

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, 28 May 2024

## Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2021/22 – Tackling Climate Change indicators

Executive/routine  
Wards

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 That the Policy and Sustainability Committee note the report setting out the detailed analysis of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) Tackling Climate Change dataset for the 2021/22 financial year.

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## Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2021/22 – Tackling Climate Change

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides an overview of the 2021/22 benchmarking data provided by the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) and reflects the recovery of Sustainability indicators post Covid-19. The tackling climate change dataset has a time lag of one year due to the collection of climate related data. For 2021/22 three new indicators have been included with data backdated for earlier years to allow trends to be shown over time.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 Led by [SOLACE](#), with the support of the [Improvement Service](#), the Local Government Benchmarking Framework aims to provide a benchmarking toolkit for local government.
- 3.2 The publication and use of this data forms part of the Council's statutory requirements for public performance reporting as directed by the Accounts Commission.
- 3.3 It should be noted that LGBF data is always retrospective, and the framework provides benchmarking data and national rankings for tackling climate change indicators measuring the financial year 2021/22.
- 3.4 This is benchmarking data for all Scottish Local Authorities and, where the data is relevant, can present a useful analysis of us in comparison to others.
- 3.5 Currently the dataset for Tackling Climate Change holds 2021/22 data for 5 indicators.
- 3.6 This report has been presented to this committee today following a motion at the Policy and Sustainability committee meeting of 23 May 2023 which requested that 'The report should be subdivided and provided to the relevant service area Executive Committees to allow greater scrutiny of performance and the actions required to instil a culture of continuous improvement, learning lessons from the better performance in Family Group Councils.'

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 An online toolkit on the [Improvement Service dashboard](#) has been created to help councils benchmark with other councils.
- 4.2 The framework allows local authorities to compare their performance across a suite of indicators of efficiency (unit cost), outputs and outcomes, covering a wide range of local government activity.
- 4.3 This dataset provides information showing relative position for Edinburgh with the other councils as well as timeseries data for each of the indicators for Edinburgh.

### ***High level Overview***

- 4.4 The latest figures show that overall Tackling Climate Change indicators relative position is in the top two quartiles for 100% of the indicators (5 out of 5).
- 4.5 Compared to last year (2020/21) we have shown improvement in 1 of the indicators. However, our performance has declined in 4 of the indicators.
- 4.6 To enable comparison with other Local Authorities, we have included the national average, a 'family group' average and an average of the other three urban cities (Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow) to allow consideration of different perspectives of the data. In addition, as requested at the Policy and Sustainability committee meeting of 23 May 2023, tackling climate change indicators are shown against both the demographic and deprivation family group averages.

## 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1 The Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2021/22 data analysis will be used to inform Senior Management Team discussions and the Council Planning and Performance Framework.

## 6. Financial impact

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- 6.1 There is no financial impact associated with this report.

## 7. Equality and Poverty Impact

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- 7.1 There is no equality or poverty impact arising from the analysis of this data.

## 8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

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- 8.1 While this report is retrospective, it is used to support decision-making to drive service improvement and delivery of all business including the Business Plan

priority: Become a net zero city by 2030. Wider and more in depth reporting on carbon emissions is brought to Policy and Sustainability Committee annually.

## **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 9.1 The publication and use of the benchmarking data forms part of the Council's statutory requirements for public performance reporting, as [directed](#) by the Accounts Commission.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 [LGBF National Overview Report 2022/23](#) published by the Improvement Service in March 2024.
- 10.2 [Improvement Service Explore the Data](#) website.

## **11. Appendices**

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- Appendix A: 2021/22 Tackling Climate Change Overview
- Appendix B: Tackling Climate Change Charts
- Appendix C: LGBF Family groups

# Appendix A: 2021/22 Edinburgh Overview of Tackling Climate Change indicators

## LGBF 2021/22 summary

1. This analysis of the most recent Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) data provides:
  - a. a summary of Edinburgh’s relative position and indicator performance compared to the previous years, 2020/21 (mid-Covid) and 2021/22 (post-Covid)
  - b. indicator data and the national relative position for 5 LGBF indicators
  - c. urban cities, Scotland average and Family Group comparative data
  - d. an overview of national performance trends and local factors.
2. This report covers the 5 indicators with updated data since the previous LGBF 2020/21 release.

