

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



Executive Summary

Welcome to the **first Annual Impact Report** from the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service (SCIS). This report highlights the progress we have made in building capacity across all of Scotland's 32 local authorities for net zero delivery, and delivering a national data platform which supports local authorities to design, manage, monitor, and deliver plans for area-wide emissions reduction. In our first full year;

- All 32 local authorities engaged with our **capacity building programme**, with well over 100 officers from a variety of roles engaged
- We successfully procured a **data platform (ClimateView)** for all local authorities and established an **area-based emissions inventory methodology** for use within the platform
- We have **engaged with over 125 partner organisations** who can help us support Scotland's local authorities with net zero delivery

Jump to page 7 to see our impact for 2024-2025.

We also take a brief **look forward** on page 8 to how we will continue to develop, tailor, and enhance our service and the support we provide to local authorities.

1. Introduction to the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service

1.1 Who is SCIS?

SCIS is a national capacity building programme jointly funded by all 32 local authorities in Scotland and the Scottish Government. It is delivered by a partnership between the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI) and the Improvement Service (IS), with support from the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN).

This programme is built around an online data platform, ClimateView, which helps Scottish local authorities to develop and deliver area-wide climate action plans. Overall, our aim is to **build capacity and capability among councils to plan, monitor and deliver climate action** at the pace and scale required to achieve Scotland's Climate Change Plan.

1.2 How are we helping?

Local authorities play a vital role in Scotland's transition to net zero, but often lack the resources and capacity necessary to deliver climate change targets and realise the associated co-benefits.

Area-wide emissions are far more complex than organisational footprints in terms of size, variety of emission sources and range of stakeholders involved. As a result, local authorities struggle to coordinate, deliver and attract investment. With all 32 local authorities facing similar challenges, they need a nationally consistent approach to area-wide climate action planning.

SCIS aims to address these challenges and create a Scotland that is more capable, consistent, and collaborative in area-wide climate action planning. To do this, SCIS focuses on 3 key delivery areas;

- **Capacity Building** across Scotland's local authorities
- Establishing use of a national **Data Platform** and consistent **Area-Wide Emissions Inventory Methodology**
- **Developing Partnerships** to support and enable more coordinated delivery

SCIS champions service co-design with local authorities. By centring their needs, goals and values, SCIS can meaningfully and effectively support Scottish local authorities to deliver plans for area-wide emissions reduction.



2. Our Work In 2024-2025

2.1 Capacity Building

A. The 'Local Authority User Journey'

SCIS work with local authorities to build capacity by providing skills, knowledge, and resources to accelerate effective local climate action.

Between September 2024 and January 2025, SCIS delivered the first part of the '**Local Authority User Journey**' - a series of Scotland-wide training workshops, drop-ins, user groups and supported activities, centered around use of the ClimateView platform (see figure 1).

The main aim of the User Journey was to build local authority capacity, capability and confidence to use the ClimateView platform, which would **support a coordinated approach to climate action planning, delivery and reporting in Scotland**.



Local authority officers surveyed at the December 2024 user group meeting (25) **rated the SCIS User Journey an average of 4.5/5 stars**

