



**PLACE-BASED  
CLIMATE ACTION  
NETWORK**

**EDINBURGH  
CLIMATE  
COMMISSION**

# Evolving the Commission

What is needed to maximise future impact and effectiveness of  
Edinburgh's Net Zero Transition

Jamie Brogan  
Head of Climate Partnerships, ECCI  
Chair, Edinburgh Climate Commission



Internal Use

## Origins and aims of the Commission

### Origins:

- Initiated as part of a PCAN programme to expand Climate Commissions in Cities across the UK
- Jointly initiated by the Council and Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (sic)
- Established as an independent Commission with an independent Chair

### Initial 2020 Remit was to:

- Identify and address climate challenges
- Provide **independent, expert and authoritative advice** to support the city's transition to net zero by 2030
- ★ **Catalyse action, challenge the city's decision makers and convene stakeholders**
- Act as a forum where organisations can **exchange ideas**, research findings, information and best practice

### Wider context:

- Established just as the city went into a Global Pandemic
- Operated entirely remotely and under period of extreme pressure for Commissioners and Partners
- Three secretariat support posts so far

# Impacts and Outputs

## Catalyse

- Has given the city the evidence base and support to make net zero commitments
- Taken the initiative to promote a post covid response to climate action; full report agreed by the Council

## Challenge

- Privately and publicly supported and challenged Council and city partners in developing the Climate Strategy resulting in stronger commitments
- Has held politicians to account during elections

## Convene

- Led the development and promotion of the highly successful Climate Compact
- Convening collaborations of private and public sector signatories of the Climate Compact in an ongoing programme of engagement and promotion of delivery
- CC adopted and developed by Glasgow

## Forward, Faster, Together

Recommendations for a Green Economic Recovery in Edinburgh

July 2020



## Edinburgh Climate Compact

Driving ambitious Edinburgh business action to achieve net zero

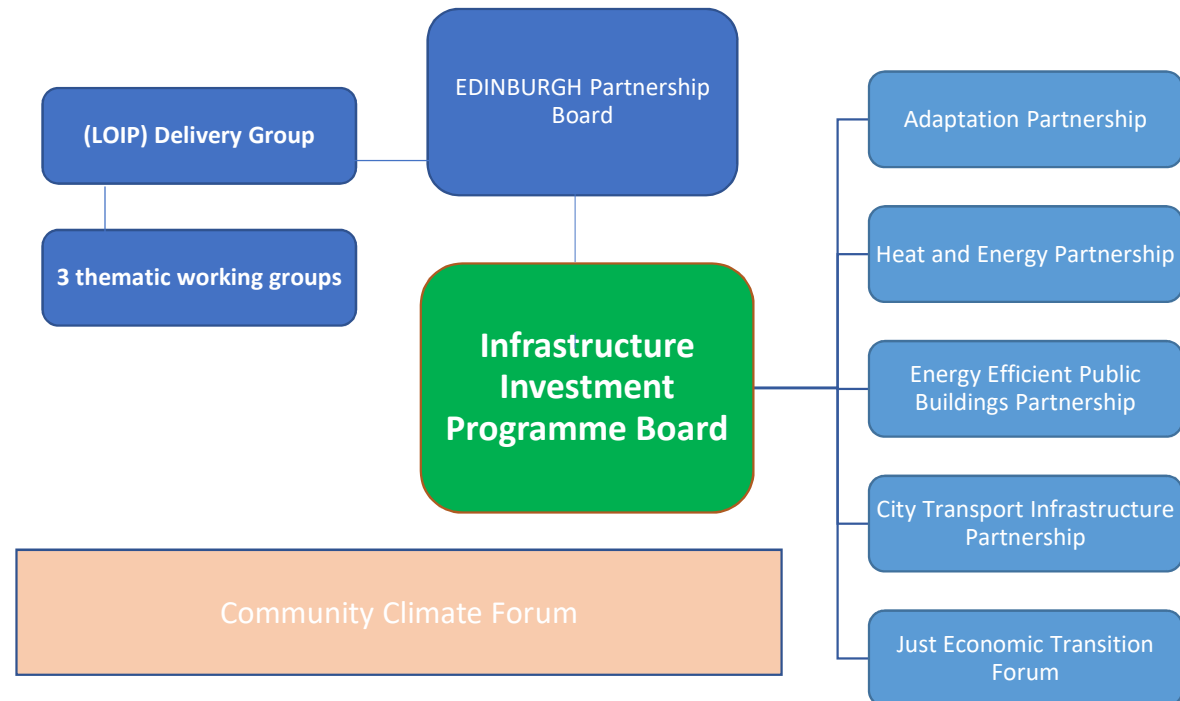


# An evolving Edinburgh

## What's changed?

The work of the Commission has meant that the context in which the group works has changed significantly since 2020. Key policy and delivery infrastructure that was not in place 2 years ago, now include:

- **2030 Edinburgh Climate Strategy** – now in place, with associated implementation plans
- **Infrastructure Investment Programme Board** – now in place, with key leads and thematic delivery partnerships
- A **community climate forum** is established within EVOC to support community activism and community groups
- **COP26** established a wider sense of buy-in and promotion of Climate Change action
- **Holyrood and CCC enquiries** and reports into climate action with focus on cities, Local Government and delivery



# Areas of Consideration; Function and Form

- **Relevance** – Given the change in context since 2020, do we still have a unique role to play?
- **Focus of activity** – What should the focus of the commission be?
- **Geographical Focus** – Given that focus, what do we think the right scale of activity is for the impact we want to have?
- **Membership** – Do we have the right membership now to fulfil a refreshed remit?

# Options

Function / role / Purpose	Form	Issues to consider ?
<p>1. to continue to promote the remaining work programme of the ECC</p>	<p>Commission winds up as a stand alone body; celebrating success and the contribution to date.</p> <p>Compact partnership would align to a just economic transition forum and continue to convene and catalyse the private sector partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where does independent challenge come from ?</li> <li>• Where would credible expert leadership promoting and advocating for climate action come from?</li> <li>• Where is the space for independent cross cutting work?</li> </ul>
<p>2. To target and promote solutions to challenges overlooked by other parts of the city programme</p>	<p>An annual highly prioritised agenda reflected in a smaller rotating group of subject expert commissioners. Permanent secretariate set around an independent chair which changes every 1-2 years with the focus of the commission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does this maintain the system city based focus on a climate transition?</li> <li>• Does it become too adhoc and how would it maintain momentum at the same time as being agile?</li> </ul>
<p>3. To independently develop ideas, academic research and knowledge to support and answer delivery challenges posed by the IIPB and partnerships</p>	<p>Annual programme driven by needs of the partnerships More (applied) academic focus in the vein of a climate exchange Linked to the IIPB and a conduit to the wider academic might of Edinburgh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission would become more of a responsive structure to enable and coordinate expertise rather than a leadership role championing climate action across the city</li> </ul>
<p>4. The current convene, catalyse , challenge function remains but the scale of the focus expands to bring in the city region and focusing on regional themes such as development, transport, adaption and energy</p>	<p>The commission would rejuvenate membership and expand but maintain its current form A stronger secretariate would be needed with more stable sub structures. The major partner would be the city region deal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on city transition could be too diluted</li> <li>• Complexity of stakeholders would change and possibly increase</li> <li>• The infrastructure needs of the Commission would grow</li> <li>• Whether there is a regional appetite for this approach</li> </ul>
<p>5. To advocate and promote climate action and behaviour change to citizens not stakeholders</p>	<p>The commission could retain the current form but evolve membership to reflect focus and the communities the Commission wanted to influence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How would this coalesce around impactful campaigns?</li> <li>• How would it avoid duplication of national messaging through SG and local support to climate groups through EVOC</li> <li>• Capacity need to support expansion into communities and convene catalyse and challenge there would be significant</li> </ul>

# Resourcing considerations

## Initial 2020 resourcing model

- Volunteer membership
- Secretariat function funded and resourced through founding partner members – ECCI (PCAN) and CEC.
- Research budget from PCAN

## Current resource capacity

- Support for reduced secretariat role until end of 2023
- Support in place to complete Local Government & National Government study.
- Chair stepping down at end of 2022
- Volunteer Commissioners beginning to rotate having served 3 years

## Key resources needed

- **A funded or seconded Chair?**
- **Funding for a permanent core secretariat team?**
- **Discretionary budget for Commission projects and activities?**

## Options for discussion

- **Future PCAN and CEC funding uncertain**
- **Scottish/UK Government funding uncertain**
- **Membership funding contributions?**
- **In-kind support from partner bodies (secondments)?**
- **External funding options?**
- **Sponsorship?**

