

THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND: INITIAL MONITORING FRAMEWORK



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CONTENTS

1. Introduction	02
2. What this document is for	03
3. Initial Monitoring Framework indicators	03
4. Plans for monitoring and reporting	13
5. Next steps	13
Annex A:	
Overview of Environment Strategy vision and outcomes	14
Annex B:	
Technical information on indicators	16

1. Introduction

The Environment Strategy creates an overarching framework for Scotland's environmental strategies and plans, including the Climate Change Plan.

In February 2020, we published the Environment Strategy's vision¹. It sets out our long-term ambitions for Scotland's natural environment and our role in tackling the global climate and nature crises.

The summary of the vision is:

One Earth. One home. One shared future.

By 2045: By restoring nature and ending Scotland's contribution to climate change, our country is transformed for the better - helping to secure the wellbeing of our people and planet for generations to come.

To achieve this vision, the Scottish Government and our partners will focus our collective efforts on delivering six shared outcomes, shown in Annex A. Three outcomes describe our goals for the environment, focusing on nature, climate and resource-use. Three outcomes describe wider ambitions for our economy, society and global citizenship.

Working towards our vision will help to deliver many of the National Outcomes in our National Performance Framework² (NPF) and support our contribution to many of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals^{3 4}. It will support our green economic recovery through new opportunities for jobs, business

and trade. And it will play a key role in building a wellbeing economy for Scotland, designed to support the wellbeing of our people and planet.

The 'vision and outcomes' publication explained that next steps for the Environment Strategy include developing:

- **Outcome pathways**, identifying strategic priorities and opportunities for achieving the Strategy's outcomes, working across government.
- A **Monitoring Framework** to track and report progress towards achieving the outcomes, helping to inform improvements in our approach.

1 [The Environment Strategy for Scotland: vision and outcomes](#)

2 [Scotland's National Performance Framework](#)

3 [The UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)

4 These contributions are described in a supporting file to the '[vision and outcomes](#)' publication: 'Contribution of the Environment Strategy vision and outcomes to National Outcomes and UN Sustainable Development Goals'

2. What this document is for

This document identifies an initial set of indicators for the Environment Strategy Monitoring Framework and outlines high-level plans for reporting progress. The Monitoring Framework will be maintained as a live framework; updated, as necessary, to reflect developments in policy and evidence. This initial selection of indicators draws on an analysis of existing environmental indicators and in-depth discussions with a wide range of partners⁵ and stakeholders⁶. This process has highlighted a wealth of relevant environmental data we can draw on. It has also identified some areas where additional work is needed to develop robust measures of progress. These areas will be explored as the Monitoring Framework is further developed.

3. Initial Monitoring Framework indicators

A wide range of indicators are used to monitor Scotland's environmental strategies and plans, building a detailed picture of the status of Scotland's environment. For many indicators, targets have been established to drive progress, some of which are set on a statutory basis. When developing the Environment Strategy Monitoring Framework, we have not aimed to replicate the full range of existing indicators and targets. Instead, we have chosen a sub-set of high-level indicators to provide a strategic and accessible overview of progress towards each outcome – guided by the criteria in **Box A** and drawing, where relevant, on National Indicators in the NPF. When reporting progress, we will also signpost to the detailed indicators set out in the individual strategies and plans that sit within the Environment Strategy framework, including the Monitoring Framework for the Climate Change Plan, updated in December 2020⁷.

The indicators selected for each outcome⁸ are described below, alongside areas we plan to explore further in order develop robust measures of progress and address gaps. **Figure 1** provides an overview of the indicators. Further technical information for each indicator is set out in **Annex B**.

⁵ Including NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Zero Waste Scotland.

⁶ Including the Environment Strategy External Reference Group and Scottish Environment LINK.

