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# OUR CREATIVE FUTURE

## CULTURE AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

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OUR  
CREATIVE  
VOICE

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**The net zero target date recommended for Scotland, which has been adopted by the Scottish Government, is 2045**

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Round-up of emissions and carbon reporting 2019,  
Creative Carbon Scotland

**Art and creativity have a vital role to play in helping address the climate emergency and contributing to a more environmentally sustainable Scotland. Creativity can raise awareness and understanding of the climate emergency and encourage action to improve sustainability. The early adoption of green and sustainability practices will not only increase efficiency and generate cost savings but will create new kinds of business opportunities for individuals and organisations working in the creative sectors.**

We know that the way we live has an impact on our environment and can pose challenges that can affect our future. Art and creativity reach a large number of people and hugely impact upon our broader culture. Environmental sustainability is an urgent issue that cannot be ignored. The reach and potential of art and creativity in influencing culture and engaging people presents an opportunity for the creative sectors to lead in changes in behaviours and practices that positively impact environmental sustainability. Many forms of cultural expression seek to address complexity and confront challenges in ways that are provocative and engaging. They can often open up dialogue and engagement with and about new social and political contexts and use creative forms of critical inquiry as opposed to seeking or presenting technical solutions.

The creative and culture sectors in Scotland can also lead by example in operating in an as environmentally sustainable way as possible, contributing to a net zero Scotland and encouraging others to do the same. For example, **carbon emissions reported by theatres in Scotland** almost halved between 2015/16 and 2018/19. Scottish creative sectors are also demonstrating leadership on environmental sustainability via The Green Arts Initiative, which was initiated by Creative Carbon Scotland and Festivals Edinburgh in 2013. **The Green Arts Initiative** supports Scottish arts and cultural organisations to reduce their impact on the climate and environment, and to be at the forefront of creating a sustainable future for our sector and beyond.

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**The Scottish Government target is to reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. Progress is measured against 1990 levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and we have so far reduced our emissions by over 50%.**

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Guide to Climate Policy, Creative Carbon Scotland

Gaining increasing profile and reputation nationally and internationally, Creative Carbon Scotland has secured project funding from a wide range of other sources to connect creative and environmental organisations and initiatives. This includes leadership of the major three-year **Cultural Adaptations** programme – a partnership with Belgium, Ireland and Sweden – exploring culture’s role in adapting to climate change. The organisation is also supporting other creative organisations in the development of their **Carbon Management Plans**.

The global climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges we have ever faced. The Scottish Government has laid out its plans on how to incorporate the principles of the **Just Transition principles** via the **Just Transition Commission**. The recommendations will support Scottish Ministers to take action that will maximise the economic and social opportunities that the move to a net-zero economy by 2045 offers. Scotland’s National Performance Framework sets out a vision for a more successful country, including valuing, protecting and enhancing our environment.

Steps are being taken to implement new initiatives, such as 20 minute neighbourhoods (where people can meet their needs within a 20 minute walk from their house) and the Scottish Government’s plans are outlined in the latest **‘Protecting Scotland. Renewing Scotland’** publication.

**Creativity, ingenuity and imagination have a key role to play in finding creative solutions to the challenge of living and working sustainably.**

#### **FIND OUT MORE:**

##### **Creative Carbon Scotland’s Guide to Climate Policy | Creative Carbon Scotland**

Find out more about climate policy in Scotland, including a background to climate change, information on international, UK and Scottish policy, understanding the meaning of ‘net zero’ and other terms, and how we can achieve climate change targets.

#### **Creative Scotland RFO Carbon Management Plans**

Find out more about how Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs) are planning carbon reduction in the coming years.

#### **Cultural Adaptations**

Discover more about Cultural Adaptations, a Creative Europe project led by Creative Carbon Scotland with partners in three EU countries. The project focused on culture’s role in society’s adaptation to climate, and the adaptation issues that cultural organisations need to think about.

#### **The Green Arts Initiative**

Initiated by Creative Carbon Scotland and Festivals Edinburgh in 2013, the Green Arts Initiative supports Scottish arts and cultural organisations to reduce their impact on the climate and environment, and to be at the forefront of creating a sustainable future for our sector and beyond.

#### **Protecting Scotland, Renewing Scotland: The Government’s Programme for Scotland 2020–2021**

The Programme for Government sets out the actions that will take in the coming year and beyond. It includes the legislative programme for the next parliamentary year.

#### **Round-up of emissions and carbon reporting 2019**

Read about the progress being made by Creative Scotland’s Regularly Funded Organisations in their carbon reduction plans.

#### **Scottish Government Just Transition Commission**

The Just Transition Commission has been set-up by the Scottish Government to advise on a net-zero economy that is fair for all. Read more about the plans and useful links to other information here.

#### **Scottish Government Net Zero Nation**

Find out more about climate change, net zero and how Scotland can help tackle the climate crisis.