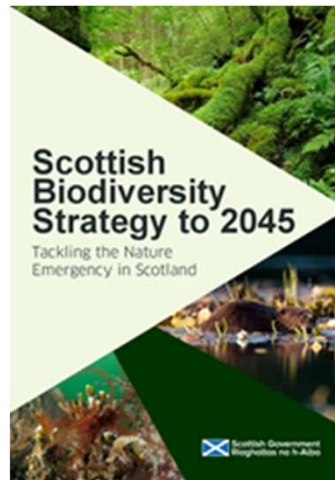


# The NPF4 Impetus:

## An opportunity to adjust Scotland's EIA mindset?

Cara Davidson MRTPI Head of Environment and Net Zero | Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division

# Towards a Net Zero, Nature Positive Scotland:

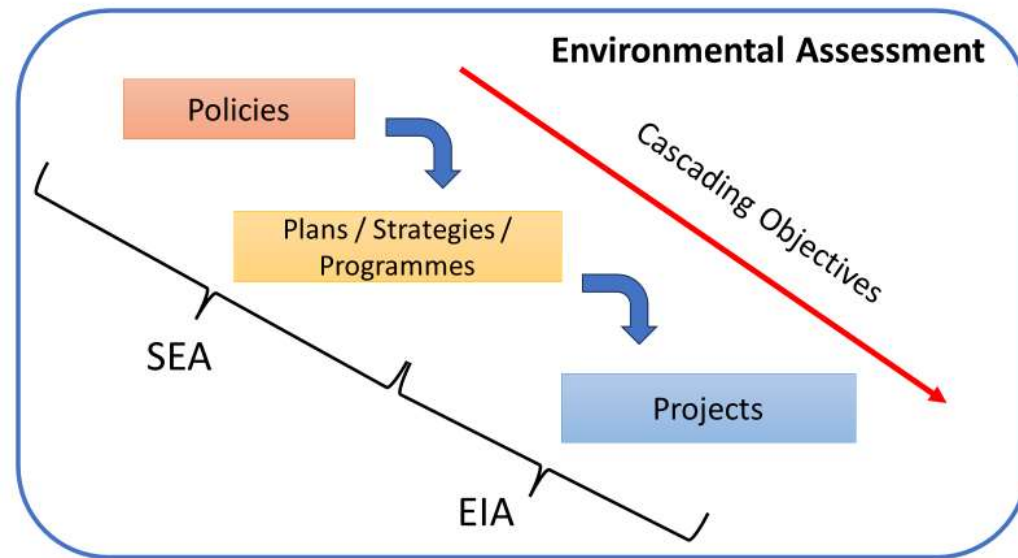
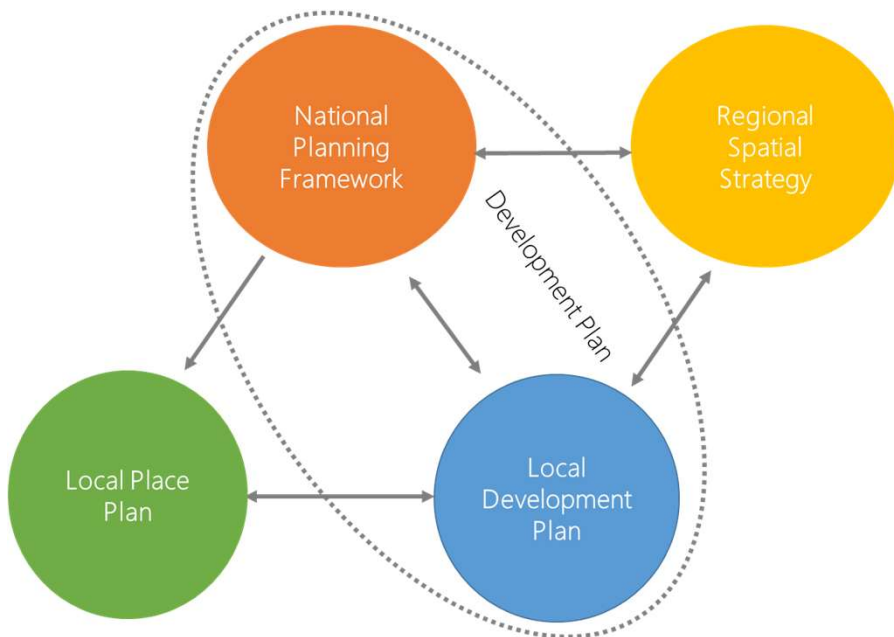


