



CLIMATE READY ABERDEENSHIRE

A Regional Strategy for Climate Change
Adaptation and Mitigation



Climate Ready Aberdeenshire

A Regional Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

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Executive Summary

This document sets out the vision, objectives, and strategy of Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (CRA). CRA is a voluntary cross-sector network to create and coordinate a strategy for Aberdeenshire to mitigate climate change, adapt and build resilience to its impacts, to protect and enhance biodiversity, and contribute to a sustainable economy and communities across the region.

The CRA vision is that:

“All sectors, including public, private and the community, are increasingly engaged in shared dialogue, shared goals and shared action relating to climate, biodiversity, and sustainability in support of a flourishing Aberdeenshire.”

CRA is led by a small Steering Group which supports a Member Group comprising a broader network of representatives from organisations throughout the North East of Scotland. Working groups were established initially for a limited period to support the development of the CRA Strategy. Their aim was to bring together experts from across the network to initiate the process of highlighting the opportunities, challenges, and gaps in work under four Climate Priority Areas – Adaptation and Resilience, Mitigation and Net Zero, Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity, and Sustainable Economy and Communities. Utilising the members network, CRA will update and maintain an Activity Log to capture current and planned projects under each of these Climate Priority Areas, including strategic intents to 2030.

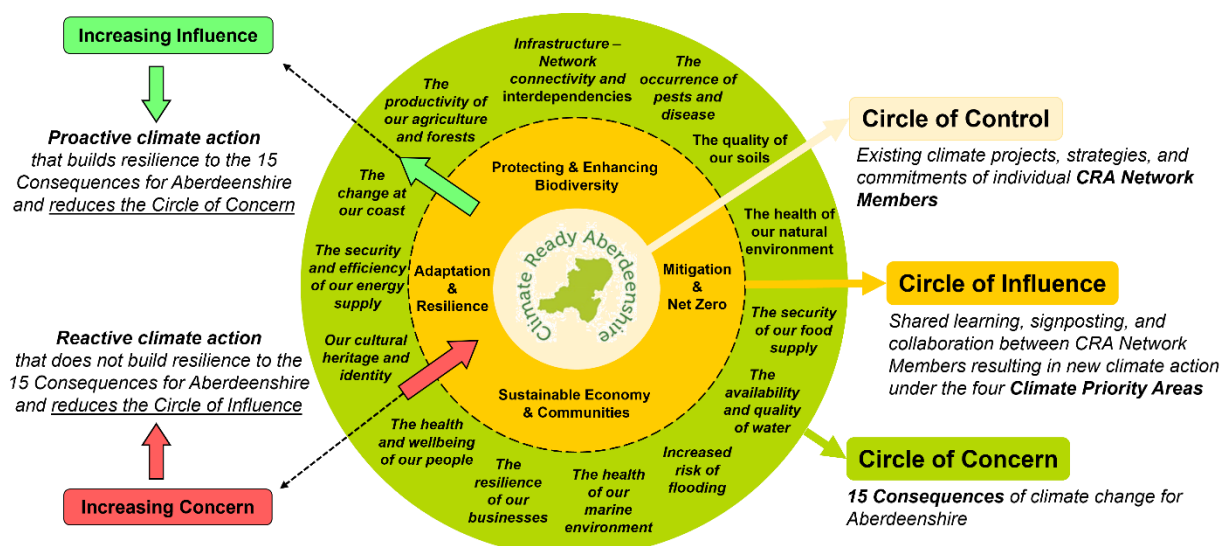
To better understand the challenges and opportunities that face Aberdeenshire, it is important to know what to expect from a changing climate and what these mean for the region. Adaptation Scotland’s 15 Consequences of climate change highlight that Aberdeenshire is already being impacted, with extreme weather events and associated knock-on effects being experienced more intensely and frequently. CRA recognises these impacts do not exist in isolation and there are many linkages across each of them. Therefore, a holistic viewpoint and approach must be applied.

Based on the challenges and opportunities identified under the 15 Consequences of climate change in Aberdeenshire, CRA will:

- **Grow and Develop** – Seek out prospective organisations to join CRA’s network to ensure it continues to capture the breadth of current and emerging work and funding opportunities across Aberdeenshire.
- **Equally Represent** – Maintain an active and balanced membership across CRA’s network, with equal representation of stakeholders across the four Climate Priority Areas.
- **Target Expertise** – Ensure that each CRA network member understands how they are best placed within their remit to support organisations and communities

across Aberdeenshire.

