

**Climate Ready Edinburgh
Implementation Plan 2024-2026**



Introduction



The Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2024-2030 was published in August 2024. The Plan outlines the strategic approach and actions that need to be taken to adapt Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Ready Edinburgh Implementation Plan has been developed as the mechanism for delivering the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan.

This first Implementation Plan sets out how the organisations in the Adaptation

and Nature partnership will take forward the actions set out in the Climate Ready Plan over the next two years.

Governance and Delivery

The Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan has been developed by the Adaptation and Nature Partnership, chaired by Scottish Water. The partnership is one of four thematic workstreams reporting to the Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board (NZELB), which is the overarching body responsible for monitoring progress in tackling the climate emergency.

Actions set out in the plan will be delivered by the members of the Adaptation and Nature Partnership, alongside supporting agencies from the Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board, key stakeholders and other citywide organisations.

The Adaptation and Nature Partnership is made up of:

- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Scottish Water

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Edinburgh World Heritage
- Historic Environment Scotland
- NHS Lothian
- NatureScot
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership
- University of Edinburgh
- Heriot-Watt University
- Napier University
- Edinburgh College
- Verture

Climate Ready Edinburgh Implementation Plan

The following pages set out the steps that will be taken over the next two years to start delivering the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan. They are organised by the nine key priority themes set out in the Climate Ready Plan and the objectives underpinning these themes.

A. Planning and the Built Environment		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
Update planning policies, guidance and processes to include adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Edinburgh Design Guidance to include climate adaptation • Deliver a programme of training on climate adaptation for planners • Update area spatial strategies, masterplans, development briefs and project requirements • Update annual planning work programme • Embed into City Plan 2040 proposed plan 	Inhouse resource
Embed adaptation into Council processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the business case for a new Environmental Clerk of Works • Embed multi-discipline team approaches into strategy, plan and project level planning and development work, taking into consideration financial constraints • Update the Council’s Authority Construction Requirements to link to Edinburgh Design and Street Guidance 	Budget required for Environmental Clerk of works post Cost less than £1M.
Ensure adaptation of the Old and New Towns of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site is done in ways that preserve its historic character and Outstanding Universal Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership, ensure processes protect the World Heritage Site protected characteristics when changes are proposed • Complete the climate actions in the World Heritage Site Action Plan 2024-26 • Create additional guidance on maintenance and repair of historic buildings in Edinburgh (using case studies) in response to climate change impacts • Implement small scale pilot projects on buildings • Secure funding and develop a feasibility study for large scale pilot projects on buildings • Define requirements for pilot projects on infrastructure (public realm/green spaces) and prepare business case 	CEC, EWH and HES partnership funding for projects, programmes and activities (funding dependent) Cost between £1M and up to £10M
Undertake an assessment of people’s experiences of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish Edinburgh specific report from regional climate risk assessment and story map of people’s experiences 	Shared Prosperity Fund funding

A. Planning and the Built Environment		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
Evaluate climate risk to the council's corporate estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a desktop exercise collating information about potential climate impacts on the Council's corporate estate 	Capital investment programme. Not costed
Work with the Council's housing team on ways to adapt the city's Council housing stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for undertaking adaptation measures as part of the Whole House Retrofit Programme Monitor dampness and mould in Council housing, addressing most at risk properties Launch community-based environmental improvements projects on HRA land 	Capital investment programme Cost between £1M and up to £10M
Engage with Edinburgh's social rented sector on ways to adapt rented accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake engagement with the Affordable Housing Partnership on identifying the risks to and increasing the climate resilience of social housing in the city 	Inhouse resource
Support owners of basement properties to reduce their flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information through existing partnerships on actions that could be taken to alleviate basement property flood risks 	Inhouse resource
Increase resilience of the Council's school estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Learning Estate Strategy with climate adaptation in school grounds Establish Wilding Wee Spaces Schools programme 	Inhouse resource & Woodland Trust funding
Work with large land holders and sports providers on adapting and their facilities and grounds and enhancing nature using nature-based solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaken engagement with large land owners, including the Pentland Hills Regional Park Engage with city sports providers on identifying the risks and improving the climate resilience of their facilities and grounds 	Inhouse resource
Support delivery of the adaptation actions in Edinburgh's Canal Strategy 2024-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Scottish Canals in the delivery of the flood risk mitigation, urban cooling and canopy cover, nature-based and connecting habitats actions in Edinburgh's Canal Strategy 	Scottish Canals. Cost between £1M and up to 10M. Funding will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis
Deliver climate resilient university campuses across the	Deliver the adaptation actions in the University of Edinburgh's Framework and upcoming Climate Strategy Implementation Plan through:	Existing University of Edinburgh funding

