

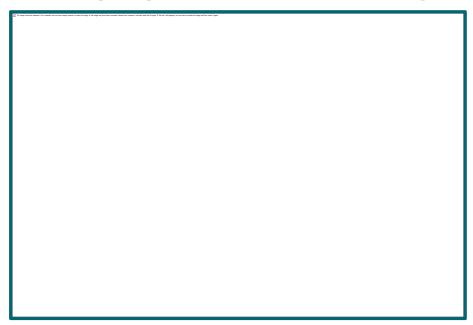
Building a stronger, fairer, healthier and more sustainable nation

Nicole Paterson, Chief Executive Scottish Environment Protection Agency

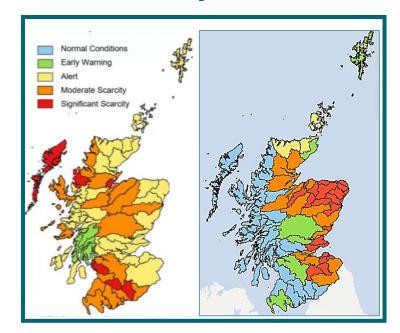
Health Industry Leaders, Net Zero NHS Scotland Conference

30 September 2025

Changing climate: Flooding and water scarcity



Oct 2023 - Storm Babet led to the evacuation of 450 properties on the South Esk and 140 were significantly damaged by flooding in Brechin



June 2023 - Water scarcity across the whole of Scotland

Sept 2025 - Moderate or significant scarcity across the east



Co-benefits of climate action for health outcomes

The positive outcomes of actions to help mitigate climate change will be experienced most in the communities where those actions are implemented.

The call for climate action therefore needs to be not just about reducing emissions, but about designing in cobenefits for health, wellbeing and lessening health and social inequalities.

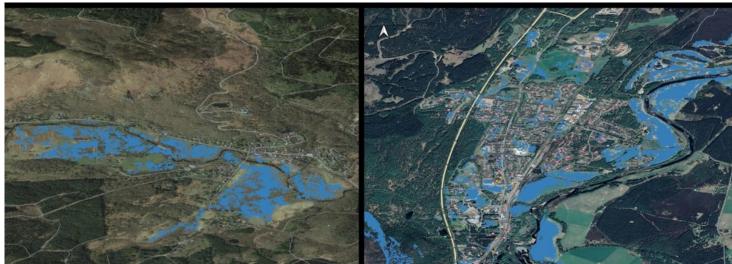
In this way climate action can be much more tangible for people's lives



Illustration of Glasgow city centre - promoting multi-modal transport Glasgowlive.co.uk



Supporting resilience: Satellite Emergency Mapping Service (SEMS)



SEMS images of flooding in Scotland which took place in October 2023.

SEPA launched the Satellite Emergency Mapping Service in 2024. It uses state-of-the-art satellite imaging technology to deliver real-time, high-resolution data and insights that helps emergency responders when disasters like storms, floods, wildfires strike.

SEMS is available to all responders and can help to protect lives and livelihoods.



The Leven Programme







River Park Nature Network (arcgis.com)

Connectivity Project - Home | The Leven Programme



The Leven Partnership has developed from a simple river enhancement project into a multi-million-pound partnership project aimed at improving the health, wellbeing and prosperity of local community and empowering them to take action that benefits their local space.

A successful example of delivering co-benefits from climate friendly action that makes real differences to people's lives.

Working with NHS Fife to develop a series of projects that encourage physical activity and improved connection to the natural environment along the River Leven.

sepa.org.uk

NHS and SEPA – Working together for climate action

Working together we can achieve far more than working alone.

What are the things we can do in partnership that help us to make more progress on climate change more quickly? Such as:

- How can we use our collective data, evidence, expertise and experience in Scotland in ways that help us to deliver cobenefits and better environment and health outcomes?
- How can we work together in a preventative way that helps to reduce the need to prescribe medicines?
- Where are the opportunities to learn from each other about the steps we are taking to reduce our own emissions?





Thank you

Contact details

Nicole Paterson

Chief Executive

Email: nicole.paterson@sepa.org.uk

www.sepa.org.uk