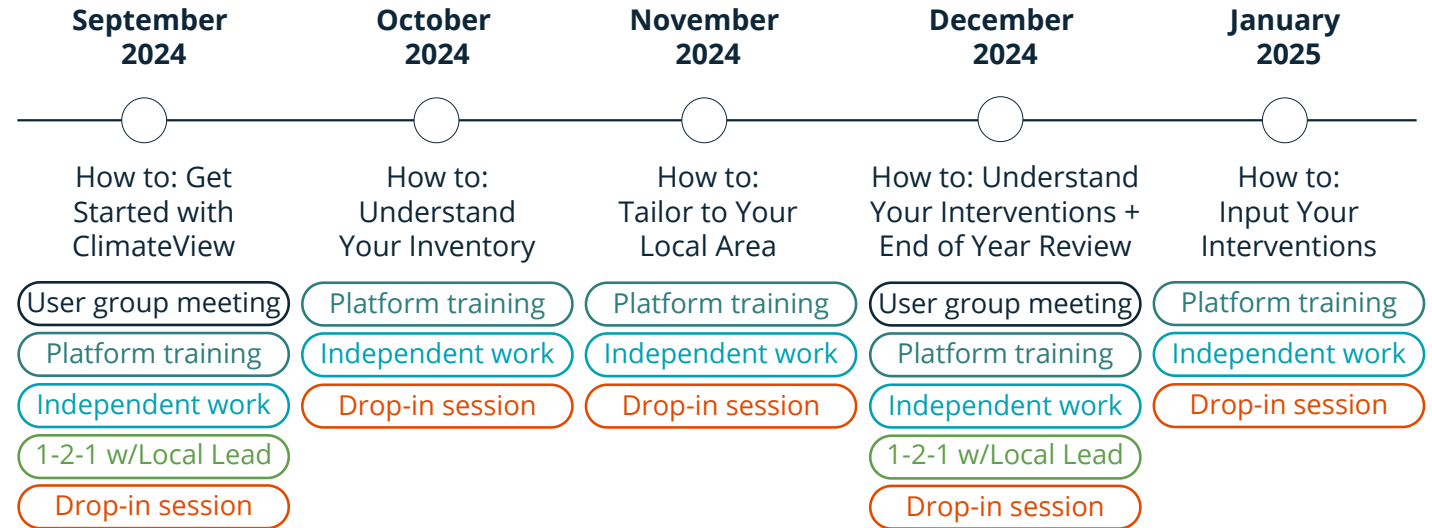


Figure 1. The SCIS 'Local Authority User Journey' 2024-2025

B. Platform Training Workshops

SCIS delivered **5 key platform training workshops** as part of the User Journey (see figure 2 on overleaf). Following feedback from local authority officers, each of these workshops were held twice to accommodate local authority availability.

Overall, local authority attendance at platform training workshops was high and remained consistent for the duration of the User Journey (see figure 2 on overleaf).

C. Drop-ins

Following each platform training workshop, SCIS held drop-in sessions. These provided local authority officers with the opportunity to **ask questions** about the training and platform, to **run through platform demonstrations** again, to **share experiences** of using the platform, and to **learn from other officers**.

Drop-in engagement was high with more than half of all local authorities engaged in two or more of the six drop-ins.



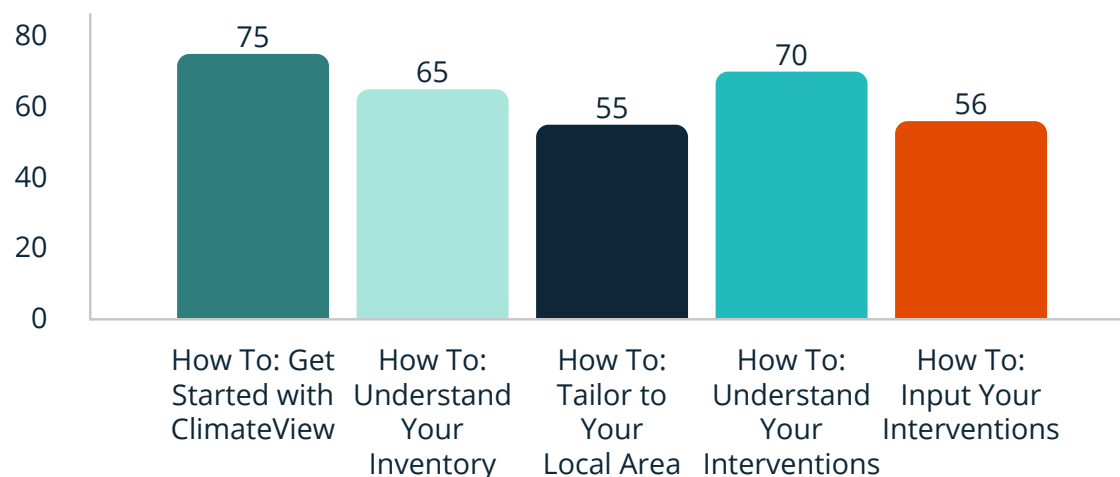


Figure 2. The number of local authority officers engaged in User Journey training workshops

D. User Group

SCIS held **3 user group meetings** with local authority officers throughout the year. These enabled both parties to **take stock of progress** made, to **understand further support required** by local authorities and to **share and shape next steps**.

User group meetings garnered significant engagement with over 90% of local authorities attending 2 or more meetings in the year.

E. SCIS Roadshow

In March 2025, SCIS ran a series of roadshows across Scotland with support from ClimateView and SSN. Recognising the importance of face-to-face engagement,

the roadshows stopped off at **Glasgow, Inverness, and Edinburgh**. Each location enjoyed a jam-packed agenda of workshops, presentations, and Q&As centered around understanding the **ClimateView platform** and **embedding it into local authority decision-making processes**.

