

Empowering collaboration to accelerate delivery

Context, Drivers and Opportunities

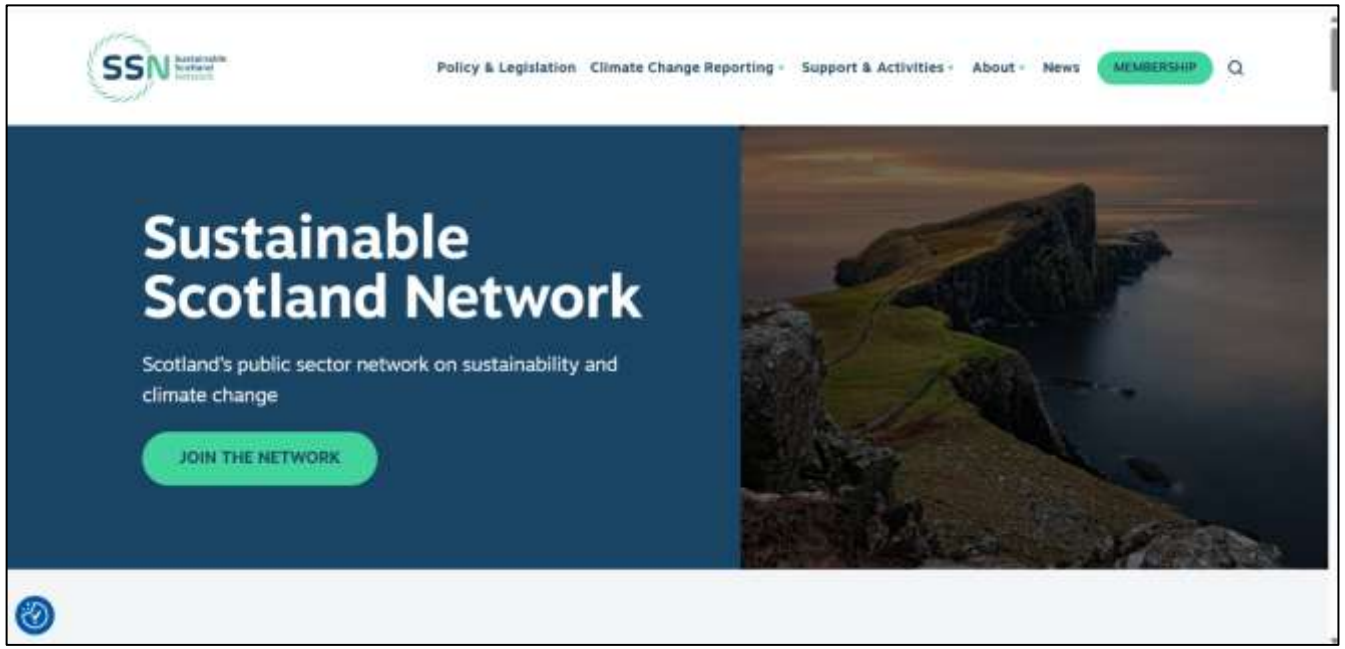
- We have a **mandatory duty** to decarbonise, as well as address adaptation and sustainability;
- We also have an **economic driver**, a **social responsibility**, an **environmental imperative** and a **moral responsibility**.
- We also have a great **opportunity** – action on climate change presents the greatest public health opportunity of a generation, and Public Service Reform has the potential to drive deep collaboration on preventative spend.
- We have the strategies and policy statements in place, but **we now need delivery**.
- And to accelerate delivery, we need **smart collaboration**.