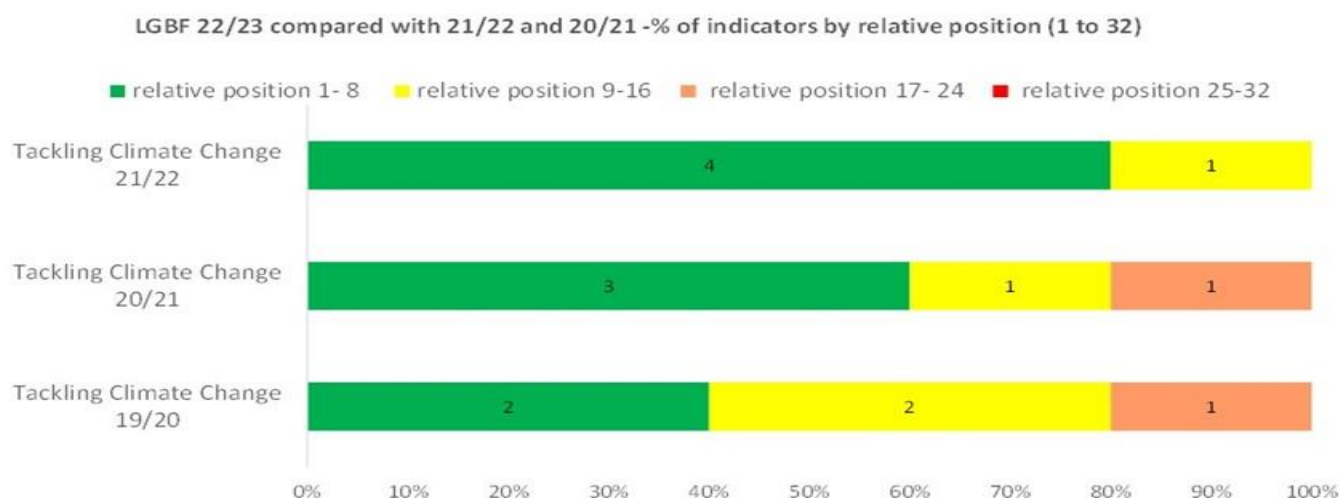
### Edinburgh – summary of Climate Change indicators

3. Although our emissions show an increase in 2021/22, a trend seen across Scotland as we came out of lockdowns, we remain below the national, three city and both family group averages.

### Edinburgh – relative position 2021/22

4. Tackling Climate Change indicators relative position is above the national average (so in the top two quartiles) for all 5 indicators.

**Chart 1: Edinburgh relative position by theme – Tackling Climate Change indicators**

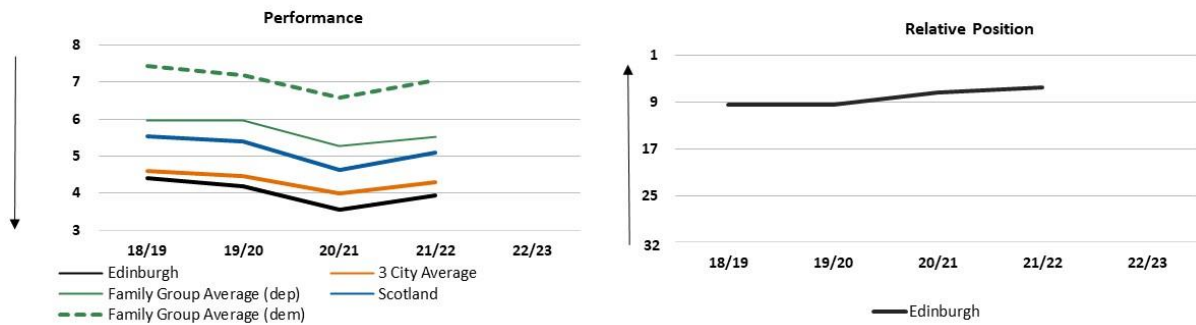


## **Edinburgh – Tackling Climate Change indicators performance**

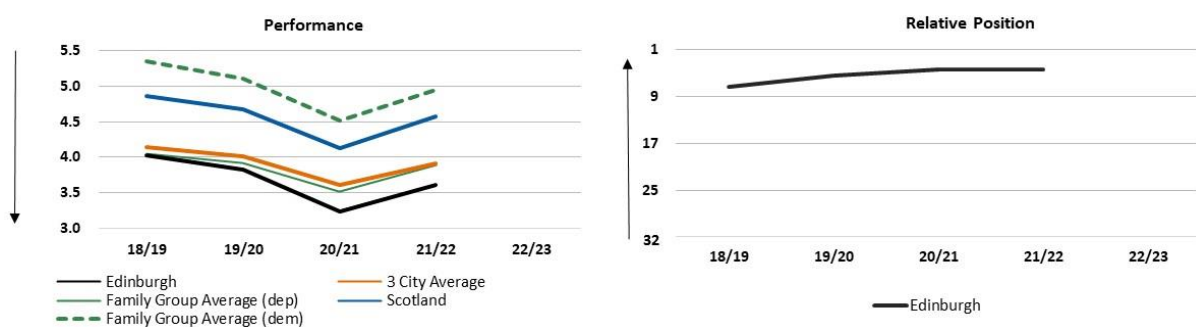
5. Compared to last year (2020/21) we have shown improvement in 1 of the indicators. However, our performance has declined in 4 of the indicators.
6. Full charts for each indicator are shown in Appendix B.

