

The UK Competition and Markets Authority: Sustainability work

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Sustainability Taskforce
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Northern Ireland

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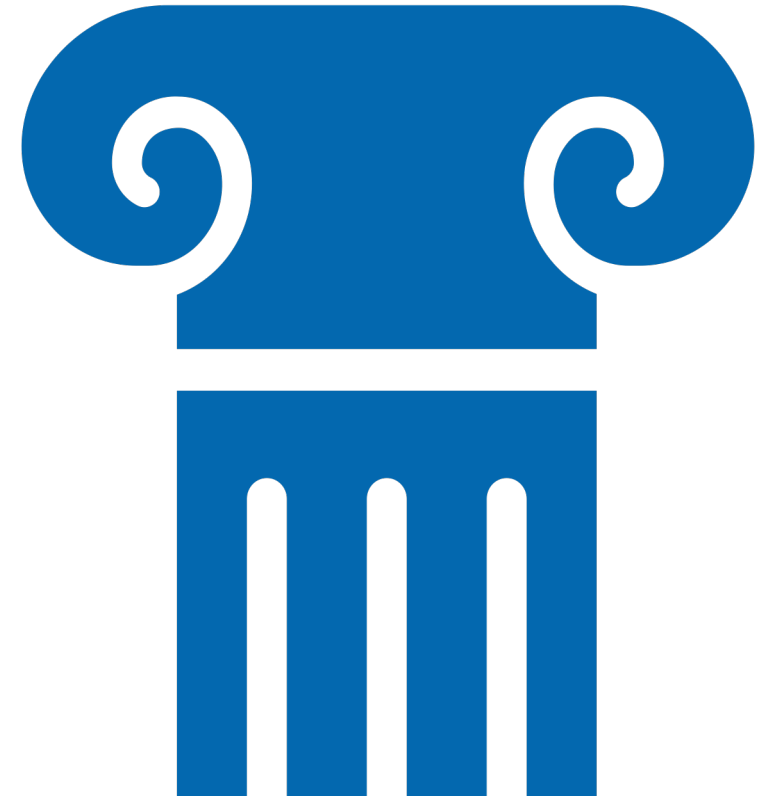
About the CMA

- Independent, non-ministerial government department
- UK's principal competition and consumer protection authority
- UK-wide remit
- Responsible for:
 - Promoting competition, both within and outside of the UK, for the benefit of consumers
 - Making markets work well, in the interests of consumers, businesses and the UK economy
- **Offices in:** Belfast, Cardiff, Darlington, Edinburgh, London & Manchester



Annual Plan Sustainability Commitment

- **Annual Plan & three pillars of sustainability work**
 - Ensuring markets for environmentally sustainable products and technologies are developing in ways that are favourable to competition and consumers
 - Ensuring consumers can make informed decisions about what they buy
 - Helping businesses to transition to more sustainable business practice



The Sustainability Taskforce

- **Created in March 2022 following Advice to the Secretary of State**
- **Functions:**
 - Cross-CMA coordination
 - Pipeline development
 - Green Agreements Guidance and informal guidance

Green Agreements Guidance

- **New! Published in October 2023**
- **Guidance on environmental sustainability agreements between competitors / potential competitors**
 - Helps ensure that competition law is not an unnecessary barrier to companies seeking to pursue environmental sustainability initiatives (pillar 3)
- **Open door policy:** we are open to offering informal guidance for businesses
 - **Protection** from fines and from investigation following a light touch review, provided the initiative does not raise competition concerns.
 - For informal guidance requests, contact: SustainabilityGuidance@cma.gov.uk
- **Other agencies have also adopted guidance**

Misleading Green Claims

- **Green Claims Code (Sep 2021) for businesses making environmental claims in the UK.**
- **Key messages for businesses:**
 - avoid vague claims (that are difficult to substantiate)
 - be specific about what you are claiming
 - be ready to substantiate your claims,
 - be careful with logos and motifs, and
 - take account of the whole lifecycle of a product
- **Enforcement cases**
 - **Fashion retail (concluded 27 March 2024)**
 - **Fast-moving consumer goods (Household essentials)**