⁷ [Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 - update](#)

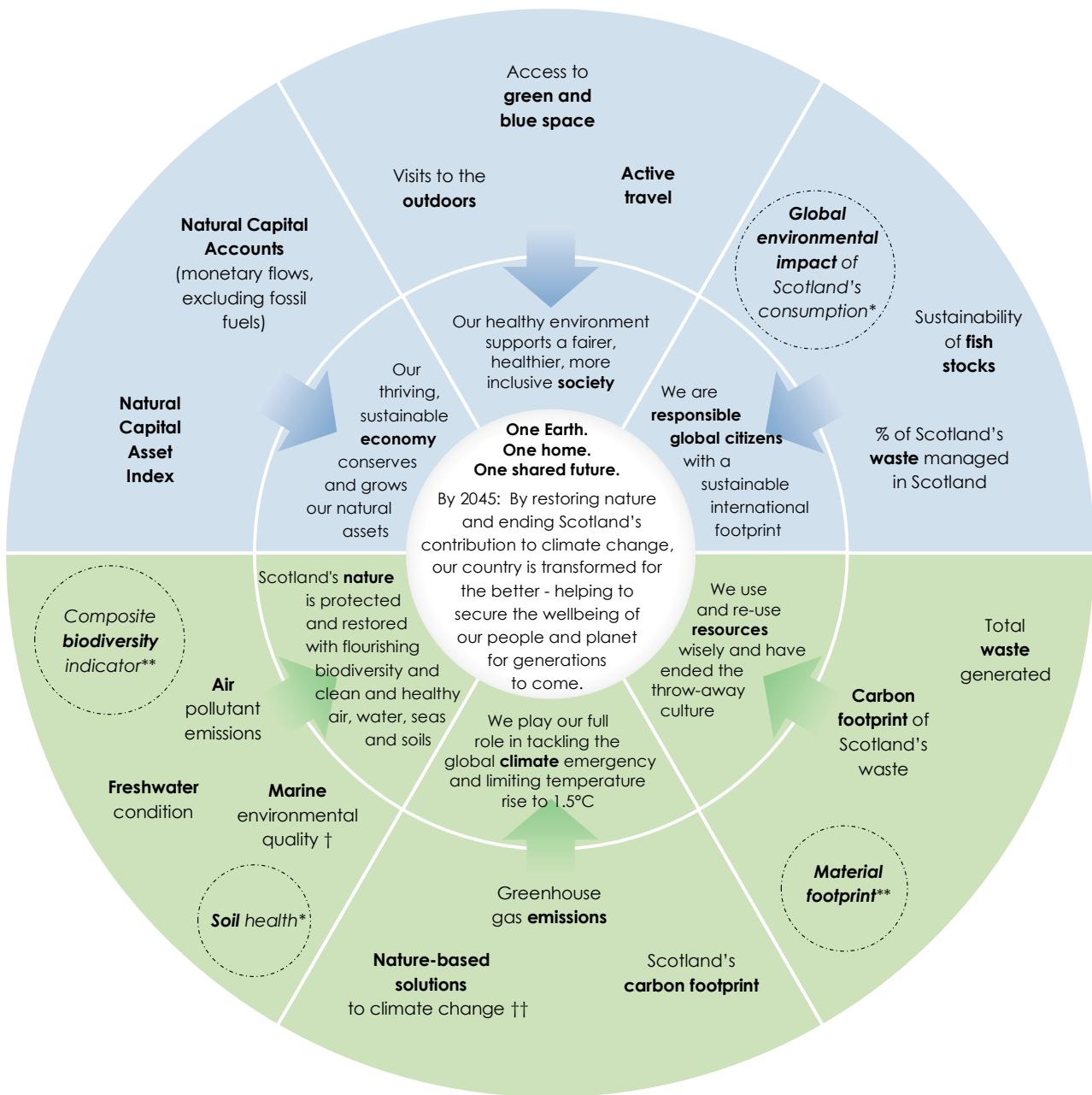
⁸ A full description of each outcome is set out in '[The Environment Strategy for Scotland: vision and outcomes](#)' (pages 15-18)

Box A: Criteria for selecting indicators

The following criteria were used to guide the selection of indicators. These draw on international best practice and discussions with stakeholders, and map closely to the criteria used to select National Indicators in Scotland's National Performance Framework.

