

City of Edinburgh Council

Sustainable Edinburgh 2020

Engaging with our city's future

This is the text only version of Sustainable Edinburgh 2020. The full version for viewing online is available on the Council's website at:

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/sustainableedinburgh

My Vision for Edinburgh

Councillor Jenny Dawe

We are proud of the success of our city. We enjoy high quality of life, easy access to green space and outdoor leisure activities, good public transport and planning policies that have constrained over-development. But we know that Edinburgh still has challenges.

We want to build on our city's strengths and make the right choices to ensure that it develops sustainably, in the short and long term, locally and globally.

Our vision is of a low carbon, resource efficient city that delivers a resilient economy, ensures quality of life for our citizens and sustains vibrant local communities. We aim to halve our carbon emissions by 2020.

What do you think should be done to achieve these aspirations?

This document sets out the policy framework for action. Tell us your ideas and suggestions for building on our strengths, challenging our weaknesses and developing our sustainable city of the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Dawe". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, horizontal stroke.

Leader, The City of Edinburgh Council

My Vision for Edinburgh

Sue Bruce

Our Council is working hard to meet economic, social and environmental challenges in a way that has seen it recognised by the Sustainable Scotland Network as a Scottish authority committed to sustainable development.

Despite our progress however, we cannot be complacent. We are determined to seize every opportunity to deliver services and enhance our city in ways that are practical and resource efficient, in keeping with the legislative and policy structures within which we work. This is why we are committed to leading from the front on the sustainable development of Scotland's capital city, engaging with communities and including our partners and stakeholders in what we do.

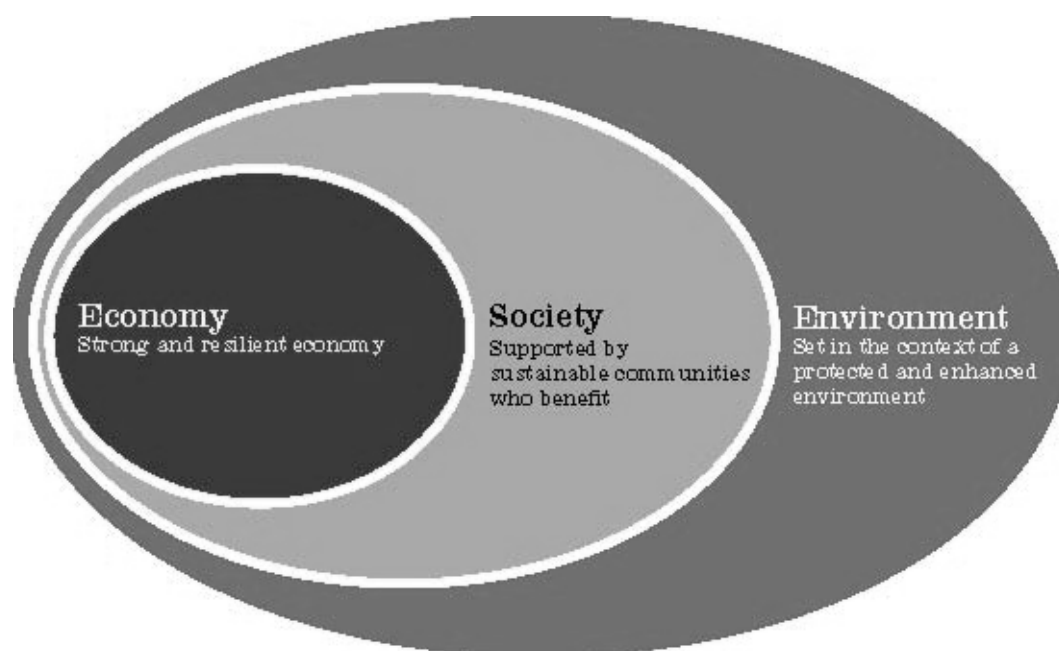
Its more that just “being green”; it is about balancing social, economic and environmental issues in the most efficient and equitable way. We want your views because successful sustainability benefits you and your family, the communities in which you live and work and the lifestyle choices you make.

Let's work together on achieving a sustainable Edinburgh.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Bruce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Executive, The City of Edinburgh Council

Redefining Sustainable Development



Sustainable Development is about more than just the “environment”. Issues such as health, education and employment are as key to sustainability as transport, energy or waste.

A strong economy needs a strong society, and both of these depend on a healthy environment. The challenge is to address social, economic and environmental issues in an integrated way in order to achieve sustainable development.

So developing Edinburgh sustainably entails a cultural challenge: redefining and aligning our aspirations relating to concepts such as wealth, health, growth, happiness and success.

