

<b>Report on</b>	COP26 Climate Change Conference
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director – Environmental Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director – Environmental Services

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b> If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform members of Councils contribution to the COP26 Climate Change Conference.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 is taking place in Glasgow over a fortnight from 31 <sup>st</sup> October to 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2021. This conference is a major milestone in international efforts to combat climate change. COP takes place every year, but every five years the conference is a more significant decision-making forum, and Glasgow (co-hosted with Italy, delayed from 2020) is one such event. Previous 5-year events have resulted in the politically significant Kyoto Agreement and the 2015 Paris Agreement. The Climate Change Conference is branded as <a href="#">Together for Our Planet</a> .
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The COP26 Domestic Campaign is funded by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The COP26 Domestic Campaign is focused on local energy and climate policy activity. A principal aim is to gather local narratives around projects that have been delivered and their impacts, as well as showcasing what individuals and organisations can do now to support the UK Government's Net Zero ambitions.
3.2	Objectives of the Domestic Campaign are to better understand the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ impacts of investment in action towards achieving Net Zero by councils.</li> <li>▪ the work done by community groups on Net Zero.</li> <li>▪ barriers to further work by these two sectors.</li> <li>▪ the SME landscape, including opportunities.</li> </ul>
3.3	Through NILGA, NI local government will have a presence at COP26 in two places – (1) Climate Northern Ireland area, and (2) In collaboration with NILGA/LGA at an exhibition stand in the Green Zone on 11 <sup>th</sup> November. This is a day allocated to local government and devolved administrations (cities, regions and built environment). It should be noted that relevant staff from NILGA, Climate NI, the devolved government departments, some councils and a number of other regional support organisations will be in attendance.
3.4	To highlight the work of councils in NI, an exhibition stand will be in place featuring climate action (carbon) stories and images from the 11 council areas. To fully showcase each council's work NILGA has collated case studies from N Ireland across all sectors.

3.5	<p>Two case studies/carbon stories were submitted for Mid Ulster; one based on a project completed by the Council and another based on work carried out by the private sector:</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Council Landfill Restoration Project</b> - planting over 33,000 trees and establishing future community woodlands at 3 former landfill sites (resulting in annual carbon emissions savings of 6,350 tonnes CO2 equivalent per year)</p> <p>Video available at: <a href="https://1drv.ms/v/s!Au77jrSn4-u3gYFcQxojaAFIOS-xbw?e=4HWu8a">https://1drv.ms/v/s!Au77jrSn4-u3gYFcQxojaAFIOS-xbw?e=4HWu8a</a></p> <p><b>Tailored Image Recycled Plastic Project</b>– local firm based in Dungannon which supplies easyJet airline with cabin crew/ pilot uniforms made from recycled plastic bottles (resulting in annual carbon emissions savings of 45 tonnes CO2 equivalent per year)</p> <p>Video available at: <a href="https://vimeo.com/623792666/b6a286b822">https://vimeo.com/623792666/b6a286b822</a></p>
3.6	<p>The case studies/carbon studies highlighted above contribute to one of our Corporate Improvement Objectives that “<i>Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action</i>”. Currently a total of 18 actions previously identified are being progressed across 8 Service areas in order to meet this objective.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: None</p> <p>Human: None</p> <p>Risk Management: None</p>
4.2	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: None</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: None</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Photograph for Landfill Restoration Project
6.2	Photograph for Tailored Image Project