Green heating and insulation

- UK-wide consumer protection review focussing on 1) the **consumer experience**; 2) **business practices**; 3) the **quality assurance landscape** in the sector
 - Heat pumps, biomass boilers, solar panels/thermal systems, ‘hydrogen-capable’ boilers, home insulation
- **Published findings report in May 2023, identifying concerns and actions to address them**
 - Including steers to UK government to improve information for consumers, review the standards landscape and consider mandatory ADR to improve level of consumer protections
- **CMA follow-up work**
 - Progress report on the standards landscape (Feb 2024)
 - Including guidance to consumers, businesses and quality assurance bodies

Competition and Markets Authority publishes green heating and insulation sector report

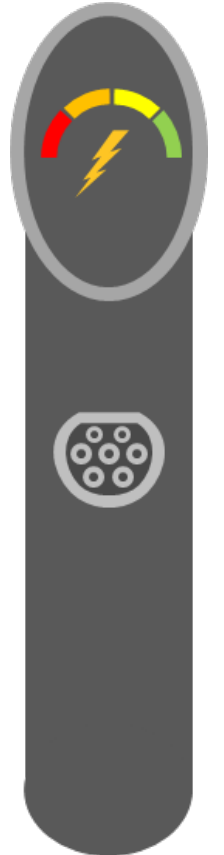


The report highlights the difficulties faced by consumers when buying green heating



EV Charge points

- **Market study in 2020**
 - EV charging sector across the UK
 - Early intervention in a sector – identify risks
 - Recommendations
- **CA98 investigation: EV charge-points near motorways (launched July 2021)**
 - Following market study
 - Long-term exclusive arrangements at motorway service areas
 - Accepted commitments
- **Open letter to electric vehicle chargepoint operators and motorway service area site operators (Nov 2023)**



The Office for the Internal Market

- **Non-binding advice and reports**
- Economic impact of laws/regulations on the UK internal market
- Annual Report 2024 – includes 4 case studies, 2 of these are on environmental sustainability issues:
 - **Deposit Return Schemes**
 - **Single-use plastics**
- Informal briefing on the Scottish Government's **Circular Economy Bill**
- **Monitoring of policy developments** that may lead to intra-UK divergence:
 - Eg single-use e-cigarettes (vapes), plasticated wet wipes, single-use plastics, Deposit Return Schemes, and Net Zero targets.

The Subsidy Advice Unit

- **The Subsidy Advice Unit (SAU) has two statutory functions:**
 - Providing non-binding advisory reports to public authorities on referral of subsidies/subsidy schemes that meet certain statutory criteria ('review function');
 - Monitoring and reporting on the effective operation of the subsidy control regime, with first report due by 31 March 2026 ('monitoring function').
- **Mandatory referrals and discretionary scheme**
- The environment is often a specific policy objective of subsidies/schemes
- The SAU has reviewed **three referrals from Northern Ireland** to date:
 - Lakeland Forum (referred by Fermanagh & Omagh District Council),
 - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for the Mourne Mountain Gateway Project (referred by Belfast City Council),
 - Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for the Gobbins Phase 2 Project (referred by Belfast City Council).