- **Promote Best Practice** – Be active as a focal point for discussion and dissemination of climate, biodiversity and wider sustainability challenges and opportunities for Aberdeenshire, including successes and lessons learnt from network member projects.
- **Advocate Climate Commitments** – Using CRA’s collective influence, actively engage and share findings with regional decision-makers to support them in the delivery of local and national commitments to climate change that will mutually benefit Aberdeenshire’s environment, economy, and people.
- **Foster Collaboration** – Be open to support opportunities for new projects and partnership working between network members and communities in Aberdeenshire, especially those that advocate a place-based approach.
- **Log and Learn** – Maintain a collective view over what is happening in Aberdeenshire under the four Climate Priority Areas and continually update CRA’s Activity Log to be used as a resource to help increase understanding and awareness of climate change risks, challenges, and opportunities.
- **Share Opportunities** – Use CRA’s Activity Log as a foundation for signposting organisations and communities to current and future workstreams and available support to deliver action on climate change, biodiversity and wider sustainability issues including possible funding streams.



Adapted from Stephen Covey, 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (1989)

CRA’s Circles of Influence: How CRA’s collective network interacts with the 15 consequences of climate change in Aberdeenshire to broaden its influence across the four Climate Priority Areas.

Acknowledgements

Climate Ready Aberdeenshire would like to thank the following organisations for their contributions and continued support in developing and delivering this Strategy:

- Aberdeenshire Council
- Cairngorms National Park Authority
- Historic Environment Scotland
- James Hutton Institute
- Nature Scot
- NESCAN Hub
- Nestrans
- NHS Grampian
- Offshore Energies UK
- Scottish Enterprise
- Scottish Water
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- The Barn Arts
- University of Aberdeen
- Visit Aberdeenshire

1. Introduction

This document sets out the vision, objectives, and strategy of Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (CRA). CRA is a voluntary cross-sector network to create and coordinate Aberdeenshire's climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy. It brings together the views and expertise of a range of diverse stakeholders from public, private, and 3rd sector organisations, to set out how we can work collaboratively to meet the challenges of a changing climate in Aberdeenshire.

CRA will capture current work and future plans of relevant groups and organisations in the region, including their strategic intents to 2030, with the aim to increase shared learning and collaboration between network members that will help tackle the challenges of climate change.

Through this process, the network of CRA members will seek to identify potential gaps where particular issues are needing to be addressed and, consequently, opportunities for new projects and partnership working in Aberdeenshire. Considering the evolving nature of CRA, this Strategy will remain a live document and will be updated periodically.

2. Vision and Objectives

CRA formed a shared vision and objectives while producing this Strategy. These detail how CRA aims to mitigate climate change, adapt and build resilience to its impacts, and to protect and enhance biodiversity across the region. CRA's shared vision is that:

“All sectors, including public, private and the community, are increasingly engaged in shared dialogue, shared goals and shared action relating to climate, biodiversity, and sustainability in support of a flourishing Aberdeenshire.”

Through its network, CRA's objectives are to:

1. Increase the understanding and awareness of climate change risks, challenges, and opportunities within Aberdeenshire.
2. Encourage the use of a place-based approach when engaging with communities on how to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
3. Support decision-makers to contribute to the delivery of local and national commitments to climate change that mutually benefit Aberdeenshire's environment, economy, and people.

4. Ensure that network members are best placed, within their remit, to provide knowledge, advice, and support on climate change mitigation and adaptation action, including helping to signpost businesses, community groups, and individuals to resources, projects, and funding opportunities to deliver change.

3. How does CRA work?

Governance

CRA is led by a small Steering Group consisting of two independent co-Chairs and a Project Lead from Aberdeenshire Council. A Member Group meets bi-monthly with representation from key organisations in the North East of Scotland, each working towards at least one of the Climate Priority Areas. A broader CRA Network hosts a growing cohort of stakeholders with expertise, projects, and strategies that link to four Climate Priority Areas (Figure 1).

Climate Priority Areas

During the formation of CRA, four working groups were initially established for a limited period to inform early development of the Strategy. The working groups brought together a range of experts to highlight the opportunities, challenges, and gaps in work in Aberdeenshire under the following Climate Priority Areas:

1. *Adaptation and Resilience*

Continually adapting to present climate and weather while making changes based on future projections, in a way that increases the resilience of communities, infrastructure, and the natural and historic landscapes across Aberdeenshire.

