Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Compliance Reporting Template 2022/23

1. Overview

This template is provided for public bodies required to report annually in accordance with the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015, as amended by the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 which took effect for reporting periods commencing on or after 1 April 2021.

Reports must be submitted to ccreporting@ed.ac.uk by 30th November. Late submissions will not be accepted for analysis and may be deemed non-compliant with Public Bodies Duties reporting requirements.

2. Guidance

1. The "Profile of Body" tab must be completed before proceeding to add any other data.

2. Question 1f must be completed to ensure the correct emission factors are applied in Q3b.

3. If you need to add more rows in any table please email the file ccreporting@ed.ac.uk

4. More emission factors from the UK Government (DESNZ) release have been included this year. When completing Q3b you can filter by the Emission Type dropdown in column C.

5. Please only use the "Other" emission source rows (130 onwards) when there is no relevant emission source in the dropdown lists or if you have bespoke data/emission factors. Please provide a brief explanation in the comment field.

6. The water supply and sewage emission factors are based on Scottish Water's carbon intensities of service supply, one of the lowest in the UK water industry. If you still wish to use the UK DESNZ (formerly BEIS) factors (which are more than double) you will need to enter consumption data in an "Other" row.

7. Some auto-checks have been added to improve the quality of data entries, e.g. correct emission scopes where only one category ever applies.

8. More detailed reporting guidance is available on the SSN website.

3. Colour Coding used in the template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dropdown box - select from list of options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uneditable/固定输入单元格</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editable cell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 1 Profile of Reporting Body

1a Name of reporting body
Provide the name of the listed body (the "body") which prepared this report.

University of Aberdeen

1b Type of body
Select from the options below

Educational Institution

1c Highest number of full-time equivalent staff in the body during the report year

2760

1d Metrics used by the body
Specify the metrics that the body uses to assess its performance in relation to climate change and sustainability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floor area</td>
<td>m²</td>
<td>267985.00</td>
<td>HESA 2021-2022 Data - GIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor area</td>
<td>m³</td>
<td>201868.00</td>
<td>HESA 2021-2022 Data - Non-Residential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of full-time equivalent students</td>
<td>number FTE</td>
<td>13315.00</td>
<td>HESA 2021-2022 Data - FTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please select from drop down box</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please select from drop down box</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify in comments)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify in comments)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify in comments)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify in comments)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1e Overall budget of the body
Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.

Budget

£260,909,000

The figure at 1e is taken from the Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22. The equivalent figure for 2022/23 will be available after the approval of our 2021/2022 Annual Report and Accounts at Court in December 2023.

1f Report type
Specify the report year type

Report type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report type</th>
<th>Report year comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>1st August 2022 - 31st July 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1g Context
Provide a summary of the body's nature and functions that are relevant to climate change reporting.

The University of Aberdeen is a research-intensive, ancient University with two main academic campuses in Aberdeen i.e. at Old Aberdeen and Foresterhill, and a residential campus at Hillhead. We also work in partnership with the AlFalah Group (AFG) in Doha, Qatar where we deliver teaching in buildings owned and operated by the AlFalah Group.

The University has research interests, collaborative relationships, and student recruitment interests around the world.
### Governance and management

1a. In what climate change policies does the body participate?

Provide a summary of the role and status of the body in relation to climate change. If any of the body’s activities in relation to climate change are outside its own governance arrangements (e.g. local government, central government, EU, etc.), please detail these activities and the governance arrangements. Provide a diagram to show how responsibility is allocated to the body’s senior staff, departmental heads, etc.

Heating Programme Board (chaired by the Vice-Principal for Regional Engagement).

Full details of the SDC are available at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/sustainable-development-committee.php

Sub-groups and boards are established as required. Currently we have a Sustainable Heating Programme Board (chaired by the Vice-Principal for Regional Engagement) looking into the options for decarbonisation of our heat networks in Old Aberdeen. Functional responsibility for management of our sustainability and net-zero planning lies with our Directorate of Estates & Facilities (e.g., Waste, Transport, Water, Energy, Buildings, Net Zero). We are in the process of transitioning away from a series of rolling five-year Carbon Management Plans to a longer-term Net-Zero strategy. The Net Zero & Emissions Manager is currently leading the development of a comprehensive Net-Zero strategy that we aim to have in place during 2024/25.

Additional resources was identified. A new Net Zero & Emissions Manager was appointed in August 2022 and is leading the development of a detailed Net Zero Strategy via a dedicated Working Group chaired by the Dean for Environmental Sustainability. The Net Zero & Emissions Manager is currently leading the development of a comprehensive Net-Zero strategy that we aim to have in place during 2024/25.

b. Have the body’s climate change goals or strategies changed over time?

