SEA & the Climate Change Act

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My background…

SEAs

• Scottish Government
  • Agriculture Strategy
  • Scottish Climate Change Bill
  • Scottish Soil Framework

• Local Authority
  • The Highland Council
    • Nigg Yard Redevelopment Masterplan
    • A96 Growth Corridor Masterplan

• City of Edinburgh Council
  • North Edinburgh Transport Action Plan

Carbon Management

• Transport Scotland
  • Carbon Management System
    • All Directorates
    • Supply Chain
    • Scope 1-3 emissions
    • Annual Account Inventory
Overview

- Brief introduction to SEA
- Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- Adaptation Framework
- Observations
Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

Key aim is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.

Stages of SEA include:

- Pre-Screening
- Screening
- Scoping
- Environmental Report
- Post Adoption Statement
- Statutory Consultations

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
2005 asp 15
CONTENTS

Stages of SEA include:
Section 5.3 of the SEA Act identifies qualifying PPS prepared for:

- Water Management
- Forestry
- Land Use
- Waste Management
- Industry
- Telecommunications
- Agriculture
- Town and Country Planning
- Transport
- Energy
- Tourism
- Fisheries

A responsible authority is defined as any person, body or office-holder exercising functions of a public character.
Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

Requires assessment of qualifying PPS & likely significant effects on the environment:

(i) biodiversity  (ii) population
(iii) human health (iv) fauna
(v) flora        (vi) soil
(vii) water      (viii) air
(ix) climatic factors (x) material assets
(xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;
(xii) landscape (xiii) inter-relationships between issues

Assessments must include consideration of:

short, medium and long-term / permanent and temporary / positive and negative / secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Places duties on public bodies in Scotland:

- In exercising their functions, public bodies must act
  - in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Act’s emissions reduction targets (42% by 2020 & 80% by 2050)
  - in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme
  - in a way that it considers most sustainable

- Also contains powers to enable the Scottish Ministers to create further duties and to introduce reporting and monitoring requirements
CLIMATE CHANGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009

Sets the strategic, long-term aims of the Scottish Government for climate change adaptation and mitigation and creates the necessary legislative framework to pursue those aims.

SUPPORTING THE AIMS

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION POLICY


Carbon assessments will be integrated into the Government’s budget process.

Opportunities to join-up action on adaptation and mitigation will be sought.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION POLICY

The Climate Change Adaptation Framework creates the strategic direction and process for ongoing adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Sector Adaptation Action Plans are developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

Opportunities to join-up action on adaptation and mitigation will be sought.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

This statutory policy will develop a systematic engagement strategy to involve the whole of Scottish society in helping to deliver the Government’s climate change objectives.
SCOTLAND’S CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK

- Water resource management
- Agriculture
- Forests and forestry
- Spatial planning and land use
- Biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
- Transport
- The built environment
- Energy
- Business and industry
- Marine and fisheries
- Health and wellbeing
- Emergency and Rescue Services

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK
Sets strategic policy and coordinates Sector Action Plans
Key Question…

Can an SEA approach support Climate Change reporting?
Section 5.3 of the SEA Act qualifying plans:

- Water Management
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Town and Country Planning
- Land Use
- Transport
- Waste Management
- Energy
- Industry
- Tourism
- Telecommunications
- Fisheries
### SEA Stages

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<td>• establishing baseline conditions &amp; data collation,</td>
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<td>• development of SEA framework (setting objectives),</td>
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<td>• deciding on the scope &amp; consultation on a scoping report</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Developing &amp; refining alternatives &amp; assessing effects</td>
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<td>• identifying mitigation &amp; enhancement options (refining the alternatives),</td>
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<td>• identify how the SEA improved the PPS</td>
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AIM: increase the resilience of Scotland’s communities, and the natural and economic systems on which they depend, to the impacts of climate change.
Objectives for Scottish SEA

- **SEA Gateway & SG EA Team**
  - Link advice on statutory SEA requirements with practical/technical advice
  - Explore links between SEA and other policy assessments
  - Identify common themes and opportunities to streamline reports

- **Relevance & Proportionality**
  - Improve the influence of SEA on public policy making throughout Scotland
  - Support efficiency objectives in reducing public sector costs

- **Consistency & Accessibility**
  - Encouraging wider participation in the process

- **Formal SEA Review**
  - How effective SEA has been to date in protecting and enhancing the environment
  - Identify opportunities to streamline or improve the process and any relevant guidance
Summing Up

- SEA is a key mechanism for ensuring that climate change adaptation and mitigation is considered as an integral part of PPS formation.

- Baseline information - the evidence base
  - Information about recent past changes in climate
  - Information about projected changes in climate and their potential impacts
  - Climate projections provide baseline context for assessment of other SEA topics

- Climate change guidance & a range of tools now available

- Need to ensure that SEA monitoring frameworks are incorporated into the PPS
  - Framework needs to include measures to collate data & report on carbon and climate effects
  - Coordination across SEAs will inform ongoing data analysis & trends, identification of data gaps and support climate change & carbon reporting
Thank you for listening