2. *Mitigation and Net Zero*

Reducing or preventing greenhouse gas emissions while delivering a transition towards Net Zero that prioritises fairness and tackles inequality and injustice across Aberdeenshire.

3. *Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity*

Solving environmental and societal issues through prioritising the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, benefiting both nature and people, while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation in Aberdeenshire.

4. *Sustainable Economy and Communities*

Climate-focussed sustainable actions that benefit the region by providing opportunities to build a just, climate-friendly, low carbon economy and communities across Aberdeenshire.

An outline of the policies and legislative drivers under each Climate Priority Area, including descriptions of the areas they influence, can be found in Appendix 1. The Climate Priority Areas also take into consideration the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, which are detailed in Appendix 2. For a full list of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and their descriptions, please see Appendix 3.

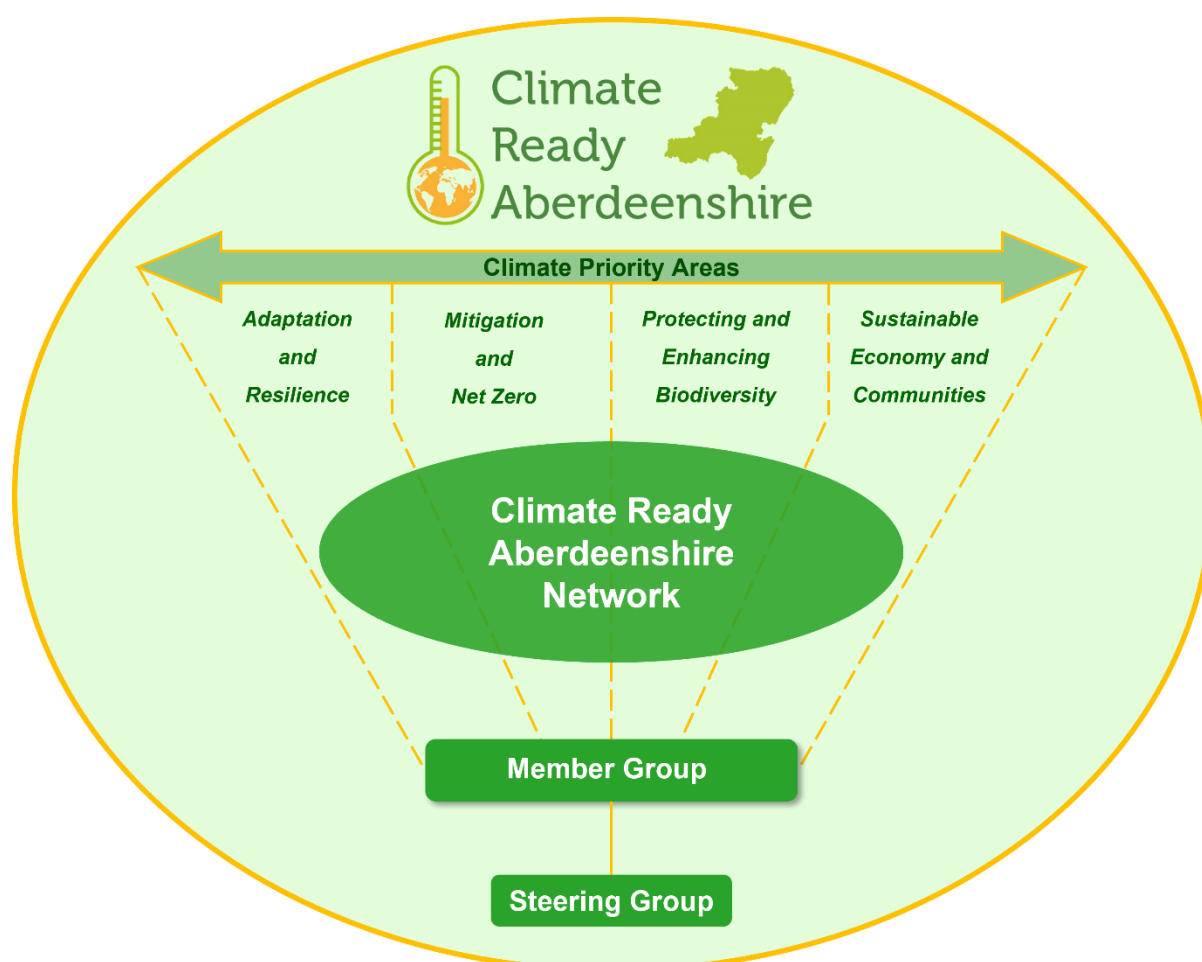


Figure 1: Climate Ready Aberdeenshire governance model.

