



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Adapting to Climate Change

A Children and Young People's Guide to
understanding the new Scottish National
Adaptation Plan (2024-2029)



Hello!

- Welcome to the Scottish Government's children and young people's guide to the third Scottish National Adaptation Plan called SNAP3.
- SNAP3 is a plan made to help prepare or 'adapt' Scotland to the effects of climate change over the next five years. You can find page numbers at the top of each page.
- Page 3 explains what climate change is and why we need to prepare or 'adapt' for it.
- Pages 4-8 explain the five main parts of SNAP3. Each part is made up of important goals that we want to achieve in our country:
 - ➔ Our Nature (Page 4)
 - ➔ Our Communities (Page 5)
 - ➔ Our Public Services (Page 6)
 - ➔ Our Economy (Page 7)
 - ➔ Our World (Page 8)
- Lots of different people, groups and organisations from across Scotland will be working together to carry out the changes in the plan. For instance, our scientists and researchers will give us the information we need to make good choices. Page 9 gives ideas of things you can do to play a part in adapting to climate change.
- Some tricky words in this book are written in bold like **this**. You can find explanations of these words on page 10.

Why is it important to know about SNAP3?

Every child in Scotland has rights:

- Rights are the promises that the Scottish Government has made so that children can have a good life.
- The effects of climate change may make it harder for children to use these rights.
- This plan will help make sure children can continue to use their rights, whatever the weather.

What is adaptation?

What is weather?

Weather is the way the air outside feels and can include sunshine, rain, snow, wind, and storms.



2026 CALENDAR		
2025 CALENDAR		
2024 CALENDAR		
JAN	FEB	MAR
APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP
OCT	NOV	DEC

What is climate?

While weather lasts for a few days, the word 'climate' is used to describe weather in an area over a long time

What is climate change?

Climate change describes the changes in normal weather over time.

- Scientists have noticed the world is growing hotter over time. This is sometimes called global warming.
- This warming is leading to more big weather events such as **heat waves** and **flooding**.
- This change has been caused by human activities such as burning coal and oil and cutting down forests.

What is climate mitigation?

This is when we make better choices for the planet. For example, we might ride our bikes to school rather than drive a car that burns oil.

What is climate adaptation?

This is when we make changes to protect ourselves from the climate's changes such as more rainfall, **heat waves** or **flooding**. For example, if we notice a river keeps overflowing after heavy rain, we might plant trees next to it to soak up the extra water and help keep the river from overflowing.



Our Adaptation Champions!
The Adaptation Scotland programme helps organisations, businesses and communities prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

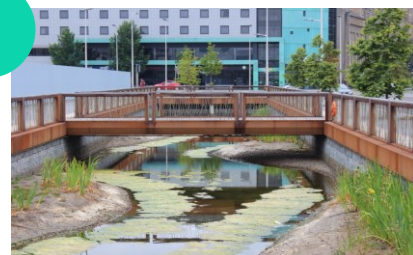
Our Nature

Scotland's nature refers to all things that are not made by people such as our mountains, lochs, rivers, seas and forests. It also includes our wild animals, insects and plants. It is important that we protect our nature from the harmful effects of climate change.

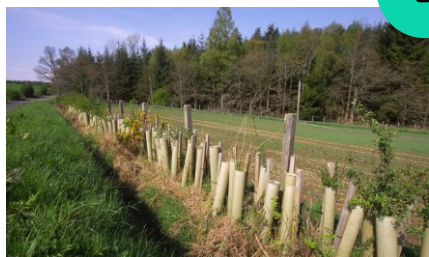
Our nature also helps us adapt to climate change and it is important that it is connected, healthy and has lots of different plants and animals living in it. Trees can provide shade when it is hot to cool us down and grass can help soak up extra rainwater. These are called "nature-based solutions."

Nature-based solutions of all sizes will be made safer, better and more connected to create healthier, cooler, water friendly and nature-rich places. This will involve looking after the plants and wildlife we have and planting or making homes for new ones.