Taking up the challenge

building on our strengths ... challenging our weaknesses ... maximising our opportunities

It is a major challenge for any city to achieve sustainable development but it is absolutely right that local government should lead that challenge, not only because legislation requires positive action for sustainable development, but also because of local government's role in leading and influencing others and driving policy and programmes.

Much of what we do impacts on the sustainable development of Edinburgh: every policy, strategy, service and project has a link to this agenda. We are actively involved in addressing social, economic and environmental issues; the challenge is to address these in an integrated way. To do this means recognising all Edinburgh's strengths - an overall high quality of life, good access to greenspace and outdoor leisure, our high public transport usage and ease of mobility in our compact city, high employability and a skilled workforce. We also benefit from a positive external image: our beautiful and unique built and natural heritage, our world-famous festivals and strong tourist economy and our flourishing community organisations.

However, we need to acknowledge and challenge our weaknesses so that we can build on our strengths. We still have significant pockets of deprivation, poor health and unemployment, wealth disparities, resource over-consumption, areas of poor air quality and traffic congestion. As a city we need to embrace new approaches and develop opportunities for people in different sectors and communities to exchange views and work together.

We must also address the need for behavioural change, often the most important aspect of achieving sustainability.

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In order to ensure that people in Edinburgh benefit we must maximise our opportunities. These include the requirement for changing practice imposed by the economic climate, the strength of community groups in the city, our leading universities and strong local research and development capability in energy efficiency, the skills and experience of the city's older population, climate change impacts, green technologies, jobs and infrastructure, and the availability of Scottish Government investment in the green/low carbon economy. Making the most of these opportunities will help...

... to create a more sustainable Edinburgh

The Council is a signatory to the Aalborg Charter, one of the most globally significant policy statements for local sustainable development.

The Charter sets out ten key areas for action on sustainable development. We have based our framework for sustainable development on this charter, setting out our commitments for the years up to 2020 in line with the Scottish Government's interim emissions reduction target.

These commitments apply to all Council functions, will be embedded in all new strategies, policies and plans and shall be key in decision-making at all levels and with all partners. This approach, as well as enhancing our city, will enable us to deliver on our legislative requirements.

The Council's Vision for the Edinburgh of the Future

Whatever actions we take must be robust enough to cope with unanticipated change but flexible enough to allow the city and its communities the capacity to both adapt to and shape change. In order to be able to see sustainability in practice we must set out a policy framework which will not only guide the work of the Council but will provide a basis for working with our existing and future communities, our partners and our stakeholders.

The Council vision is that:

Edinburgh in 2020 will be a low carbon, resource efficient city, delivering a resilient local economy and vibrant flourishing communities in a rich natural setting.

The Council's objectives by 2020

- **Edinburgh will** maintain a good quality of life for all its citizens while consuming minimum resources
- **Edinburgh will** be a leading knowledge, demonstration and development centre for sustainable development
- **Edinburgh will** have a new trademark – the “Sustainable City” – attracting visitors, industry and investors
- **Edinburgh will** have created significant new employment opportunities in low carbon and green technologies
- **Edinburgh will** have preserved and enhanced its biodiversity, landscape and coastal environments

Delivering sustainable outcomes

A sustainable city

Where basic resources of air, land and water are kept clean and free of pollution and where resources are kept within sustainable limits.

A human city

Where everyone has access to opportunities.

A prosperous city

Where people can earn a livelihood that will provide for them and their dependents.

An innovative city

Where quality education is available to all and the benefits of research and innovation widely applied

An efficiently and effectively managed city

Where the integration and co-operation of different groups, sectors and stakeholders within the city share resources.

A compact city

Where there is high density of population living within easy access of services, leisure and greenspace.

The Council Framework - making the right choices

1. For promoting good governance

instead of copying best practice we should be seeking to create the new cutting edge.

Forum for the Future, 2008

WE ARE COMMITTED to ensuring that everyone in the city is involved in the achievement of a sustainable Edinburgh and that resources are prioritised to achieve this.

2. For promoting good management

the new cutting edge...will come from leadership in the form of courage and risk taking, to... move sustainability into the purpose of designing visions rather than looking at sustainability as an add on.

Green Cities Index 2008

WE ARE COMMITTED to implementing effective management and resourcing of sustainable development, including the use of technology.

3. For protecting and conserving the environment

We all tend to feel better in the natural environment - so why are we working so hard to destroy it?

Dr Michael Dixon, Chairman, NHS Alliance in Healthy Futures 2007

WE ARE COMMITTED to protecting and conserving natural resources. This will include reducing energy, protecting water, soil and air quality and enhancing biodiversity, natural areas and green space.

4. For responsible consumption and lifestyle choices

Don't throw anything away. There is no 'away'.

