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Water**

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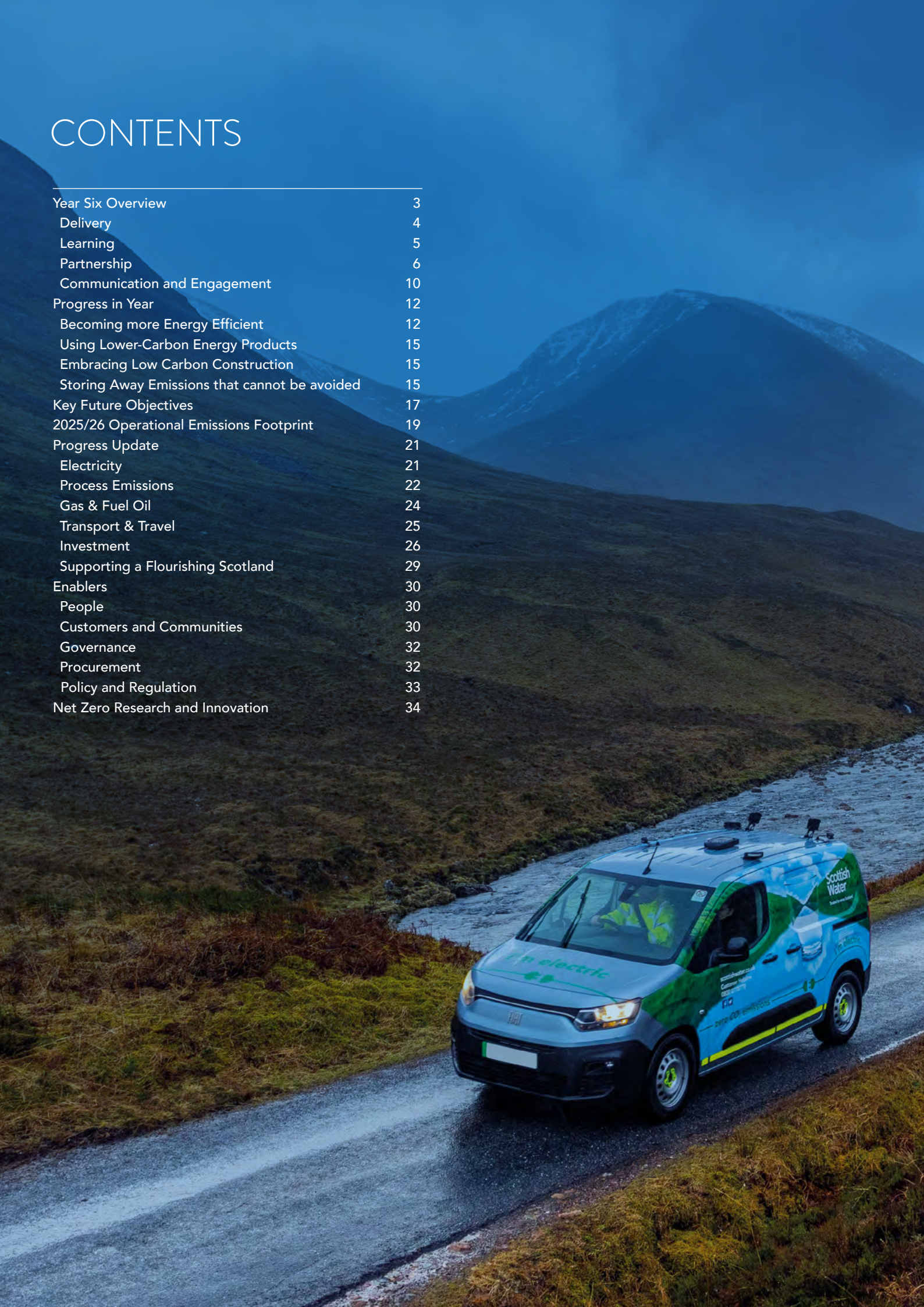
NET ZERO EMISSIONS ROUTEMAP

ANNUAL UPDATE 2026 – YEAR SIX



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YEAR SIX OVERVIEW

We have made significant progress towards net zero, continuing with a range of activities such as peatland restoration, woodland creation and renewable energy generation, which removed 10,397 tCO₂e as part of our internal net zero Routemap (2025/26) carbon benefit assessment in Year 6. These activities delivered cost savings, supported source water quality improvements, increased biodiversity/natural capital across 733 hectares (ha) (or over 1,000 football pitches) and improved our resilience to a changing climate and energy security risks.

Our reported annual operational greenhouse gas emissions – our total carbon footprint over the year – reduced by 16,000 tCO₂e to 207,243 tCO₂e compared with 223,214 tCO₂e last year. The emissions for 2025/26 have been updated from the earlier reported numbers after a review of population data. Further reductions were achieved through increased use of lower-carbon Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as an alternative to diesel.

We expanded the boundary of our reported operational emissions to include emissions linked to the chemicals used in our water and wastewater treatment processes. These are part of “Scope 3” emissions – indirect emissions generated through our supply chain, including the production and transport of materials we purchase and use to deliver

services. This change reflects updated Scottish Government statutory guidance for public bodies, which now requires organisations to report a broader range of indirect emissions alongside those generated directly from their own operations.

By including emissions associated with chemicals used in our water and wastewater treatment processes this added an estimated 18,945 tCO₂e to our operational footprint. As a result, the total reported operational footprint for 2025/26 was 226,188 tCO₂e. With 2025/26 now established as the baseline year for these additional emissions, we will continue to work to identify opportunities to reduce and optimise chemical use, including the transition to lower-carbon alternatives.

Our carbon reduction activities are vital as a changing climate is threatening our ability to deliver essential water and wastewater services. We must, therefore, adapt our approaches and do everything possible to minimise the carbon emissions associated with our activities and maximise the positive contribution we can make.



DELIVERY

We continued to make progress across all areas of our routemap and delivered actions which eliminated, reduced or captured emissions.

Highlights include:

- Completed another good year with 40 energy efficiency projects enabling an additional 4.51GWh reduction in electricity use this year with > 1,000 tCO₂e therefore saved.
- Delivered 11 renewable schemes with 3.88GWh renewable electricity generation capacity with our overall renewable energy generation hitting record levels of nearly 65GWh.
- Increased our electric vehicle numbers by 24 this year including our first fully electric HGV. We now have 212 electric vans and 562 electric cars and we increased our charging points from from 374 to 475.
- Increased our use of HVO through the installation of three fuelling stations for vehicles not yet able to transition to electric, delivering over 2,000 tCO₂e savings.
- Delivered 478 ha of peatland restoration supporting carbon capture alongside water quality, biodiversity and climate change resilience improvements.
- Planted 215 ha of native broadleaf woodland with oak, alder, hawthorn, rowan and birch trees and confirmed the establishment of 35 ha of natural woodland regeneration predominantly at Loch Katrine.
- Maintained our PAS 2080 (Publicly Available Specification) certification for carbon management in buildings and infrastructure.
- Signed an Advance Market Commitment to procure 20,000 cubic metres of low carbon concrete over five years.
- Implemented green steel and recycled aggregate frameworks.
- Continued to support the development of over 80 hydrogen projects with the potential to generate 7GWh of hydrogen capacity with a focus on using final effluent from our wastewater treatment works.



LEARNING

We continue to review our progress and learn from our experiences.

