

Climate ready Clyde: why city and region collaboration for climate resilience works

Universities can collaborate with external partners across the cities and regions they are based in to develop integrated, place-based planning for climate resilience. The University of Strathclyde is a member of Climate Ready Clyde, a cross-sector initiative that aims to enable climate adaptation for the Glasgow City Region, and which has helped the university itself to develop resilience planning for its campus and beyond.

Climate Ready Clyde enables its participants to share learnings, expertise and experiences and by joining forces, the collective group is able to respond to climate change risks across the region. A collaborative approach enables everyone to benefit with access to data, knowledge and common understanding of the climate change risks faced by the region and the options for building resilience and adaptation planning.

The 14 members of Climate Ready Clyde include the eight city region local authorities in the Glasgow City Region, Glasgow's large universities, Scottish Government agencies and private sector partners. The University of Strathclyde joined Climate Ready Clyde shortly after it formed in

2016 as part of its tactical response to climate change.

The partnership and its membership-based model has been transformational for the University and has helped Strathclyde University to develop its own Climate Adaptation Plan and to align with city and region policies and infrastructure planning in its implementation.

The University collaborated with Climate Ready Clyde partners and members at a regional level to understand and respond to climate resilience risks for its operational assets. This involved careful consideration of flood risk; green infrastructure; investment risks and opportunities; infrastructure resilience; access to services; design for better places; and impact on communities.

KEY MESSAGES

- **Having a strong and accessible vision enables shared understanding**, and when combined with collaboration at local and regional levels it enables coherent action on climate issues, including resilience.
- **Adopting a whole-systems approach** has been a helpful way to tackle the complexity of building climate resilience in a coherent and robust manner.
- **Joint working between universities and public and private stakeholders** can leverage investment that helps fund knowledge and infrastructure for resilience-building.



“Working with Climate Ready Clyde has enabled Strathclyde University to bring forward the ambitious and innovative plan to create the **first climate neutral innovation district** in the UK.”

Authors:

Dr. Roddy Yarr, University of Strathclyde

The considerations have helped the University to bring forward a range of projects that enable climate resilience, such as the deployment of green roofs in new developments and refurbishments such as the new Learning and Teaching Building. The learning from Climate Ready Clyde also enabled Strathclyde University to incorporate visible and interpretative rain gardens and sustainable drainage and green roofing in their Heart of the Campus landscaping and pedestrianisation project with construction planned to start in late 2023.

The partnership has also enabled the University to start building stronger academic involvement in climate resilience development through teaching, learning and research initiatives, including leading the University to adopt a 'whole systems' approach to climate action that is socially inclusive, and which has led to the University developing its vision for its award-winning [Climate Neutral Districts](#) project.

Strathclyde's 'whole systems' approach seeks to align climate resilience with climate mitigation strategies, health and wellbeing

and social inclusion. The main driver for the approach is ensuring that when planning for infrastructure, Strathclyde considers how each intervention relates to others in a 'system'. One of the benefits of this approach is that the University 'digs once' when installing the infrastructure necessary to tackle or respond to climate change, as well as building capacity and understanding within the region so that there is shared understanding of joint aims and objectives.

Key facts about the institution:

Institution name:	University of Strathclyde
Location (city and nation):	Glasgow and Region, Scotland
Number of students (total for institution):	22,000
Number of staff (total for institution):	3,500
Campus type and location:	City centre and regional locations

Key facts about the intervention (case study):

University or department led:	University
Number of staff engaged:	The University's involvement in this work is led by the Sustainable Strathclyde team at the University, with engagement with academic community on an ongoing basis. The Executive Lead for Sustainability is the current Interim Chair of Climate Ready Clyde.
Number of students engaged is:	The work is not so much student focused as it is operational in nature in terms of the built environment.
External partners:	The stakeholder group includes the members of the Climate Ready Clyde group and its Action Group.
Climate risks intervention addressed:	Flood risk; Investment risks and opportunities; infrastructure resilience; access to services; design for better places; impact on communities

PROJECT TEAM:

Dr Roddy Yarr, working with Climate Ready Clyde

Collaboration in action

- University of Strathclyde
- Glasgow City Council
- Atkins (Lead consultant)
- UK Energy Systems Catapult
- The Weegie Board
 - Star Renewable Energy
 - Comsof
 - Mini Bems
- Ikigai Capital
- Smarter Grid Solutions

Our Steering Group

- LOCAL ENERGY SCOTLAND
- SCOTTISH FUTURES TRUST
- ClimateReadyClyde
- ZERO WASTE SCOTLAND
- Wheatley Group
- Scottish Enterprise
- Scottish Water Horizons
- SALIX
- SP ENERGY NETWORKS
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- green network
- sustrans

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Image: University of Strathclyde.