If yes, please provide details of the key findings and resultant action taken.

Policy activity to include development of a new Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan (following our first Climate and Sustainability Assembly on this issue) and a wider review of existing sustainability policies.

Introduction of a bespoke training module for staff to highlight the role we all have in tackling sustainability issues and putting this in the context of the climate and nature emergencies.

2g. How can the body’s climate change objectives be met?

- Achieve net-zero carbon emissions before 2040.

- Generate resources for investment in education and research year on year, so that we can continue to develop the people, ideas and actions that help us to fulfil our purpose.

- Excel in research that addresses the climate emergency, the environment.

- Educate all our students and staff to be leaders in protecting and resilience.

- Encourage everyone within our community to work and live sustainably.

- Provide a brief summary of objectives if they exist.

- Full details of the Sustainable Development Goals are available at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/sustainable-development-committee.php

- Our investment exposure to fossil fuels dropped from 2.38% in May ‘21 to 0.36% in July 2022. Further details of the latter are at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/fossil-fuel-divestment.php

2c. Has the body’s climate change plan or strategy been reviewed?

- If yes, please provide details of the key findings and resultant action taken.

- Policy activity to include development of a new Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan (following our first Climate and Sustainability Assembly on this issue) and a wider review of existing sustainability policies.

- Introduction of a bespoke training module for staff to highlight the role we all have in tackling sustainability issues and putting this in the context of the climate and nature emergencies.

- Heating Programme Board (chaired by the Vice-Principal for Regional Engagement).

- In 2023/2024 our main focus will be on the following priority areas:

  - the role and importance of the Sustainable Development Goals in articulating institutional impact;
  - the role of the University in leading the energy transition;
  - sustainability literacy;
  - academic and operational contributions to the net-zero debate;
  - Adaptation.

- Provide a summary of the roles performed by the body’s governance bodies and members in relation to climate change. If any of the body’s activities in relation to climate change sit outside its own governance arrangements (e.g. local government, central government, EU, etc.), please detail these activities and the governance arrangements. Provide a diagram to show how responsibility is allocated to the body’s senior staff, departmental heads, etc.

### Strategy

3a. Have the body’s specific climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives in its corporate plan or strategy changed?

Provide a summary of the body’s climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives in its corporate plan or strategy.

- Full details of the SDC are available at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/sustainable-development-committee.php

- Our investment exposure to fossil fuels dropped from 2.38% in May ‘21 to 0.36% in July 2022. Further details of the latter are at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/fossil-fuel-divestment.php


- Sustainable Travel Plan

- ICT

- Fleet transport

- Staff Travel

- Adaptation

- Generate resources for investment in education and research year on year, so that we can continue to develop the people, ideas and actions that help us to fulfil our purpose.

- Excel in research that addresses the climate emergency, the environment.

- Educate all our students and staff to be leaders in protecting and resilience.

- Encourage everyone within our community to work and live sustainably.

- Our investment exposure to fossil fuels dropped from 2.38% in May ‘21 to 0.36% in July 2022. Further details of the latter are at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/fossil-fuel-divestment.php

Further information

As the global impacts of climate change become ever more apparent, the sustainability commitments within our Aberdeen 2040 strategy remain as critical as ever. 2022/23 has seen the immediate impact of establishing a dedicated Sustainability team in the Estates & Facilities directorate, and the related appointment of an academic Dean for Environmental Sustainability, with momentum generated in a number of areas.

At the heart of our Aberdeen 2040 commitments is a net-zero emissions pledge, with the aim of achieving net-zero carbon emissions before 2040. The first step towards achieving this goal is for our net-zero strategy to be finalised in 2023/24, including a comprehensive set of indicators and KPIs for tracking progress. The detailed work is being co-ordinated by our Net Zero & Emissions Manager, with the Sustainable Heating Programme Board, chaired by our Vice-Principal for Regional Engagement, overseeing the development of recommendations for the eventual decarbonisation of our estates.