A. Planning and the Built Environment		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
city through master planning and knowledge sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation & Infrastructure: Completion of the University of Edinburgh’s climate change risk assessment and flood risk resilience plan. • Climate-ready Campuses: Implementation of the university’s sustainable design guides for new buildings and consideration given to refurbishment of existing buildings • Incorporating adaptation into Edinburgh University campus master planning. • Knowledge sharing with further and higher education organisations through working with the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and Adaptation Scotland 	
Develop a central source of information for green infrastructure installation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost on the Council and partner websites information, guidance and best practice examples of green infrastructure, including green roof and raingarden installation 	Inhouse resource

B. Water Management		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
Update key strategies to include drought and water scarcity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate water scarcity into Edinburgh’s Nature Vision 	Inhouse resource
Deliver a citywide Surface Water Management Plan, identifying the priority areas and implementing projects to improve flood resilience and placemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete initial mapping of surface water flood risk and identify priority action areas • Communicate surface water flood risk to all services and how it affects their work • Complete evidence reporting for City Plan 2040 	Fully funded
Identify future risks from river flooding to the city through regional working	Identify key regional cross boundary river risks from the regional climate risk assessment.	Shared Prosperity Framework

B. Water Management		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
Remove surface water from the drainage system in at risk areas and complete detailed design plans for infrastructure delivery in other high-risk zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver one project within the Craigleith catchment to reduce surface water flood risk and undertake detailed design of one additional project • Develop projects with the Edinburgh and Lothian Strategic Drainage Partnership 	Funding in place to support work to 2026/27
Continue to maintain existing flood assets, undertake flood studies and develop digitised flood asset plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to operate and maintain existing flood assets. • Digitise one category of flood assets (coast/river/reservoir) in draft form 	Cost between £1M and up to £10M Fully funded
Develop Edinburgh's Strategic Green Blue network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise the Strategic Green Blue network with key links and priority areas identified • Publish the Green Blue network story map 	Inhouse resource
Manage the increased risk of lower river and reservoir levels associated with droughts through reduced leakage and water efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer and business engagement campaigns held on managing water demand • Ongoing continued improvements to reduce leakage levels in networks 	Scottish Water funding. Fully funded
Share best practice on water management and adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with business sector to raise awareness and support development of public and private sector adaptation plans. 	Scottish Water. Fully funded

C: Coastal Adaptation		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
Continue to implement the coastal actions in Cycle 2 of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing coastal flood defences along Cramond, Silverknowes and Granton coast 	Cost between £1M and up to £10M. Funded annually. Scottish Government General

C: Coastal Adaptation		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a flood study to determine the long term management of existing defences along these areas of coast, including consideration of the likely impacts of climate change 	Capital Grant allocation
Continue inspection regimes and maintenance of coastal defences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing coastal defences inspection, maintenance and repair work. Complete digitisation of coastal flood defence assets 	Cost less than £1M. Fully funded. Existing Revenue funding
Deliver Edinburgh's Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP). Use outcomes to inform emerging City Plan 2040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake consultation as part of major stakeholder consultation case study and throughout development of Stage 1 of the CCAP. Complete draft stage 1 CCAP and use to inform emerging City Plan 2040 (subject to timescales aligning) 	Cost less than £1M to produce all stages of the CCAP. Stage 1 fully funded
Assess impacts on coastal habitats and species due to rising sea levels, and work together to protect biodiversity along Edinburgh's coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify implications and impacts to coastal habitats and species, and potential mitigation measures and fully embed these into CCAP Stage 1 work. Identify projects to support coastal adaptation using nature-based solutions 	Cost less than £1M

D. Sustainable Transport		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
Actively engage with transport providers on the risks and impacts of climate change on their services and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build understanding of the impact climate change is having on Edinburgh's transport infrastructure and travel Engage with Edinburgh's local, regional and national transport providers Undertake consultation with the ports sector as part of major stakeholder case study and throughout Stage 1 of the CCAP 	Inhouse and partnership funding Cost less than £1M
Embed adaptation into Edinburgh's City Mobility Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow City Plan 2030 policies in the updating of Street Design Guidance, design and project delivery of Our Future Streets and Streetspace Allocation Framework 	Inhouse resource

