

## DTAS Environmental Strategy

### Background

#### Global level – [United Nations](#)

To avert the worst impacts of climate change, global temperature increases must be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels (the earth is already 1.1 degrees Celsius warmer).

In order to achieve this, world leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in 2015 established the [Paris Agreement](#) which agreed to:

1. Reduce emissions by 45% by 2030
2. Reach Net Zero\* by 2050

\*Net zero refers to a state where the amount of greenhouse gases being produced is equal to or less than the amount removed from the atmosphere

As an organisation, we also recognise the need to work towards the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) which were adopted globally by United Nations members in 2015 (of which the UK is a member). They provide a framework for coordinating global action to reduce poverty and inequality, all while protecting the planet. There are many of the 17 goals which the work of Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS), and its members are contributing to. For this strategy, we are highlighting the following goals as areas of focus for DTAS.

Goal 12 - [Sustainable Consumption and Production](#),

Goal 13 - [Climate Action](#)

#### National level

The United Kingdom has committed to becoming Net Zero by 2050.

In 2019 the Scottish Government declared a climate emergency. **As a nation, the government has pledged Scotland to reach [Net Zero by 2045](#).** DTAS should aim to reduce emissions as much as practically possible and complement this with offsetting measures to reach a net zero state.

The government has stated that the move towards net zero must be part of a [Just Transition](#). This means that those most vulnerable in our society will not be left behind. As an organisation, DTAS has an obligation to look at its environmental impact and uses this as an opportunity to support its members to do the same.

Similarly, the aim of the Scottish government to embed [Community Wealth Building](#) and wellbeing economy principles in order to create greater resilience in communities and ultimately support net zero ambitions are acknowledged by DTAS. Community Wealth Building focuses on redirecting the flows of investment inward, ensuring communities receive more of the benefits from the wealth they help to generate. The Scottish Government will be introducing legislation that will support the implementation of Community Wealth Building principles. A [wellbeing economy](#) is one which addresses the needs of people and the planet over private profit.

The push to net zero is a fast-moving policy area, and thus we will need to respond as we can with the information available to us at the time.

At the moment there is no 'one stop shop' for third sector organisations to go too to understand their emissions and find support for change. DTAS is sitting on the Net Zero Strategy groups for the Third Sector, which created a [sectoral strategy](#) in November 2020. Other organisations ([SCVO](#), [Locality](#) as examples) have taken action to look at their own environmental impact and support their network to do the same. We will consider and learn from their experiences.

The Scottish Government's current focus on community-led climate action is being led by [SCCAN](#) who are establishing a network of [community climate action hubs](#), 20 of which are now operating.

Our own journey to net zero will be made up of understanding our organisational emissions which can be changed through policies and practices, our staff and their behaviour. We will then consider how DTAS can support our membership to move towards net zero as we feel one of our biggest opportunities comes from our membership network and the work we and they can do to reach communities and take [collective action](#) in emission reduction. We understand that [transport](#) still accounts for over a third of Scotland's carbon emissions as of 2018. We acknowledge this is a particular area where we will need to discuss our working practices and service delivery. We can use our networks to understand how we can reduce our emissions and look at innovative ways of working to continue to meet the needs of our members.

## Aim

DTAS recognises its responsibility to address the climate emergency and make strides towards Scotland's net zero aspirations through reducing its own carbon footprint and supporting our members to do the same. We want to embed community wealth building and wellbeing economy principles in our actions, recognising environmental action should also be socially ethical.

## Objectives

We have identified key areas of work which will allow us to meet our aim. Our starting point with these must be to establish what our current carbon footprint looks like. However, investigation of the other areas can run in parallel to this being established. We expect these objectives to be continually reviewed and developed over time and the focus change as more research and information becomes available.

- **Carbon reporting**

DTAS commits to develop a full understanding of how to quantify and track our environmental impacts, as well as reviewing our targets and policy regularly to ensure we are on track.

- **Procurement**

DTAS commits to evaluating our procurement process and take forward suppliers that provide products and services which align with our environmental policy, particularly in relation to carbon emissions and minimising waste.

- **Staff Behaviour Change**

DTAS commits to raise awareness of environmental matters, implement policies and encourage staff to play an active part in addressing them.

- **Membership Support**

DTAS recognises many of our members have knowledge and experience of carbon saving measures and we commit to learn from these members and support other members with their net zero journey.

- **DTAS Office**

DTAS commits to improving the sustainability of the head office, including improving waste management and energy efficiency.

## Action Plan

Objective	Action Area
<b>Carbon reporting</b>	Establish baseline emissions for DTAS activities
	Complete regular (minimum yearly) carbon reports to measure the impact of measures implemented and associated changes in emissions
	Identify and take forward measures that will have the largest reduction in emissions, taking into consideration the capacity of the organisation
	Regularly review action areas outlined in the DTAS Environmental Strategy to ensure they accurately reflect the latest policy and legislative requirements
<b>Procurement</b>	Conduct a review of our current suppliers, their environmental strategies and emission reduction plans
	Identify and replace worst-performing suppliers with green/social enterprise suppliers, taking into consideration the capacity of DTAS to do so
	Create a procurement policy that balances social and environmental considerations with financial costs
<b>Staff Behaviour Change</b>	Survey staff annually to gather information on staff attitudes towards environmental issues and identify areas where DTAS as an organisation can support staff
	Raise awareness of environmental matters, implement policies and encourage staff to play an active part in reducing their carbon footprint
	Explore relevant training opportunities for staff
<b>Membership Support</b>	Collaborate with partners across the community sector to support member organisations on their journey to net zero
	Identify and publicise best practice in the membership and the sector

	Signpost members towards useful resources and training opportunities
	Map the existing support across the community sector and identify any gaps in support available to member organisations who are trying to reach net zero
<b>DTAS Office</b>	Take forward actions and procedures that improve office energy efficiency
	Improve the sustainability of waste management procedures
	Implement policies that encourage environmental best practice in office