As part of our wider net-zero journey, we have continued to develop new approaches to emissions reporting. For 2022/23 we have expanded our reporting to include Scope 3 emissions, which include all emissions associated with the provision of goods and services. This includes emissions from student travel, such as international student travel, which is a significant contributor to our total emissions. We have also enhanced our reporting by including new categories, most notably emissions associated with student travel from around the world to study in Aberdeen. The revised approach to emissions reporting is helping us to better understand our impact and to drive further reductions in our carbon footprint.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Type</th>
<th>Scope 1</th>
<th>Scope 2</th>
<th>Scope 3</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
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<td>Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td></td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td></td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2022/23</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2021/22</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2020/21</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>Academic</td>
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<td>2016/17</td>
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<td>Academic</td>
<td>13,332.30</td>
<td>6,869.02</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

ENSURE QUESTION 1f IS COMPLETED BEFORE STARTING THIS SECTION, THEN SELECT APPROPRIATE BASELINE YEAR. TOTAL EMISSIONS IN THE MOST RECENT FOOTPRINT YEAR IN THIS QUESTION SHOULD EQUAL TOTAL EMISSIONS IN Q3B

(a) No information is required on the effect of the body on emissions which are not from its estate and operations.


Update of Reporting Boundaries

Inclusion of Student Relocation, Well-to-Tank, and Staff Commuting related Scope 3 emissions has resulted in a significant increase in Scope 3 emissions. The reporting boundaries used in previous years would have resulted in a total emissions profile of 15,620 tCO2e for 21/22 which represents a like-for-like reduction of 911.5 tCO2e in Scope 2 emissions compared to 20/21.

Update of NHS Grid Electricity Methodology

Our calculation of Grid Electricity consumption procured through the NHS for our Foresterhill site has identified a historic over-reporting. Addressing this for COVID-19 impact from March 2020 resulted in a total emissions profile of 45,290.2 tCO2e for 22/23 which represents a like-for-like reduction of 10.25% on 21/22.

Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged.

Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged.

Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged.

Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged.

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Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged.

Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged.

Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Subcategory</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breakdown of emissions sources</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport - Public</strong></td>
<td><strong>Coach</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport - Public</strong></td>
<td><strong>National Rail</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport - Public</strong></td>
<td><strong>Average Local Bus</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport - Public</strong></td>
<td><strong>Flights - Domestic, to/from UK</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport - Public</strong></td>
<td><strong>Business Travel</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transport - Public</strong></td>
<td><strong>Homeworking</strong></td>
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</tr>
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<td><strong>Homeworking</strong></td>
<td><strong>(office equipment + heating)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical gas emission sources</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuels</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuels - Natural Gas</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuels - Gas Oil</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuels - Petrol</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land Use &amp; Land Change</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical gas emission sources</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuels</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fuels - Natural Gas</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fuels - Gas Oil</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fuels - Petrol</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The above table is a sample of the data provided in the document.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrap metal</td>
<td>tonnes</td>
<td>2.24450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden waste - Composting</td>
<td></td>
<td>282</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed food and garden waste - Composting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial and industrial waste - Combustion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement Other (please specify in comments) Scope 3</td>
<td>£Spent</td>
<td>kg CO2e/£spent</td>
<td>283.565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement Other (please specify in comments) Scope 3</td>
<td>£Spent</td>
<td>kg CO2e/£spent</td>
<td>783.523</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procurement Other (please specify in comments) Scope 3</td>
<td>£Spent</td>
<td>kg CO2e/£spent</td>
<td>17.673</td>
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<td>£Spent</td>
<td>kg CO2e/£spent</td>
<td>7,426.329</td>
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<td>£Spent</td>
<td>kg CO2e/£spent</td>
<td>5,863.684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement Other (please specify in comments) Scope 3</td>
<td>£Spent</td>
<td>kg CO2e/£spent</td>
<td>912.858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Source Heat Pump</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Source Heat Pump</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Recyclates &amp; Residual - Recycle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-to-Tank Other (please specify in comments) Scope 3</td>
<td>litres</td>
<td>kg CO2e/litres</td>
<td>0.6266500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-to-Tank Other (please specify in comments) Scope 3</td>
<td>litres</td>
<td>kg CO2e/litres</td>
<td>11.076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport - public Flights - Domestic, to/from UK</td>
<td>passenger.km</td>
<td>kg CO2e/passenger.km</td>
<td>1939.57335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport - public Coach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>passenger.km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport - public Average local bus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>passenger.km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport - car Average car - Unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel method assumptions developed from the results of a recent University student travel survey (undertaken every 2 years).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool developed by the University of Aberdeen in collaboration with EAUC Scotland.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the &quot;Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator&quot; Tool developed by the University of Aberdeen in collaboration with EAUC Scotland.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Impacts associated with process and activity data.
Organisational targets
2023/24

Boundary/scope of target
Please select from drop down box
Electricity: UK
Please select from drop down box

2015/16
Optimisation of the Sir Duncan Rice Library's 4 AHUs operations

2023/24
Comments
Target
Internal Capital
Internal Capital
No
Anticipated annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the year ahead
2023/24
2023/24
Controls audits of the Suttie Building
Comments
Internal Capital
No
Percentage 40

Annual
Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO2e)
Comments
2
2
2023/24
Please select from drop down box
Unknown impact of bike rental scheme
Internal Capital
Operational cost (£/annum)
14
Please select from drop down box
Unknown impact of “Sustainable Business Travel Guiding Principles” being introduced
262
No

Other heating fuels 904
Other (please specify in comments) 1

Travel
Other heating fuels

If no projects are expected to be implemented against an emissions source, enter “0”.

