



COUNTRY	REGION	POPULATION	LAST REPORTED EMISSIONS	MITIGATION TARGET
UNITED KINGDOM	SCOTLAND	5,453,400 (2019)	47.8 MTCO ₂ E (2019)	-75% BY 2030; -90% BY 2040; «NET ZERO» BY 2045 (BASELINE YEAR: 1990/95)

Linking climate action and the SDGs in Scotland

In the United Kingdom, strong decentralisation allows cities and the four constituent nations to set more ambitious targets than the UK government and to experiment with measures and modes of governance for climate action within certain areas (Climate Chance, 2019). This is particularly the case in Scotland: enacted in 2009 and updated in October 2019, Scotland's Climate Change Act now sets an ambitious target of net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045, with 2020 having an interim target of being at least 56% lower than 1990. In addition, climate action is part of a wider strategic framework and has many links to Scotland's work on the SDGs.

In 2007, Scotland adopted the [National Performance Framework](#) (NPF), a comprehensive strategy to make Scotland «a more successful country with opportunities for all to flourish through increased wellbeing». The NPF sets out eleven targets with indicators to measure the country's development through more than just GDP. A fourth update of the NPF is currently underway.

In February 2020, Scotland published its [Environment Strategy](#), to set out the overall framework for environmental and climate action. A section of the strategy analyses the links between this vision and both the NPF and the SDGs.

A collaborative and integrated approach for climate and SDG action

Scottish climate action lays out the collaborative approach: public engagement is a key pillar of Scotland's climate strategy, with Climate Week celebrations every year and largescale public consultations like the [Big Climate Conversation](#).

The collaborative approach is also a pillar of Scotland's SDG policy. The [Scotland SDG Network](#), established in 2017, is made up of over 500 individuals and organisations working together to implement the SDGs. For the elaboration of the UK's Voluntary National Review (VNR) – the assessment of the progress made in achieving the SDGs at

the national level, the SDG Network joined forces with the network of Scottish local authorities (COSLA) and the Scottish Government to deliver Scotland's contribution. This initial work then led to the publication of a specific [VNR](#) for Scotland in 2020.

The chapter on SDG 13 in this Scottish VNR focuses on the links between climate action and SDGs: "the range of commitments in our Climate Change Plan mean that our climate action also helps to deliver other SDGs [than SDG 13]". The link is also made with the NPF: at the end of the chapter, a figure shows the alignment of the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme with the NPF and the SDGs.

An effort that reaches the local level

In 2018, the Scotland SDG Network published an open letter asking Scotland's 34 councils to report on their work in implementing SDGs.

Five cities responded: East Ayrshire, Fife, Aberdeenshire, Glasgow and Dundee.

In its response, the city of Dundee, for example, states that it takes into account the 17 SDGs in its City Plan, its Council Plan and its Sustainable Dundee Plan. Its [Climate Action Plan](#), published after important co-construction work with local stakeholders, sets out the links between the actions

provided by this plan and the SDGs in a large table presented in an appendix to the document.

A connection to a Just Transition

Convened in 2019, a Just Transition Commission compounded of civil society experts, delivered its final report in March 2021. In response, the Scottish government created a National Just Transition Planning Framework, and entitled a new Commission to advance work to design a Plan.

[A North Sea Transition Deal](#) was firmed in March 2021 between the UK government and the offshore oil and gas industry to safeguard jobs and create additional 40,000 jobs by 2030 in CCUS and hydrogen production in the region.