# The NPF4 impetus:

- Guides spatial development
- Sets out national planning policies
- Designates national developments
- Highlights regional spatial priorities.
  - ✓ Approved by the Scottish Parliament
  - ✓ Adopted 13 February 2023
  - ✓ Part of statutory development plan



# Our Plan-led system:







# Scotland 2045

## Scotland's Fourth National Planning Framework: Draft

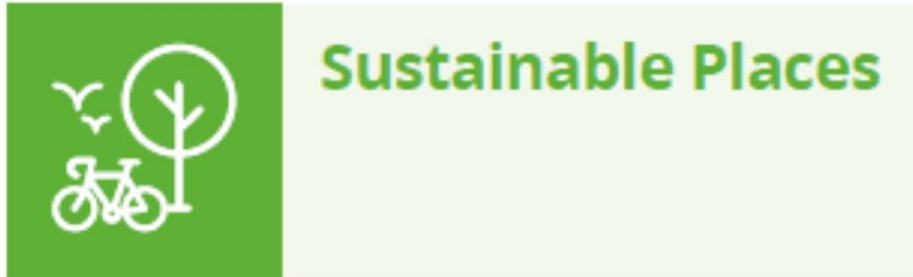
### D1.3.5 Mitigation/opportunities for enhancement

- Mitigation measures should be implemented where there is the potential for air pollutants to arise, including transport management mitigation measures.
- The reuse of materials in construction and use of low carbon construction materials should be prioritised and waste materials reused or recycled on decommissioning.
- Opportunities to minimise impacts on landscape and seascape should be explored.
- Effects on biodiversity should be minimised through siting and design, and enhancement measures applied in keeping with national policy.
- Ensure that that disturbance of soil, particularly high carbon soils, vegetation and seabed is minimised and avoided where possible and consideration given to ensure site reinstatement to enhance carbon sequestration. Opportunities to enhance high carbon soils and habitats of high carbon sink value should be explored.
- The impacts of climate change, including flood risk, should be considered.
- Provide low carbon transport options to the sites to reduce car dependency.

ENVIRONMENT	
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Identifies the likelihood of significant environmental effects (both positive and negative) as a result of the plan, alongside opportunities for mitigating any negative ones and enhancing any positives, and is in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. ( <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/15/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/15/contents</a> )  The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires Scottish Ministers to bring forward new provisions on the assessment of the likely health effects for national or a major developments. To inform this work we will consider the likely health effects of proposed national developments as part of the SEA process.
Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)	Helps identify the impact of a plan on a Natura site under the protections outlined in the EU Habitats Directive and related regulations. ( <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm">https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm</a> )
Life-cycle Green House Gas emissions of national developments.	Fulfils our statutory obligations under the Town and Country (Scotland) Planning Act 2019 to undertake an assessment of the likely impact of each proposed national development's lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
SOCIETY & EQUALITIES	
Human rights	Ensures there is no disproportionate impact upon the most vulnerable and ensures human rights legislation is adhered to. ( <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx">https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx</a> )
Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	Provides an assessment of the impact of applying a proposed new or revised policy or practice. Equality legislation covers the protected characteristics of: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, sex, sexual orientation and religion and belief.
Child's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)	Provides evidence that proper consideration has been given to the impact that a policy/measure will have on children and young people up to the age of 18.
Fairer Scotland Duty	Helps deliver fairer outcomes for Scotland's people through the active consideration of socio-economic inequality issues, such as low income and area deprivation, during the plan-making process.
Island Communities Impact Assessment	Ensures that the needs of island communities are considered in the development of any plans and ensures compliance with the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 ( <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2018/282/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2018/282/contents/made</a> )
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Helps to identify and mitigate any risks to privacy in compliance with data protection laws.
ECONOMY	
Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)	BRIsAs help to assess the likely costs, benefits and risks of any proposed plan and takes account of the five principles of better regulation – transparency, accountability, proportionality, consistency and that regulation is targeted where appropriate.