➢ **What we've done is not what we now need to do**
➢ **And, if we do what we've always done, we'll get what we've always had**

Some key messages

- **The best projects deliver more than carbon savings:** Decarbonisation should also improve resilience, reduce operating costs, support healthier communities, and protect the long-term delivery of healthcare.
- **Public bodies should plan and invest together:** Coordinating projects across NHS Boards, councils, universities, and other public bodies can create sufficient scale, strengthen business cases, attract investment, and reduce duplicated effort.
- **NHS Scotland cannot decarbonise in isolation:** Major challenges such as geothermal, heat networks, climate adaptation, transport, and the circular economy cross organisational and geographic boundaries.
- **Together we can use public-sector buying power to change markets:** Shared procurement approaches and consistent requirements can drive lower-carbon supply chains, increase circularity, and give suppliers greater confidence to invest.
- **Collaboration must move from networking to delivery:** SSN can help connect the right organisations, share evidence and proven approaches, identify common barriers, and convene partners around practical opportunities.

SSN Overview



Collaboration to accelerate public sector climate and sustainability action

- Local Authorities
- NHS Boards
- Universities and Colleges
- National and Regional Public Bodies

- SSN is the public sector's **bespoke, mission-driven and values-based network** on sustainability and climate change.
- **SSN is your network**, in place to help empower you in your climate change duties and endeavours.
- **The best projects deliver more than carbon savings:** Decarbonisation should also improve resilience, reduce operating costs, support healthier communities, and protect the long-term delivery of healthcare. - top
- **Better outcomes for people and places.**



SSN’s Local Authority Programme

SSN Local Authority Programme 2026-2029

SOLACE commitment 2026-2029 focused on:

- **SSN Core Member Support Services**
- **Dedicated Local Authority Support Programme**
- **Professional Training and Development Programmes**

SSN Core Member Support Services

- Steering Group
- Local Authority Subcommittee
- Local Authority Forum
- SSN Member communications, events and advisory services
  - Website
  - Newsletter and member bulletins
  - Helpdesk
  - Conference
  - Lunch and learn seminars
- LA Task and Finish working groups
- Advice and signposting on Statutory Guidance good practice

Dedicated Local Authority Support Programme

- **Dedicated LA Programme Manager – starts 26th October**

+ Commissioned Adaptation Support

- **Improving the LA Forum**
- **Statutory Guidance support for LAs**
- **LA-member only online resources and forums**
- **Support for monitoring and reporting**
- **Local and regional engagement**
- **Advisory services**
- **Corporate emissions programme**

Professional Training and Development Programmes

- **Local Authority Officers** – CPD on key Statutory Guidance topics
  - Estate management-led approaches to public sector decarbonisation (incl. Scottish Futures Trust);
  - **NPF4 climate and carbon requirements in planning**;
  - Supply-chain, Scope 3 and SME emissions;
  - **Adaptation and resilience – Adaptation Subcommittee & Bespoke LA Support**
  - Public Health and Climate Change impact assessments – Public Health and Climate Change Subcommittee
  - Nature and biodiversity (incl. work with NatureScot);
  - Just Transition policy and practice (Just Transition Commission and the JUST Centre links).

Commissioned Support on Adaptation

- **Early Career Professionals and Internships**
- **Chief Executives and Directors – Leaders Adaptation Checklist sessions**

Public Bodies and Community Climate Action Hubs

- **Public Bodies and Climate Hubs Gathering, 3rd November, Glasgow**



Empowering collaboration to accelerate delivery

Convening Power









Collaborative Power

Leaders' Climate Adaptation Checklist

What is this?

This **Climate Adaptation Checklist** allows you, as a senior leader, to rapidly benchmark your organisation and identify the next steps needed to be adaptable to Scotland's changing climate.

This will support you to continue to deliver a high-quality public service.

This document is an adaptation-specific companion to the Leaders' Climate Emergency Checklist developed by the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) in partnership with SOLACE, COSLA and the Improvement Service. SSN is Scotland's public sector network on sustainability and climate change.



What is climate adaptation?

Climate adaptation means preparing for and coping with the impacts of climate change. It's about building resilience so communities, businesses, services, and nature can handle current and future challenges.

Why does it matter for my organisation?

Climate disruption is here and now, impacting lives and costing us billions.

Scotland is already experiencing the effects of climate change – flooding, heatwaves, rising sea levels and increasingly severe storms.

