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Here's what was received.

# SEC Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) consultation

Welcome to the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) online survey.

Thank you for helping us refine our net zero strategy and providing feedback to the draft of the plan. The Provincial Environment Group certainly don't have all the answers and we want to co-create our approach with stakeholders across the province.

Before completing the survey and answering the questions below, please ensure that you have read the consultation document.

*Please note that questions marked with an asterisk (\*) require an answer.*

Please provide your email address so that we can contact you if there are queries regarding your feedback. We will not publish these details.

Email \*

[andrew@ladyrighunter.co.uk](mailto:andrew@ladyrighunter.co.uk)

## Completing the survey

It is important that you provide your name and contact details when submitting your response. Your name will only be published with your permission, and we will never publish your contact details. However, we may use them to contact you if we have a query regarding your response.

Please choose one of the following:

\*

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my committee/board

I would like this response to be published anonymously

I would like this response to be considered, but not published ("not for publication")

Please provide your name in full

\*

Andrew Hunter

Which of the following best describes your role in completing the consultation? \*

Congregational member of a church

On behalf of a formal provincial or diocesan committee

Clergy

Staff member

Other: Convenor of Eco Committee, St Andrew's Kelso

Please provide the name of the church or committee/board you are representing.

\*

St Andrew's Kelso Eco committee

In which diocese do you reside?

Edinburgh

### Your feedback for our overall approach to Net Zero

Overall, do you think that the Net Zero Action Plan outlines what is needed to achieve General Synod's 2020 motion - to work towards reaching net zero carbon by 2030?

\*

Yes

Partially

No

Not sure

Please provide any additional comment that supports this view.

PEG is to be commended & complimented on this comprehensive draft strategy. It does strike one as ambitious, given church's varying resources of volunteers' time & energy and a material reliance on the timetables of external sources of funding. We welcome new dedicated staff hopefully being appointed to SEC posts this year.

Which of the following best expresses your view of the Net Zero 2030 target definition (the scopes of inclusion and organisational boundary) - taking into consideration a balance between prophetic and practical?

\*

Supportive

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Opposed

Do not have a view

Please explain the reasons for your response.

\*

Getting to Net Zero is arguably just half-way: what about the 'Loss & Damage' from our burning fossil fuels in our buildings since they first installed central heating etc?

Do you think the net zero 2030 target definition encapsulates the 'material' carbon emissions of the Scottish Episcopal Church?

\*

Yes

No

Not sure

Overall, do you think Net Zero Action Plan is deliverable, assuming the enabling interventions outlined in section 7 are fully resourced?

\*

Yes

Partially

No

Not sure

Please explain your response.

\*

Yes; if we all believe in the ambition of this Plan, then we need to believe that the Plan is deliverable and commit to it.

Do you agree that the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) reflects the urgency of the situation?

\*

Yes

Partially

No

Not sure

Please explain your view if your answer was "partially" or "no". \*

Of ALL the issues faced by many faith-based communities, this is a critical one that gives real meaning to our preaching of the universal love of God and our shared creation. There is therefore absolutely no doubt about the urgency.

Do you think the Net Zero Action Plan is a credible approach to net zero action?

Please note, by "credible", we mean that Net Zero is well defined (the activities it encapsulates and boundary of SEC organisation), it has specific targets, it encapsulates the material emissions of the church, and that the necessary emissions reporting process is in place to ensure public transparency.

\*

Yes

No

Not sure

Do you think the Net Zero Action Plan will result in a reduction in carbon emissions across the province?

\*

Yes

No

Not sure

With regard to the specific Key Results associated with each the ten core objectives (outlined in section 7), are there any that you do not agree with? If there are, how you would change these? Please give the rationale behind your response along with the specific KR# you are referring to.

KR 2: Whilst understanding the desire for zero-emission energy systems, we would like to encourage PEG to improve the minimal acknowledgement of other low-emission systems, namely biomass and low-flow, low-head hydro schemes. Sadly, the dismissal of biomass heating, especially for rural churches & buildings, appears based on largely erroneous concerns in the UK context, as forest sourced biomass is often drawn from branch/ brushwood, windthrow trees and first thinnings removed to enhance stability, accessibility and ground cover in young plantations rather than de-forestation, or from short rotation coppice purpose grown for this market, or from other non-woody plant waste on farms, whilst auger-fed chips into sealed industrial boilers minimise emissions. The growing number of river-based hydro schemes in the UK provide clean energy from another natural resource, that may be very local to several rural churches, and may offer opportunities for a church to work with neighbouring businesses and residences to develop a community- or district-based clean energy scheme. Moreover, as recent storms have resulted in considerable and sometimes prolonged loss of electricity supply in many rural areas of Scotland, SEC's reliance for a considerable proportion of its community dependant on external electricity supply has its limitations....which could of course be recognised within this Strategy by greater flexibility of clean energy sources. Certainly this militates for being as off-grid as possible, via solar PV and/or wind/hydro. Arguably there could be an 11th KR: 'Adopt a target for donations towards 'Loss & Damage' globally, on the basis of Guiding Value no.2 - 'Justice'. Those churches that decide they are unable, for whatever reason, to move away from

burning fossil fuels etc, can surely NOT say they are incapable, also, of dedicating appropriate finances towards those who are suffering from the consequences of those emissions?

Do you disagree with any of the enabling interventions proposed? If yes, please state what intervention (using T#) and why is this the case?

*If you agree with all the interventions, please skip to the next question.*

All agreed

*This question is directed towards diocese staff and provincial committees/boards only.*

Please give your feedback on the 'enabling interventions' in section 8, particularly referencing the T# where your committee or diocese is listed as a 'guiding partner'.

N/A as a charge committee only

### Closing thoughts

If helpful, please briefly explain the experience you have which is relevant to this consultation or elements therein.

Adviser in UK Rural Economies for 50 years, associate of Newcastle University's Centre for Rural Economy. 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' online study course on Climate Change.

Are there any actions that you have been taking that are not included in the plan? Do you have examples of any other net zero work that might be useful to the strategy or to share with others?

Simply trying to change mindsets - see answer to point below...

Do you have any other additional suggestions or comments on the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) that will help the Provincial Environment Group adapt this strategy further?

Overall, we need to 'win hearts & minds' increasingly: for SEC to achieve its Synod's aspirations for 2030, its constituent members at every level need to WANT to make it happen. The risks of complacency or of self-delusion that 'things are OK as they are' or that 'someone at Provincial level will sort it out' need nipping in the bud today.

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