Overall, the roadshows engaged **75 participants from 23 local authorities**. Participants included local authority officers, managers, and Heads of Service from a range of areas (climate change, energy, buildings, transport etc), as well as Chief Executives and Elected Members.

Each day ended with participants **sharing their support needs** and **setting council actions for the next 3-6 months**.

These conversations support SCIS to deliver Year 2 programme objectives, particularly the **development of tailored support plans for each local authority**.

F. Gathering and Integrating Feedback

At every stage of the User Journey, SCIS encouraged local authority officers to feedback their thoughts, concerns and needs using a variety of feedback mechanisms including via local leads, emails, slides, meetings and workshops.

Feedback was actively analysed and, where possible, integrated into the programme to support service improvement.

G. Resource Production

Throughout the year, SCIS produced a **collection of valuable resources**, often as a response to feedback from local authority officers. These included;

- Scottish Annual Emissions Inventory Reports
- Scottish Area-Wide Inventory Methodology
- Step-by-Step 'How-To' Guides for the ClimateView Platform
- 1-page briefing for Elected Members and senior managers
- Intervention Capture Excel spreadsheet



2.2 Data Platform and Inventory

A. Implementing the Data Platform

A central pillar of the SCIS, as recommended by the findings of the [Carbon Scenario Tool Pathfinder report](#), was to **procure an online data platform for all of Scotland**.

The specification for this procurement process was **co-designed with local authority climate change officers** who helped to develop and refine platform requirements through a series of workshops.

In May 2024, SCIS partnered with the Swedish technology company, **ClimateView**, as our platform provider to support local authority capacity building and data-driven decision-making for local climate action.



ClimateView

Figure 3. ClimateView logo



Figure 4. ClimateView's Transition Element Framework

B. SCIS' National Inventory

In its first full year (2024-2025), SCIS developed the **Scottish Area-Wide Inventory** and used it to populate the ClimateView platform. This national inventory is a **dataset for local authority area-wide emissions reporting** that meets the specifications of the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories](#) (GPC). Created as a requirement of the platform, the

inventory is broken down into both emissions and operational units at a granular level. This **supports enhanced local authority climate action planning, reporting and decision-making at all scales**.

Having a **consistent approach** to the dataset enables local authorities to understand emission sources in their area and develop coherent plans to support delivery of Scotland's net zero target by 2045.



C. Development and Verification

The inventory was compiled using the **SCIS 'Area-Wide Emissions Methodology'**, our standardised methodology for local authority area-wide emissions reporting in Scotland. See our [miro board](#) for more information. (Password: 'Partnerships'). *Please note: this methodology is a work in progress and is updated as the methodology evolves.*

The development of this methodology was informed by a series of engagement workshops with local authority climate change officers in spring 2024.

Officers shared their needs, insights and preferences for a standardised area-wide reporting baseline. This included;

- alignment, as far as possible, with the existing 'UK Local Authority Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics' dataset (LA GHG), and
- the ability to report to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol - Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC).

SCIS will be commissioning a **third-party evaluation** in 2025-2026 for **independent external verification** of this methodology.

D. Platform Use So Far

100% of local authorities now have a ClimateView dashboard and 114 local authority officers have been set up with a ClimateView login. By March 2025, officers had added a total of **292 interventions to ClimateView**.

Interventions are broken down into the following sectors (see figure 5 below).

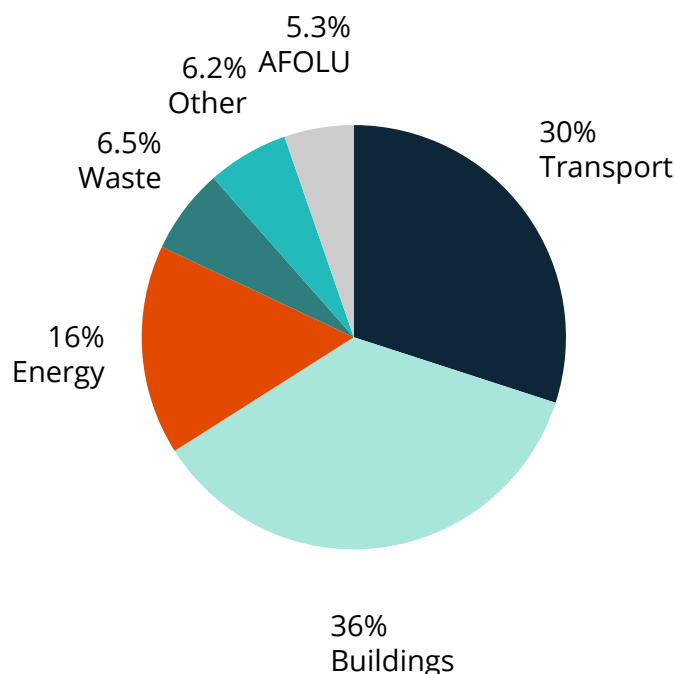


Figure 5. The breakdown (%) of local authority interventions on the ClimateView platform in 2024-2025

