

15 June 2022

## **Investigation launched into support for Local Authorities in the delivery of climate change targets**

Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) has today (15 June 2022) launched an investigation into the effectiveness of the systems in place concerning local authorities' contribution to the delivery of climate change targets.

The move comes following the submission of a representation to ESS highlighting concerns regarding current arrangements.

In May 2019, the Scottish Government declared a climate change emergency and the Scottish Parliament passed updated legislation to introduce a 2045 target for Scotland to achieve Net Zero, or carbon neutrality. The target, and associated milestones towards Net Zero, are ambitious and challenging and public bodies in Scotland, including local authorities, are required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 ("the 2009 Act") to 'act in the way best calculated' to contribute to the delivery of climate targets.

ESS and its Board will now consider the full scope of this investigation and ESS will publish the outcome of this work when concluded.

**Jim Martin, Chair of Environmental Standards Scotland said:** "It is crucial that public bodies meet their environmental responsibilities and that robust systems are in place to help achieve this. The consequences of not meeting climate change targets are serious and action needs to be taken.

"In light of this and given the scale of emissions which Local Authorities are directly responsible for, or have levers to influence, ESS has taken the decision to launch an investigation into the effectiveness of the systems in place to support Local Authorities."

**-ENDS-**



**Further information about ESS Investigations:**

[Investigations - Environmental Standards Scotland](#)

**About Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS):**

Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) began its formal operations on October 2021, as part of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021, following the UK's departure from the European Union. ESS is responsible for ensuring Scotland's public authorities, including government and its agencies, are compliant with environmental law.

ESS is independent of Scottish Government, but accountable to the Scottish Parliament. In its role, ESS will scrutinise public authorities' compliance with environmental law, the effectiveness of these laws and the way they are implemented and applied and has statutory powers to act where required.

**For more information, visit:** [environmentalstandards.scot](https://environmentalstandards.scot)

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