- **Relevance:** There must be a clear relationship between the indicator and Environment Strategy outcome.
- **Validity:** The indicator must measure what it is supposed to measure.
- **Distinctiveness:** The indicator must not measure something already captured under other indicators.
- **Practicality:** The indicator must provide value for money and it must be feasible and affordable to obtain data.
- **Clarity:** The indicator must be straightforward to interpret by the intended audience. It must clearly communicate the measure that it is trying to assess.
- **Credibility:** The indicator must be based upon impartial, reliable data that is precise enough to show change over time.
- **Public interest:** Indicators must be engaging and relevant for members of the public.

Figure 1: Overview of indicators in the Environment Strategy Initial Monitoring Framework



Key:

Centre: Environment Strategy vision

Inner ring: Environment Strategy outcomes

Outer ring: Indicators in Initial Monitoring Framework

* Indicators to be confirmed

** Indicator under development

† A suite of indicators reflecting chemical contamination, marine litter and seafloor integrity

†† A suite of indicators relating to woodland expansion and peatland restoration

Outcome:

Scotland's nature is protected and restored with flourishing biodiversity and clean and healthy air, water, seas and soils

This outcome is about restoring the richness and resilience of nature in Scotland – for its own sake, and because it is fundamental to our health, wellbeing and prosperity. It means reversing biodiversity loss and improving the health and quality of our natural environment.

Indicators:

Composite biodiversity indicator

A new composite biodiversity indicator will be published in early 2021 and included as a National Indicator in the NPF. It will provide a strategic measure of the status of Scotland's biodiversity, reflecting changes in the abundance and distribution of a wide range of species. It will draw on data used in the State of Nature Scotland Report⁹, with additional data on marine species. It will be accompanied by a breakdown showing trends for different groups of species.

When monitoring progress towards this outcome, we also intend to consider key trends in the indicators used to monitor the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy¹⁰ and Scotland's response to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework¹¹.

Air pollutant emissions

Clean air is vital for the health of Scotland's people and our natural environment. This indicator reports trends in annual emissions of the eight main air pollutants in Scotland¹². Scotland is required to meet statutory targets limiting emissions of these pollutants.

Freshwater condition

The condition of Scotland's rivers and lochs is assessed by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and is subject to statutory targets set through River Basin Management Plans¹³. This indicator reports the percentage of rivers and lochs that have achieved 'good' or better ecological status or potential. Data will be broken down into the following four components: water quality, physical condition, access for fish migration, and flows and levels.

Marine environmental quality

A wide range of indicators are used to measure the status of Scotland's marine environment. The following indicators have been selected to provide a strategic, high-level assessment in the Monitoring Framework, broadly equivalent to the perspective we will present on the terrestrial environment¹⁴:

- i) The **Clean Seas**¹⁵ National Indicator in the NPF. This measures the percentage of biogeographical regions with acceptably low levels of chemical contaminants.

9 [State of Nature Scotland Report 2019](#)

10 [The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity](#)

11 [Scottish biodiversity strategy post-2020: statement of intent](#)

12 Reported annually in the [Air Pollutant Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland](#). The following pollutants are included: ammonia, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, non-methane volatile organic compounds, particulate matter less than 10 micrometres (PM10), particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometres (PM2.5), sulphur dioxide and lead.

13 [River Basin Management Plans](#)

14 As the Monitoring Framework is further developed, we will explore the scope to include an additional indicator of ocean acidification, a key impact on the marine environment from increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

15 [The Clean Seas National Indicator](#)

- ii) The quantity of **beach litter¹⁶** found in surveys of Scottish beaches.
- iii) The quantity of **plastic litter ingested by seabirds**, as measured by the OSPAR Plastic Particles in Fulmar Stomachs assessment¹⁷. This reflects the abundance of floating litter and provides an indication of harm to wildlife.
- iv) The extent of physical **damage to seafloor habitats¹⁸**, reflecting the impacts of trawling on seafloor integrity.