Having used ClimateView, **local authority officers see significant value in the platform.** According to local authority officers surveyed at SCIS' December user group meeting, officers' **top 3 key use cases of the platform** include;

- ① **Enhanced tracking and implementation** of local authority climate-related plans
- ② **Better informed local decision-making** processes
- ③ **Improved communication, coordination, and partnership-working** on climate action with local, regional, and national stakeholders

Don't just take our word for it. Here's what one local authority officer had to say;

“It allows for flexibility far beyond a written strategy ever will!”



2.3 Developing Partnerships

A. Overview of Engagement

SCIS recognises the importance of coordination and collaboration to deliver effective climate action and a transition to net zero. This includes both two-way engagement with local authorities, and supporting local authorities to engage other key stakeholders within councils and across their local areas.

This engagement enables the programme to reach different spheres of influence, to support consistent use of data, to facilitate more coordinated delivery, and to better integrate into climate action and delivery

at all scales. It also ensures improved coordination with well-established and trusted networks, positioning SCIS for long-term sustainability and impact. In 2024-2025, **SCIS engaged with a total of 127 unique stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds** (see figure 6 below). This varied from being invited to join board meetings and working groups, to presenting at key conferences, workshops, and webinars.

B. Growing Recognition of SCIS

The significant potential impact of SCIS has been increasingly recognised across Scotland and beyond.

Stakeholder Group	Number of stakeholders engaged
Public Sector	38
Government Agency	24
Other	22
Consultancy	11
Third Sector and Communities	8
National Government	6

Figure 6. The number of stakeholders engaged from key stakeholder groups as part of SCIS programme

Some notable examples include:

Policy Delivery:
SCIS is a central component of the **Scottish Government's Climate Delivery Framework** and has been highlighted in the **Climate Emergency Response Group's** (CERG) 'Stepping up to Delivery' report.

Strategy and Leadership:
SCIS has been championed by **Scottish Ministers** at SSN's Annual Conference, presented as an **example of public service excellence**, and discussed with Chief Executives at the Scottish Cities Alliance and the Local Government Information Unit's (LGIU) Chief Executive Knowledge Exchange 2025.

Research and Knowledge:
SCIS work on the quantification of co-benefits of net zero transition has fed into academic publications in the **Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences** as well as the **Just Transition Finance Lab**.

The growing presence and recognition of SCIS strengthen our ability to meaningfully share skills, knowledge, insights, and common approaches which can support and accelerate effective local climate action.



SCIS Programme Impact 2024-2025



100%

Of local authorities engaged in the User Journey at some point, with over 110 officers being engaged in total



1

A common climate data platform (ClimateView) was procured on behalf of all Scottish councils



7

Different types of capacity building approaches were used in the 'User Journey' i.e., training workshops, drop-ins, one-to-ones, independent work, user group meetings, educational resources and the SCIS Roadshow



32

Local authorities (100%) have got the standardised SCIS Area-wide emissions inventory for 2005 to 2022 and have been provided with an Annual Emissions Inventory Report



100%

Of local authorities have been set up with a ClimateView dashboard



114

Local authority officers have been set up with ClimateView platform login accounts



292

Interventions have been added to the ClimateView platform by local authority officers



127

Unique stakeholders were engaged with. Stakeholders came from a variety of backgrounds including public sector, industry, third sector, consultancy, national government and utilities