1



2



The bigger, the better: Sometimes looking at how nature works across a large chunk of land can help us understand the impacts of events like **flooding** and **drought**. The way our land is managed is not always split up into large chunks of land like river valleys and forests so we need to encourage the people who own or manage different pieces of land to work together to improve nature.

3



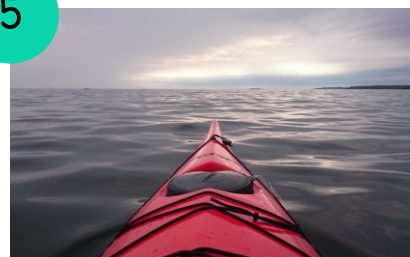
When planning our local spaces like parks, we will consider the future weather and how we can use nature to make our spaces safer.

4



Areas or 'pockets' of nature across Scotland will be connected up and made stronger against the impacts of climate change. We will stop the loss of plants and animals in Scotland by 2030. We will have more nature than before in Scotland (called 'nature positive') by 2045.

5



Our oceans and seas are also affected by climate change. Using good information and planning how we use the sea as a resource helps us take care of the plants and animals in our seas. It also helps people who depend on the sea for their jobs such as those working in fishing, local restaurants and **tourism**.

6



Peatland, forests and parts of the sea can help store **greenhouse gases**. This will help stop us from getting too hot. We will protect and support these as part of the Plan.

Our Communities

Our communities are working together to adapt to climate change. Our community might be made up of people who live and work in our neighbourhoods. Our community might also be made up of people who share something else in common with us. For instance, some people feel connected to a community of those of the same age, gender or disability.

1

The people and organisations who look after the place we live (for example those who run libraries, schools, hospitals and look after our roads) are working together to prepare for changes to our climate in a way that is fair.



2



Our communities are being given the help and information they need to take action in their area. They have the power to make choices together on which actions will work best for their community. This will help create places that are ready for the impacts of climate change while being healthy and fair, with everyone getting a say.

3

Communities and families should be given help to get ready for big weather moments like storms, **floods** or **heat waves**. They should also get help after big weather events to repair anything that has been broken. This should be done in a way that will make what has been broken, stronger against being broken during a big weather event again. This will be done alongside work of our firefighters, police officers and **paramedics** and will protect those who are most in danger during emergencies.



4



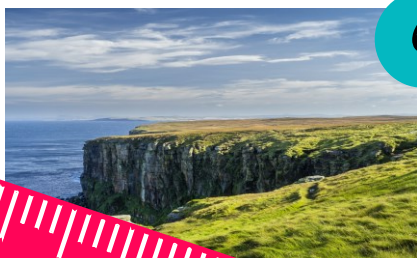
New buildings will be made with a changed climate in mind. Existing buildings will look for chances to make climate-friendly changes during normal upkeep or other works happening now.

5

Scotland's **historic environment** (made up of all the places and things in Scotland that tell us a story from our past) is preparing for climate change. The power of stories, **traditions**, **beliefs**, and **creativity** can all help to support us through change.



6



Scotland's seas and beaches and the local people and businesses that rely on them (such as **fisheries**) will be protected from the changing climate. We will plan carefully to protect our coastal communities.

Our Public Services

Our public services work together to provide the things we need. Everybody pays into these services so we can all use them when we need to.

1



Our **public service** workers will prepare for the changing climate using their knowledge, their skills and the tools available. They will work together to make sure people are included and what everybody thinks is heard.

2

Even during bad weather, we will try make sure everybody can use the **public services** they need including our schools, hospitals and carers. We will do this by making sure our services, buildings and workers are looked after long-term and are prepared for extreme weather events.