Total
Emissions source
Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors (not reported elsewhere in this form) in the report year
SDRL Plaza lights Upgrade
Installation of Zone Controls
Hillhead Floodlighting LED Replacement
AHU Operations Optimisation

Total
Please select from drop down box
Travel

Other (please specify in comments) 196

Water and sewerage
Natural gas 4
Electricity 11

The University acknowledges that the financial cost of achieving Net Zero before 2040 will be significant. In this...of net-zero to the HE and FE sectors. This work has provided institutions with a tool to estimate the scale of investment...required to achieve net-zero and we are using this tool to support dialogue on how best to embed net-zero investment into...practice, we anticipate that once professional fees, contingencies, local market conditions and various other factors are...public in an effort to improve the understanding and transparency of our emissions profile, and to chart our progress towards Net Zero (see https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/net-zero.php).

We will of course continue to utilise the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duty exercise to detail our progress...2040 (including Commitment 19 - net zero) are tracked annually as part of the institutional Annual Report and Accounts.

Simply referencing this report or its availability on the SSN website is insufficient information.

Provide any other relevant supporting information. In the event that the body wishes to refer to information already published, provide information about where the publication can be accessed.

How will the body publish, or otherwise make available, its progress towards achieving its emissions reduction targets?

Table: Projects and changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project/Change</th>
<th>Capital cost (£)</th>
<th>Savings (£/annum)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDRL Plaza lights Upgrade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Installation of Zone Controls</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>AHU Operations Optimisation</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The annual Carbon Conversion Factor has been calculated (based on BEIS Natural Gas and Grid Electricity Factors) to be specific to this site:

- Natural gas fired CHP engine and 75.6% is from gas fired boilers. The annual Carbon Conversion Factor has been reduced energy use but the details of which were not possible to capture.
- Natural gas fired CHP engine and 40% is from the Grid. The annual Carbon Conversion Factor has been reduced energy use but the details of which were not possible to capture.

Please note that annual renovations/upgrades across the University will have also included measures that...

- Reduced energy use but the details of which were not possible to capture.
- Reduced energy use but the details of which were not possible to capture.
- Reduced energy use but the details of which were not possible to capture.

The university policy utilised...

- Update of Science Teaching Hub chiller controls so that the chiller is off and free cooling is...
Methodology Update - Student Commuting:

"international". This has been corrected this year, with the "long-haul" data from the travel provider being reported separately, and the "international" data from the provider being combined with the data from the finance system.

Methodology Update - Business Travel Flights:

Volume of fresh water going into the sewerage system.

Methodology Update - Rainwater Sewerage:

The University has four rainwater harvesting systems which provide a renewable source of water for use in toilets. Once this water is harvested, it undergoes the same treatment as consumed fresh water. As a result, the total harvested volume is added to the calculated volume of fresh water going into the sewerage system.

Government is for public bodies to include well-to-tank (WTT) emissions as part of their annual PBCCD submission if these are used, in conjunction with the relevant UK Government WTT factors, to calculate the University's WTT emissions.

New Emission Source - Well-To-Tank:

Emissions from staff commuting where calculated using the latest staff travel survey which had a response rate of 37%. The "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator", developed by the University in collaboration with EAUC Scotland, was used to calculate this year's emissions. Information on the travel assumptions used can be provided on request.

Data Transparency - Reporting Boundary Update:

To align with sector best practice guidance, as detailed in the Standardised Carbon Emissions Reporting Framework (SCEF), the University has extended its emissions boundary to include staff commuting (Scope 3), well-to-tank (Scope 3) and student relocation (Scope 3).

The project developed a robust methodology and tool that enabled the University to calculate these emissions for the Aberdeen 2040 strategy. It will detail, among other topics, key pathways, targets, and KPIs and the aim is to publish by Dec. 2024.

This tool is based upon a tool developed by Estrid Jonsson, a University of Aberdeen Net Zero Research – Travel Emissions profile, as at the time, there was no formal methodology available within the sector to calculate these emissions.

