

Proposal of concept: Climate / Net Zero Pledge for Aberdeen.

Create a 'Pledge Scheme' to support the city's ambition to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045, climate resilience and enable collaborative contributions to the delivery of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework.

The Scottish Government Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018 states achieving net zero will require "effort across all sectors – public, private and third – and from communities and individuals" and the "transition to net zero is collaborative and delivered in partnership."

As a signatory of the [Cities Race to Zero](#) pledge, Aberdeen is required to 'invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognising the climate crisis and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.'

Remit/ Purpose

The Pledge Scheme could be used as a vehicle to communicate, collaborate, and act to:

- 1) Promote and communicate Aberdeen's net-zero vision, Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Adaptation Framework.
- 2) Invite individuals and organisations to pledge their commitment to a Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts.
- 3) Build a network of stakeholders enabling knowledge exchange.
- 4) Build a partnership of key Aberdeen stakeholders who can contribute to the delivery of the vision, Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts.
- 5) Encourage transparency around reporting real progress locally.
- 6) Promote and align with existing commitments including Aberdeen's signing of the Cities Race to Zero pledge, Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration and the Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity.

Target audience

The proposed Pledge Scheme targets could target businesses, organisations and individuals, who are located fully, or partly, in Aberdeen, with options set out in Figure 1.

Many of Aberdeen's key businesses and employers will already be making progress on their own net-zero plans. International businesses with offices in Aberdeen will be able to communicate a place-based commitment through the pledge. Small and Medium Sized Enterprises will also be able to demonstrate to local customers a commitment to net-zero which is relevant and proportional to their area of expertise. Organisations will be seeking to understand climate risks and take adaptation actions, contributing to city resilience. As employers, the pledge could also be available to the public sector, charities, and educational institutions. It should also include an option for individual members of the public to sign-up in support of the pledge.

How it will work

Similar climate pledge schemes are used in Edinburgh and Glasgow to communicate, collaborate and drive city-wide climate action.

- The pledge would be free to sign up to.
- Individuals and organisations would be able to sign up to the pledge scheme through the (*emerging*) Net Zero Aberdeen microsite.
- A list of signatories (and logos) could be added to the Net Zero Aberdeen microsite.
- A digital logo/ or certificate for the scheme could be developed for use by the pledgees within their own marketing opportunities.
- The pledge scheme would be administered by Aberdeen City Council for Net Zero Aberdeen.

Benefits

The pledge could offer some incentives to signees through the provision of:

- Progress updates on Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts.
- Enabling knowledge exchange on net zero and climate resilience actions for the city.
- Opportunity to communicate, highlight and showcase their own actions with a wider network.
- A route to build relationships and collaborate.
- For early pledge adopters, an opportunity to help shape the pledge scheme.

Figure 1: Possible options in scope and prescriptiveness

	Benefits	Challenges
<p>1. Sign up from partners in the governance structure</p> <p><i>See possible wording of pledge in Figure 2</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrates collaboration - Leadership Board/ Delivery Unit. - Endorses the Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts. - May allow a form of monitoring. - Easy to manage. - Support in principle indicated. - Could support wider development of the pledge scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited reach
<p>2. Invite city businesses and organisations to make their own climate pledge(s).</p> <p><i>Choosing from a list or make their own.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide reach. - Can publish range of pledges/ understand areas of interest. - Can list number of pledges. - Shows commitment to the climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sign up will need to be in publicly accessible area. - Will not generate involvement in the delivery of the Routemap. - No way of knowing if pledges

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could link to engagement activities as part of the Routemap. - Signatories can receive updates. 	have been implemented.
<p>3. Invite open sign up to the pledge from city businesses, organisations and individuals</p> <p><i>See possible wording of pledge in Figure 2</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Widest reach. - Can list range of signatories etc - Endorses the Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts. - Small actions can add up – collective difference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be resource intensive to manage. - Sign up will need to be in publicly accessible area. - Pledge will need to reach different audiences.

Figure 2: draft wording for an Aberdeen Pledge, exact title TBA

Pledge – towards a net zero and climate resilient Aberdeen
<p>An opening context statement on climate change, net zero, energy transition, etc for Aberdeen.</p>
<p>A statement / bullet list on what Net Zero Aberdeen can offer to signees, e.g. a framework for action, a platform for sharing information publicly, a knowledge exchange network, opportunities for collaborative action, etc.</p>
<p>I / We...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acknowledge that climate change is real, human induced, happening now and poses significant threats and, if grasped, opportunities for our society and economy; • endorse the committed and collective journey towards net zero and climate resilience as expressed in Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts; • pledge to accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions from our own [business/ organisation / household] to contribute to the delivery of Aberdeen’s net-zero target and commitments; • make a commitment to work with partners across the city and region to reduce emissions, help enable a just transition and support the delivery of a Net Zero Aberdeen by 2045; • pledge to contribute to building resilience to the impacts of climate change; and • pledge to contribute to the protection and restoration of the city’s natural environment.
<p>As an organisation we will:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and assess climate risks affecting our organisation;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure and share data on GHG emissions and any targets within and beyond our organisation;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan, implement and promote evidence-based actions to tackle climate change;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed climate impacts into our organisation and investment decisions;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with our staff, stakeholders, and customers about what we are doing; and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate our commitments, actions, and results to all our stakeholders at least annually.
Please tick all that apply from the following:
Mobility
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate sustainable and active travel choices for our workforce and customers, wherever possible, reducing the need to travel for work.
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement a phased transition of any company owned vehicles, to low and zero alternatives.
Buildings and heat
<input type="checkbox"/> Review and reduce energy use for heat and power in any buildings owned or used in the city.
Natural environment
<input type="checkbox"/> Explore the potential of the organisational estate to contribute to the drawdown of carbon, protection and enhancement of city greenspace and restoration of nature.
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Aberdeen as a Sustainable Food Place, making use of locally sourced, seasonal, sustainable food for employees and customers.
Circular economy
<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage prevention of and a reduction in waste; mainstreaming options for reuse, refurbishment and recycling in the organisation's operations and business planning.
<input type="checkbox"/> Commit to engage across the whole value chain to drive emissions reductions. Integrate circular procurement principles into our organisation's operations and future business planning ¹ .
Energy supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan and implement a phased transition of any estate owned in the city to zero carbon energy.
Empowerment
<input type="checkbox"/> Share learning and work with other signatories to Net Zero Aberdeen; as well as local businesses and organisations to accelerate action towards net zero and a nature-positive city.
<input type="checkbox"/> Roll out climate training for our staff, including the management team as a minimum.

Examples of other pledge schemes which informed this paper:

International	https://racetozero.unfccc.int/join-the-race/ Categories for businesses, financial institutions, universities, cities, states, regions and countries.
	https://racetozero.unfccc.int/join-the-race-to-resilience/
	https://www.theclimatepledge.com/us/en
UK	https://www.pledge2030.uk/councils-for-2030/ Take the Planet Pledge Food for the Planet
Scotland	Resource Efficiency Pledge Delivered by Zero Waste Scotland Home Scottish Business Pledge
Aberdeen	Aberdeen Business Charter
Bristol	Who We Are - Bristol Green Capital
Midlothian	https://locateinmidlothian.co.uk/midlothian-business-carbon-charter-2/
Edinburgh	Edinburgh Climate Compact
Glasgow	Sustainable Charter Glasgow

¹ <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy-procurement-framework>

Appendix 4

Highland	Carbon CLEVER Declaration Carbon CLEVER Declaration The Highland Council
Newcastle	Net Zero: How you can help Newcastle City Council
Southampton	Our Greener City Charter (southampton.gov.uk)