Table 1 – National Planning Framework 4 Summary					
	Spatial principles	National Developments	Policies	Key policy links	Cross cutting policies
<p><b>Sustainable places</b> SDGs: 7, 11, 12, 13</p> <p><i>National outcomes:</i> Environment, communities, economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just transition</li> <li>• Conserving and recycling assets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Innovation Development on the islands.</li> <li>• Pumped Hydro Storage</li> <li>• Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure</li> <li>• Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities</li> <li>• Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions</li> <li>• Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackling the climate and nature crises</li> <li>• Climate mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Natural places</li> <li>• Soils</li> <li>• Forestry, woodland and trees</li> <li>• Historic assets and places</li> <li>• Green belts</li> <li>• Brownfield land, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings</li> <li>• Coastal development</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Zero waste</li> <li>• Sustainable transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use – getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 – 2026</li> <li>• Making things last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland</li> <li>• Scotland’s Energy Strategy</li> <li>• Scotland’s Environment Strategy</li> <li>• Scotland’s Forestry Strategy</li> <li>• Scottish Biodiversity Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change Plan</li> <li>• Climate Change Adaptation Programme</li> </ul>
<p><b>Liveable places</b> SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11</p> <p><i>National outcomes:</i> Communities, culture, human rights, children and young people, health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liveable places</li> <li>• Compact urban growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Scotland Green Network</li> <li>• National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network</li> <li>• Edinburgh Waterfront</li> <li>• Dundee Waterfront</li> <li>• Stranraer Gateway</li> <li>• A Digital Fibre Network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design, quality and place</li> <li>• Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Quality homes</li> <li>• Rural homes</li> <li>• Infrastructure first</li> <li>• Heat and cooling</li> <li>• Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>• Play, recreation and sport</li> <li>• Flood risk and water management</li> <li>• Health and Safety</li> <li>• Digital infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Connected Scotland</li> <li>• A Healthier Future: Scotland’s diet and healthy weight delivery plan</li> <li>• Cleaner Air for Scotland 2</li> <li>• Creating Places</li> <li>• Culture Strategy</li> <li>• Heat in Buildings Strategy</li> <li>• Housing to 2040</li> <li>• Learning Estate Strategy/Learning Estate Investment Programme</li> <li>• Public Health Priorities for Scotland</li> <li>• Remote, Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan (pub. Spring 2023)</li> <li>• Scotland’s Population Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just Transition Plans</li> <li>• National Transport Strategy</li> <li>• Infrastructure Investment Plan</li> <li>• Strategic Transport Projects Review 2</li> <li>• National Islands Plan</li> <li>• National Marine Plan</li> <li>• Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Productive places</b> SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 14</p> <p><i>National outcomes:</i> Fair work and business, economy, poverty, communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebalancing development</li> <li>• Rural revitalisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clyde Mission</li> <li>• Aberdeen Harbour</li> <li>• Industrial Green Transition Zones</li> <li>• Hunterston Strategic Asset</li> <li>• Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment</li> <li>• High Speed Rail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community wealth building</li> <li>• Business and industry</li> <li>• City, town, local and commercial centres</li> <li>• Retail</li> <li>• Rural development</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Culture and creativity</li> <li>• Aquaculture</li> <li>• Minerals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for Economic Transformation</li> <li>• Retail Strategy for Scotland</li> <li>• Report of the City Centre Recovery Taskforce</li> <li>• Scottish land rights and responsibilities statement</li> <li>• Town Centre Action Plan 2</li> </ul>	

# Policy 1 – Tackling the Climate and Nature Crises



## Tackling the climate and nature crises

### Policy Principles

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that addresses the global climate emergency and nature crisis.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Zero carbon, nature positive places.

### Policy 1

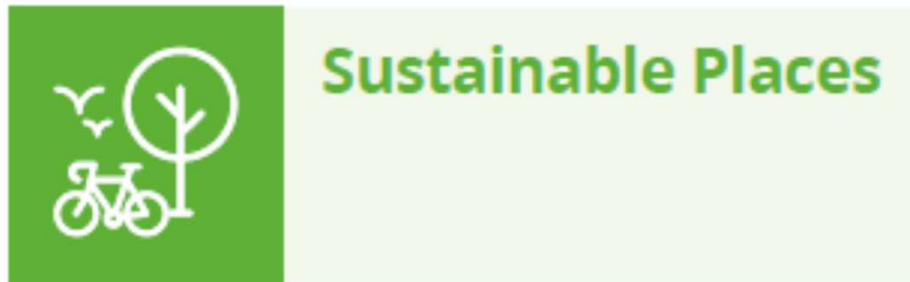
When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crisis

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.



## Policy 2 – Climate mitigation and adaptation



### Climate mitigation and adaptation

#### Policy Principles

**Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that minimises emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change.

**Policy Outcomes:**

- Emissions from development are minimised; and
- Our places are more resilient to climate change impacts.

## Policy 3 – Biodiversity



### Biodiversity

#### Policy Principles

**Policy Intent:**

To protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.