Data on marine biodiversity will be included in the Composite Biodiversity Indicator, described above.

Soil health (to be confirmed)

A recent ClimateXChange project¹⁹ found that, while indicators exist that reflect different aspects of soil health and its vulnerability to the changing climate, no single indicator measures the full range of relevant soil properties. We are exploring options for undertaking additional work to identify strategic indicators of soil health and will take this into account when further developing the Monitoring Framework.

Outcome:

We play our full role in tackling the global climate emergency and limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C

This outcome is about ending Scotland's contribution to climate change, by meeting our net-zero targets and reducing emissions associated with our consumption of imported products. It is also about adapting to the effects of climate change.

Indicators:

Greenhouse gas emissions

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions²⁰ National Indicator in the NPF reports Scotland's territorial greenhouse gas emissions as a percentage change achieved from the baseline figure in 1990, including emissions from international aviation and shipping. It is based directly on progress towards Scotland's statutory emissions reduction targets²¹ which, in line with reporting under the UN Paris Agreement, concern territorial emissions.

Scotland's carbon footprint

The Carbon Footprint²² National Indicator in the NPF measures all of the greenhouse gases emitted as a result of the goods and services consumed in Scotland – wherever in the world those emissions are produced. It includes the territorial emissions directly generated by Scottish households (e.g. through heating and motoring) plus the indirect emissions associated with our consumption of imported and domestically produced goods, across the full supply chain.

16 [Scotland's Marine Assessment 2020: beach litter](#)

17 [OSPAR Assessment: Plastic Particles in Fulmar Stomachs in the North Sea](#)

18 [Scotland's Marine Assessment 2020: Predicted extent of physical disturbance to seafloor](#)

19 [ClimateXChange: Measuring the vulnerability of Scottish soils to a changing climate](#)

20 [Greenhouse Gas Emissions National Indicator](#)

21 [Climate change: reducing greenhouse gas emissions - gov.scot](#)

22 [Carbon Footprint National Indicator](#)

chain²³. It provides a helpful complementary measure to that of Scotland's territorial greenhouse gas emissions. Playing our part in tackling the global climate emergency means reaching net-zero here in Scotland and also reducing our global carbon footprint.

Nature-based solutions to climate change

The climate and nature crises are intrinsically linked. Nature-based solutions to climate change can play a significant role in removing carbon from the atmosphere, while also helping to tackle biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and support climate change adaptation. Evidence suggests that, at a global level, nature-based solutions have the potential to achieve around a third of the mitigation effort needed to deliver the Paris Climate Agreement. They can also generate employment opportunities and other socio-economic benefits.

The Monitoring Framework will include the following indicators to reflect the implementation of nature-based solutions to climate change in Scotland²⁴:

Woodland expansion	Peatland restoration
Hectares of woodland created per year	Hectares of peatland restored per year
Woodland ecological condition score ²⁵	

We will explore the scope to include indicators that reflect other types of nature-based solutions to climate change, including those involving soils and blue carbon, as they emerge. We will also consider taking account of any strategic indicators of climate change adaptation that may be developed through future monitoring arrangements for the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

²³ It should be noted that there are major limitations on the accuracy and quality of consumption-based measures, even if compiled using the best available methodologies and data.

²⁴ These indicators will also be reported annually in the Monitoring Framework for the Climate Change Plan, as updated in December 2020.

²⁵ [National Forest Inventory: Woodland Ecological Condition](#)

Outcome:**We use and re-use resources wisely and have ended the throw-away culture**

This outcome is about transitioning to a circular economy, where resources are used sustainably and kept in high value use for as long as possible, minimising waste²⁶.

Indicators:**Total waste generated**

This indicator measures the total amount of waste generated in Scotland across all sectors, including household, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste²⁷. Reducing the total amount of waste generated in Scotland will demonstrate our progress in moving up the 'reduce-reuse-recycle' waste hierarchy.