D. Sustainable Transport		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add flood risk areas and blue light routes as layers to the Future Streets/Streetspace Allocation spatial mapping (geographic information system mapping) 	
Sustainably manage Edinburgh's local road network to increase city's resilience to extreme weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver 100% training for road designers on how to incorporate sustainable drainage within roads design by 2026 Use surface treatments to extend the life of roads minimising the requirement for full resurfacing 	Fully funded Inhouse resource

E: Natural Environment		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
Deliver a new Forestry and Woodland Strategy and Nature Vision for the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Forestry and Woodland Strategy Deliver Edinburgh's Nature Vision with adaptation embedded into it 	Inhouse resource
Adaptation embedded into Thriving Green Spaces Strategy (TGS) Implementation Action Plan and updated park masterplans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the TGS Strategy Implementation Action Plan and park masterplans Continue to deliver Edinburgh's Nature Network actions Launch the greening of school playgrounds project 	Funding required for new park masterplans Greening of School Playgrounds (funding bid dependent)
Undertake city biodiversity assessment and natural capital assessment of parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the biodiversity assessment for the city 	Cost less than £1M
Support delivery of the key actions in Edinburgh's Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP) and One Million Tree City project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver/progress EBAP climate-related actions Consider species mix, contribution to flood alleviation and shade potential in delivery of the One Million Tree City action plan Prioritise street tree planting in areas prone to flooding and overheating Allocate sufficient resources for aftercare and maintenance of city trees 	Cost between £1M and up to £10M
Develop guidance on priority habitats and special landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree scope of priority habitats guidance and begin production 	Inhouse and partner resource with potential

E: Natural Environment		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
areas in the city, risks and opportunities to these from climate change , carbon capture potential, and species choice for further habitat resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin identification and prioritisation of action needed by habitat types 	need for additional funding
Deliver i-tree survey to inform tree planting in all areas of the city	Complete updated i-Tree Survey	Potential inhouse funding Cost less than £1M
Monitor drought and fire impacts on council owned trees and greenspaces	Develop monitoring processes for drought and fire impacts on council owned trees and greenspaces	Inhouse resource
Develop green investment finance model through FIRNS project	Complete FIRNS stage 1	Natural Restoration Fund funding for first phase secured
Develop a citywide action framework on biosecurity	Scope out project and identify lead partners. Begin collation of baseline information	Cost less than £1M
Improve soil management and minimise soil disruption during construction through guidance, signposting and advice	Agree new information in Edinburgh Design Guidance on minimising soil disturbance, soil handling during construction works and protection of peatland and carbon rich soil	Inhouse and partner resource

F: Community, Health and Wellbeing		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
Deliver Edinburgh's Local Outcome Improvement and Local Improvement Plans with climate resilience as a key factor of projects and processes for communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build understanding of climate disadvantage in Edinburgh and the impact this is having on residents • Incorporate climate resilience into the LOIP and LIPs 	Inhouse resource
Include climate justice as a key theme in Edinburgh Poverty Commission review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate climate justice into the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's review work 	Inhouse resource
Add climate adaptation as a key theme in new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Framework 2026 - 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure consideration of adaptation and a just transition in the new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion framework 2026-2030 	Inhouse resource
Add weather extremes caused by climate change to Edinburgh's Winter Weather Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify trigger points and actions required for weather extremes (e.g. heatwaves, extreme rain, storms) 	Inhouse resource
Support third sector groups to develop and implement adaptation plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with third sector and community groups who have or are in the process of developing adaptation plans. 	Inhouse and partner resource
Update Integrated Impact Assessment climate change guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on climate issues to support officers in completion of the updated IIA process. 	Inhouse resource
Monitor national policy on migration and displacement because of climate change and review impact on city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor national policy and the impact on Edinburgh 	Inhouse resource

F: Community, Health and Wellbeing		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Financial implications
Deliver citywide awareness campaign on climate change through promotion of Adaptation Scotland's route map for communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Adaptation Scotland's routemap for communities 	Shared Prosperity Fund funding
Build understanding amongst staff and service users of climate change risks to health, health and care services and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake research into key risks to staff, service users, services and infrastructure of climate change 	NHS Lothian Funding
Build the resilience of health facilities, services and clients across the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a climate change risk assessment of the NHS Lothian estate Continue delivery of NHS Lothian's Green Health Strategy Begin implementation of NHS Lothian's Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2034 	NHS Lothian Funding
Communicate the links between climate change and local air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Council education officers and schools to highlight climate change links to air quality as part of air quality awareness activities Highlight climate change links to air quality within the Clean Air Day annual event 	Unfunded. Cost less than £1M
Monitor changes in pest control call outs and align resources to tackle changing issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor changes in overall pest control call outs managed by the City of Edinburgh Council 	Inhouse resource