- We need to improve our knowledge and technical capabilities

We need to extend our knowledge on process emissions mitigation. After electricity they are our next biggest source of emissions, covering the methane and nitrous oxide associated with our wastewater service. During 2025/26, the UK Greenhouse Gas inventory adopted new emission factors for wastewater treatment process emissions. These are significantly higher than used previously, and the UK water sector is presently working to adopt these factors. We expect this could see an increase in the carbon emissions associated with this activity. We will begin reporting these updated factors from 2026/27. This is expected to have a material impact on the pathway to achieve net zero. This does not mean that the goal is not achievable. It means that we will need to undertake further work into the pathways, technologies and opportunities to mitigate emissions in future investment periods.

With the expansion of our operational emission reporting to include chemicals, we also need to improve our capabilities and identify further opportunities to reduce and optimise chemical use, including testing and transitioning to lower-carbon alternatives.

To reinforce the management, continuous improvement and learning required to embed net zero across all we do, we are continuing to maintain our certification with the PAS2080 (Publicly Available Specification) for carbon management.

- We need to always assess if the low carbon products we introduce are the right ones to use

We continue to keep our supply chain for HVO under review. HVO is now being used to support carbon emission reductions in the parts of our fleet that are currently unsuitable for Electric Vehicles (EVs) due to load or distance factors and we have now installed three fuelling stations at Daldowie (Glasgow), Henderson Drive (Inverness) and Juniper House (Edinburgh). The HVO we use is certified as not containing virgin palm oil. Following our ongoing scrutiny of our supply chain, we have no evidence to suggest that virgin palm oil has been used.

To address modern slavery concerns in solar panel materials, we have now established an ethical supply chain for solar panels. This is now working well on our large solar renewable schemes but is still taking time to implement for our smaller scale applications on construction sites.

- We need to continue to work with landowners/tenants to address concerns and promote benefits of peatland restoration

Whilst it was a good year for peatland restoration, several projects still could not be completed due to challenges around gaining support from landowners/tenants in our water catchments.

PARTNERSHIP

We can only achieve our Beyond Net Zero ambition by working in partnership and we are continuing to strengthen and expand our activities in this area.

Our 10-year land management plan for Loch Katrine with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) was approved by Scottish Forestry (SF) in 2024. This supports the capture of up to 1 million tCO₂e over the next 60 years by creating and regenerating 4,380 ha of woodland and restoring up to 400 ha of peatland. FLS continued work this year with 74 ha of woodland planted and over 32 ha of land assessed as reaching sufficient maturity and density through natural regeneration to be re-classified as native woodland this year. We also restored 94 ha of peatland.

The Loch Katrine catchment also makes an active contribution to the Great Trossachs Forest – an initiative driven by FLS, Woodland Trust Scotland, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). This will see a rich and diverse mosaic of habitats full of wildlife stretching 16,500 ha from Callander in the east to the shores of Loch Lomond in the west.

Our partnership with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on their ‘plants with purpose’ programme is progressing well. They are examining and optimising planting schemes to support carbon reduction in blue-green infrastructure projects such as rain gardens and storm water planters and pilot planters have now been installed at the East Gate of the Edinburgh gardens.

One of the most exciting partnership opportunities is the “Pioneer Catchment” initiative, which seeks to set out exemplar approaches to managing water catchments in Scotland. Driven by the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, it seeks to address the need for greater collaboration and targeting of investment and action across public bodies to secure cost-effective delivery of resilient and sustainable catchments.

Chaired by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and with a programme board comprising Scottish Water, SEPA, NatureScot, FLS, Scottish Forestry and Scottish Government, pilot work is underway in the River Dee and the Angus Glens / South Esk catchments. The work will engage landowners, farmers and operators across the catchments to implement improved water and land management, and nature-based approaches to deliver resilience whilst also improving biodiversity and capturing more carbon in nature.

And our Low Carbon Concrete Collective (LCCC) with Network Rail, SSE, Scottish Power and Transport Scotland is continuing to make progress. The Collective was established in 2022 to accelerate the development and adoption of the next generation of low carbon concrete in Scotland and is progressing the design and pilot of a product called Recycl8.



If you would be interested in partnering with us for example to:

- extend peatland regeneration, woodland planting and biodiversity schemes.
- demonstrate renewable energy technologies and low carbon products.
- establish blue-green and nature based rural and urban catchment solutions.

Please contact our Net Zero lead **Elise Cartmell**.



CASE STUDY: ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH: PLANTS WITH PURPOSE PARTNERSHIP

Scottish Water is partnering with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) through its Plants with Purpose programme, a five-year research and innovation initiative exploring how plants and nature-based solutions can help address challenges such as surface water flooding, biodiversity loss and climate resilience in urban areas.

The partnership brings together scientific research, practical trials and public engagement to improve understanding of how sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and other blue-green infrastructure can deliver multiple benefits for people and nature. Through the programme, Scottish Water is supporting collaborative research, site-based demonstrations and monitoring activities that are helping to build the evidence base for more effective nature-based approaches to water management.

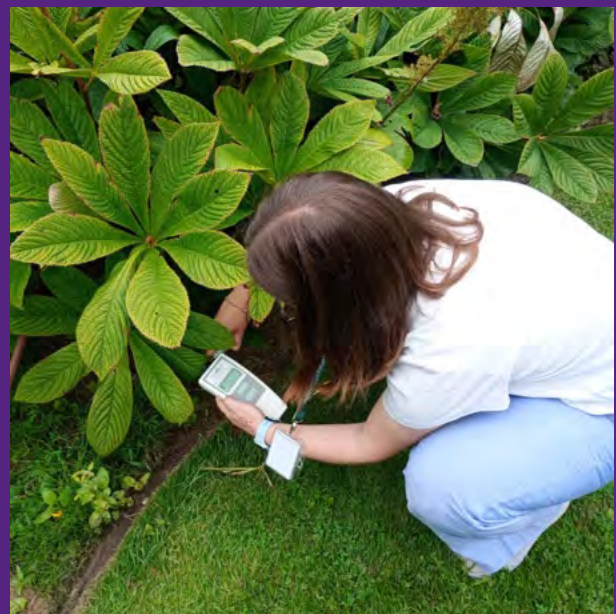
Over the past year, RBGE has installed and monitored innovative SuDS Planters within the Edinburgh Garden. These systems slow the flow of rainwater from entering the combined sewer network while providing opportunities to study plant performance and biodiversity benefits. Their performance is continuously monitored using soil moisture sensors and outflow tipping buckets, providing valuable data on how water moves through the system and the volume of runoff diverted from the combined sewer network during rainfall events. The installations also demonstrate nature-based solutions in practice, engaging thousands of visitors and professionals each year.

The partnership also supports research into how different planting approaches influence the performance of rain gardens, including their ability to manage rainfall, support

healthy vegetation and enhance biodiversity and place-making. A series of experimental rain gardens in RBGE's plant nursery is being monitored to assess the contribution of different planting mixes, including turfgrass, herbaceous perennials and shrubs, to the long-term performance of sustainable drainage systems. In parallel, surveys of rain garden sites across central Scotland are helping to establish which plants are being used, how they are performing and the benefits they provide for people and nature.

Findings from this work will contribute to the development of practical guidance and evidence to support the wider adoption of nature-based solutions across Scotland.

By combining research, demonstration and public engagement, the partnership is helping to build the evidence and confidence needed to accelerate the use of nature-based solutions that support climate resilience, biodiversity and sustainable water management.



CASE STUDY: LOCH KATRINE - ONCE IN A (RE)GENERATION

Hundreds of hectares of native woodland are now regenerating at Loch Katrine as a once-in-a-generation project to transform the landscape above one of Scotland's most important water sources gathers pace.