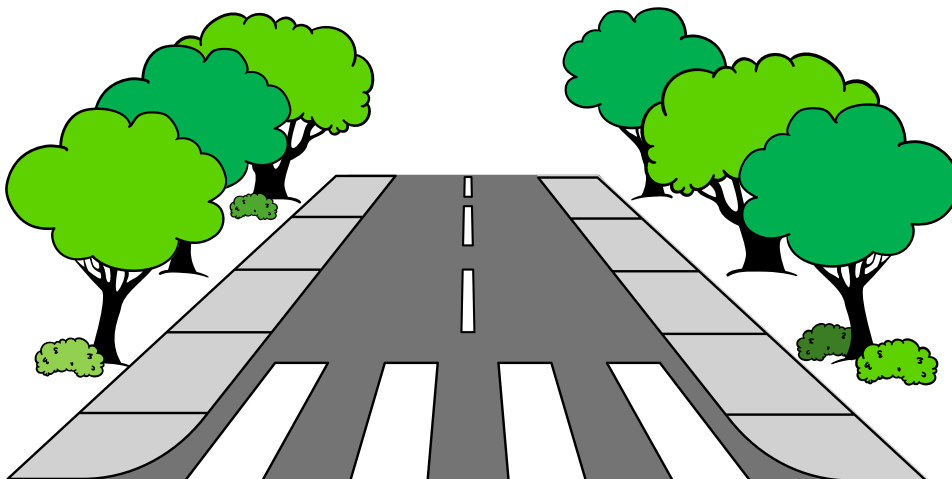
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Our water, sewers and drains will either be looked after or built to protect against **flooding**. We will make sure our water is safe to drink and that there is enough to go around when there is dry weather.

4

Our buses, trains, roads, planes and boats will be ready for the changing climate and will be safe for all passengers to use when they need them. We will continue to be able to travel where we need to go even during bad weather.



Our Economy & Our Businesses

Our economy refers to all the ways people in Scotland make or spend money. It involves buying and selling goods and services. A strong economy will give people lots of different jobs where they can earn money.

- Our economy is made up of all kinds of important players such as the Government and businesses such as shops, farms and building companies as well as their customers.
- Climate change could affect our economy in a bad way. It could affect how much money we have to spend on making Scotland a better place for everyone. For instance, if a flood damages a farmer's store of potatoes, they will lose the money and time they spent planting, watering and harvesting the potatoes. There will also be less potatoes to go to the supermarket which could make potatoes cost a little more for everybody to buy.
- However, a different climate could also affect parts of our economy in a useful way. For instance, with hotter summers, an ice cream shop may sell more ice creams to help people cool down and they may need to hire more people to help. There may be space for new businesses and jobs that haven't been possible in Scotland before.

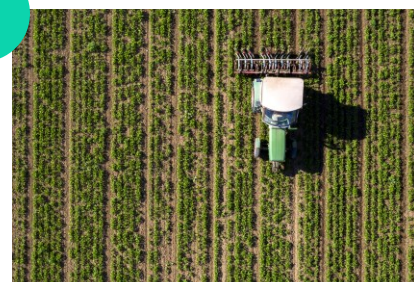


1

Businesses will better understand how climate change will affect them and have advice on what to do. This will help businesses think about climate change when making decisions on how they're run, what they spend money on, and what they do day-to-day and in the future. Businesses will work together to help Scotland to adapt in the best way.

Farming, fishing and **forestry** businesses will be supported to change the way they work to suit and prepare for the changing climate. This will mean they can still make money in the future.

2



3



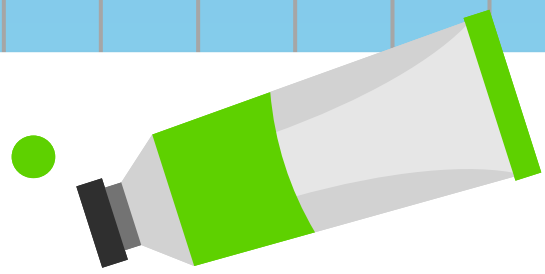
Scotland will work to create exciting new inventions which can help limit the bad effects of climate change and make good use of our new weather.

4

Climate change will be thought of when we decide how to spend money to make Scotland a better, healthier and fairer place for everyone. This includes making sure climate change doesn't stop anyone from being able to get the important things they need, like food or medicine.



Our World



The Scottish Government is doing their part to help countries from around the world prepare for and adapt to climate change.