Royal Dutch Shell advert (2007)

WE ARE COMMITTED to encouraging the efficient use of resources, minimising waste and promoting energy efficiency. We will undertake sustainable procurement including organic, ethical and fair trade goods.

5. For planning and design for sustainability

Town planning is not mere place planning, nor even work planning. If it is to be successful it must be folk planning.

Sir Patrick Geddes

WE ARE COMMITTED to a strategic role for planning and design of all development and buildings in achieving sustainability by addressing social, economic, health and urban cultural heritage issues for the benefit of all.

6. For sustainable transport

Sustainable travel begins at home.

Justin Francis, Responsible Travel

WE ARE COMMITTED to promoting sustainable transport, increasing the share of journeys made by public transport, foot or bicycle, encouraging the transition to low emission vehicles and minimising adverse health and environmental effects of transport emissions.

7. For local action for health

The best six doctors anywhere and no one can deny it

Are sunshine, water, rest, and air, exercise and diet

Old Nursery Rhyme

WE ARE COMMITTED to protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of our citizens and addressing health inequalities.

8. For achieving a vibrant and sustainable local economy

Business as usual is dead. Green growth is the answer to both our climate and economic problems.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen (March 2009)

WE ARE COMMITTED to supporting development of an economy that is environmentally and socially sustainable, and to developing a vibrant local economy that provides opportunities for all.

9. For securing inclusive and supportive communities

Environmental problems are really social problems anyway. They begin with people as the cause and end with people as the victims.

Sir Edmund Hillary

WE ARE COMMITTED to supporting inclusive communities by working towards the elimination of poverty, ensuring equitable access to public services, education, employment, culture and training and securing good quality and affordable housing.

10. For local to global

Forget about making poverty history. Climate change will make poverty permanent.

Nazmul Chowdhury, Practical Action, Bangladesh (2009)

WE ARE COMMITTED to reducing our impact on the global environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our communities and ensuring we adapt to the known impacts of climate change.

A Climate Responsive City

Climate change represents one of the biggest sustainability challenges we face. The continuing emissions of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere are damaging our environment and threatening our economic prosperity and future quality of life. Addressing climate change involves taking immediate action on two fronts – reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the inevitable impacts of climate change. The Council will collaborate with partner organisations to develop city-wide programmes specifically focused on this key area of sustainability.

Our targets are that by 2020 Edinburgh will have:

- Reduced carbon emissions by over 40% across the city.
- More efficient energy consumption across all sectors by at least 12%
- More renewable energy with renewable energy technologies contributing to at least 40% of energy consumed in the city.
- More low carbon transport using alternative technologies for transporting people and goods around the city.
- Adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change in partnership with key stakeholders and local communities.
- Increase our microgeneration capacity to 10%

Working towards sustainability: delivering our actions

- We will develop a comprehensive programme of embedding sustainable development into all that we do, in order to make our vision a reality.
- We will develop a robust set of indicators to enable us to report on progress annually.
- We will ensure that we work in partnership with our communities, key stakeholders and partners.
- We will endeavour to be innovative and progressive in our thinking in delivering sustainability through step changes in behaviours and cultural expectations.
- We will demonstrate strong leadership in driving this agenda forward, involving all our communities.
- We will aim to be a city that sets a positive example in sustainable development at national and international levels.

Measuring Our Performance

It will be important to know whether or not our city is moving in a more sustainable direction.

One way to measure this is by using sustainable development indicators. We will identify and develop a suite of indicators to support the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 policy framework. This will inform us on progress towards the sustainability vision that we have set for our city. As part of our engagement with our partners and stakeholders, we will be asking how we can measure what is most important to Edinburgh in terms of its environment, society and economy.

Engaging Our Communities

This document set out the Council's vision for sustainable development and the objectives to make Edinburgh more sustainable and improve the quality of life for us all. We have set out the policy framework to govern all our activities and some key targets to address the key issue of climate change.

We would like to invite everyone in Edinburgh to engage with us to develop the actions needed to achieve this.

We have deliberately not set out any actions in our aspiration for a sustainable Edinburgh as we would genuinely like to engage with everyone in the city to develop initiatives and be involved in their delivery from the outset.

- **What are the priority actions you would like to see to help Edinburgh become more sustainable?**
- **What do you think the Council should be doing?**
- **What could be your role in delivering a Sustainable Edinburgh?**
- **Any other comments you would like to make?**

For further information please contact

Carbon, Climate and Sustainability Manager
The City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh EH8 8BG

Tel: 0131 469 3804 | email: sustainability@edinburgh.gov.uk



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

ترجمة تيسرا بسختنا توفير الترجمة 後樂意翻譯
MOŻEMY PRZETŁUMACZYĆ অনদের সহজ অনুব ক সহজ

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