The project, delivered in partnership by Scottish Water and Forestry and Land Scotland, will restore more than 4,000 ha of native woodland across the catchment by 2040, helping to protect the water supply for over a million people in Glasgow.

Two years on from the start of delivery, the project is already taking shape on the ground – around 600 ha of native woodland are regenerating on the hills above the loch, alongside 100 ha of new tree planting and the installation of more than 25km of deer and seed island fencing. Over a million new trees are expected to be growing at Loch Katrine by 2030 as work progresses.

Combining large-scale planting with natural regeneration, it is one of the most ambitious woodland creation programmes in the UK

and forms a key part of Scottish Water's commitment to improve the resilience of vital water sources, tackle the impacts of climate change and enhance biodiversity.

One of the UK's largest woodland projects takes shape at Loch Katrine



CASE STUDY: RECYCL8 - INNOVATION IN CONSTRUCTION

The Low Carbon Concrete Collective is working on using the RECYCL8 product on Scottish Water manholes, Network Rail cable troughs and foundations with SSE.



COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

To encourage knowledge sharing, our net zero Heroes network continues to go from strength to strength. We have around 90 people meeting together regularly from Scottish Water and our supply chain partners to share best practice. It includes people who have enabled and implemented carbon savings and carbon capture opportunities and others who have improved net zero reporting or delivered an exemplary project to help us with our sustainability ambitions. We have also initiated work with some of our key equipment suppliers to better understand how their products will decarbonise over time. This has allowed us to update our pathway to net zero investment emissions.

We are continuing to link in with community groups with woodland planting for our “Wee Woodlands”. In the Scottish Borders, Scottish Water partnered with the Woodland Trust to deliver a community and volunteer planting day at Knowes Dean Reservoir. Whilst at Cocksburn Reservoir in the Forth Climate Forest area over 50 volunteers came together to plant 1,300 native broadleaf saplings.



CASE STUDY: VOLUNTEERS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT BORDERS RESERVOIR

Volunteers came together at a Scottish Water reservoir in the Borders to plant hundreds of native trees at the site.

Over 20 volunteers from the local community and Scottish Water took part in the event, which was led by the Woodland Trust at Knowes Dean Reservoir near Galashiels, with around 300 saplings being planted ranging from downy birch and hazel to holly and rowan.

The work will improve biodiversity in the area by helping to link up vital habitats, acting as a stepping stone for wildlife movement and providing food, shelter and breeding sites for a variety of species.

The woodland will also help to store carbon and forms part of the wider woodland creation programme that Scottish Water is delivering across the country.

CASE STUDY: TREE-MENDOUS EFFORT! VOLUNTEERS PLANT HUNDREDS OF SAPLINGS AT COCKSBURN RESERVOIR

Over 50 volunteers worked together to plant hundreds of native broadleaf saplings at a popular Stirlingshire reservoir.

Over the course of three days, the volunteers – including Scottish Water staff, members of the public and employees from local company iGii – planted around 1,300 oak, hawthorn, birch, rowan, hazel and alder saplings on land surrounding Cocksburn Reservoir.

The new scheme forms part of Scottish Water's wider woodland creation programme, which aims to improve biodiversity and lock up carbon emissions, while also helping protect source water quality against climate change at operational reservoirs across the country.

Once complete, the Cocksburn scheme will see over 4,000 saplings planted over a 2.5 hectare area at the reservoir. Over the next 60 years, it is estimated that the new woodland will capture around 1,350 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent – the same as 364 return flights between Glasgow and Tokyo.

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AND INNOVATION

PROGRESS IN YEAR

During 2025/26 we made good progress across all four key strategic activity areas of our routemap:



BECOMING MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

- Saved 4.51GWh of electricity in our water (0.28GWh) and wastewater (4.23GWh) services through 40 energy efficiency projects through pump refurbishment, variable speed drive (VSD) installations, air source heat pumps and LED lighting projects. The installation of air source heat pumps has also reduced the requirement for heating oil and we hope to have installed over 100 by the end of our current regulatory period (March 2027).
- Completed 11 renewable energy projects with a generating capacity of 3.88GWh.

CASE STUDY: SOLAR PANELS POWER UP FORFAR SITE

A Scottish Water site in Forfar is now partially powered by renewable energy after more than 600 solar panels were installed on land at the treatment works.

A total of 18.5% of the power needed to run Forfar Wastewater Treatment Works is now provided by solar energy, with the 631 ground mounted panels producing around 0.23GWh of power each year.

The project will help to lower operational costs at the site, provide resilience against the volatility of grid electricity prices and support Scottish Water's drive to cut carbon emissions.

Around 63 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent will be saved each year by using the onsite renewable energy – the same as 35 return flights between Aberdeen and New York.

The project has been led by Scottish Water Horizons, the commercial subsidiary of Scottish Water, and delivered by OCS Energy Services.



CASE STUDY: SOLAR SCHEME HELPS POWER FRESH WATER FOR BORDERS HOMES

A new solar scheme is now helping to power essential water services in the Scottish Borders, helping to lower operational costs and supporting Scottish Water's drive to cut carbon emissions.

The £371,000 investment has seen the installation of 450 tank-top mounted solar panels at Robertson Water Treatment Works near Hawick, which will generate around 0.21GWh of green electricity annually.

Sixty-five percent of the energy generated will be used directly on site, meeting a quarter of the site's total energy demands. The surplus is exported to the national grid, making renewable energy available to other customers in the region.

This investment will not only reduce the operational costs of running the Robertson site but will also provide resilience against the volatility of grid electricity prices, ensuring lasting value for Scottish Water's customers for over 30 years.

In addition to the financial savings, the project will cut carbon emissions by around 43 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent each year, making the water treatment process at Robertson less carbon intensive and bringing the publicly-owned utility company closer to its goal of net zero emissions by 2040.

The project has been led by Scottish Water Horizons and delivered by renewables specialists R&A Group.



CASE STUDY: £1 MILLION SOLAR SCHEME COMPLETED IN FIFE

A £1 million solar scheme is now complete at a Scottish Water Horizons' owned facility linked to Levenmouth Wastewater Treatment Works in Fife.

Over 1,700 ground mounted solar panels have been installed at the site in Cowdenbeath, which safely receives and stores commercial liquid waste before transferring it to the wastewater treatment works for treatment and disposal.

The project is expected to generate 0.53GWh of green electricity a year, 60% of which will be used on site to meet 29% of the site's total energy needs and help to reduce operating costs. The other 40% will be exported to the grid.

The system, which was designed to ensure both environmental and financial value, will continue delivering savings for over 30 years - providing resilience against the volatility of grid electricity prices.

It will also save around 109 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent each year, the same as flying from Edinburgh to New York and back 222 times, making the treatment process at the site less carbon intensive and helping Scottish Water get closer towards meeting its goal of net zero emissions by 2040.

The project has been led by Scottish Water Horizons and delivered by renewables specialists Absolute Solar and Wind.

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CASE STUDY: HGV FIRST FULLY ELECTRIC TANKER JOINS OUR FLEET

Scottish Water's first fully electric HGV has hit the streets of Glasgow to provide wastewater services to customers in the city.

The tanker represents a key milestone in the transition of our fleet to net zero, joining 187 fleet vans, and 500 fully electric cars delivered.

The vehicle, which can charge at 240kW per hour and be fully powered in under three hours, will be operated during the day and charged overnight. It is the first in the UK to be delivered by Scania.

In addition to the electric vehicles on our fleet, Scottish Water has installed 374 electric vehicle charging points across the country which are increasingly using renewable energy generated on sites.