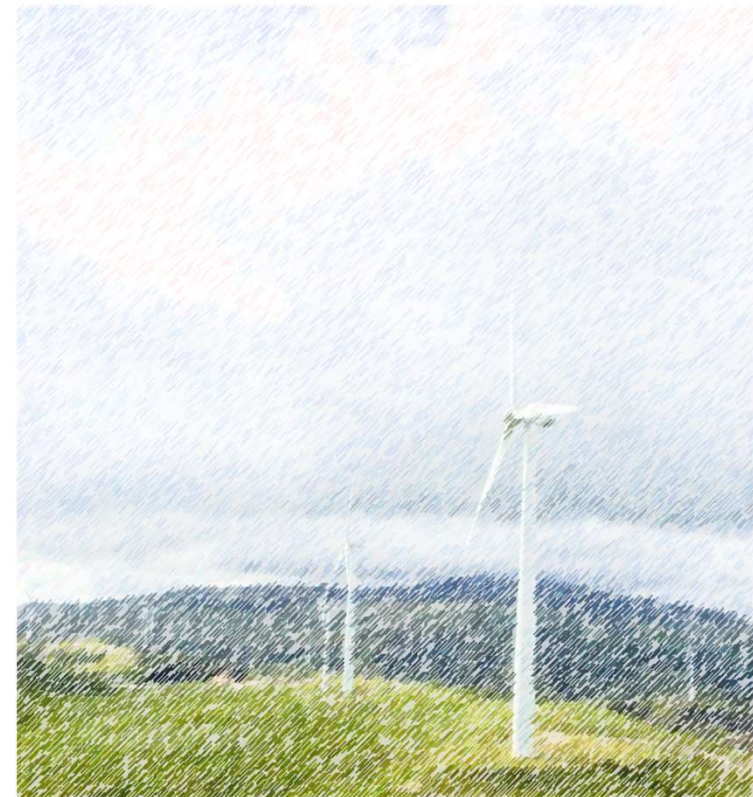
**Policy Outcomes:**

- Biodiversity is enhanced and better connected including through strengthened nature networks and nature-based solutions.



# Developing with Nature - core principles

- Consider biodiversity from the outset
- Apply the mitigation hierarchy
- Provide synergies and connectivity for nature
- Integrate nature to deliver multiple benefits
- Take a place-based and inclusive approach
- Prioritise on-site enhancement before off-site
- Ensure long term enhancement is secured
- Additionality / no 'double-counting'



# Shifting the EIA mindset:

- Focus on key issue / demonstrate alignment with NPF4
- Accessible EIA Reports/ clear signposting
- Cumulative impacts / multi-regime consenting
- Working collectively and collaboratively to drive change.



# Stay in touch

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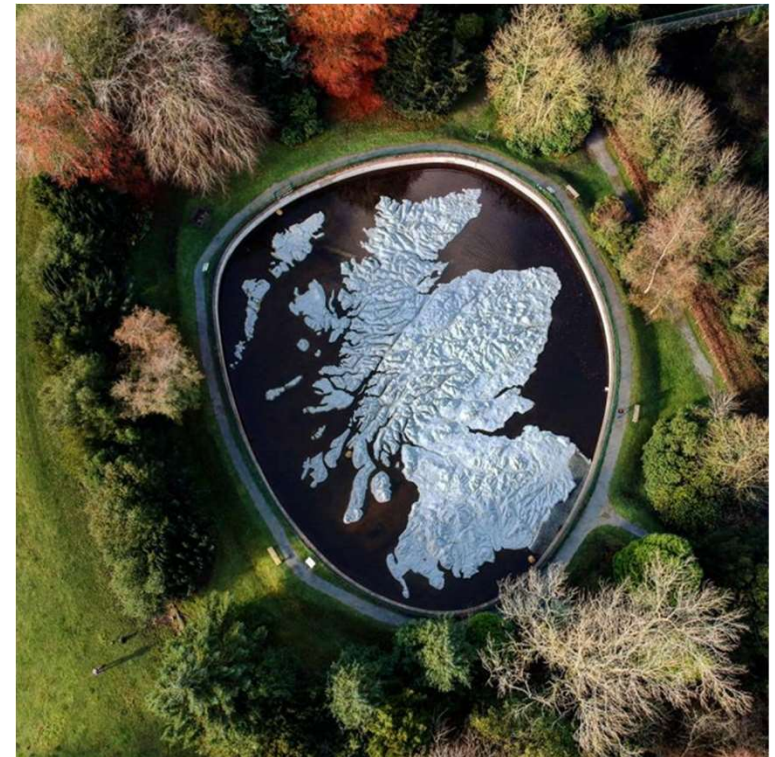
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