Data Transparency - Student Relocation Calculation Tool:

The University has, in collaboration with EAUC Scotland, developed the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator" tool: https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/public_bodies_climate_change_duties_reporting_t...understanding and transparency of our emissions profile. https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/net-zero.php

Data Transparency - Sustainability Dashboard:

As part of the University's Aberdeen 2040 commitments, a Sustainability Dashboard has been launched which provides a visualisation of our carbon footprint. The dashboard is available to staff, students, and the general public in an effort to improve the understanding and transparency of our emissions profile. https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/net-zero.php

Initiatives - Bike to Work Scheme:

The University offered a bike to work salary sacrifice scheme to encourage staff to cycle to work. In 2022/2023, £36.5k benefits were realised through the scheme, and 22 employees joined the social cycle challenge. The University's bike to work partner this year was Cycle Scheme. (https://www.cyclescheme.co.uk/)

Initiatives - Grey Water:

The University has established a Sustainable Heating Programme Board (chaired by the Vice-Principal for Regional Engagement) to bring forward recommendations on the long-term decarbonisation of our heat networks in Old Aberdeen and Hillhead.

Strategy Development - Heat Decarbonisation:

The University has established a Net Zero Strategies and Targets Working Group (chaired by the Dean for Environmental Sustainability) to develop the University's Net Zero Strategy. It will detail, among other topics, key pathways, targets, and KPIs and the aim is to publish by Dec. 2024.

If the body's corporate emissions are likely to increase or decrease for any other reason in the year ahead, provide an estimate of the amount and direction.

Total carbon reduction project savings since the start of the year which the body used as a baseline for its carbon footprint

Further information

As part of the University's Aberdeen 2040 commitments, a Sustainability Dashboard has been launched which provides a visualisation of our carbon footprint. The dashboard is available to staff, students, and the general public in an effort to improve the understanding and transparency of our emissions profile. https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/net-zero.php

Well-to-tank emissions are part of a Scope 3 emissions source group known as "Fuel and Energy Related Activities". The University is committed to improving the accuracy of this data, and now reports emissions for both the "international" and "domestic" transport categories. These allow for a more accurate calculation of well-to-tank emissions and the total volume of fresh water going into the sewerage system.

We are looking at ways to improve our confidence in student commuting data and intend to include this emissions category in future reporting. For 2022/2023 and derived from a 6.4% response to our travel survey data, we estimate that student commuting emissions would have been around 2,910.8 tCO2e in 2022/2023.

Supporting information and best practice
PART 4 Adaptation - please do not include information in this part on measures that solely reduce emissions with no implications for climate adaptation. These are climate mitigation measures which should be reported in the Emissions tab.

Assessing and managing risk

4a Has the body assessed current and future climate-related risks?

The University has not formally assessed climate-related risks through the Adaptation Scotland framework. In previous years we have made efforts to assess our climate risks but have yet to formally embed this in Business Continuity practice.

However, following a discussion at our Estates Committee in October 2020 (and several incidences of campus flooding) this issue has been identified as an area of concern. The University has an environmental sustainability category section in the institutional strategic risk register that captures the potential impact of Climate Change on the University.

In 2022/2023 a Net Zero stream within the Sustainability Team reviewed the University's policies, strategies, risk register, and design guide against the Adaptation Scotland Framework to identify priority areas for the upcoming (2023/2024) development of an Adaptation strategy.

The intern's work highlighted best practice examples from other Scottish institutions and recommended the following key consequences are to be addressed by the University through an adaptation strategy:

- The health of our natural environment
- The increased risk of flooding
- The health and well-being of our people
- Our cultural heritage and identity
- Performance of our buildings

As a result of this exercise, the Sustainability Team, in conjunction with other colleagues in Estates and Facilities, had hoped to launch a part-time internship "Designing for a Net Zero Future" project undertaken by a student intern but this is currently on hold as part of a wider savings programme. The project was to focus on updating the sustainability section of the University's Design Guide with a focus on adaptation and mitigation, embedding both Net Zero and Adaptation thinking into the way we develop and construct campus infrastructure projects, repairs, and upgrades.

4b What arrangements does the body have in place to manage climate-related risks?

Provide details of any climate change adaptation strategies, action plans, and risk management procedures, and any climate change adaptation policies which apply across the body.

Our Sustainable Development Committee (SDC), chaired by the Senior Vice-Principal, has been established explicitly to raise the profile of sustainability issues across the institution.

As part of a review of the institutional approach to risk in autumn 2021, an Environmental Sustainability category has been added to our main institutional Strategic Risk Register (SRR), with the content of that section reviewed and maintained by the SDC. Risk management procedures are undertaken by Estates in relation to buildings on campus.

