

Glasgow: a tool supporting local communities to discuss climate change within a health and well-being framework

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The relationships that exist between the fundamental drivers of our physical, social, and economic environments and the immediate or eventual impacts these environments or “places” have on population health and inequalities are well documented. [1]. These relationships are fully acknowledged at all levels of public health delivery, improvement, and governance. In December 2015 a collaboration between Public Health Scotland, Scottish Government, Architecture & Design Scotland¹, and Glasgow City Council resulted in the launch of the Place Standard Tool (PST). The PST is an effective and widely used tool for considering place, with a focus on health and well-being². It can be used at any time when people want to discuss the future of a place. Today it is applied across all local authorities in Scotland, is supported by a national governance framework and a network of place standard leads in each local government area, both national parks and many national organizations. Its application internationally has extended across 12 countries in Europe and worldwide has been translated into 16 different languages. The development of a climate lens which integrates with the PST is a joint-led project by Sniffer³ and Sustainable Scotland Network, together with and funded by Public Health Scotland and Scottish Government⁴. It aims to support integrating climate action into placemaking at a local/community level.

Place Standard Tool with a climate lens: co-creating local climate solutions to address a global issue from the perspective of local communities and neighbourhoods throughout Scotland

Tackling the climate emergency is one of the most serious issues facing our places. This project addresses the need to include climate change issues within a discussion about place, using the PST and by doing so, maximizing co-benefits to drive fair and just solutions that also support health, well-being, and equality. Recognized in the Programme for Government 2021-22, the Scottish Government commits to

creating communities that embed low-carbon lifestyles, while improving health and well-being. The PST with a climate lens will play an important part in supporting this objective. The project aims to better support new and existing users of the PST to consider climate change in their placemaking. The PST with the climate lens is intended to be used at any time when people want to discuss the future of a place, and for considering how global trends will play out in a local area. The pilot phase of this project is focused on developing and refining the climate lens and trialling at a local scale. It aims to develop a robust evidence base for decision makers and policy makers in delivering net zero and climate ready places. During January and February of 2021 draft climate resources including an evaluation framework and a guidance document were developed by the project team to allow consideration of climate change alongside health and well-being. These resources included two interrelated aspects of how people and places need to address climate change. Climate change mitigation/moving to a net zero economy, tackling the cause of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and climate change adaptation/adapting to the unavoidable physical impacts of climate change. These resources acted as a ‘starting point’ for the piloting with the communities we had identified. The pilot process has taken place in two phases involving four communities in each phase from diverse backgrounds across Scotland including rural populations in the Highlands, urban neighbourhoods in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and coastal communities. We have taken an intuitive evaluation process of changing and adapting the resources on a continuous basis to reflect learning.

The feedback from piloting the PST with the climate lens has so far been used to improve the guidance and facilitation resources. An important learning point has been the lack of confidence community facilitators have felt in delivering climate information. There is a perceived impression that specialist knowledge is required. Particularly regarding issues such

as net zero, adaptation, mitigation and carbon capture. The guidance material is still a prototype, the intention is that once the wording is tested and refined it will go through a design phase to create visually appealing materials that make the tool more engaging and accessible, and tools to help facilitators get the most out of their PST workshops. The piloting process will be completed by March 2022, following this a three-month period of final evaluation by an external agency, resource development and early adopter testing will take place. The launch of the climate lens will take place during the summer of 2022. Following the high level of interest in the development of the climate lens resource a webpage has been developed to offer more information on the project, the team involved and to offer the opportunity for others to learn from the work so far⁵. (Climate lens) ■

1. <https://www.ads.org.uk>

2. <http://www.healthscotland.scot/health-inequalities/impact-of-social-and-physical-environments/place/the-place-standard-tool>

3. <https://www.sniffer.org.uk/adaptation-scotland>

4. <https://sustainablesotlandnetwork.org>

5. <https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/get-involved/our-projects/place-standard-tool-climate-lens-co-creating-local-climate-s>

Supporting documentation

- Place Standard tool Strategic Plan 2020-2023
- National Performance Framework
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Public Health Priorities for Scotland
- <https://eurohealthnet-magazine.eu/talking-place-a-public-health-conversation-for-everyone/>

REFERENCE

[1] Solar O, Irwin A. A conceptual framework for action on the social determinants of health. Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper 2 (Policy and Practice). https://www.who.int/sdhconference/resources/ConceptualframeworkforactiononSDH_eng.pdf