We have also begun trialling the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) in our commercial vehicle fleet.





USING LOWER-CARBON ENERGY PRODUCTS

- Added a further 24 electric vehicles to our fleet, bringing our fleet to 212 electric vans and 562 electric cars supported by 475 charging points across our sites.
- Deployed our first fully electric HGV tanker - one of the first in use in the UK.
- Deployed sustainable HVO, which has c.90% lower-carbon emissions compared with diesel, with our investment programme partners and within our Scottish Water fleet and standby generators. Installed three HVO fuelling stations at Daldowie (Glasgow), Henderson Drive (Inverness) and Juniper House (Edinburgh) focused on refuelling our tanker and sampling courier fleet as these vehicles are not yet able to transition to electric.
- Implemented a recycled aggregate framework for use in excavations, service reservoir overburden and other suitable construction applications, helping to reduce reliance on virgin materials and support a more circular approach to project delivery. By making recycled aggregate easier to specify and procure, the framework enables delivery teams to cut embodied carbon, reduce waste sent off site and lower transport impacts through more efficient reuse of materials where technically appropriate.
- Continued the implementation of our low carbon kiosk framework with Ross Shire Engineering, Quinnshield and Capvond with 34 sites now using kiosks made of wood saving over 860 tCO₂e.



EMBRACING LOW CARBON CONSTRUCTION

- Appointed supply chain partners to our new Structural Steel and Fabrication Services framework to ensure that Scottish Water can now access steel manufactured using Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) technology. Steel is fundamental to our operational and capital programmes, yet conventional production methods carry a high embodied carbon impact. By enabling the use of EAF manufactured steel, we are significantly reducing, by around 70% embodied carbon, strengthening the resilience of our low carbon supply chain.
- Signed the Advance Market Commitment for concrete which will see 20,000 cubic metres of low carbon concrete being procured over five years (c. 30% of annual usage).



STORING AWAY EMISSIONS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

- Restored 478 ha of peatland predominantly in our Backwater and Loch Katrine water catchments capturing over 3,700 tCO₂e.
- Planted 215 ha of native broadleaf woodland with oak, alder, hawthorn, rowan and birch trees and completed drone seeding at Talla Water Woods.
- Confirmed the establishment of 35 ha of natural woodland regeneration predominantly at Loch Katrine.
- These activities improve source water quality and biodiversity and support our catchments becoming more resilient to climate change impacts.

CASE STUDY: RESTORING NATURAL CARBON STORES

A peatland restoration programme at Backwater Reservoir in Angus is delivering large-scale environmental and operational benefits.

More than 338 ha of degraded peatland have been restored across the site to date, with further phases planned to extend this to over 500 ha. This work is helping to reinstate peatland as a functioning carbon store, reducing emissions associated with degraded soils while enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Beyond carbon, the restoration plays a critical role in water management. By improving the ability of peatland to retain water, the project helps to slow runoff

during periods of heavy rainfall and reduce the amount of dissolved organic carbon entering raw water sources. This in turn supports more efficient treatment processes, reducing energy demand and improving overall system performance.

Delivering work at this scale presents challenges, including operating in remote and environmentally sensitive locations and managing complex hydrological conditions. However, the long-term benefits—both environmental and operational—make peatland restoration a key component of Scottish Water's Net Zero and climate resilience strategy.

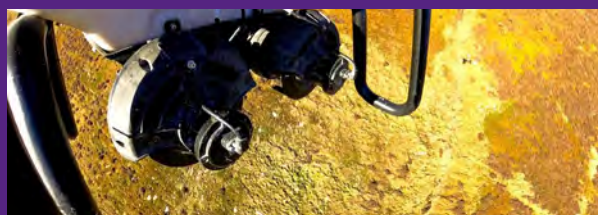
CASE STUDY: TALLA WATER WOODS

Scottish Water has completed a UK-first drone seeding trial at Talla Water Woods, working with forestry delivery partner Bell Ingram, Autospray Systems and Anglia Ruskin University to explore innovative ways of restoring woodland in challenging upland terrain.

The trial, delivered in November 2025, used a beyond-line-of-sight drone licence for drone seeding for the first time in the UK. Despite variable weather and difficult high-elevation conditions, Autospray Systems successfully seeded 20 ha as part of Scottish Water's wider ambition to increase woodland cover across the 300-ha site to more than 200 ha over the next three years.

Seeds pelletised by Anglia Ruskin University were used to support germination and improve dispersal, with a mix of approximately 50% rowan and 50% birch chosen for their suitability as colonising species.

The project will continue to be monitored to assess seedling germination and survival rates, supporting future decisions on woodland creation and restoration. The work forms part of a wider multi-method approach at Talla Water Woods and aligns with neighbouring landscape restoration efforts, including those led by the Borders Forest Trust.



KEY FUTURE OBJECTIVES

FOR YEAR 7: APRIL 2026/2027

Year 7 in our routemap brings us to the end of our current regulatory Strategic Review of Charges 2021-2027 period (SRC21). Our plan is to continue our delivery focus on carbon reductions and to prepare activities for our next regulatory period Strategic Review of Charges 2027-2033 (SRC27).

In particular we will:

- Develop and deliver opportunities to reduce emissions, including embedding the use of our three HVO tanks for existing diesel vehicles not yet able to transition to electric.
- Work with our partners on the development of hosted wind farms on our land.
- Progress work to improve measurement and control of nitrous oxide emissions at large wastewater treatment works including examining mitigation measures.
- Work with our supply chain partners to introduce low carbon designs and materials and to expand the “art of the possible” to reduce investment emissions.
- Progress changes to how we capture data to allow us to better measure our investment carbon.
- Introduce Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) through a new, standardised approach to collecting and managing product-level carbon data to improve the consistency and quality of carbon data to support stronger carbon based decision-making across projects.
- Progress woodland creation and peatland restoration on our landholdings to improve carbon capture which will balance residual emissions we cannot fully eliminate. This includes developing our catchment scale Water Woodlands at Glenhead and continuing with our planting and drone seeding at Talla. We are focusing on how we might improve the carbon, biodiversity and landscape resilience of these areas, protecting key water sources from climate change and capturing carbon.
- Continue to develop blue-green infrastructure to support climate change resilience and carbon reductions alongside biodiversity improvements.
- Engage with other UK and international water companies and other sectors to share and grow our knowledge on how to reduce emissions, including leading on the Adaptation and Nature forum at the International Water Association World Water Congress in October 2026 in Glasgow.



FOR OUR NEXT REGULATORY PERIOD 2027-2033

We will act across all key strategic goals in our routemap to:

Minimise Operational Emissions

- Bioresources: invest in advanced anaerobic digestion and energy and nutrient recovery at returning PFI Bioresource Treatment Centres.
- Property and Estates: adopt zero emission systems as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and other building systems requiring renewal. Look at options around replacing our Juniper House laboratory, reducing our gas and electricity demands.
- Water demand: implement leakage reduction, mains renewal and non-domestic metering to support reduced water production and energy use.
- Process emissions: implement monitoring, real time control and optimise existing wastewater systems to reduce emissions; invest in research and piloting of new technologies to capture methane and ammonia and to limit process emission production and release and to limit process emission production and release.