In 2022/2023, a Net Zero stream reviewed the University's current status with regards to adaptation and opportunities to embed climate change adaptation in its design guides and supported the development of an adaptations strategy.

Our intention is therefore, in the interim, to work to embed adaptation as part of the wider institutional resilience framework, including as part of the project risk management process on every refurbishment/build.

Taking action

4c What action has the body taken to adapt to climate change?

Include details of work to increase awareness of the need to adapt to climate change and build the capacity of staff and stakeholders to assess risk and implement action. The body may wish to make reference to the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (“the Programme”).

Adaptation actions, although not formally implemented as part of an Adaptation Plan, have been routinely embedded in the University's operations. These include:

- Work from home
- CARE Impact
- Counselling
- Extreme weather policy
- Managing flood risk
- Thermal comfort
- Driver Welfare
- Business Continuity Process

The University has also undertaken an extensive condition surveys exercise across all of its sites. This aims to understand the scope of the activities required to future proof buildings and infrastructure. These surveys will inform future maintenance and capital projects, which will be further enhanced and informed by the revisions to the sustainability content of the Estates Design Guide and by the emerging register of net-zero projects we are developing.

Additionally, the University is also reviewing the resilience of its energy generation technologies and heat networks to ensure the infrastructure is capable of operating in extended periods of extreme weather (i.e., heatwaves, heavy rainfall and prolonged cold periods). We are engaging with industry and civic stakeholders about the potential of linking energy infrastructures and shared opportunities as we move away from fossil fuel-based technologies.

With the expansion of the Sustainability Team within Estates & Facilities, the subject of green infrastructure is being brought to the attention of project and operational discussions, with some fresh capacity to be able to consider e.g., biodiversity and climate resilient planting.

4d Where applicable, what contribution has the body made to helping deliver the Programme?

Provide any other relevant supporting information.

Adaptation Framework: The University is currently part of a stakeholder group, led by Aberdeen City Council, assessing proposals to develop a city-wide heat network. In addition, the University is incorporating plans within its Estates & Facilities strategy to work towards Net Zero by 2030, including a heat network within the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The University is also reviewing the resilience of its energy generation technologies and heat networks to ensure the infrastructure is capable of operating in extended periods of extreme weather (i.e., heatwaves, heavy rainfall and prolonged cold periods). We are engaging with industry and civic stakeholders about the potential of linking energy infrastructures and shared opportunities as we move away from fossil fuel-based technologies.

With the expansion of the Sustainability Team within Estates & Facilities, the subject of green infrastructure is being brought to the attention of project and operational discussions, with some fresh capacity to be able to consider e.g., biodiversity and climate resilient planting.

Review, monitoring and evaluation

4e What arrangements does the body have in place to review current and future climate risks?

Provide details of arrangements to review current and future climate risks, for example, what timescales are in place to review the climate change risk assessments referred to in Question 4(a) and adaptation strategies, action plans, procedures and policies in Question 4(b).
4f What arrangements does the body have in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of the adaptation actions? 

Please provide details of monitoring and evaluation criteria and adaptation indicators used to assess the effectiveness of actions detailed under Question 4(c) and Question 4(d).

The University does not yet have any formal arrangements in place to monitor and evaluate the climate related impact of adaptation actions. Such practices will be implemented as part of the adaptation framework. However, actions detailed at 4c are subject to review as part of other exercises e.g. our Heating Policy was recently revised to reflect an institutional decision to reinforce heating target temperatures and to adjust daily heating periods.

In the emerging adaptation framework and strategy, key performance indicators will be included to allow for monitoring.

Please provide details of monitoring and evaluation criteria and adaptation indicators used to assess the effectiveness of actions detailed under Question 4(c) and Question 4(d).

The University does not yet have any formal arrangements in place to monitor and evaluate the climate related impact of adaptation actions. Such practices will be implemented as part of the adaptation framework. However, actions detailed at 4c are subject to review as part of other exercises e.g. our Heating Policy was recently revised to reflect an institutional decision to reinforce heating target temperatures and to adjust daily heating periods.

Future priorities for adaptation

4g What are the body’s top 5 climate change adaptation priorities for the year ahead?

Provide a summary of the areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.

1. Embed Adaptation as part of the Estates & Facilities Design Guide and implement the associated actions.
2. Develop a University Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Framework aligned with guidance from Adaptation Scotland.
3. Comprehensive mapping and ranking of adaptation risks across the Estate, and considering non-physical risks.
4. Identifying, evaluating and monitoring adaptation actions, as set out in the new adaptation framework.
5. Strengthening and continuing to grow partnership for adaptation action at, local and national (Scottish and UK) levels.