Carbon footprint of Scotland's waste

The Scottish Carbon Metric²⁸ measures the whole-life carbon footprint of Scotland's waste. It captures the emissions associated with resource extraction and manufacturing through to waste management, regardless of where in the world the emissions are produced. It complements the Total Waste Generated indicator by providing a measure of the carbon impact of Scotland's waste, across its whole life cycle.

**Scotland's material footprint
(under development)**

A Material Footprint measure for Scotland is currently under development²⁹. It will measure the total quantity of raw materials used to produce the goods and services we consume in Scotland – including materials extracted domestically and overseas.

As the Monitoring Framework is further developed, we will consider any additional emerging strategic indicators of sustainable resource use and Scotland's transition to a circular economy.

²⁶ A wide range of waste and recycling indicators are reported in Scotland. We have selected a sub-set of these which help to present a strategic overview of Scotland's progress in transitioning to a circular economy.

²⁷ [Waste Generated National Indicator](#)

²⁸ [Zero Waste Scotland: Carbon Metric Publications](#)

²⁹ We expect that Scotland's material footprint will be an effective measure to help track progress towards this outcome, but will review the indicator once finalised.

Outcome:**Our thriving, sustainable economy
conserves and grows our natural assets**

This outcome is about the transformative changes to our economy needed to play Scotland's role in tackling the global climate and nature crises. It is also about the new opportunities that the transition to a net-zero, sustainable economy will create for Scotland, supporting our green economic recovery and boosting jobs, business and trade.

Indicators:**Natural Capital Accounts – annual monetary flows, excluding fossil fuels**

This indicator estimates the annual monetary flows of the services supplied by our natural capital. It uses data from Scotland's Natural Capital Accounts³⁰, but excludes the monetary flows created by fossil fuels³¹. The Natural Capital Accounts are currently classified as experimental statistics. Updates will continue to be made to the methodology used in the accounts and the assets included.

Natural Capital Asset Index

The Natural Capital Asset Index³² (NCAI) is a National Indicator in the NPF. It tracks the capacity of Scotland's terrestrial ecosystems to provide benefits to people, based on changes in habitat extent and quality. NatureScot is exploring opportunities to further develop and improve the NCAI, including working with Marine Scotland to test the feasibility of incorporating data on the marine environment³³.

We will explore the scope to develop additional indicators that will help to provide a meaningful and robust measure of progress towards this outcome. For example, we will consider indicators relating to investment in natural assets, jobs in green industries, the scale of green finance and other measures of Scotland's progress in transitioning to a net-zero, sustainable economy.

³⁰ [Scottish Natural Capital Accounts: 2020](#)

³¹ The Environment Strategy indicator measures the monetary flows from services provided by the following natural capital assets: agricultural biomass, fish capture, timber, water abstraction, minerals, renewable energy, carbon sequestration, air pollution removal, noise mitigation, urban cooling and recreation.

³² [Natural Capital Asset Index National Indicator](#)

³³ [NatureScot Research Report 1071 - Feasibility study for a Marine Natural Capital Asset Index for Scotland](#)

Outcome:**Our healthy environment supports a fairer, healthier, more inclusive society**

This outcome is about the transformative changes to our society needed to play Scotland's role in tackling the climate and nature crises. It is also about the fundamental role of a healthy environment in supporting the health and wellbeing of Scotland's people; and the positive social outcomes created through the just transition to a net-zero, sustainable society – helping to create quality jobs and promote fairness and environmental justice.

Indicators:**Visits to the outdoors**

The 'Visits to the Outdoors'³⁴ National Indicator in the NPF measures the proportion of adults in Scotland making one or more visits to the outdoors per week. There is strong evidence of the mental and physical health benefits of spending time outdoors in nature. There is also evidence of links to economic inequalities, with adults living in more deprived areas less likely to visit the outdoors weekly.