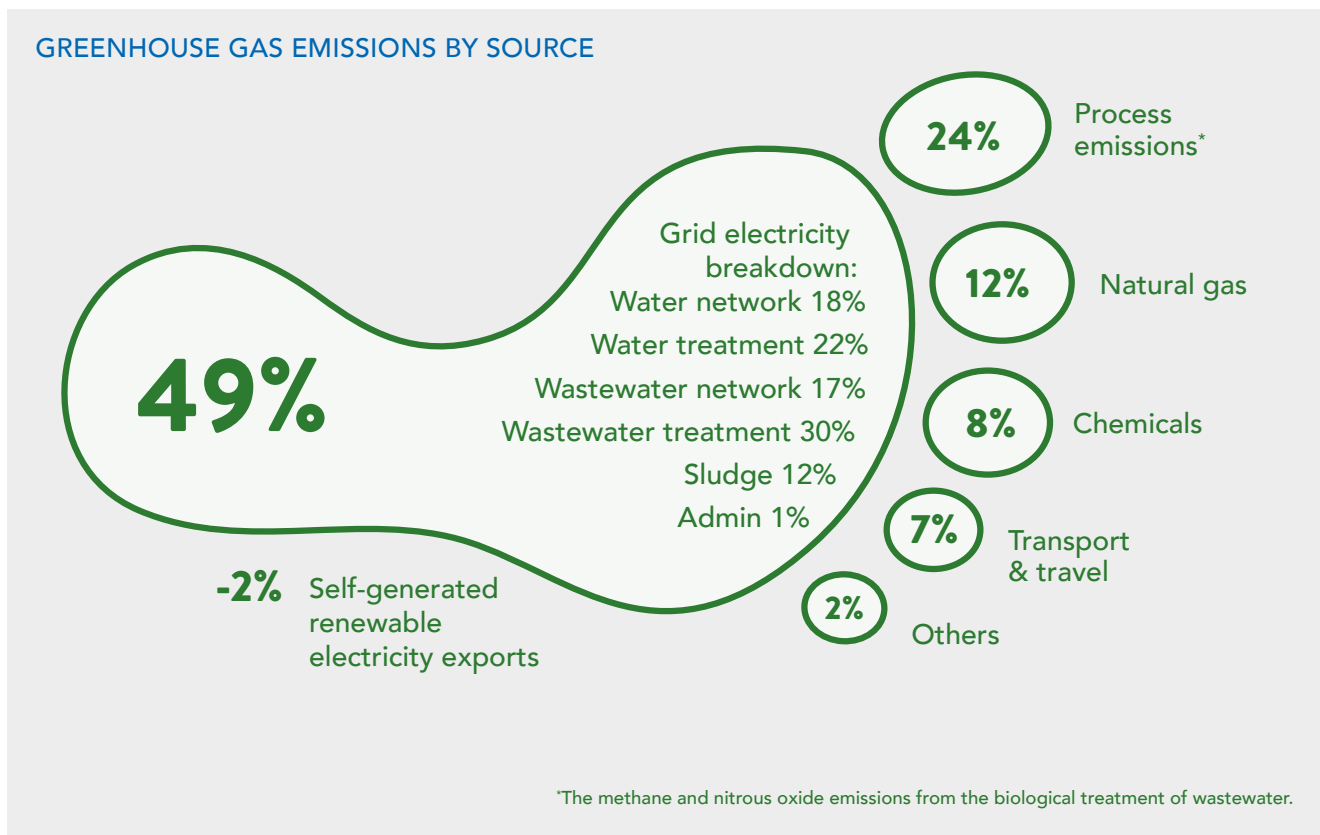
Minimise Investment Emissions

- Design: continue to work with our supply chain partners to avoid the need for new construction, to introduce low carbon designs/circular economy principles and select for low emission options including nature-based solutions.
- Materials: procure low or zero emission materials and switch to reusing and repurposing materials/assets. Look at enablers for hydrogen fuel use on construction sites.
- Construction: build using low or zero carbon construction techniques.
- Data: Progress changes to how we capture investment carbon data to allow us to better measure carbon.

Increase Carbon Capture on our land

- Peatland: restoration of 500-1,000 ha of actively eroding peatland; continued management and maintenance of existing peatland.
- Woodland: creation of up to 4,000 ha of new woodland with 6 million trees through active planting and natural regeneration.

2025/26 OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS FOOTPRINT



Our operational greenhouse gas emissions – our carbon footprint – was 207,243 tCO₂e compared with 223,214 tCO₂e in 2024/25. The emissions for 2025/26 have been updated from the earlier reported number after a review of population data.

Reductions were driven by a lower carbon intensity in grid electricity, alongside continued energy efficiency improvements, with around 4.5GWh of energy savings delivered during the year. Further reductions were achieved through increased use of lower-carbon HVO as an alternative to diesel.

We expanded the boundary of our reported operational emissions to include emissions linked to the chemicals used in our water and wastewater treatment processes. These are part of "Scope 3" emissions – indirect emissions generated through our supply chain, including the production and transport of materials we purchase and use to deliver services. This change reflects updated Scottish Government statutory guidance for public bodies, which now requires organisations to report a broader range of indirect emissions alongside those generated directly from their own operations.

By including emissions associated with chemicals used in our water and wastewater treatment processes this added an estimated 18,945 tCO₂e to our operational footprint. As a result, the total reported operational footprint for 2025/26 was 226,188 tCO₂e. With 2025/26 now established as the baseline year for these additional emissions, we will begin work to identify opportunities to reduce and optimise chemical use, including the transition to lower-carbon alternatives.

As in previous years the footprint was successfully verified externally to ISO 14064-1.

The continued greening of the grid coupled with increased energy efficiency and renewables delivery has made a good contribution to our progress, but at 49% of emissions, electricity remains our biggest source.

At the same time, our emissions profile is becoming more complex. While grid electricity remains the single largest contributor, for the first time it now accounts for just under half of our overall emissions footprint. At 24%, process emissions from wastewater treatment are the next biggest source.

Process emissions cover the methane and nitrous oxide associated with the wastewater service. During 2025/26, the UK Greenhouse Gas inventory adopted new emission factors for wastewater treatment process emissions. These are significantly higher than used previously, and the UK water sector is presently working to adopt these factors. We expect this could see an increase in the carbon associated with these emissions. We will begin reporting these updated factors from 2026/27.

This is expected to have a material impact on the pathway to achieve net zero. This does not mean that the goal is not achievable. It means that we will need to undertake further work into the pathways, technologies and opportunities to mitigate emissions in future investment periods.



PROGRESS UPDATE

We have highlighted key milestones on the way to net zero in our routemap which covers all aspects of our emissions. Our milestones are supported by a range of actions and activities to build capacity and capability which we undertake to deliver specific goals over defined timescales to reach net zero.

Progress across our goals can be viewed in the sections below.



ELECTRICITY

Electricity consumption is still our largest single source of emissions at 49%. We must reduce our consumption to reduce emissions and increase financial benefits, while enabling us to support other goals such as generating all the electricity we consume.

1. Reducing our consumption of electricity

GOAL: Reducing our consumption of electricity – Goal 20% by 2040

- 4.51GWh of energy efficiency projects were delivered.
- Over the last six years we have delivered 30.8GWh savings in efficiency projects - a 5% reduction of our grid electricity demand from the start of our routemap in 2019/20.
- Total grid electricity consumption overall is down by 4% since we started our routemap which also accounts for new demands.

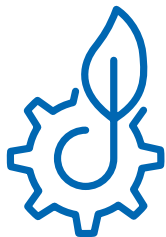
2. Maximising the energy we recover from bioresources

- 38.2GWh of energy was generated from bioresources in 2025/26 by Scottish Water and PFI partners.