Activity Log

The outcome of the working groups led to the formation of an Activity Log, which details the current projects, planned work, and strategic intents to 2030 of each network member under each Climate Priority Area. The Activity Log is a live document which is periodically updated with input from the CRA Network and is maintained by the Project Lead. Meanwhile the Steering Group and Member Group will drive the Strategy, continuing to seek out opportunities for collaborative working and new projects, including possible funding streams, through Member Group meetings and engagement with the wider CRA Network.

4. Climate Challenges and Opportunities for Aberdeenshire

Projection Headlines for Scotland

To understand the challenges and opportunities that face Aberdeenshire, it is important to first know what to expect more broadly from a changing climate at national scale. To help capture this, the United Kingdom Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) have produced the following [projection headlines for Scotland](#):

- *Average temperatures will increase across all seasons.*
- *Typical summers will be warmer and drier.*
- *Typical winters will be milder and wetter.*
- *Intense, heavy rainfall events will increase in both winter and summer.*
- *Sea levels will rise.*
- *Reduced frost and snowfall.*
- *Weather will remain variable and may become more variable.*

15 Consequences for Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire's climate is already changing, and many of the impacts from these projections are being experienced more frequently. While this presents many challenges, it is crucial that we fully understand the consequences in order to assess the opportunities for action which will help reduce further impacts on our environment, economy, communities, and individuals across the region.

The following headings are from [Adaptation Scotland's '15 Consequences'](#) which include an outline of what can be expected across Aberdeenshire. It should be noted that the cases provided below are not exhaustive, and CRA recognises they do not exist in isolation and there are many linkages across each of them. Therefore, a holistic viewpoint and approach must be applied.

1. ***The productivity of our agriculture and forests*** – It is possible that with a warmer climate, growing conditions may improve across Aberdeenshire, benefiting agriculture and forestry through increased productivity. However, spread of pests and diseases and more variable and intense weather may also limit this potential. Tree loss from high winds experienced during the 2021 – 2022 winter storm season flattened and caused considerable damage to more than 30ha (just under 10%) of woodland owned by Aberdeenshire Council, including parks and open spaces where trees were snapped or uprooted by the storms' high winds, with Haddo Country Park being the worst affected.

The increase in temperature, and drier summer conditions, may also mean there

is a decrease in water availability which could negatively affect productivity and increase the risk of wildfire that occurs with drought. As well as forests, this has implications for human health, infrastructure, and our wildlife in a range of habitats, such as ground nesting birds. Changing conditions may also alter the types of crops and trees that can be grown.

2. ***The occurrence of pests and disease*** – Under changing climate conditions, pest, diseases, and non-native species have the potential to spread from other regions and around the North East, impacting the health and wellbeing of people, plants, animals, and more broadly, ecosystems across Aberdeenshire. This can cause a decline or total loss of certain species of local flora and fauna, having knock-on effects on the productivity of land and availability of water across the region if appropriate measures are not taken to manage these threats. Due to changes in temperature, invasive species and tree disease has increased across Aberdeenshire, which has contributed to an overall loss of biodiversity in the North East.
3. ***The quality of our soils*** – Soils are vital for the prosperity of Aberdeenshire's biodiversity, and support industries such as agriculture and forestry, as well as regulate the water cycle and store carbon. More than 3,000 megatonnes of carbon is stored in Scotland's soils, which is about 60 times the amount held in our trees and plants, making soils our main terrestrial store of carbon. Aberdeenshire has extensive areas of peatland, in particular in the uplands but also in the remnant raised bogs that are characteristic of Northern Aberdeenshire. Around 53 percent of Scotland's carbon store is found in peatland, which covers over 20 percent of land across the country. More extreme weather from climate change is contributing to degrading peatlands, which not only impacts their carbon storage potential, but also the abundance of biodiversity they support.

The rich historic and archaeological value of soils across Aberdeenshire are also important as they provide evidence of key changes in the environment and human activity over time. This is at risk through the way in which we use the land, increasing extremities in temperature, and changes in rainfall patterns.

4. ***The health of our natural environment*** – Maintaining the condition of our natural environment is crucial to tackling climate change. When nature is healthy, it helps to both mitigate and adapt to its impacts. Peatlands in Aberdeenshire, for example, can store more carbon than any other habitat when they are in good condition, whereas when they are in poor condition, the peat oxidises, and carbon is released to the atmosphere. Additionally, as the development of carbon capture technology is currently in its infancy, nature remains our greatest carbon store.