# Appendix B Climate Change

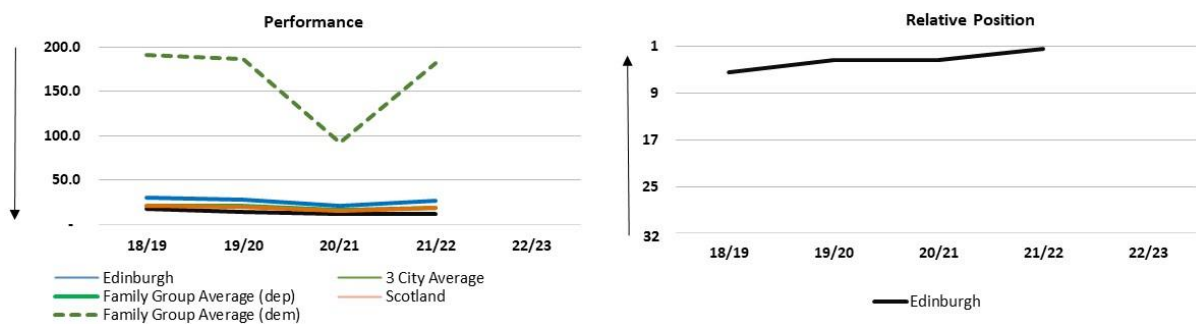
CO2 emissions area wide per capita (in tonnes)



CO2 emissions area wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita (in tonnes)

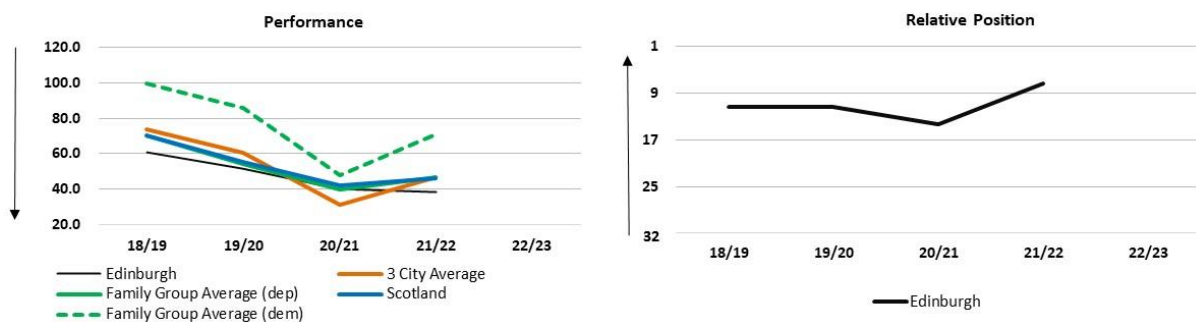


CO2 emissions from Transport per capita

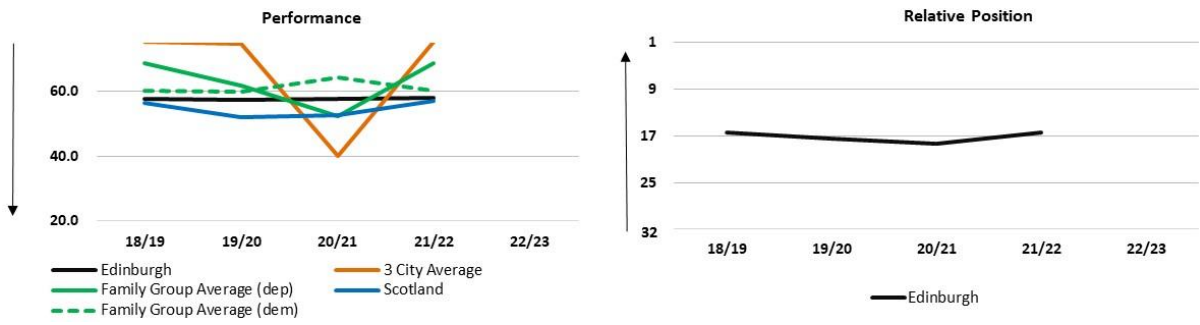


N/B The Family Group (dep) line in the Transport chart above is skewed due to very high values for the two island authorities which is shifting that average upwards.

CO2 emissions from Electricity per capita



CO2 emissions from Natural Gas per capita



N/B. We believe there is an anomaly in the data for 2020/21 which is causing the dip in the 3 city average for Natural Gas emissions. We are following this up with the Improvement Service.



## Appendix C LGBF Family Groups

The People family group reflects delivery of services to residents only, with comparison to other Local Authorities with similar wealth and deprivation.

<b>People (relative deprivation and affluence)</b>
Children, Social Care, Housing
Family Group 1
Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, <b>City of Edinburgh</b> , East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Shetland Islands

The Urban family group reflects the density of population and delivery of services to **all** residents, visitors and businesses.

<b>Other (Urban)</b>
Corporate, C & L, Environmental, Econ Dev, Fin Sus, Tackling Climate Change
Family Group 4
Aberdeen City, <b>City of Edinburgh</b> , Dundee City, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire