

# SRUC Climate Change Action Plan 2020 – 25





## Foreword



**Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is an institution working hard every day to share knowledge and discover solutions to the some of the world's most wicked challenges, particularly around climate change.**

For SRUC to be a leader in this area – as an enterprise university at the heart of the natural economy – we must exceed the expectations of our students, clients, partners, and stakeholders to reduce our own impact on the environment.

I'm delighted to introduce you to our Climate Change Action Plan. This goes far beyond previous plans focussed solely on carbon emissions. And while reducing our carbon emissions are still vital, we need to do more about our holistic impact on the environment.

Through the Climate Change Action plan, we will benefit from the positive reputation and financial saving it will create. But, most of all, the actions in the Climate Change Action Plan are simply the right things to do – for ourselves and future generations.

*Wayne Powell.*

**Professor Wayne Powell**  
Principal and Chief Executive  
7 September 2021



## Introduction and Targets

SRUC’s vision is to become Scotland’s enterprise university at the heart of the sustainable natural economy.

This Climate Change Action Plan sets out what we will do over the next five years to deliver tangible, measurable, and achievable reductions in SRUC’s own impact on climate change.

- **Over the period of this plan, SRUC will aim to reduce total carbon emissions by 20%**
- **SRUC has set a net zero date of 2040**
- **To reduce the environmental impact of our farms**

This plan has been developed through engagement with the SRUC community to source ideas and they will continue to be an inspiration.

Because not all solutions will be known until we see the technology of tomorrow, we will maintain open and honest dialogue to encourage innovation and the sharing of solutions to the challenges we face.

Throughout the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan, we will always look to be receptive to new ideas and opportunities from our colleagues and our students and to involve them in our collective decision making. We will also look to share their success stories to highlight the work taking place across SRUC to mitigate against climate change.

## Context Drivers for Climate Change

The need for climate action has never been clearer. In April 2019 the Scottish Government declared a climate emergency, highlighting that nothing short of transformational change was now needed to address climate change

Our reductions will contribute to the Scottish Government’s Climate Change ambitions and Scotland adopting the principles of **the 17 UN Sustainability Goals**.

**Global Context • Reputational Context • Corporate Responsibility • Legislative Context**



## Climate Change Action Themes and Actions

SRUC has identified seven themes that require sustained action to reach the objectives of the Climate Change Action Plan.

For each theme, a list of actions has been developed which will set the framework for reduction measures and is set out in a series of tables. The seven themes are:

1.



### **Climate Impacts Adaptation:**

setting out an ambitious programme of work to increase our SRUC's resilience to climate change.

2.



### **Energy and Carbon Management:**

how we will reduce the energy consumption within our facilities. This is the most challenging and highest impact area and includes changing behaviours.

3.



### **Circular Economy:**

a commitment across all business operations within SRUC to reduce waste production and improve reuse and recycling.

4.



### **Sustainable Procurement:**

We will embed sustainable procurement across all our activities to deliver environmental, ethical, social and economic benefits.

5.



### **Sustainable Travel:**

We must support low-carbon travel across all of the SRUC community and in the use of our fleet vehicles.

6.



### **Engagement and Education:**

to implement the plan and raise awareness of sustainability challenges, it is important to engage widely with our internal stakeholders.

7.



### **Farming Agriculture:**

Unlike many other academic institutions, SRUC operates a number of farms and we need to reduce the emissions from our farming operations.

Theme	Number of actions as of September 2021	Outcomes
<b>Climate Impacts Adaptation:</b>	<b>5 actions including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Risk Register</li> <li>Campus Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>Incorporate into Estates Strategy</li> </ul>	Resilience Better decision making Reduced costs Increased biodiversity Culture change Health and wellbeing
<b>Energy and Carbon Management:</b>	<b>16 actions including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy conservation project</li> <li>New estates strategy and reducing our footprint</li> <li>Improved monitoring</li> <li>Meeting RIBA 2030 standards</li> </ul>	Efficiency Reduced water use Culture change Rationalised estate
<b>Circular Economy:</b>	<b>6 actions including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated waste and recycling processes</li> <li>Behavioural change campaign</li> <li>Plastics plan</li> <li>Increase use of recycling schemes</li> </ul>	Reduced waste Reduced costs
<b>Sustainable Procurement:</b>	<b>5 actions including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a sustainable procurement toolkit</li> <li>New principles to underpin sustainable procurement</li> </ul>	Reduced waste Reduced costs
<b>Sustainable Travel:</b>	<b>12 actions including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New sustainable travel guidance and Policies</li> <li>Electric vehicle infrastructure</li> <li>Active travel promotion</li> <li>Increase access to electric vehicles</li> <li>Hybrid working</li> </ul>	Reduced costs Healthy lifestyles Wellbeing
<b>Engagement &amp; Education:</b>	<b>7 actions including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavioural change campaign</li> <li>Green impact teams</li> <li>Opportunities for students</li> </ul>	Reduced costs Culture change Health and wellbeing
<b>Farming &amp; Agriculture:</b>	<b>8 actions including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farm estate review</li> <li>On farm interventions</li> <li>Tree planting</li> <li>Biodigester Trial</li> </ul>	Reduced costs




## Monitoring and Reporting

Progress on the climate change action will be reported in:

- Annual reports to the organisation
- Annual Public Bodies Climate Change Report
- Inclusion in annual reports

SRUC is working from the following baseline:

### Emission sources



SRUC Farms

**20,272**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**Will be added to future baselines**

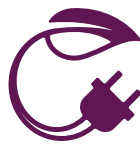


Biomass/Biogas

**22**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**0.4% contribution**



Electricity (Generation)

**1,736**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**32.6% contribution**



Electricity (T & D Losses)

**147**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**2.8% contribution**



Fleet Transport

**371**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**7.0% contribution**



Natural Gas

**2,254**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**42.3% contribution**



Oil

**218**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**4.1% contribution**



Travel

**459**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**8.6% contribution**



Waste

**9**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**0.2% contribution**



Water

**111**

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

**2.1% contribution**

**Total: 5,328 emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)**

**Total: 100.0% contribution**

This Climate Change Action plan is just the start. If you have ideas and suggestions, please get in touch with us at **[ClimateChangeAction@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:ClimateChangeAction@sruc.ac.uk)**