However, ecosystems across Aberdeenshire are becoming increasingly vulnerable because of climate change. This means that existing pressures on native habitats, such as droughts on peatlands, may be exacerbated and cause detrimental impacts on their distribution, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration potential. Furthermore, an increase of invasive non-native species can cause degradation or total loss of certain species of flora and fauna distinct to Aberdeenshire, which may then impact on the productivity of land and availability of water across the region.

5. ***The security of our food supply*** – As climate change impacts other countries around the world, global food production is likely to experience disruptive changes. Despite the possible increase in growing capacity within Aberdeenshire, this will not be sufficient for the region to independently sustain itself if crucial global supply chains fail, particularly as water scarcity becomes more of a threat. This instability will also impact the cost and availability of food.
6. ***The availability and quality of water*** – The North East is becoming increasingly vulnerable to water shortages caused by changes in rainfall patterns. As summer droughts become more common, there will be greater demand on water and increased competition between households, agriculture, and other industries in Aberdeenshire, which may also have implications for water quality and demand for private water supplies.

Between 2019 – 2022, droughts led to private water supplies within Aberdeenshire Council area running dry, causing demand for emergency supplies to communities. This has had a long-term effect as some of these supplies have never returned, or if they did, the quality of the water has reduced meaning new supplies need to be found. Additionally, during the same period, Aberdeenshire Council supported Scottish Water in making temporary drinking water available and opened up public leisure facilities to allow those affected to make use of showers.

The availability of water is also crucial for protecting biodiversity in the region. The River Dee, for example, is a main source of water in Aberdeenshire. Increased demand for water over summer could exacerbate pressures on the river at times when it is experiencing low flow. This in turn could be detrimental to the wildlife that depend on the river, such as freshwater pearl mussel, that will already be stressed by increased water temperatures. This may be alleviated by Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan and powers to impose suspension of water abstractions from rivers, such as in the Ythan catchment since August 2022.

7. ***The increased risk of flooding*** – Flooding is regarded as one of the costliest impacts of climate change, which then has significant knock-on effects on a

range of social factors. With shifting rainfall patterns and heavier downpours projected, it is anticipated that such financial and social impacts will worsen if appropriate action is not taken. Flooding in Aberdeenshire is already causing damage to properties and infrastructure, impacting livelihoods, and reducing the population's sense of security. During flooding events between 2019 and 2022, business in Aberdeenshire were forced to close due to unsafe flooded water and potential contamination. Additionally, greater soil erosion as a result of increased run-off creates what is known as "muddy floods", which further exacerbates property and infrastructure damage and decreases water quality.

The long-term costs and consequences of flooding for Aberdeenshire will have a significant impact on its people, heritage, businesses, and communities. Currently it is estimated that there are 16,000 people and 10,000 homes and businesses at risk from flooding in Aberdeenshire. This is estimated to increase to 21,000 people and 13,000 homes and businesses by the 2080s due to climate change. In the North East of Scotland, the annual cost of flooding is approximately £26 million. However, this risk does not currently represent flooding from wave overtopping and the impact of coastal flooding may be underestimated.

8. ***The change at our coast*** – Flooding, erosion, and retreat will affect areas of Aberdeenshire's 200-kilometre coastline, with some stretches of our coast, including communities and infrastructure, already experiencing these impacts, which are only set to accelerate over the next few decades. Nearly a fifth of Scotland's coastline is at risk of erosion and the effects of climate change and weather events. This will also be exacerbated by increased storminess and sea level rise, with mean sea levels around Scotland rising at a rate of approximately 1.4 mm a year from the start of the 20th century.
9. ***The health of our marine environment*** – Climate change, alongside other pressures such as fishing, is already affecting marine ecosystems. Populations of native seabirds are being displaced as a result of ocean warming affecting their food supply, leading to a decline of 50 percent of all breeding seabirds in Scotland since the 1980s. Similarly extreme weather events, such as flooding, can impact local habitats like puffins' burrows. With rising sea temperatures, altered water column stratification, deoxygenation and a reduction in pH threatening to change the type and distribution of species normally found in the North Sea, this will present both opportunities and challenges to Aberdeenshire's commercial fisheries.
10. ***The resilience of our businesses*** – Transportation, energy supply, and communication networks will be disrupted by extreme weather resulting from climate change. In Aberdeenshire, across Scotland, and around the world, this is likely to impact markets and supply chains, and cause insurance costs to rise.