Access to green and blue space

The 'Access to Green and Blue Space'³⁵ National Indicator in the NPF measures the proportion of adults who live within a 5 minute walk of their local green or blue space. As above, there is strong evidence of the health benefits of access to quality green and blue spaces, and of links to economic inequalities.

Active travel

The 'Journeys by Active Travel'³⁶ National Indicator in the NPF measures the proportion of short journeys less than 2 miles that are made by walking and the proportion of journeys under 5 miles made by cycling. Active travel can improve mental and physical health. It also helps to tackle climate change and improve air quality by reducing vehicle use.

We will explore the scope to develop additional indicators to measure progress towards this outcome, reflecting:

- The ways in which a healthy environment and access to nature supports positive social outcomes e.g. for fairness, health, wellbeing and education; and
- Scotland's progress in improving the sustainability of our society, including the environmental impact of our lifestyles.

³⁴ [Visits to the Outdoors National Indicator](#)

³⁵ [Access to Green and Blue Space National Indicator](#)

³⁶ [Journeys by Active Travel National Indicator](#)

Outcome:**We are responsible global citizens with a sustainable international footprint**

This outcome is about adapting to live within the Earth's sustainable limits, and ensuring that the overseas impact of Scotland's consumption is sustainable. Some indicators relevant to this outcome have been included within other outcome areas, for example, Scotland's carbon and material footprints. Additional indicators are outlined below:

Global environmental impact of Scotland's consumption (to be confirmed)

We are exploring options for indicators to understand and track the overseas environmental impact of our consumption in Scotland. An indicator of Scotland's water footprint is already under development³⁷. This will estimate the total quantity of water needed to produce the goods and services we consume in Scotland i.e. our impact on global water resources. We are also considering indicators to help understand the impact of Scotland's consumption on nature and biodiversity in other countries³⁸. Since there are no suitable existing indicators for Scotland, we will explore which measure/s would be most effective and relevant, and options for developing these.

% of Scotland's waste which is managed in Scotland

Data are available on the types and tonnages of Scottish waste managed in and outside Scotland. This indicator shows, for each type of treatment (recycled, recovered or disposed), how much of Scotland's waste is managed in Scotland, rather than being transported elsewhere.

Sustainability of fish stocks

The 'Sustainability of Fish Stocks³⁹' National Indicator in the NPF measures the percentage of Scottish fish stocks which are fished sustainably. Sustainable fishing means fishing at or below the level which the fish are able to replenish themselves, without stocks being depleted. Globally, fish stocks are under pressure from overexploitation and Scotland must play its part in ensuring they are managed sustainably.

³⁷ We expect that Scotland's water footprint will be an effective measure to help track progress towards this outcome, but will review the indicator once finalised.

³⁸ Such as ecological or land footprint measures, or the footprints of selected imported commodities.

³⁹ [Sustainability of Fish Stocks National Indicator](#)

4. Plans for monitoring and reporting

The status and trends of Monitoring Framework indicators will be reported on an online platform which will be updated continually, as new data becomes available. Data will be accompanied by a narrative explaining what indicators tell us about progress towards each outcome. It will also signpost to where more detailed monitoring and evaluation information exists for the individual strategies and plans that sit within the Environment Strategy framework.

Further information on the online platform and plans for reporting will be published in the coming months.

5. Next steps

We will work with stakeholders and public bodies to maintain and further develop the Monitoring Framework. This will address the areas, identified above, where additional work is needed to identify robust measures of progress towards each outcome. We will also launch a platform for online reporting of indicators.