Thank you



Contact us

northernireland@cma.gov.uk - for general queries

sustainabilitytaskforce@cma.gov.uk – for sustainability queries



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Scotland's public sector network on climate change and sustainability

- Local authorities
- NHS Boards
- Universities and colleges
- National/regional public bodies
- Integration Joint Boards
- **National SSN Steering Group**

#CollaborateToWin



Consistent guidance and methodologies



Tools and frameworks for improving public sector climate action



Professional training and advice

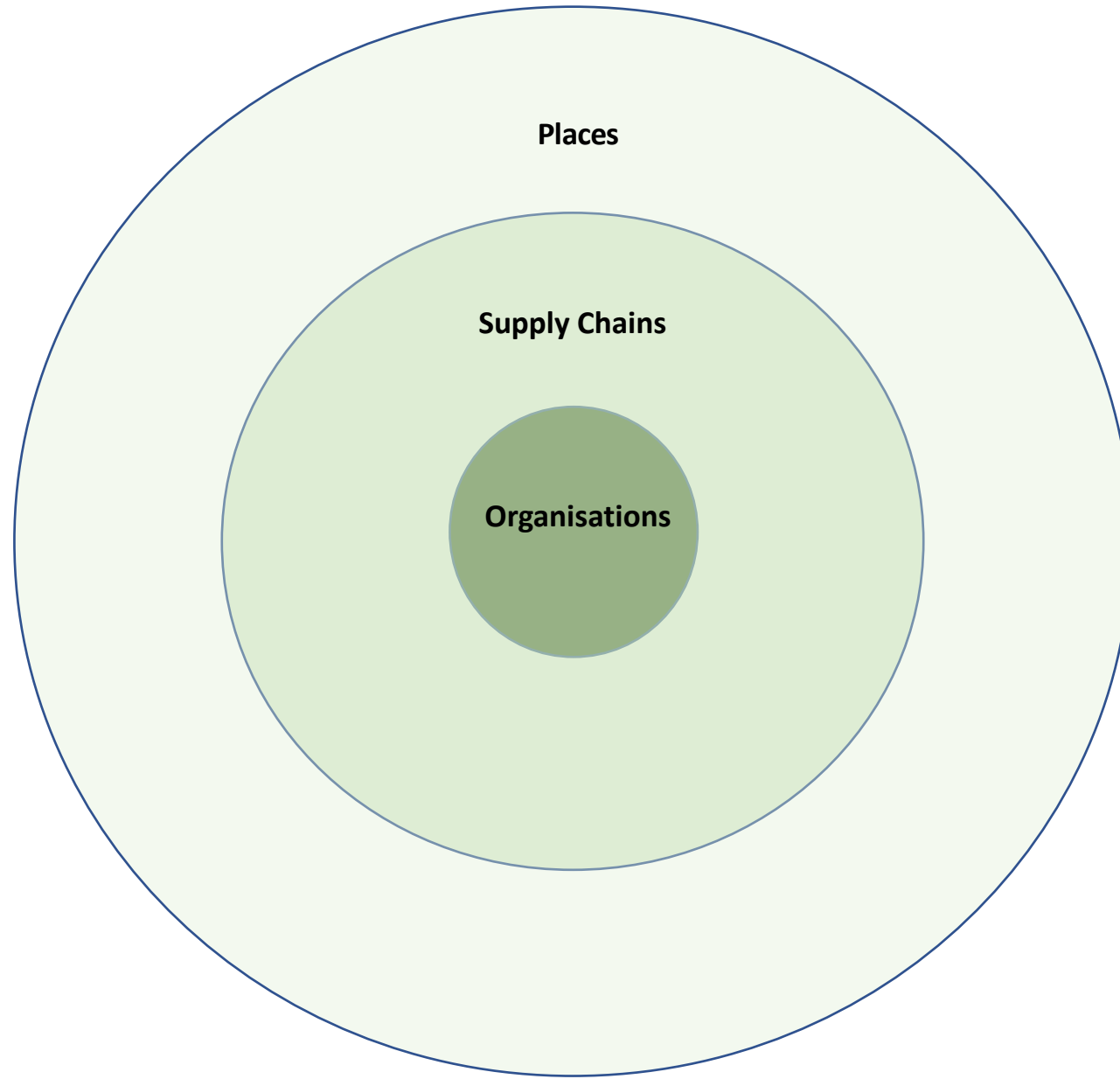


Sharing good practice and peer-to-peer learning




Policy engagement and knowledge exchange

Framing Public Sector Action



Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (asp 12)



Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
2009 asp 12

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Sections

PART 1
EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

The 2050 target

1 The 2050 target

The interim target

2 The interim target

Annual targets

3 Annual targets
4 Setting annual targets
5 Advice before setting annual targets
6 Modifying annual targets etc.
7 Advice before modifying annual targets etc.