11. ***The health and wellbeing of our people*** – Physical and mental health may be impacted if vital services to communities are disrupted by extreme weather associated with climate change. During heatwaves between 2019 and 2022, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) faced additional challenges due to the impact of extreme heat on human health, particularly to vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and individuals with pre-existing conditions. High temperatures caused care homes and schools to overheat affecting the health and wellbeing of residents, pupils, and staff leading to a rise in heat-related illnesses such as heatstroke and dehydration. Warmer conditions may affect patterns of disease and cause other risks to health. For examples, the longer periods of high temperatures across Aberdeenshire between 2019 – 2022 promoted blue green algae and a risk of Legionella which posed a public health risk.

Individuals may be able to take greater advantage of the outdoors resulting from overall warmer temperatures throughout the seasons. This will provide more opportunities for an active and healthy lifestyle, possibly leading to reduced mortality during winter. However, warmer temperatures are also likely to have a negative effect on the ski centres in the mountain regions of Aberdeenshire, reducing the opportunity for people from the region and wider Scotland to participate in snow sports without travelling abroad. This could also have knock-on impacts for local economies that are more reliant on incomes from winter tourism.

12. ***Our cultural heritage and identity*** – Aberdeenshire's distinct cultural landscape will become increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Warmer and wetter conditions, as well as flooding and coastal erosion will put strain on the care, protection, and promotion of our historic environment. Between 2019 and 2022, land slip and slope instability associated with extreme weather events affected several of Aberdeenshire's historic sites. These include Macduff Cross, which has been restored and reset due to slope instability, and St. Brandon's Inverboyndie, which will be a major project in 2024 due to slope instability. There is also concern that other damaged sites may be left as 'managed decline' as this may be the only viable option.

The historic structures across Aberdeenshire, many of which are occupied, are also a past investment in carbon which creates an opportunity. Their retention and reuse can positively impact on building a low carbon economy.

13. ***The security and efficiency of our energy supply*** – Generating consistent energy from renewables that are reliant on weather, such as wind or hydro schemes, may become challenging under projected climate trends. The ability to distribute power may be impacted by extreme weather, such as storm damage, and transmission efficiency may also be lessened by extreme fluctuation in

temperatures. On a broader scale, Aberdeenshire's energy security may also be vulnerable if global markets are impacted by climate change.

14. ***The performance of our buildings*** – The design, construction, management, and use of Aberdeenshire's buildings and surroundings will be impacted by climate change. Efforts to retrofit existing buildings or plans for new developments will not only need to consider net zero targets but also the ongoing capabilities relating to weather resistance, overheating, energy use, and water management issues during times of flood and drought.
15. ***Infrastructure – Network connectivity and interdependencies*** – Climate change will have a varied effect on Aberdeenshire's infrastructure systems. The geography, industries and dispersed population of Aberdeenshire mean it is reliant on its supporting infrastructure of 3,643 miles of roads and over 1,300 bridges, which are maintained by Aberdeenshire Council, and are consequently vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Energy, transport, water, and ICT networks are all crucially interconnected support services and support health and wellbeing, and economic prosperity. However, increasingly disruptive conditions such as strong winds, flooding, landslides, drought, and heatwaves can impact their availability, with knock-on effects if any one of them fails. Storms and high winds after the 2021 – 2022 storm season caused damage to the electrical grid infrastructure and telecoms network infrastructure across Aberdeenshire. This resulted in widespread power outages and had an impact on the aim of further expansion of telecoms networks, as telecoms operators had to repair and upgrade historic infrastructure before expanding new infrastructure. These recent storms in Aberdeenshire and their impacts have also set back improvements in digital connectivity for the region.

5. Climate Ready Aberdeenshire Strategy

This Strategy outlines Adaptation Scotland's 15 Consequences and identifies many of the challenges and opportunities that are likely to arise from climate change across Aberdeenshire. CRA has also characterised the following Climate Priority Areas to frame climate activity that is tackling climate change in Aberdeenshire – Adaptation and Resilience, Mitigation and Net Zero, Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity, and Sustainable Economy and Communities. Furthermore, CRA will continue to develop the Activity Log, which already exhibits an extensive coverage of existing climate action from existing CRA Network Members under these Climate Priority Areas.