Further information

4h Supporting information and best practice

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to adaption.

Students from the MSc Environmental Partnership Management have been involved in helping establish a number of local adaptation initiatives e.g., in 2016 a student also helped to establish the Aberdeen Adapts programme (with Aberdeen City Council) and in 2017 we welcomed a student to adopt a ‘living laboratory’ approach to the University’s initial foray into climate change adaptation thinking.

The Sustainability Team’s 2022/2023 Net Zero intern undertook a best practice review exercise of all Scottish Higher and Further Education Institutions to identify process and activities that the University should embed over the coming years. This exercise also identified practices that the University was already undertaking that previously had not been identified as adaptation actions (see list at 4c).
PART 5 Procurement

5a How have procurement policies contributed to compliance with climate change duties?

The University of Aberdeen has developed a Procurement Strategy and Action Plan in line with the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. This can be found on our website (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/procurement/) and is aligned with the Aberdeen 2040 Strategic Plan and the University's strategic goals, and aims to ensure we procure in an environmental, social, ethical and economically responsible manner.

The University’s Procurement Policies require that a Procurement Project Strategy is developed for all procurements with a total value of £50,000 and over excl. VAT. The Procurement Project Strategy requires the Procurement Lead to outline the approach to complying with the sustainable duty detailed in the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. It covers topics such as: carbon emissions relevant to the procurement, community benefits, fair work practices, methods of invoicing & payments etc. This ensures our key objectives i.e., to embed sound ethical, social and environmental policies within the University’s function and compliance with relevant legislation in the performance of the sustainable procurement duty are achieved.

For all Regulated Procurements (i.e., value of £50k and over), a Supply Chain Code of Conduct (based on that championed by Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges [APUC]) is issued to potential suppliers at tendering stage. Suppliers are asked to make a clear declaration of support for the principles contained within this Code. This code requires suppliers commit to the following, as a minimum, with regards to environmental compliance:

- Complying with all local and national environmental laws, regulations and directives of the countries they are working in, manufacturing in or trading with.
- Actively avoid causing environmental damage and/or negative environmental impact through manufacture and supply of the goods or services and disposal of supply chain waste.
- Have a business plan in place, and be acting on it, to minimise their environmental impact year on year and adopting or working towards internationally recognised environmental standards and/or behaviour.
- Encourage the development and use of environmentally friendly technologies, promote positive environmental practices (such as reducing carbon emissions, minimising waste and improving water efficiency, reduced pollution levels and technological improvements) through their activities wherever possible.

The Procurement team ensure that they keep up to date with developments in relation to sustainable procurement and related climate emergency actions being rolled out across the sector. The team have undertaken training on evaluation criteria which includes the use of assessing whole life costs and sustainable outcomes. They have also attended a APUC’s Responsible Procurement webinar and Social Issues in Procurement Workshop.

5b How has procurement activity contributed to compliance with climate change duties?

The University of Aberdeen acknowledges its procurement activities have a significant impact on the environment, society and the economy. Procurement not only delivers value for money but sets the tone for ethical business and responsible dealings with our commercial partners.

The Procurement Team develop contract strategies that minimise or reduce negative impacts on the environment. We consider risks and benefits, ensure compliance and best practice across our own procurement operations and into our supply chains, working in conjunction with colleagues to identify and implement ways of contributing towards the University’s goal of zero carbon, as well as maintaining a focus on the delivery of Community Benefits, Waste Management, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.

Our Procurement Policy & Procedures advises consideration of whole life costs (this includes determining the need for the goods/services, through to its eventual disposal and replacement), environmental and social impacts in assessment of value for money. We follow the Scottish Government Procurement Journey and the Sustainable Procurement Duty outlined in the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 which requires that institutions must think about how they can improve the social, environmental and economic well-being in every regulated procurement exercise undertaken.

In conjunction with APUC, the University has begun work with EcoVadis (the largest provider of business sustainability ratings), to commence a review of our supply chain. This requirement shall form part of our processes going forward.

Over the coming financial years, the Procurement Team will analyse the organisation’s operations and its supply chain to prioritise high risk categories and suppliers across a range of issues including environmental, ethical, and sustainable procurement. Assessment of the University's suppliers and their supply chains through the use of a comprehensive, results-oriented methodology will help the University to identify risks and to raise awareness of the range of issues that arise when buying goods and services.

Further information

5c Supporting information and best practice

Procurement is working with the Responsible Procurement Team at APUC in relation to Scottish Public Body – FNT (From Now To) 2030. We attend workshops to develop action plans and continue to review our internal polices relevant to specific commodity categories. Looking at initiatives or behaviours applied to reduce GHG emissions within the commodities, as well as review the Sector’s Supply Chain Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy (SCCEDS). The Workshops cover commodities such as ICT, Furniture, Food & Travel.