3. Generating or hosting all the energy we use

GOAL: 100% of energy used is our own or hosted renewables by 2040

- Delivered 3.88GWh of additional renewable capacity through solar generation. An additional c. 5GWh of additional renewable capacity is planned for delivery in 2026/27.
- Generated 64.9GWh of renewable electricity overall in 2025/26 in Scottish Water group sites.
- Hosted 952GWh renewable energy on our land.
- Continued to progress 373GWh of new windfarms with RWE and Wind Estates which will be located on our land. Commissioning of wind projects will run from 2028 to mid-2030s.
- Continued to work with developers to identify additional windfarm opportunities.



PROCESS EMISSIONS

Process emissions, particularly nitrous oxide (N_2O), remains the most challenging area for the water sector to address, requiring a focus on the science, measurement and management of emissions, as well as on technologies to reduce or eliminate the production of emissions.

1. Reducing our production of process emissions

GOAL: 20% reduction by 2040

- Our nitrous oxide Unisense (liquid nitrous oxide probe) monitoring has now been rolled out to a total of seven sites with a further three installations planned before April 2027.
- We are an early adopter of gas hood technology to validate our liquid nitrous oxide probe (Unisense) data, as well as having developed our own gas hood which is being validated to enable spot checking of process emissions.
- Novel end of pipe nitrous oxide destruction test bed has been installed at Hawick Wastewater Treatment Works with the first trials of photocatalysis being undertaken. Initial results have demonstrated low efficacy but onsite checks are being undertaken to establish the cause and to see if this can be improved.
- Aquamonitrix trials at Cumnock Wastewater Treatment Works have commenced using nitrite in the liquid phase as a proxy for nitrous oxide and a possible alternative to Unisense sensors.
- We have used machine learning, modelling and other artificial intelligence software with Cobalt Water Global to support our data gathering and analysis and are using this to help inform actions. We continue to pursue the use of artificial intelligence and modelling to complement our use of installed sensors. We have a Hach Water Information Management Systems (WIMS) trial due to get underway at Laighpark Wastewater Treatment Works. We also have a Haskoning Aquasuite PURE trial scheduled to begin at Phillipshill in late 2026. We continue to be involved in the Process Emissions Community of Practice groups as well horizon scanning for new N_2O monitoring technologies.
- We are working with operational colleagues to put in place process emission mitigations on site. We have successfully had one mitigation change at Laighpark Wastewater Treatment Works which is detailed in the case study on page 23. A second mitigation has recently taken place at site (ended 30 June 2026) and the data is being processed.



CASE STUDY: LAIGHPARK WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS – REDUCING NITROUS OXIDE EMISSIONS

Laighpark Wastewater Treatment Works was selected for a short process optimisation trial to test whether reducing dissolved oxygen (DO) setpoints could lower nitrous oxide emissions without affecting compliance or treatment performance.

Based on N₂ORisk DSS insights (a software platform from Cobalt Water Global), the DO setpoint was reduced to a target of around 1.8 mg/l, within a 1.5–2.0 mg/l range, from 27 January to 11 February 2026. The site was closely monitored before, during and after the change.

The clearest benefit was seen in at the beginning of the aeration part of the process, where N₂O emissions reduced by around 30% during the effective mitigation period. The latter section of the aeration zone showed a smaller reduction of around 20%, with fewer high-DO risk peaks and more stable performance. When extrapolated against 2025 baseline emissions, the trial indicated a potential reduction of around 47 tonnes CO₂e per year, equivalent to a 27% overall reduction.

No negative impact on compliance, final effluent ammonia or energy use was identified during the trial. The results support extending the approach through longer and seasonally repeated trials, with monthly monitoring and DO adjustments to reflect changing process conditions.

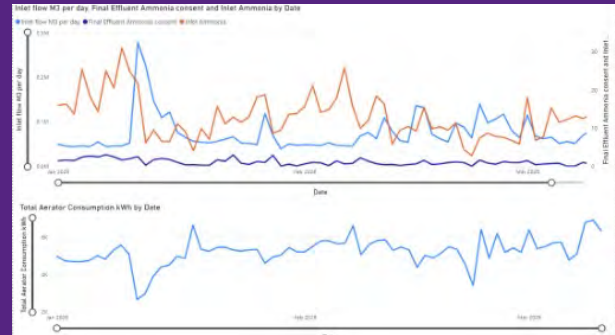


Figure 1: 2026 mitigation trial period
During the reduced DO setpoint period, aerator consumption continued to follow inlet ammonia trends, with no negative impact on final effluent ammonia.

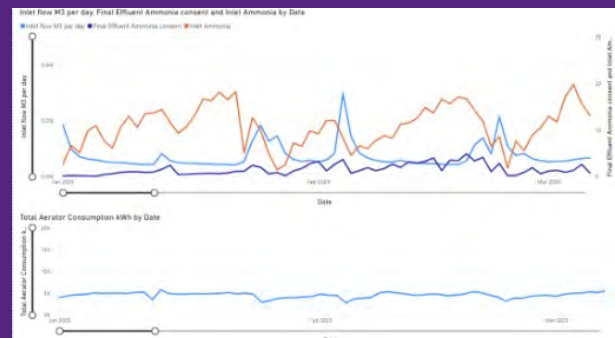


Figure 2: 2025 comparison period
Previous year trends were broadly similar, supporting the view that the 2026 trial did not adversely affect process stability.

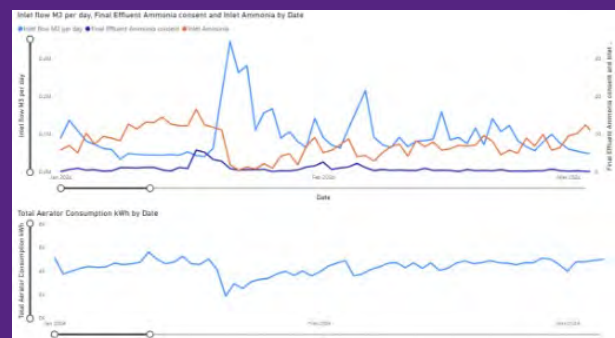
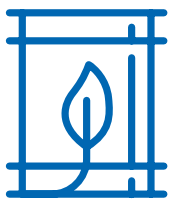


Figure 3: 2024 comparison period
Historic comparison shows similar relationships between inlet ammonia, aerator consumption and final effluent ammonia.



GAS AND FUEL OIL

Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels across our sites is a key part of getting to net zero. This has proven a complex matter as we rely heavily in fuels for emergency and stand-by generators and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense.

1. Maximising the energy we recover from bioresource

38.2GWh of energy was generated from bioresources in 2025/26 by Scottish Water and PFI partners.

2. Eliminating consumption of gas and fuel oil

GOAL: 100% reduction in gas and fuel oil consumption

Key Achievements:

- Continued to expand HVO use to our standby generators and Scottish Water's commercial fleet vehicles by using public refuelling stations at Forfar, Ecclefechan and Dumfries. We have also installed three HVO fuelling points at Daldowie (Glasgow), Henderson Drive (Inverness) and Juniper House (Edinburgh). These fuelling points have focused on vehicles not able to transition yet to electric due to load and range restrictions e.g. our tanker and sampler courier vehicles.
- Continued to install air source heat pumps, with 86 so far and a total of 108 planned by the end of March 2027.
- We have reduced our natural gas consumption by 19% since 2019/20.
- Our overall use of liquid fossil fuels has reduced by up to 50%, but the variability year-on-year remains high. We aim to continue to reduce their impact by expanding our standby generator HVO usage in the immediate term.





TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL

Our fleet recorded travel of 23.2 million miles last year delivering services for customers. This is a slight increase on the previous year where improved telematics were fitted to all long-term hire vehicles for the first time.