CRA's Strategy can add further value to this through its collective influence as a regional member network. Its aim is to create opportunities for shared learning, signposting, and collaboration to generate new proactive climate change action beyond existing projects, strategies, and commitments (Figure 2). Actions that consider the four Climate Priority Areas with equal importance could also have the potential to reduce, halt, and possibly even reverse the adverse effects that are covered under the 15 Consequences. Conversely, reactive efforts to tackle climate change could lessen the region's overall capability to deal with the 15 consequences, making a strong case for a coordinated regional approach with the potential to collectively influence further climate action.

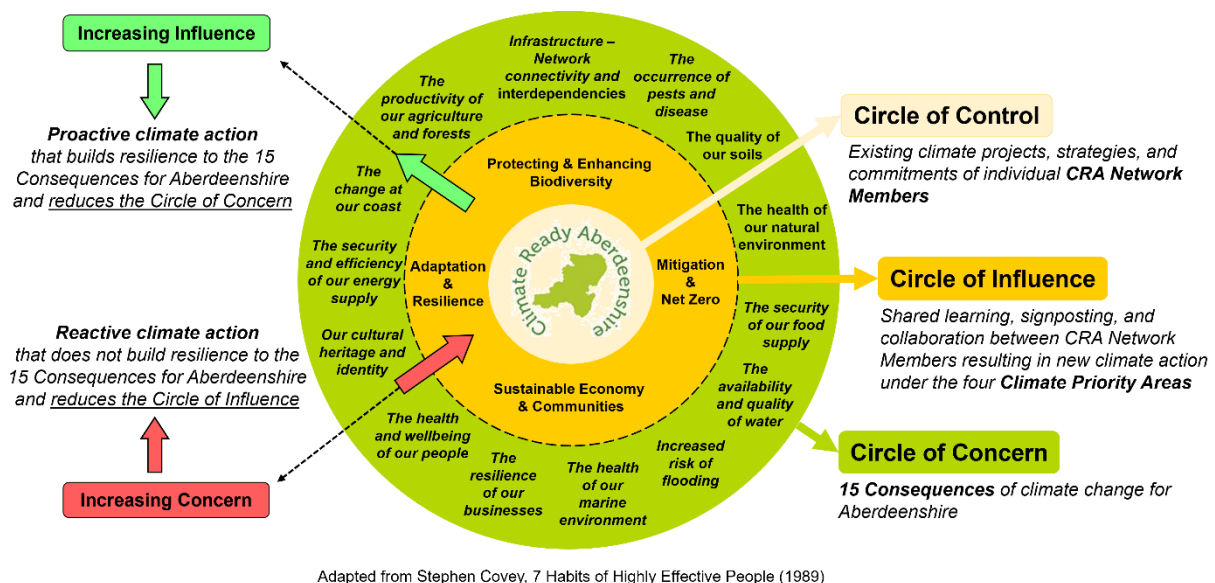


Figure 2: How CRA's collective network interacts with the 15 consequences of climate change in Aberdeenshire to broaden its influence across the four Climate Priority Areas.

Based on these identified challenges and opportunities, to mitigate climate change, adapt and build resilience to its impacts, to protect and enhance biodiversity, and contribute to a sustainable economy and communities across the region, CRA will:

- **Grow and Develop** – Seek out prospective organisations to join CRA's network to ensure it continues to capture the breadth of current and emerging work and funding opportunities across Aberdeenshire.
- **Equally Represent** – Maintain an active and balanced membership across CRA's network, with equal representation of stakeholders across the four Climate Priority Areas.

- **Target Expertise** – Ensure that each CRA network member understands how they are best placed within their remit to support organisations and communities across Aberdeenshire.
- **Promote Best Practice** – Be active as a focal point for discussion and dissemination of climate, biodiversity and wider sustainability challenges and opportunities for Aberdeenshire, including successes and lessons learnt from network member projects.
- **Advocate Climate Commitments** – Using CRA’s collective influence, actively engage and share findings with regional decision-makers to support them in the delivery of local and national commitments to climate change that will mutually benefit Aberdeenshire’s environment, economy, and people.
- **Foster Collaboration** – Be open to support opportunities for new projects and partnership working between network members and communities in Aberdeenshire, especially those that advocate a place-based approach.
- **Log and Learn** – Maintain a collective view over what is happening in Aberdeenshire under the four Climate Priority Areas and continually update CRA’s Activity Log to be used as a resource to help increase understanding and awareness of climate change risks, challenges, and opportunities.
- **Share Opportunities** – Use CRA’s Activity Log as a foundation for signposting organisations and communities to current and future workstreams and available support to deliver action on climate change, biodiversity and wider sustainability issues including possible funding streams.