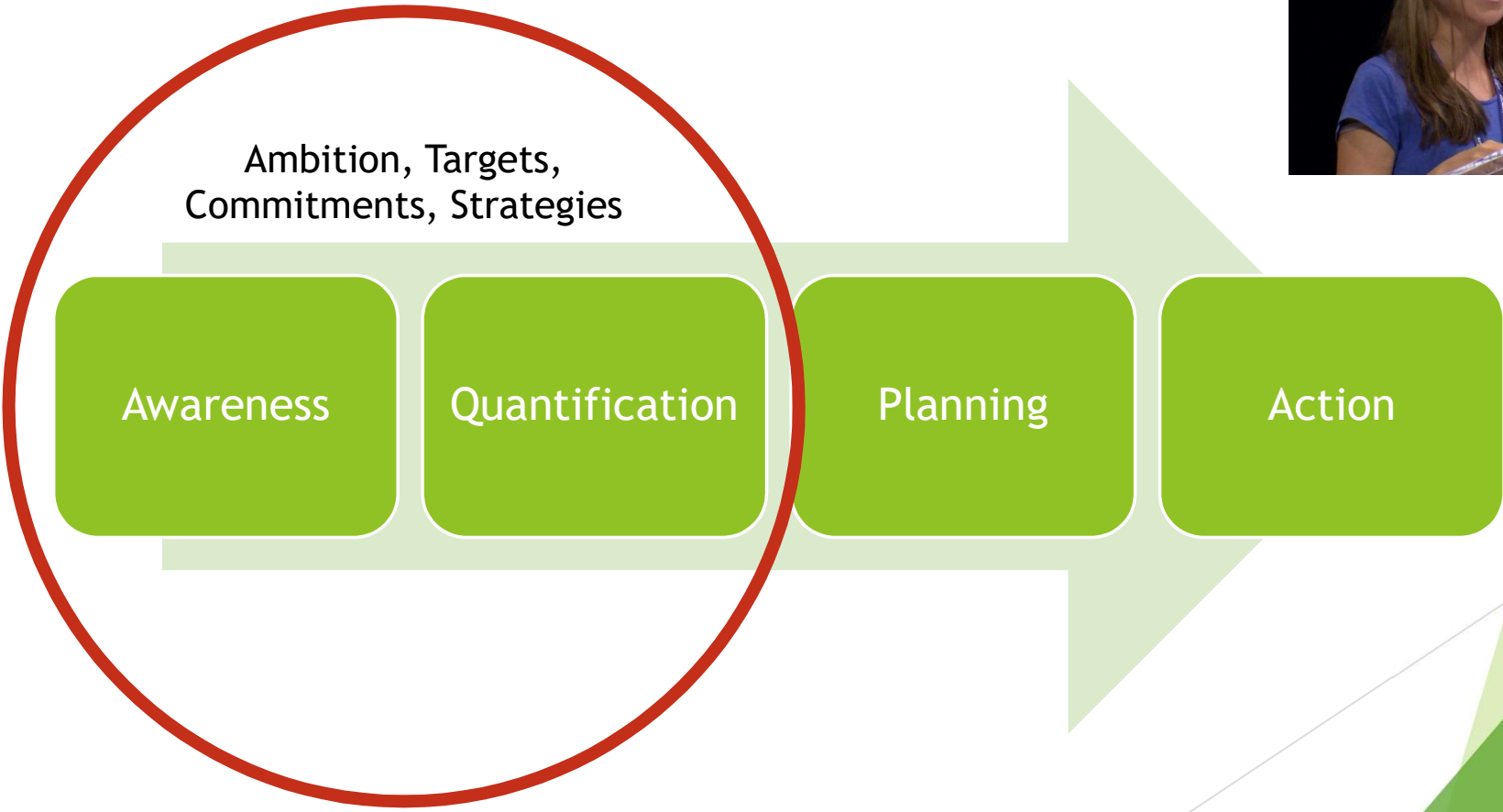
# Changing Context

The city and wider policy landscape has changed since the Commission was founded in early 2020:

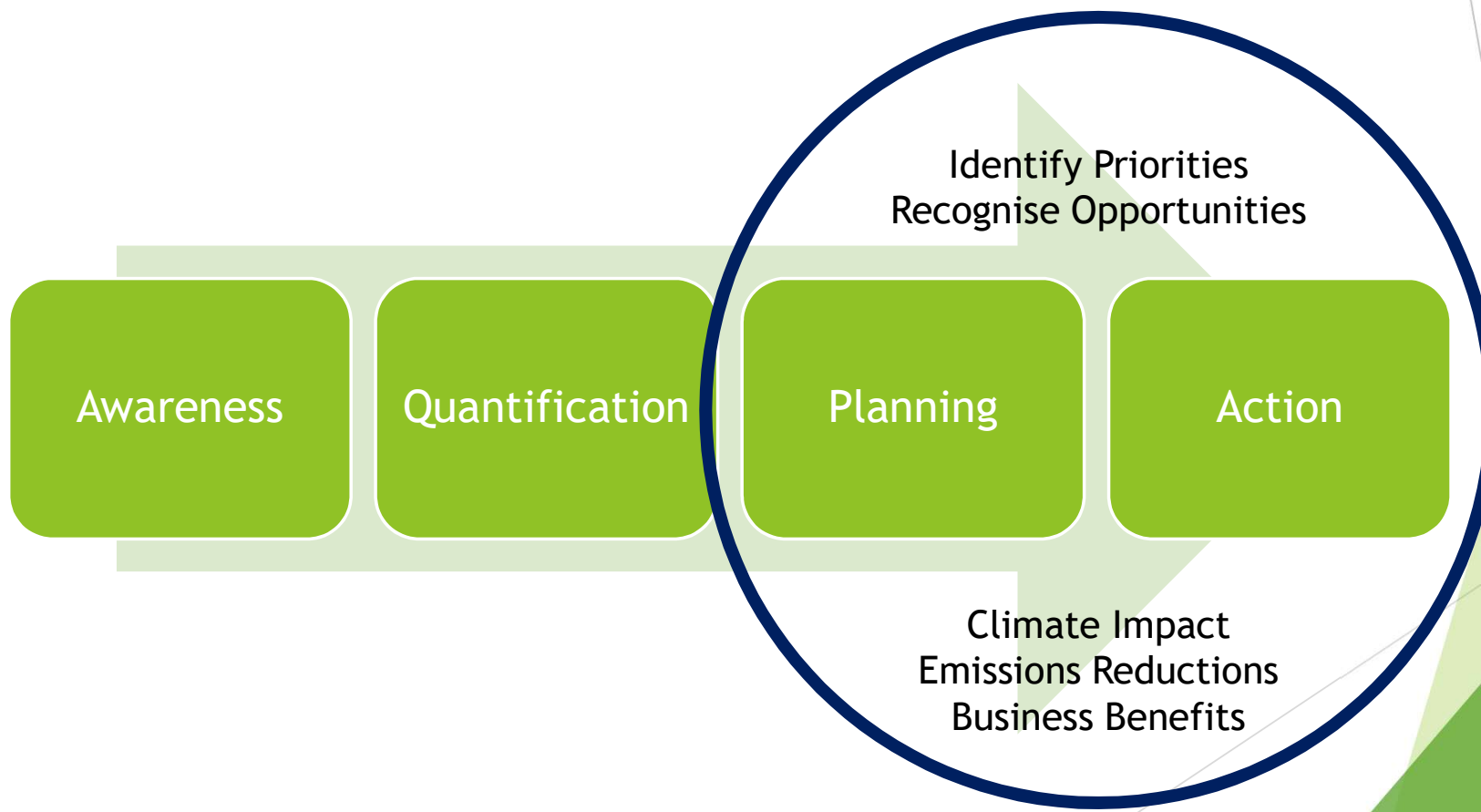
- **climate is now widely recognised** and communicated as a business and policy priority,
- this is widely **reflected in policies and targets** of many organisations and at different levels of government,
- Edinburgh has **set a target for Net Zero by 2030**, with a supporting Sustainability Strategy, and is establishing various mechanisms and partnerships to support delivery,
- the priority now is to help **accelerate and optimise actions and impact.**



# The Journey to Climate Action



# The Journey to Climate Action



# Future Role

	to date	Future
<b><i>Catalyse</i></b>	Supporting the city to set ambitious targets and action plans for delivery	<b>Focus on key areas where intervention is needed to catalyse and optimise delivery</b>
<b><i>Challenge</i></b>	Challenge on projected pace and scale of delivery, and on what's included in the city sustainability strategy	<b>Challenge city leaders and all city stakeholders to demonstrate effective delivery and show impact</b>
<b><i>Convene</i></b>	Bringing together city partners to make shared commitments and exchange knowledge and good practice	<b>Using its independence to stimulate and support collaboration and share city actions on specific challenge areas</b>

# Choosing Focus Areas

Critical question:

“What contribution can an independent, place-based commission make that other organisations cannot or are not?”

Identify c. 3 focus areas in an annual public programme, based on:

- the **impact potential** and the **need for intervention**
- where there are **clear barriers inhibiting city progress**
- the **value of a place-based intervention** to accelerating action
- where the commission role **can provide impetus**



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