Annex A: Contribution of the Environment Strategy vision and outcomes to National Outcomes and UN Sustainable Development Goals



Centre: Environment Strategy vision

Inner ring: Environment Strategy outcomes

Middle ring: National Outcomes in the National Performance Framework

Outer ring: UN Sustainable Development Goals

See key on next page

Key

National Outcomes in the National Performance Framework:

-  **Children & young people:** We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential
-  **Communities:** We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
-  **Culture:** We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely
-  **Economy:** We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy
-  **Education:** We are well-educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
-  **Environment:** We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
-  **Fair work & business:** We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone
-  **Health:** We are healthy and active
-  **Human rights:** We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination
-  **International:** We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally
-  **Poverty:** We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally

UN Sustainable Development Goals:



Annex B: Technical information on indicators

Indicator title	Indicator description	Relevant targets (and their origin)	Frequency of reporting	Data Source (and whether based on National Statistics)
Outcome: Scotland's nature is protected and restored with flourishing biodiversity and clean and healthy air, water, seas and soils				
Composite biodiversity indicator	<p>Under development.</p> <p>Status of Scotland's biodiversity, based on changes in the abundance and distribution of a wide range of species.</p>		Annual	
Air pollutant emissions	Trends in annual emissions of the eight main air pollutants in Scotland.	<p>Targets limiting annual emissions of each pollutant.</p> <p>(Statutory target at the UK level from the National Emission Ceilings Directive Regulations 2018⁴⁰)</p>	Annual	https://naei.beis.gov.uk/reports/reports?section_id=8
Freshwater condition	Percentage of rivers and lochs achieving Good or better ecological status.	<p>Targets for achieving Good or better ecological status are set through the statutory River Basin Management Plans⁴¹ process.</p>	Annual	<p>The data for this indicator is not yet published.</p> <p>SEPA will present it here:</p> <p>https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/</p>

⁴⁰ [National Emission Ceilings Directive Regulations 2018](#). The [National Air Pollution Control Programme](#) sets out measures and analysis for how emission reduction commitments can be met across the UK.

⁴¹ [The River Basin Management Plans](#)

Indicator title	Indicator description	Relevant targets (and their origin)	Frequency of reporting	Data Source (and whether based on National Statistics)
Marine environmental quality (i) Clean seas	The percentage of biogeographical regions with acceptably low levels of chemical contaminants.		Annual	https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/marine-environment
Marine environmental quality (ii) Beach litter	Quantity of litter found in surveys of Scottish beaches.		Every 6 years	http://marine.gov.scot/sma/assessment/beach-litter
Marine environmental quality (iii) Plastic litter ingested by seabirds	Percentage of fulmars exceeding a level of 0.1g of plastic in their stomachs.	OSPAR target of less than 10% of fulmars exceeding a level of 0.1 g of plastic in their stomachs. <i>(Derived from OSPAR commission ecological quality objective (EcoQO)⁴²)</i>	Every 6 years	https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/committee-assessments/eiha-thematic-assessments/marine-litter/plastic-particles-in-fulmar-stomachs-north-sea/
Marine environmental quality (iv) Damage to seafloor habitats	Extent of physical damage to seafloor habitats.		Every 6 years	http://marine.gov.scot/sma/assessment/predicted-extent-physical-disturbance-seafloor
Soil health	To be confirmed. Options for undertaking additional work to identify strategic indicators of soil health are being explored.			

42 [Background document for the EcoQO on plastic particles in stomachs of seabirds](#)

Indicator title	Indicator description	Relevant targets (and their origin)	Frequency of reporting	Data Source (and whether based on National Statistics)
Outcome: We play our full role in tackling the global climate emergency and limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C				
Greenhouse gas emissions	GHG emissions as a percentage change from the baseline figures for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide in 1990 and hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride in 1995.	Reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040. <i>(Statutory target from Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019⁴³)</i>	Annual	https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/greenhouse-gas-emissions
Scotland's carbon footprint	Measure of the greenhouse gases emitted worldwide as a result of the goods and services consumed in Scotland.		Annual	https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/carbon-footprint
(i) Hectares of woodland created per year	Hectares of woodland created per year.	Annual target of 12,000 hectares in 2020/21 rising to 18,000 hectares in 2024/25. <i>(Derived from 'Securing a green recovery on a path to net-zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 – update'⁴⁴)</i>	Annual	https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/data-downloads/ (National Statistics)

43 [Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#)44 [Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 - update](#)