Appendices













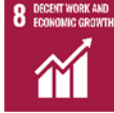


















Appendix 1: CRA's Priorities, Influencing Policies, and Legislation

Climate Ready Aberdeenshire – Climate Priority Areas		
Climate Priority Area	Area of Influence	National and International Drivers
Adaptation and Resilience <i>Continually adapting to present climate and weather while making changes based on future projections, in a way that increases the resilience of communities, infrastructure, and the natural and historic landscapes across Aberdeenshire.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal erosion • Coastal flood risk management and sea level rise • Coastal paths • Harbours and ports • Marine ecosystems • Water • Flood risk management • Riverbank erosion • Water supply, quality, and management (incl. water shortage) • Housing and buildings • Soil quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EU Adaptation Strategy ○ Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2019 ○ SCCAP Outcome 6. ○ Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 ○ Scotland's National Marine Plan (2015) ○ Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (there is an updated 2022 version due for publication this year – consultation ends Sept 2022) ○ Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
Mitigation and Net Zero <i>Reducing or preventing greenhouse gas emissions while delivering a transition towards Net Zero that prioritises fairness and tackles inequality and injustice across Aberdeenshire.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses based on natural resources (agriculture, forestry, aquaculture & fisheries) • Clean and affordable energy • Clean and sustainable transport • Green economic recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SCCAP Outcome 6 ○ Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 ○ Scotland's National Marine Plan (2015) ○ Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (there is an updated 2022 version due for publication this year – consultation ends Sept 2022) ○ Heat in Buildings Strategy: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in Scotland's Buildings ○ Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 ○ Climate Change (Emissions Reduction

		<p>Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scotland's National Transport Strategy ○ Scotland's third land use strategy 2021 - 2026 ○ Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy
<p>Protecting and enhancing Biodiversity</p> <p><i>Solving environmental and societal issues through prioritising the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, benefiting both nature and people, while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation in Aberdeenshire.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem services • Health of the natural environment • Land use (agriculture, forestry, estates, and landowners) • Soil quality • Nature-based solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land Use Strategy (2021 – 2026) ○ Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017 - 2027 ○ SCCAP Outcome 5 ○ Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019 – 2029 ○ Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (there is an updated 2022 version due for publication this year – consultation ends Sept 2022) ○ Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003
<p>Sustainable Economy and Communities</p> <p><i>Climate-focussed sustainable actions that benefit the region by providing opportunities to build a just, climate-friendly, low carbon economy and communities across Aberdeenshire.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and education • Cultural heritage and identity • Health and social needs • Historic assets and sites • Vulnerability & equality • Waste <p><u>Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local businesses • Just transition • Green recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building Standards ○ Net Zero Public Sector Buildings Standard ○ Scotland's Land Use Strategy (2021 – 2026) ○ Planning Scotland Act 2019 ○ SCCAP Outcome 1 - 4 ○ The Historic Environment (Scotland) Act 2014 ○ Scotland's National Transport Strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism <u>Infrastructure</u> • Digital communication • Transport (incl. roads, bridges, and paths) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Planning Framework 4
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Appendix 2: CRA's Priorities and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

Climate Priority Area	UN Sustainable Development Goals
Adaptation and Resilience <i>Continually adapting to present climate and weather while making changes based on future projections, in a way that increases the resilience of communities, infrastructure, and the natural and historic landscapes across Aberdeenshire.</i>	        
Mitigation and Net Zero <i>Reducing or preventing greenhouse gas emissions while delivering a transition towards Net Zero that prioritises fairness and tackles inequality and injustice across Aberdeenshire.</i>	            
Protecting and enhancing Biodiversity <i>Solving environmental and societal issues through prioritising the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, benefiting both nature and people, while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation in Aberdeenshire.</i>	        

Sustainable Economy and Communities

Climate-focussed sustainable actions that benefit the region by providing opportunities to build a just, climate-friendly, low carbon economy and communities across Aberdeenshire.



Appendix 3: United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals with links to additional information

	<i>United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals</i>
1	<u>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</u>
2	<u>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</u>
3	<u>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</u>
4	<u>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</u>
5	<u>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</u>
6	<u>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</u>
7	<u>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</u>
8	<u>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</u>
9	<u>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</u>
10	<u>Reduce inequality within and among countries</u>
11	<u>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</u>
12	<u>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</u>
13	<u>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</u>
14	<u>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</u>
15	<u>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</u>

16	<u>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</u>
17	<u>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</u>

Ends