The domestic effort target

8 The domestic effort target

Advice on progress

9 Progress towards targets

Greenhouse gases

10 Greenhouse gases

Baseline

11 The baseline
12 Baselines for additional greenhouses gases

Supplementary

13 The net Scottish emissions account
14 Restriction on use in 2010-2017 of carbon units purchased by Scottish Ministers
15 Attribution of emissions to Scotland

Section 44: Public Bodies Duties

A public body must, in exercising its functions, act:

- in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Act's **emissions reduction targets**;
- in the way best calculated to deliver any **statutory adaptation programme**; and
- in a way that it considers most **sustainable**

Public Bodies Climate Change Duties

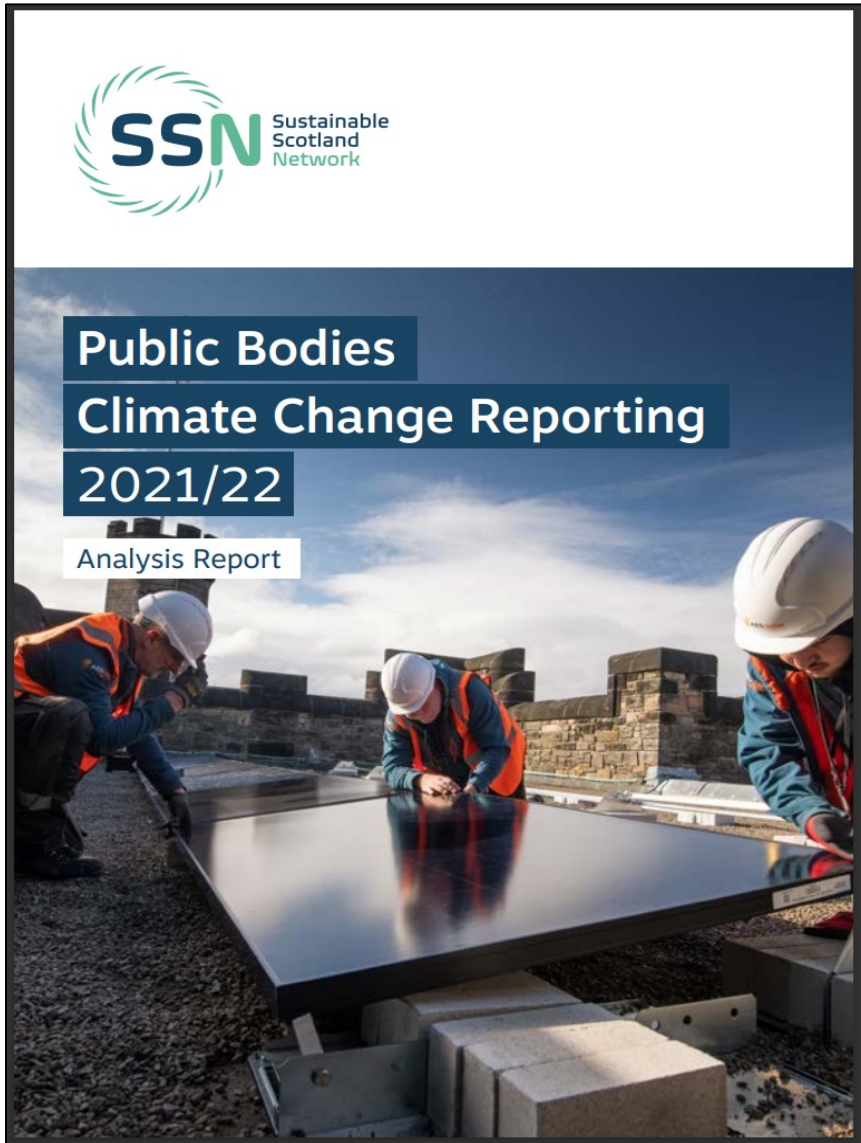
Mandatory Reporting (SSI): 2015 onwards

Reporting Amendment 2020: Targets & Resource Alignment

Public sector annual analysis reports