Left unchecked, climate change impacts will be vast. From damage to critical infrastructure, pressures on nature and ecosystems, disruptions to travel and supply chains for essentials like food and impacts on peoples' physical and mental health.

More change in unavoidable.

But Scotland can adapt and be resilient, alongside meeting our Net Zero goals.

What actions must I take?

Effective and inclusive adaptation requires:

- Proactive planning within your organisation
- Strong partnerships across sectors and communities
- Committing sufficient resources to adaptation actions

The actions in this checklist will help you to lead an organisation that continues to deliver high-quality public services in Scotland's changing climate.

In Scotland, **public bodies have legal duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009** to help deliver the Scottish National Adaptation Plan and must report annually. The current national plan (SNAP3) requires public service providers to have the governance, culture, skills and resources for effective and inclusive adaptation action.

SNAP3 also emphasises the need to work together around a place or region. This is vital because it helps deliver fair decisions that work locally; because no single body has all the resources, skills or authority; and because climate impacts can hit one sector and quickly spread to others through connected systems like food, energy, and water.

What support is available?

SSN is Scotland's public sector network that enables collaboration and provides support on climate change and sustainability, including on statutory public bodies climate change duties reporting.

Adaptation Scot is the digital hub for resources to support your organisation.

You can find tools to help with adaptation planning, information on future climate projections, and access to peer-exchange networks:

- Use the Climate Adaptation Capability Framework – a roadmap of 42 tasks (and associated resources) to build organisational capability. Use this to navigate complexity and track progress.
- Join the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network – a professional network of over 60 public bodies sharing learning and benchmarking progress. Join this to build staff skills and confidence.
- Use the Met Office's climate data – local climate risk information for your local authority area. Use this to understand your climate risks.
- Join a Climate Ready regional partnerships – collaborations to build climate-resilient regional economies. Join these to work in partnership with others.

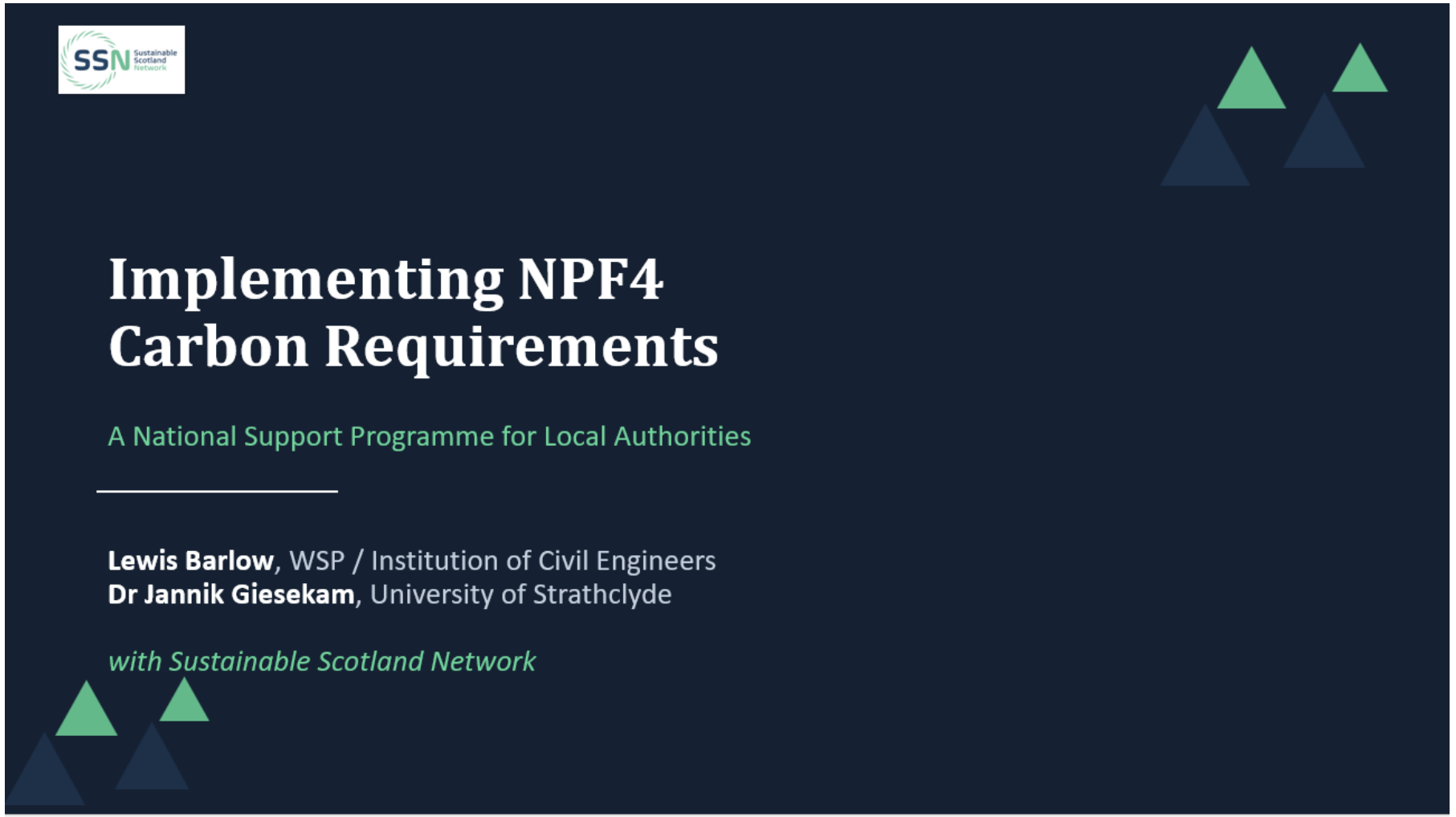
This Checklist was developed by the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN).
It was produced by the SSN Adaptation Subcommittee, whose members include Verture, Public Health Scotland, South Ayrshire Council, Scottish Water and the University of Edinburgh.