1

No single community in the world will be left untouched by the effects of climate change. The Scottish Government is working with other countries to make sure those who live in certain countries who may not have as many resources as us are able to prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of climate change.

We will continue to stand up for people most affected by climate change and least able to adapt. We will make sure they have the chance to tell their story and make decisions that affect their country.

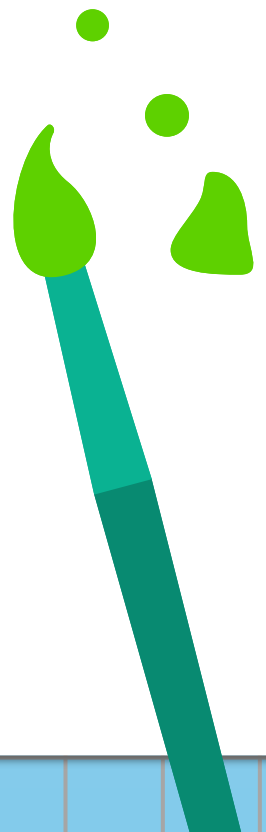
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Our universities and research centres will continue to do excellent research on climate adaptation and share what they have learned with other universities and research centres around the world.



Your Part to Play

You have the power to play an important part in Scotland's journey adapting to climate change. Here are some ideas of things you can do in your daily life:

Reduce the amount of water you use. You could take shorter showers or switch the tap off when brushing your teeth.



If you have a garden or a local free-access green space, consider planting trees, helping with the gardening or creating a home for different wildlife (e.g. bug hotels).



Wear a sunhat that protects your face. Choose and wear a suncream with a sun protection factor of at least 30 and a four- or five broad-spectrum star rating.



When travelling to and from school and other places, check the weather reports the night before. Be ready to look at different ways of getting where you need to go or leaving a little earlier to be on time.



Drink plenty of water – at least six to eight glasses a day. This is important as it gets warmer.



Follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code to stop wildfires from starting. Never start a fire without adult supervision.



Glossary

Beliefs – A belief is an idea accepted as true; something that is believed.

Creativity – The ability to see things in new ways and come up with new ideas.

Crop – A crop is a plant grown on a farm.

Drought – A drought is a long period of time (sometimes months or even years) where an area gets less than its normal amount of rain. This can cause water shortages or hurt our farms where we need water to grow certain foods.

Fisheries – A fishery refers to a group of businesses who catch, prepare and sell fish or shellfish.

Flood/Flooding – A flood is when a lot of water overflows onto land that is normally dry.

Global – Global is a way to describe something having to do with the whole earth.

Greenhouse gases – Greenhouse gases are gases in the air that trap heat acting like an invisible 'blanket'. While we do need some greenhouse gases to keep us warm, too much will make the planet too warm. Right now, the planet has too much greenhouse gases made by humans in the air. We need to both stop making as much greenhouse gases and store some of the extra greenhouse gases already here.

Harvesting – When a crop is fully grown and ready to eat, the farmer must collect it from the fields. This is known as harvesting.

Heat wave – A period of time during which the temperature is a lot higher than normal.

Historic Environment – The environment refers to all our surroundings here on Earth. Our historic environment refers to all the places and things that tell us stories from Scotland's past.

Paramedics – A paramedic is a person who gets called out to help somebody who is sick or injured. They can provide emergency help such as giving medicines. This help is given to the person before or during their ambulance trip to a hospital.

Peatland – Peatland is an area of land made up of peat. Peat is a type of soil made up of dead plants that have not completely rotted. It is formed in wet ground that is not well drained. It takes thousands of years for a large area of peat to form.

Public Services: Our public services refer to the organisations who look after the places we live. This includes the people who run libraries, schools, hospitals and look after our roads.

Tourism – Tourism is when people travel from where they live to another place for fun or to relax. This can be a day trip or a longer holiday.

Traditions – Traditions refer to the events we celebrate or observe and repeat in the same way at the same time of the year/month/week/day. They are generally spent with the same people too. They might relate to our country (such as Robert Burns Day) or our beliefs (such as Easter Sunday).