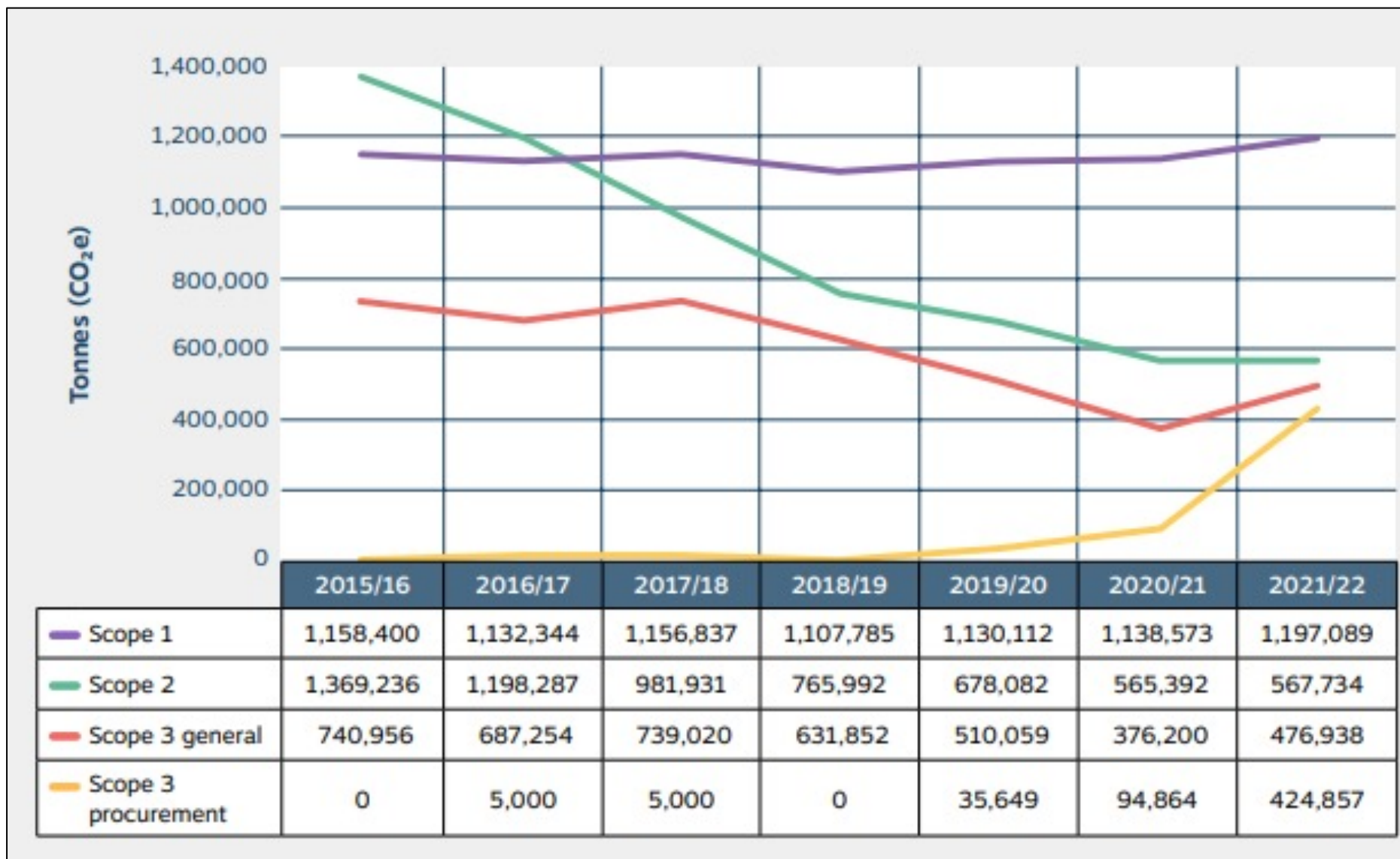


Strategy/Gnce/Mgt; Corporate Emissions; Adaptation; Procurement; Wider Influence



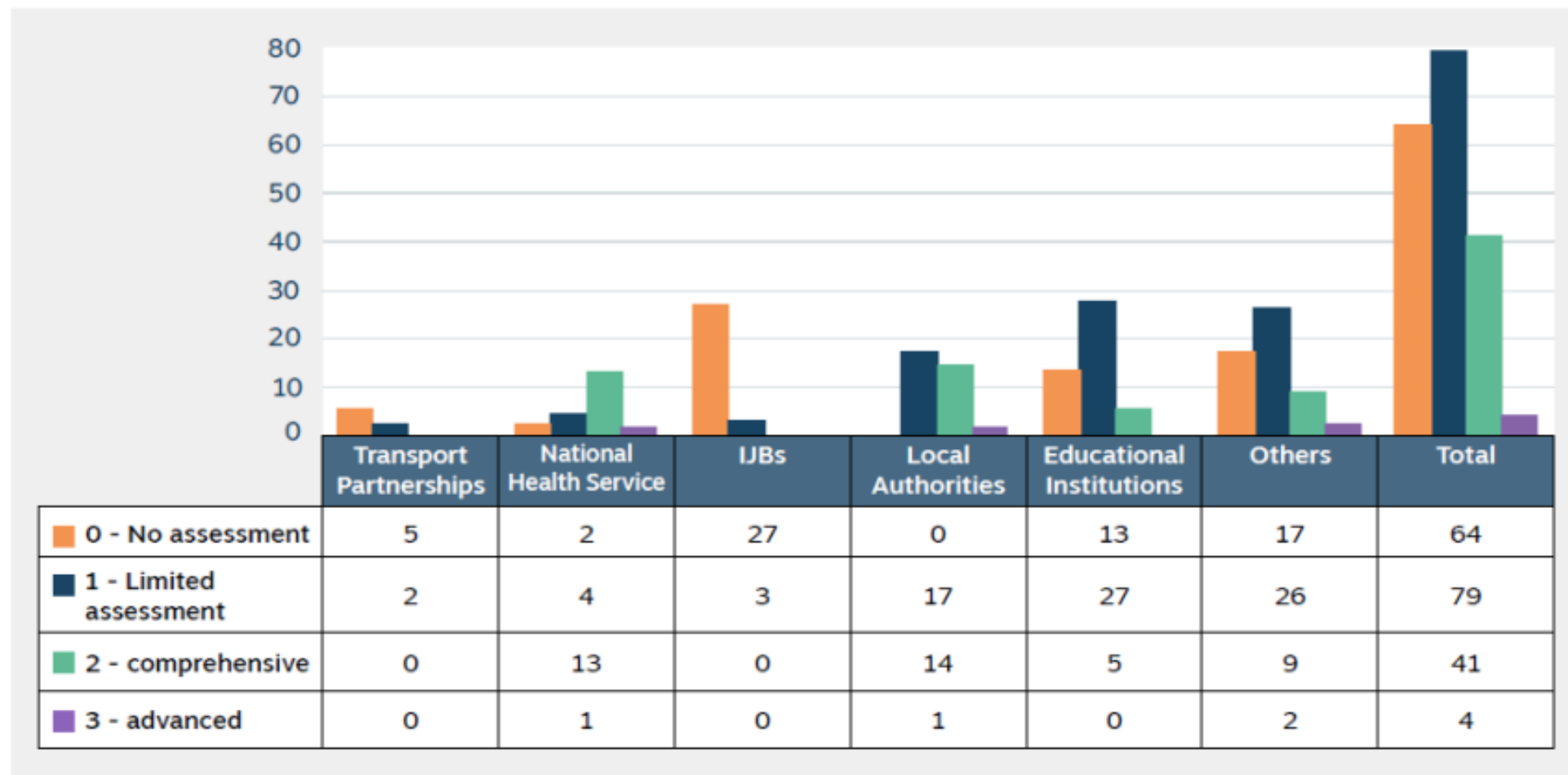
<p>Number of reports 188 (100% compliance)</p>	<p>Staff (FTE) 504,782</p>	<p>Emissions (tCO₂e) 2,666,618</p>
<p>Increase in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions compared to 2020/21 3.6%</p>	<p>tCO₂e saved due to carbon reduction projects 38,592</p>	<p>Renewable energy generated 362 GWh</p>