G: Economy and Culture		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Budget implications
Update Edinburgh's Net Zero website to include information and resources for businesses to adapt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Adaptation Scotland's guidance and tools for SMEs through Council and Chamber of Commerce websites, social media and events 	Inhouse resource

G: Economy and Culture		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Budget implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Net Zero website to include information and resources for businesses to adapt. 	
Develop a mentoring and support programme for business on adaptation with Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add climate resilience to delivery of existing business mentoring and support programmes 	UK SPF, other partners/sources where appropriate.
Increase courses, training and job opportunities in climate resilience by working with Further and Higher Education Institutes, Capital City Partnership and the Scottish Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand city skills provision targeting communities at greatest risk of poverty Add adaptation skills learning to vocational training programmes helping people with barriers to employment Add climate resilience into employability support programmes and sustainability skilled employees awareness raising activities 	Scottish Government potential source for the scale of funding needed.
Raise staff awareness of climate change and action to be taken during severe weather and heatwaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop staff guidance and awareness raising activities 	Inhouse resource
Build local economic resilience to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support delivery of Edinburgh's City Region Deal and Shared Prosperity programmes in relation to building regional and local economic resilience and markets. 	Shared Prosperity Fund funding
Develop and implement extreme weather and adaptation plans for all Council Cultural venues and work collaboratively with Edinburgh's cultural sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Council's Cultural Venues and Museums and Galleries Sustainability Strategy. Complete climate change risk assessments of Council cultural venues. Develop and implement venue specific adaptation and extreme weather plans. 	Inhouse resource and partnership resource

G: Economy and Culture		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Budget implications
Work collaboratively with Edinburgh's cultural partners to increase their climate resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the adaptation section of the Council's cultural grants agreement process. • Continue to promote and encourage sign up to Culture for Climate Scotland's Green Arts Charter. • Run awareness raising campaigns to promote Culture for Climate Scotland's climate adaptation information, support and training • Work with partners to centralise information and practical tools for the cultural sector on adaptation 	Inhouse and partnership resource
Support Edinburgh's creative sector to engage with people in the city on adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a local assembly for Edinburgh's cultural sector to build creative partnerships and collaboration on climate action in the city 	Inhouse and partnership resource
Build the climate resilience of Edinburgh's festivals and major events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support implementation of Festival Edinburgh's Climate Adaptation Plan • Support delivery of the Council's new Events Strategy 	Inhouse and partnership resource

H: Building understanding of Climate Change Risks		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Budget implications
Ensure ongoing monitoring, evaluation and research to inform decision-making on climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a dashboard of climate projections and evidence sets to address the main challenges from climate change • Use research and information from the adaptation and nature partnership to inform and support Council officers and partners across the city 	Inhouse and partners resource
Provide understandable and accessible information about climate change in Edinburgh on CEC and partner websites and ensure these are maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Council and partner websites to provide accessible information about climate change in Edinburgh 	Inhouse and partner resource

I: Governance and Investment		
	Year 1 and 2 Delivery Actions	Budget Implications
Monitor progress with the Plan and update as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold quarterly meetings of the Edinburgh Adaptation and Nature partnership • Monitor the CRE Plan and report progress to the Net Zero Board and committees 	Inhouse and partnership resource
Ensure cross council understanding of climate risk and embed into all risk assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold fortnightly Climate and Nature drop-in sessions for officers • Agree changes to committee report templates • Deliver training for officers on implications of climate change for their services • Create climate and nature induction training material • Update Council risk assessments to manage corporate risk 	Inhouse resource
Complete economic feasibility study on costs of adapting the city versus the cost implications of no or limited action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Edinburgh Climate Adaptation Economic Analysis stage 1 • Secure funding for Economic Analysis stage 2 	Inhouse resource Funding required for Stage 2 Economic Analysis
Work with the Scottish Government and partners to secure funding to deliver projects and long term maintenance of new infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify resources and potential funding streams to drive forward key projects 	Inhouse and partnership resource
Collaborate with the Scottish Government, City Region and other partnerships to move forward ideas and changes that are required to secure sufficient funding for adaptation projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop priority project list and business cases 	Inhouse and partnership resource