Indicator title	Indicator description	Relevant targets (and their origin)	Frequency of reporting	Data Source (and whether based on National Statistics)
Nature-based solutions to climate change (ii) Woodland ecological condition score	A measure of ecological condition of all woodland types in Scotland, using 15 ecological indicators.		Every 5 years	https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/national-forest-inventory/what-our-woodlands-and-tree-cover-outside-woodlands-are-like-today-8211-nfi-inventory-reports-and-woodland-map-reports/nfi-woodland-ecological-condition/
Nature-based solutions to climate change (iii) Hectares of peatland restored per year	Hectares of peatland restored per year.	Restore 250,000 hectares of peatland by 2030 <i>(Derived from 'Climate Change Plan: third report on policies and proposals 2018-2032'⁴⁵)</i>	Annual	Data collated by NatureScot and Peatland Action.

45 [Climate Change Plan: third report on proposals and policies 2018-2032 \(RPP3\)](#)

Indicator title	Indicator description	Relevant targets (and their origin)	Frequency of reporting	Data Source (and whether based on National Statistics)
Outcome: We use and re-use resources wisely and have ended the throw-away culture				
Total waste generated	Annual amount of waste generated in Scotland from all sources – household, commercial, industrial and construction and demolition.	15% reduction against 2011 in 2025 <i>(Derived from 'Making Things Last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland'⁴⁶)</i>	Annual	https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/waste-data-for-scotland/
Carbon footprint of Scotland's waste	Annual worldwide GHG emissions associated with Scotland's waste.		Annual	https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/our-work/carbon-metric-publications
Scotland's material footprint	<p><i>Under development.</i></p> <p><i>Total quantity of raw materials worldwide used to produce the goods and services we consume in Scotland.</i></p>			

46 [Making Things Last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland](#)

Indicator title	Indicator description	Relevant targets (and their origin)	Frequency of reporting	Data Source (and whether based on National Statistics)
Outcome: Our thriving, sustainable economy conserves and grows our natural assets				
Natural Capital Accounts – annual monetary flows, excluding fossil fuels	Annual monetary flows of the services supplied by our natural capital, excluding flows created by fossil fuels.		Annual	https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-natural-capital-accounts-2020/
Natural Capital Asset Index	Index that tracks the capacity of Scotland's terrestrial ecosystems to provide benefits to people, based on changes in habitat extent and quality.		Annual	https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/social-and-economic-benefits-nature/natural-capital-asset-index
Outcome: Our healthy environment supports a fairer, healthier, more inclusive society				
Visits to the outdoors	Proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week.		Annual	https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/visits-outdoors (National Statistics)
Access to green and blue space	Proportion of adults who live within a 5 minute walk of their local green or blue space.		Annual	https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/access-green-and-blue-space (National Statistics)
Active travel	The proportion of short journeys less than 2 miles that are made by walking. This indicator also includes the proportion of journeys under 5 miles made by cycling.		Annual	https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/journeys-active-travel (National Statistics)

Indicator title	Indicator description	Relevant targets (and their origin)	Frequency of reporting	Data Source (and whether based on National Statistics)
Outcome: We are responsible global citizens with a sustainable international footprint				
Global environmental impact of Scotland's consumption	<p>To be confirmed.</p> <p>Options for indicators to understand and track the overseas environmental impact of our consumption in Scotland are being considered. An indicator of Scotland's water footprint is currently under development.</p>			
Percentage of Scotland's waste managed in Scotland	<p>For each type of treatment (recycled, recovered or disposed), the annual amount of Scotland's waste managed in Scotland by volume and as a percentage of Scottish waste managed anywhere.</p>		Annual	https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/waste-data-for-scotland/
Sustainability of fish stocks	<p>Percentage of Scottish fish stocks which are fished sustainably i.e. fished at or below the level at which the fish are able to replenish themselves, without stocks being depleted.</p>		Annual	https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/chart/sustainability-fish-stocks (National Statistics)



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