



# Climate Action and the Social Care Collective

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## Principles

The Health and Social Care Academy and Scottish Care ran a series of roundtables in 2021 to explore climate action and social care. The following principles are recommended for Scottish Government to adopt in order to develop actions that can concretely be taken forward to deliver social care in a changing climate:

1. **Human rights and equalities:** Recognise that climate change is one of the greatest threats to human rights and guarantee a rights, intersectional and equality-based approach for individuals who work in and receive care and support in a changing climate.
2. **Person centred:** Ensure the rights, needs and preferences of people receiving and delivering care are at the heart of discussions surrounding climate impacts and action. Individual choice must be central to policy, practice, and delivery.
3. **Sustainable and resourced:** Investment in social care supports a greener, more sustainable sector. In turn, the sector must be well-resourced to ensure that any environmental commitment is underpinned across the sector.
4. **Collective, joined up and interconnected:** Develop cross-sectoral, collective, and joined up approaches that enable meaningful, sustainable, and long-lasting change to take place with understanding that the social care sector does not sit in isolation.
5. **Valuing care:** Enable the highest potential of the social care workforce by supporting empowering and valuing the workforce for the distinct work they do. Prioritise investment in the workforce through improved salaries, upskilling and retaining talent and investing in their health and wellbeing.
6. **Participation:** Empower, recognise and value the voices of those delivering and receiving care in decision making processes

## Calls to Action

The following set of nine actions were then developed from roundtable discussions to embody the principles. The actions were co-created by individuals with a range of experience and expertise in accessing and delivering social care.

## Awareness

Explicitly incorporate the Net Zero vision and other sustainable policy actions into social care to uphold an intersectional, equality and human rights-based approach to deliver social care in a changing climate.

To achieve Net Zero and a climate ready care sector, collaborative and joined up approaches will be required across sectors.

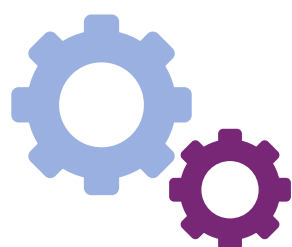


## Investment

Create a £25 million climate emergency innovation fund for independent and third sector social care organisations to take climate change action.

## Workforce

Support the social care workforce through appropriate pay, terms and conditions. The workforce contributes approximately £5.1 billion to the Scottish economy annually.<sup>1</sup> Care must be valued as an investment, not a cost. The care sector creates sustainable jobs and must be invested as part of the Just Transition.<sup>2</sup>



## Commissioning, tendering and procurement

Incorporate environmental sustainability as a costed component in commissioning, tendering and procurement.

## Research and impact

Undertake research to understand the full extent of the adaptation needs of the social care sector. Research should be shared with policymakers and providers to understand and assess the impact that environmental measures (for example, buildings, heating and transport) will have on tackling climate change.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.enable.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Scotlands-Care-Sector-An-Economic-Driver-Report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-fairer-greener-scotland/>

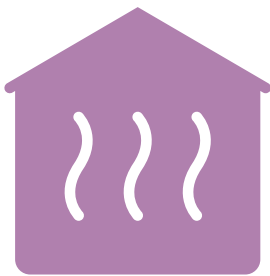


### Information

Provide funding for the sector to work with experts to produce guidance on how the sector can operate at Net Zero. Develop a knowledge sharing platform to share this guidance, information, resources and good practice on how providers can become more sustainable. Personal Assistants and their employers should also be able to access this information.

### Sustainable PPE and Waste Management

Invest in clinically safe, environmentally friendly PPE and alternatives to single-use plastics used in the sector. Target reduction of waste and carbon emitted from the sector through adopting a circular economy approach.<sup>3 4</sup>



### Buildings and heating

Fund the sector to retrofit care services with sustainable, cost-effective options so that buildings, heating infrastructure and places are resilient to the effects of climate change. This funding should be available to day service providers as well as residential care facilities.

### Transport

Guarantee sustainable investment in accessible and affordable travel for people who access and deliver care services, to reduce the impact of transport on climate change. Invest in route planning software which works with care planning software to reduce travel time while simultaneously ensuring continuity of care and support.



### Hot Reports:

Overview of each event are summarised in the reports below -

[Hot Report 1](#) - [Hot Report 2](#) - [Hot Report 3](#)

### Manifestos:

[The ALLIANCE](#) - [Scottish Care](#)

### [About Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland \(the ALLIANCE\)](#)

### [About Scottish Care](#)

*Designed by Shanice Shek*

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/circular-economy/about>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/policies/managing-waste/>