Emission trends by scope – all public bodies

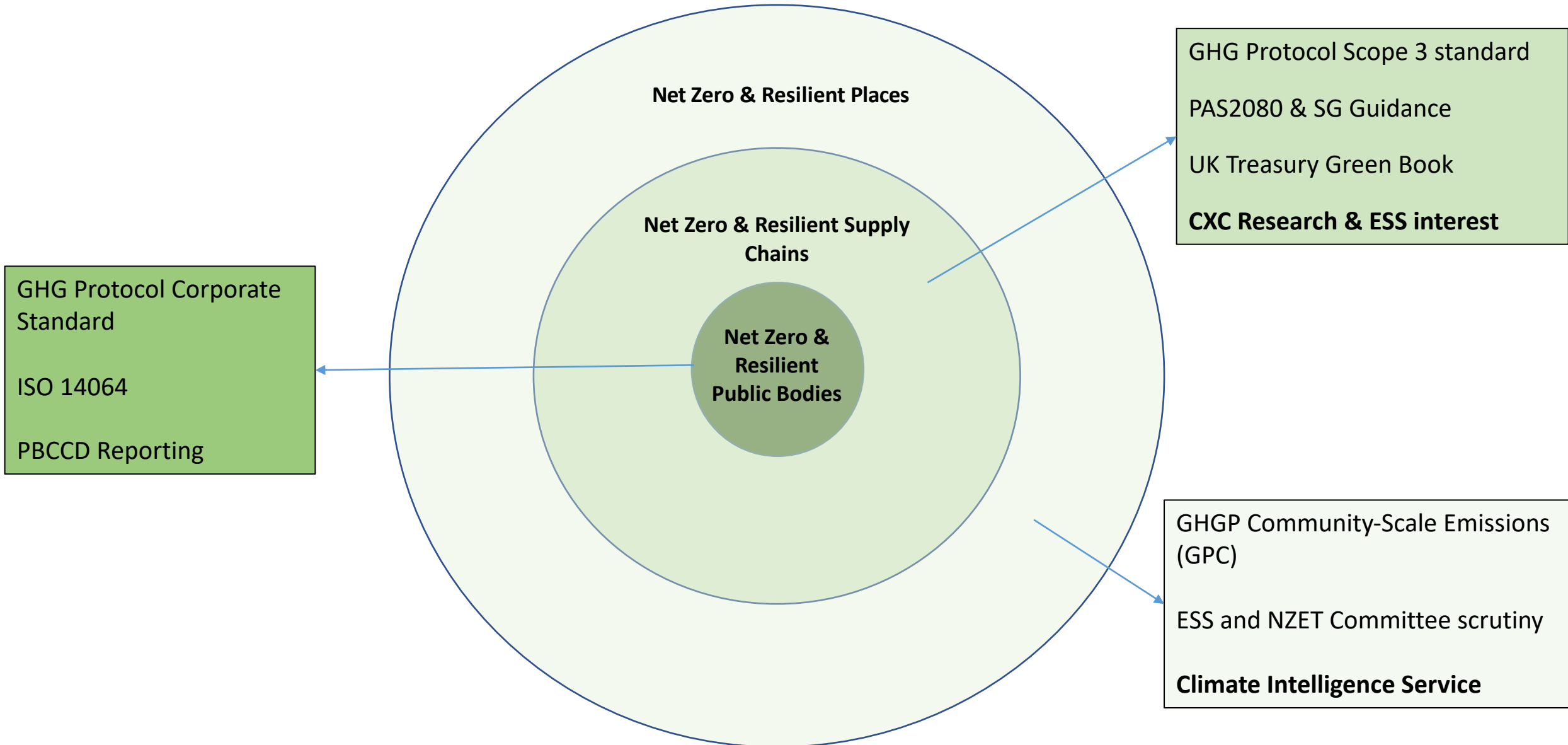


1. Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment

Level of risk assessment across the public sector



Increasing professionalism and expectations



Leaders' Climate Emergency Checklist



Interpretation: Action on climate change includes mitigation, adaptation, the nature emergency and Just Transition measures in the exercise of a public body's functions.

Delivering co-benefits and avoiding unintended consequences: Action on climate change can help deliver National Performance Framework outcomes.

Scope of action: Public bodies act on climate change through what they control and influence, including corporate activities, procurement supply chains, and the places and partnerships they serve.

	○ Foundation (Structured and Focused)	○ Advanced (Comprehensive and Professional)	○ Exemplary (Innovative and Transformational)	Improvement Actions
Strategy	Action on climate change is a strategic corporate priority.	Key areas for action have robust strategies in place to inform delivery.	Climate change is embedded in all organisational strategies and plans, and shapes decision making and resource allocation.	
Targets	Targets set with clear baselines, boundaries, inventories and interim targets, supported by delivery pathways and aligned with national policy objectives.	Targets/outcomes set for key functions of the body, including procurement/supply chains, upstream and downstream impacts of the body's functions.	Targets/outcomes go beyond net zero, aimed at regenerative and holistic sustainability transformations.	