Our strategy aims to minimise the miles we travel and find zero emissions ways to travel.

1. Reducing fleet mileage and business travel

GOAL: 50% reduction in the distance we travel

- We continue to examine projects which can reduce fleet mileage.

2. Transitioning our fleet to zero emissions vehicles

GOAL: 100% Zero Emissions Fleet

- Taken delivery of a further 24 fleet electric vehicles this year. We now have 774 electric vehicles ranging from fleet vans to lease cars. 100% of our lease cars and car fleet are now electric and 10% of our van fleet is electric.
- Increased the number of electric vehicles charging points to 475 from 374 last year and these are increasingly utilising renewable energy generated on our sites.
- Increased our use of HVO for fleet vehicles not yet able to transition to electric and developed a network of access points across Scotland.





INVESTMENT

We were the first UK water company to include investment emissions within our Beyond Net Zero ambition, recognising that the carbon associated with the design, construction and maintenance of our assets is one of our largest sources of emissions. We continue to embed carbon management throughout project development and delivery, maintaining PAS2080 certification and strengthening the application of the Five Client Carbon Commitments across our capital programme.

1. We enable zero emission construction

GOAL: 75% reduction in carbon intensity of investment

- Maintained PAS2080 certification, ensuring robust carbon management processes are embedded across project delivery.
- Continued implementation of the Five Client Carbon Commitments, embedding carbon considerations within project design, procurement and construction activities.
- Sponsored and contributed to the Infrastructure Client Group’s Concrete Decarbonisation Accelerator Phase 2, helping develop industry guidance and recommendations to accelerate the transition to lower-carbon concrete through specification changes, procurement reform and improved collaboration across the infrastructure sector.
- Signed the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) for low carbon concrete, supporting investment and innovation in lower-carbon concrete technologies and supply chains.
- Enhanced Scottish Water’s concrete protocol and design guidance to support greater adoption of lower-carbon concrete solutions and provide clearer direction to project teams.
- Strengthened low carbon procurement frameworks and supplier engagement, improving visibility of embodied carbon data and encouraging the adoption of lower-emission products and construction techniques.
- Developed Low Carbon Opportunity Checklists to help project teams identify and implement carbon reduction opportunities from the earliest stages of project development.
- Expanded data availability and transparency through the development of carbon and concrete dashboards to support evidence-based decision making and performance monitoring.

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2. Delivering zero emission investment with supply chain

GOAL: 75% reduction in carbon intensity

Achieving our ambition to reduce the carbon intensity of investment by 75% will only be possible through strong collaboration with our delivery partners and supply chain. We continue to work closely with suppliers, contractors and industry partners to accelerate the adoption of lower-carbon materials, innovative construction techniques and new technologies that reduce emissions across the whole asset lifecycle. Through early engagement, shared objectives and a focus on carbon-informed decision making, our supply chain is helping to embed lower-carbon solutions into project design, procurement and delivery.

Our delivery partners are playing a key role in identifying and implementing opportunities to reduce embodied carbon through material reuse, design optimisation and the adoption of lower-carbon products. Suppliers are supporting the transition to lower-carbon concrete, greater use of recycled and reused materials, alternative fuels, electric plant and emerging zero-emission construction technologies. These collaborations are helping to demonstrate that carbon reduction can be delivered alongside improvements in cost, efficiency and project outcomes.

By continuing to strengthen relationships with our supply chain, share innovation, support trials and pilots, and create confidence for investment in low carbon products and technologies, we are helping build the capability and capacity needed to deliver sustained reductions in the carbon intensity of investment and support our Beyond Net Zero ambition.

Examples of supply chain collaboration

- Identified lower-carbon design and construction solutions through our Delivery Partners' early contractor involvement and collaborative project development.
- Increased the opportunities for the reuse and refurbishment of materials and assets, including aggregates, steel products, pumps and valves, reducing embodied carbon and supporting circular economy principles.
- Supported trials of alternative fuels, electric plant and emerging zero-emission construction technologies to reduce emissions associated with construction activities and site operations.
- Shared best practice, case studies and innovation through forums such as Net Zero Heroes and wider industry networks.
- Started to use carbon data and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) from our supply chain partners to calculate the actual carbon used in the construction of our capital programme.

CASE STUDY: GLENKILN SIPHON PROJECT – DELIVERING CARBON REDUCTION THROUGH COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

The Glenkiln Siphon project demonstrates how early collaboration between Scottish Water, our delivery partner and the wider supply chain can unlock significant carbon reductions whilst continuing to deliver essential water infrastructure. The project team challenged traditional pumping approaches and applied the principles of PAS2080 carbon management to identify a lower-carbon solution from the earliest stages of project development.

Rather than focusing solely on material substitution or construction efficiencies, the project team considered how the overall solution could be redesigned to minimise emissions. An alternative siphon solution was developed that reduced the need for more carbon-intensive construction activities and temporary pumping arrangements. This approach demonstrated the value of considering carbon alongside cost, risk and performance when making project decisions.

The project also serves as a practical example of the PAS2080 hierarchy in action, demonstrating that the greatest carbon savings are often achieved by avoiding emissions through better design rather than simply reducing emissions from construction activities. The success of Glenkiln has helped showcase the benefits of embedding carbon management into decision-making processes and provides a model for future projects seeking to reduce whole-life carbon emissions across the capital programme. The lessons learned continue to support wider efforts to integrate low carbon thinking into project development, procurement and delivery, helping Scottish Water and our partners move towards the target of significantly reducing the carbon intensity of investment.

Key Outcomes

- 100% water compliance maintained at 1,500 litres per second.
- Saving 168 litres of fuel per hour at peak flows.
- 10 tonnes of carbon saved in a full day running at peak flow.
- Maintenance visits reduced by 67%.
- 10m³ space required for controls vs 120m³ for pumped system.
- Approx. £12k per week less than a pumped system.





SUPPORTING A FLOURISHING SCOTLAND

Across the 24,000 ha of our land, we can contribute to the natural, social and economic sustainability of Scotland's landscape by working to increase carbon storage and biodiversity.

1. We will capture and store more carbon dioxide than we produce

GOAL: Improve carbon dioxide storage on our land to support net zero emissions

- Restored 478 ha of peatland improving carbon capture, water quality and biodiversity.
- Planted a further 215 ha of new native woodland.
- Achieved natural regeneration of 35 ha of land, predominantly at Loch Katrine.
- Continued to screen our landholdings for further peatland restoration and tree planting potential, to deliver carbon capture and biodiversity benefits whilst not impacting our tenant farmer incomes.
- Completed biodiversity interventions at 10 of our treatment works sites equating to 5.5 ha of biodiversity improvement.
- Improved local habitats through the installation of bird boxes, hedgerow planting, tree planting, meadow creation and condition improvement.

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We cannot achieve our ambitious goals alone and we assume that required future investment funding is available. On our journey to net zero there are some key enabling activities which we have progressed in the last year.

PEOPLE

- Engaged our delivery partner leaders to focus on driving behaviour change to deliver net zero through our Net Zero Heroes events.
- Established net zero priorities in the procurement of the Scottish Water Enterprise.

CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES

Top Up Taps help reduce single use plastics

Since launching in 2018, the network has saved the equivalent of 21.3 million single-use 330ml plastic bottles – with 6.5 million of those saved in the last year alone. We now have 132 taps, from Lerwick, Shetland in the North to Kirkcudbright, Dumfries & Galloway in the South.



