabinet Secretary is that the public bodies in our Scottish Government portfolio will be expected to announce their timescale for being NetZero before summer 2020.
- 8.2 With this situation in mind and based on the work we have done to date on our current understanding of our emissions and activities, we believe that for an organisation of our size achieving NetZero emissions by 2030 should be a realistic target to aim for – although that we must accept that we do not have a full picture of what this exactly looks like in practice. It is also dependent on securing additional funding and technical support to deliver change.
- 8.3 Beyond NetZero and in line with Scottish Government expectations, we will be striving to have zero direct emissions as our ultimate goal.

9 Our emerging Mission Zero Narrative

- 9.1 As part of the development of our Route Map work, Members will be interested to know that Anna MacLean, Head of Communications has drafted below, a climate related narrative which once fully developed will form the basis of how we clearly communicate our Mission Zero approach:

‘Through power of our collective action and influence, by 2030 Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority will be a net-zero (and in time a zero-direct) emitting organisation, that puts nature at the heart of tackling the climate emergency. We call this our Mission Zero.

The collective reach of our staff, volunteers, Board and the wider partner network offers huge potential to inspire action in:

- *individual climate-friendly behaviour change;*
- *using sustainability as a differentiator for businesses in the National Park;*
- *providing practical ways to get involved in tackling the climate emergency.*

We call this power our Multiplier Effect.’

Anna is now part of Scottish Government’s newly created Climate Change Communications Working Group, which will allow the National Park Authority the

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opportunity to influence wider national campaign development, and offer opportunities for any national campaign to be tailored to ensure its relevance to visitors to, and communities and businesses within the largely rural context of the National Park.

10 Conclusion

- 10.1 This paper outlines progress to date on the Climate Change Action Plan 2019/20, our climate related priorities for 2020 and beyond, including the emerging Mission Zero Route Map.
- 10.2 Members are asked to note progress and consider the timescale for the National Park Authority to be NetZero by 2030.

Appendix 1 – National Park Authority Climate Change Action Plan 2019-20

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