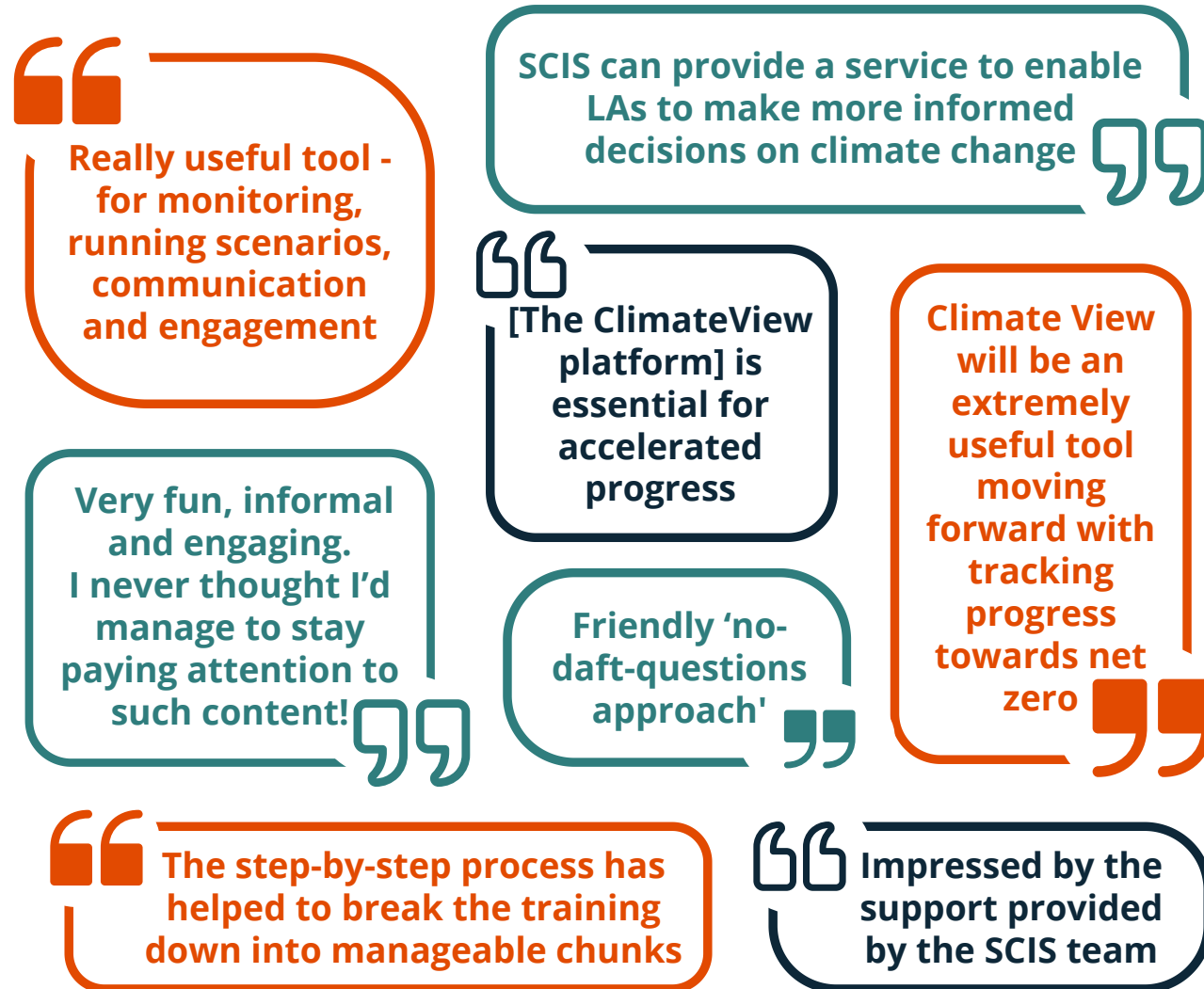


3

SCIS Roadshow locations in Scotland; Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness

3. Local Authority Reflections

Over the past year, SCIS and Scottish local authorities have worked collaboratively to shape this programme. Here is what they had to say;



4. Forward Look

In Year 2 of the programme (2025-2026), SCIS will develop and deliver tailored support packages for each local authority in Scotland. These will reflect where a local authority is at on their delivery journey, their capacity and resources, and their needs and goals for the year ahead. Across the programme we will;

- **Build SCIS capacity to support local authorities**, by growing the team, developing the service, delivering outputs, and extending the use of the ClimateView platform
- **Support wider engagement** across council functions and local stakeholders, to help establish transition teams and partnerships, using the platform to support delivery
- **Deliver tailored support** by creating bespoke support plans aligned to the needs and requirements of each local authority
- **Share insights** from the platform and elsewhere to support more informed decision making among council teams, senior decision makers, and Elected Members.
- **Enhance data** using complementary local and national datasets.



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This Annual Impact Report 2024/2025 highlights the progress we have made in building capacity across Scotland's local authorities for net zero delivery, as well as putting in place a national data platform to **support all 32 local authorities to design, manage, monitor, and deliver plans for area-wide emissions reduction.**

Produced by the Impact and Engagement Officer
on behalf of the SCIS Team

April 2025