Version: December 2025

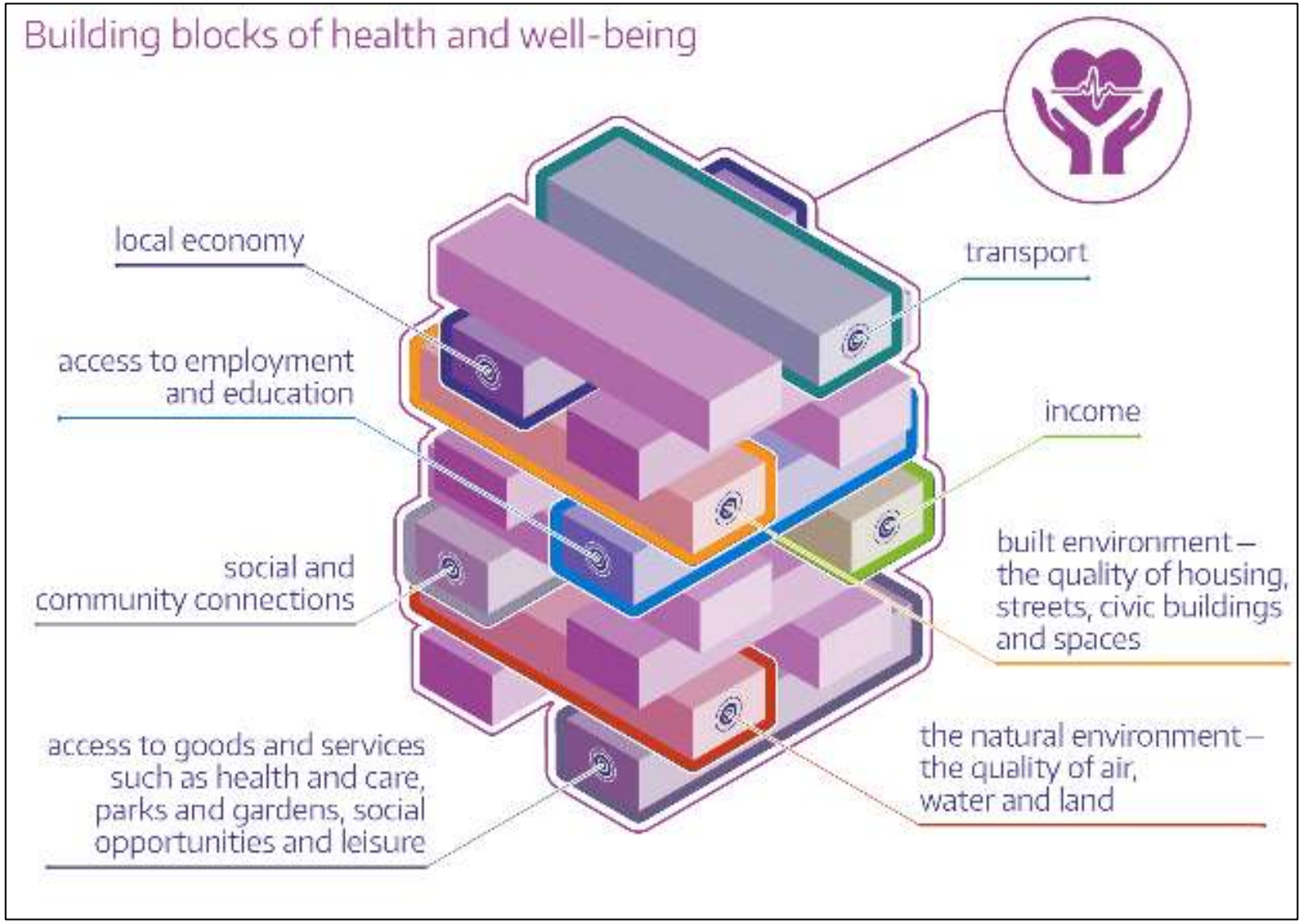
Public bodies climate change duties:

Statutory Guidance

Commissioning Power



Preventative Power



Whole-public sector approach

Deeper systems collaboration

SSN Membership:

- Local Authorities
- National Public Bodies
- Universities
- Colleges
- NHS bodies

Community Climate Action Hubs

Engagement and Knowledge Sharing Power



Aberdeen Investments' Approach to Climate Mitigation & Adaptation

23 Sep, 2026

Hear Aberdeen Investments' approach to sustainable investment across climate, nature, social and governance.

▸ View website



SSN Public Sector & Climate Action Hub Gathering

3 Nov, 2026

Join SSN on 3rd November in Glasgow for our 2nd in-person Gathering to share insights and best practices, and to build collaboration between climate action hubs and the public sector.

▸ View website



Data and Analysis Power

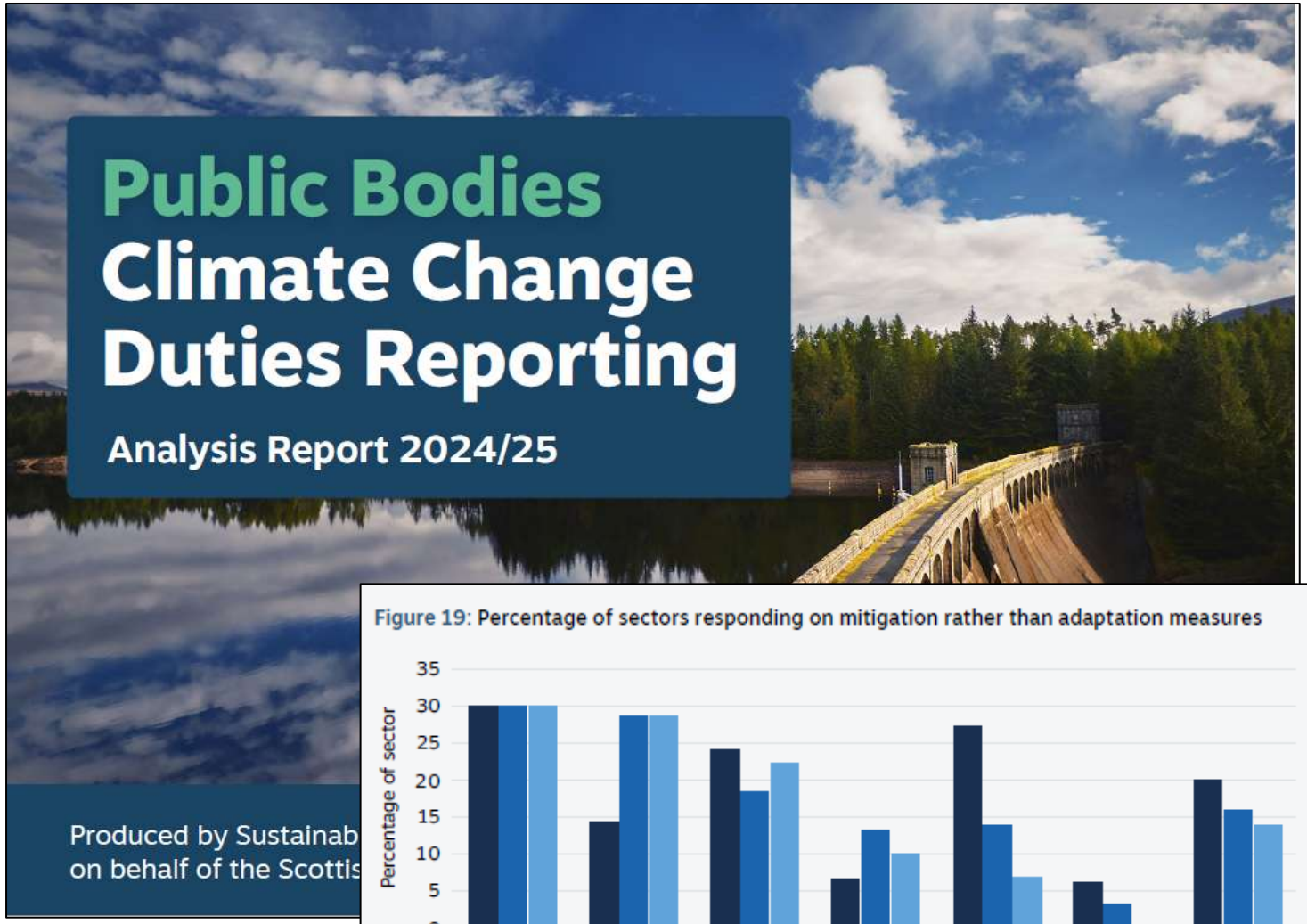


Figure 19: Percentage of sectors responding on mitigation rather than adaptation measures

Table 3: Percentage of sectors reporting emission sources

Emission source	Local Authorities	NHS Boards
S1 Natural gas	91%	70%
S3 Procurement	6%	35%
S2 Grid electricity	100%	95%
S3 Staff commuting	16%	10%
S1 Fleet	100%	90%
S3 Waste	97%	90%
S3 Business travel - flights	34%	60%
S3 Business travel - road	100%	100%
S1 Other heating & fuels	91%	70%
S1 Processes	NR	0%
S3 Homeworking	75%	50%
S1 Medical gases	NR	70%
S2 Purchased heat & steam	9%	10%
S1 Refrigerants	6%	65%
S3 Water & sewage	97%	90%

Practical support

- **Events** – conference, lunch and learns, LA Forums
- **Resources** – checklists, briefings, case studies
- **Communications** – website, newsletter, bulletin
- **Engagement** – outreach and national forums
- **Leadership** – connection to national leaders and CEOs
- **Advice and guidance** – helpdesk, Secretariat staff, academia
- **Research and innovation** – connection to UOE, CXC and other research opportunities
- **PBCCDR -** support and analysis

SSN – empowering collaboration

- **SSN is an asset**
- **SSN is your network**
- **SSN can respond to your needs and requirements… needs participation, collaboration and joint resourcing**



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