Governance	Structures are in place to ensure oversight, accountability and transparency in climate-related decision making.	Climate change embedded into decision making at all levels, with evidence reported of how this influences decisions on plans, projects and resources.	The body is proactively influencing partners, citizens and stakeholders to drive change at scale, locally, regionally and nationally.	
Delivery	Climate action incorporated in policy development and service design, with policies and projects in place and actively managed.	Coordination of delivery across service areas and projects to maximise benefits and avoid unintended consequences.	Working collaboratively to align and scale policies, projects and partnerships on climate action.	
Finance	Investigating how to align spend with targets and steps being taken to progress.	Understanding of how to align spend with targets. Finance gaps identified and work underway to secure resources.	Resource and spend clearly aligned with targets, climate impact of investments being managed, and collaborations in place to leverage in resources.	
Performance	Mandatory climate change reporting used to inform delivery and communicate progress.	Progress on climate change is part of regular performance monitoring and accounts and corrective actions taken.	Monitoring is above and beyond mandatory requirements and reporting is shared and reviewed with stakeholders.	
Skills	Key staff aware of how climate change is part of their roles and responsibilities.	All staff understand how climate change fits into their activity and key staff taking action to embed climate change.	All staff empowered to act and contribute to climate targets and outcomes.	

SSN CONFERENCE 2024

**Climate Change, Sustainability and the
Public Sector: From Ambition to Action**

22 MAY, 09:00 - 14:45, ONLINE



Register now: www.sustainableScotlandNetwork.org/events