The Head of Procurement participates in the APUC Sustainable Procurement Leaders Group (SPLG) – the remit/role of the Group is to drive sustainable procurement practices in the sector by championing the need for proactive involvement with stakeholders, challenging institutional requirements and sharing best practice in all areas. And, to aid institutional procurement professionals in embedding best practice responsible procurement by identifying, reviewing, and cascading good practice for potential adoption by relevant staff within operational environments. Various working groups have been formed which report back to SPLG for discussion as follows:

- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Procuring more sustainable goods & services
- Communicating Responsible Procurement with stakeholders
- Circular Furniture
- Circular IT

The Net Zero & Emissions Manager is working with colleagues in the sector, as part of the SPLG – Procuring More Sustainable Goods & Services group, to develop a best practice questions bank. This exercise seeks to standardise sustainability/Net Zero focused tender questions and encourage a wider focus of the supply chain on Net Zero requirements.

While not reportable in the annual PRCCD submission, the University procures REGO certificates for all grid electricity it purchases.

As part of the Net Zero strategy development, a “Sustainable Procurement” decarbonisation pathway has been developed through collaboration between the Sustainability Team and the Procurement Team. The pathway focuses on creating internal guidance and training to encourage staff to develop more sustainable habits, improving the flexibility of procurement and finance systems to encourage circular economy practices, and improving supply chain engagement.
### PART 6 Validation and Declaration

#### 6a Internal validation process

Briefly describe the body’s internal validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

- The co-ordination of these submissions is undertaken by the Sustainability Team in the Estates & Facilities Directorate.
- Data was provided by the functional leads in the relevant areas, notably Energy, Waste, Transport, HR, and Procurement.
- The information was reviewed by the Sustainable Development Committee on 13th November 2023 and endorsed for onward consideration by the University’s Senior Management Team (SMT). SMT in turn provided, by circulation, formal approval for submission in line with the reporting deadline.

#### 6b Peer validation process

Briefly describe the body’s peer validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

- The University took part in the EAUC facilitated group PBCCD Peer Review Process on 14th November 2023.
- This was a useful exercise and reinforced our decision and approach to the inclusion of student relocation, WTT, and staff commuting emissions for the first time this year.

#### 6c External validation process

Briefly describe the body’s external validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

- Elements of the data submitted as part of this exercise are also submitted as part of our annual Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) return. The timing of the PBCCD return is out of sync with some of our key reporting exercises, notably the HESA process (which is the sector’s key data submission and validation exercise and adheres to a spring reporting schedule), and the finalisation of our Annual Report and Accounts which culminates in approval at a Court meeting in December.
- Given these reporting schedules, some of the contextual responses here relate to 2021/2022 and not to 2022/2023. Updates can be made available early in 2024 if required.

#### 6d No Validation Process

If any information provided in this report has not been validated, identify the information in question and explain why it has not been validated.

- We are committed to the provision of timely and accurate data as part of this exercise and we continue to review our submission, including those areas where there are gaps (i.e., procurement emissions, or staff commuting) or where we acknowledge that our capacity is limited (i.e., adaptation).
- We continue to assess how best to validate future submissions, with a particular focus on how that can be achieved given the restricted submission timescale for those of us reporting on the basis of an academic year.

#### 6e Declaration

I confirm that the information in this report is accurate and provides a fair representation of the body’s performance in relation to climate change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Karl Leydecker</th>
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Q5) Please detail key actions relating to Food and Drink, Biodiversity, Water, Procurement and Resource Use in the table below

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<th>Action Description</th>
<th>Organisation's Project Role</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>Please select from drop down box</td>
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<td>The biodiversity policy is currently under review within the University, and will be published before the end of the year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impacts</td>
<td>Please select from drop down box</td>
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<td>In the summer of 2023, the Sustainability Team undertook ecological surveying of the University's largest 6 campuses/landholdings in order to create a spatially explicit GIS map of our habitat types. The team also worked with the local Biological Records centre (NESBReC) to gather all relevant species records for these areas, and map this via GIS, as the basis of a new species list for our sites. Findings from ecological surveying have been summarised in a Greenspaces Report which includes: site analysis for each site about habitat composition and current management practices; information on any invasive non-native species present and actions taken to remove them; notes on potential opportunities for habitat enhancement.</td>
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Q6) Please use the text box below to detail further climate change related activity that is not noted elsewhere within this reporting template

Other Notable Reportable Activity

Organisation's Project Role

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