Engaging schools and communities through nature-based solutions

Through the Water Resilient Dundee partnership, Scottish Water has worked alongside Abertay University, local schools and community groups in the St Mary's area of Dundee to build understanding of sustainable drainage, flood resilience and nature-based solutions. Engagement was centred around St Mary's Community Centre, St Andrew's Primary School and Craigowl Primary School, helping pupils and local residents learn how natural features can help manage rainwater and support biodiversity.

Rather than relying on traditional consultation events, the Scottish Government funded project embedded engagement within school programmes and community centre events. This enabled Scottish Water to reach a wider audience and make climate adaptation and rainwater management more accessible and relevant to the community, ahead of larger-scale work planned with partners through the Strathmartine Connections project.

As part of the programme, rainwater planters, wetlands, weather stations, outdoor learning features and rain gardens were developed with schools and community users, supporting STEM learning while demonstrating practical approaches to managing rainwater and creating greener, more resilient neighbourhoods.



Woodland creation consultation

Engaging communities has remained an important part of Scottish Water's woodland creation programme. During 2025/26, we continued to engage with key stakeholders and communities around our proposed plans for woodland projects across the country, including at Talla Reservoir where community feedback helped inform the development of our proposals.

Alongside this, volunteer tree-planting events such as those at Knowes Dean and Cocksburn reservoirs enabled local people, environmental partners and Scottish Water employees to make a direct contribution to woodland creation projects.

By involving communities in hands-on planting activities, these projects helped build understanding of how woodland creation supports biodiversity, protects water quality and captures carbon as part of Scottish Water's journey to net zero.



Generation H₂O - inspiring responsible water citizens

We continue to inspire young responsible water citizens through our Generation H₂O programme. This year 626 teachers registered across 300 schools engaging 55,575 young people through downloaded content. This was further enhanced with 60 facilitated school visits by Scottish Water volunteers, making a difference in classrooms across Scotland. To date 43% / 1,091 of Scottish schools have registered for Generation H₂O reaching 114,141 young people.

Working in partnership with Aberdeen Science Centre, Dundee Science Centre, Dynamic Earth, Glasgow Science Centre and Science Skills Academy, over 2,400 young people have engaged in our interactive Water Cycle Workshop which inspires curiosity, Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills and responsible water citizens. 82% of pupils learnt something new through the workshop and 76% of pupils increased their knowledge of ways to save water.

Feedback told us that the funded workshops for some schools meant the difference between being able to go on an out of school trip, or not. Teachers also said:

"The water cycle experiment was really engaging with a lot of hands-on resources that the pupils really enjoyed working with."

"It was fun and interactive while also letting the children learn something new."

PROCUREMENT

- Continued to work with our 440 suppliers to understand their emissions and to develop emissions reduction plans.
- Continued to ensure carbon management is interwoven into the procurement process with Scottish Water, requiring all tenderers to agree to measure their carbon emissions and have a carbon plan in place.
- Developed a Supplier Product Carbon Tool for Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), that will be issued to suppliers as part of the procurement journey and tracked thereafter. This will provide Scottish Water with a standardised, consistent carbon dataset from the products we use, which will inform decision making on choosing lower-carbon solutions.
- Continued to lead Scotland's Low Carbon Concrete Collective, an industry partnership with key infrastructure organisations including SSE, Scottish Power, Network Rail and Transport Scotland. Key achievements include progressing pilots of low carbon concretes as well as the client members agreeing to restrict the use of CEM1, the most carbon intensive concretes, within their organisations.
- Developed a PowerBI Concrete Reporting Dashboard, which monitors the type, quantity and carbon intensity of concretes used across the capital programme.
- Became the first UK organisation to sign a pledge committing to buying a certain amount of low carbon concrete over the next five years, helping pave the way for the development of next generation sustainable construction materials. Scottish Water has committed to buying 20,000m³ of low carbon concrete over the next five years - around 30% of our current annual concrete usage - as part of an Advance Market Commitment (AMC) led by Innovate UK.
- Launched a trial of a solar-powered battery generator at Glenlatterach Reservoir, testing the feasibility of this technology for on-site operations.
- Continued to explore circular economy opportunities such as increasing the level of refurbishment of our key assets such as bridge scrapers and pumps.
- Completed a procurement activity for low emission steel that is produced from an electric arc furnace, providing a significant decrease in carbon emissions compared with traditional manufacturing methods.

GOVERNANCE

- Our carbon footprint was audited to ISO14064-1.
- Maintained our PAS2080 certification, the standard for managing carbon to understand how we can improve our processes for carbon management.

POLICY AND REGULATION

We continue to share and develop best practice with partners and stakeholders and Scottish Water takes an active role in a number of external groups addressing the climate and nature crises including:

- Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN)
([Sustainable Scotland Network -Scotland's Public Sector Climate & Sustainability Hub](#)).

For the past 5 years Scottish Water has vice-chaired the Sustainable Scotland Network of public bodies in Scotland. The SSN has over 140 public bodies as part of its membership, including all Local Authorities and key public agencies in Scotland. Part funded by Scottish Government and Local Authorities the network develops and shares good practice in carbon, climate and sustainable development, and in 2025/26 was awarded the contract to manage the annual reporting of performance on carbon and climate change mandated for all public bodies in Scotland.

During 2025/26, the Scottish Government published the Statutory Guidance to Scottish public bodies on compliance with the duties set out in the Climate change Act. This was developed with SSN, and Scottish Water made significant contributions to the sections on adaptation, embodied emissions and land carbon management.

- Climate Ready Infrastructure Scotland (CRIS)
([Climate Ready Infrastructure Scotland - Adaptation Scotland](#))

May 2025 saw the formal launch of the CRIS organisation, co-chaired between Scottish Water and Network Rail, bringing together key water, energy, transport, communications and other sectors with key interdependencies. Primarily focused on climate resilience, this will also build engagement in how we make long term, sustainable decisions across interdependent infrastructure to support resilient, low carbon outcomes.

- CIWEM Climate Expert Panel
([Climate Change Network. Working On Climate Change Issues - CIWEM](#))

Primarily focused on adaptation, Scottish Water recently took on the co-chair role for the UK wide group that brings together key stakeholders in the sector with agencies such as the UK Climate Change Committee, regulators and government. During 2025/26, Scottish Water contributed to outputs around catchment management for carbon, nature and climate resilience, and is presently focused around the development of policy advice for the sector on climate resilience.

NET ZERO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

This section provides an overview of projects underway during 2025/26.

Process Emissions Reduction

A novel end of pipe nitrous oxide destruction test bed has been installed at Hawick Wastewater Treatment Works with first trials of photocatalysis undertaken. Initial results have demonstrated low efficacy but onsite checks are being completed to establish the cause and to see if this can be improved.



Aquamonitrix process emission liquid monitoring trials at Cumnock Wastewater Treatment Works

Trials have commenced using nitrite in the liquid phase as a proxy for nitrous oxide as a possible alternative to Unisense sensors. In conjunction with Aquamonitrix we are also developing a model which can utilise the nitrite data to give real-time nitrous oxide emissions.



Impact of broadleaf woodland creation

Forest Research are completing a review on woodland creation and water quality and quantity. This project is focusing on Broadleaf woodland creation to help inform current woodland creation and future strategy.

Process emission gas monitoring trials at Hawick Wastewater Treatment Works

Scottish Water are developing an affordable solution to monitor gaseous nitrous oxide emissions across as wide a range of wastewater sites as possible.

This is as part of a Scottish Water Funded PhD programme with Glasgow University. This gas hood measurement technique will be employed to help monitor process emission site interventions and to support the validation of liquid nitrous oxide measurements.





Scottish Water

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