

Living in a net-zero city: making it real

A half day symposium and workshop, held in TIC which brings together experts and citizens in discussion, with a workshop (break out) session to follow to identify concrete steps forward.

Our central focus is on:

- Giving a sense of what it feels like to live in a net-zero place
- Considering what does it look like in terms of quality of life
- How can citizens help to make it happen

The symposium aims to fill a gap in the current debates on net-zero cities as a response to climate change. Whereas attention has rightly focused on planning, design and implementation of actions that cut emissions and compensate for energy used and carbon produced, there has been little analysis of what such net-zero cities will be like as liveable places.

Currently expectations are primarily seen as requiring political will, then technology and finally implementation to achieve the outcome of net-zero status. But critical to achieving this will be changing people's behaviours and expectations. Without such acceptance (at a minimum) and active engagement, targets of net-zero in 10, 15 or even 30 years will be (arguably) impossible to achieve.

This session looks to initiate discussion in the context of Glasgow as to what a net-zero city might look like, how it will feel to live in, and what role citizens have in making the Council's ambitions a reality.

The programme will be in three parts. The first sets out the context of Glasgow's vision of net-zero city by 2030 and some of the key challenges it faces as moving from an aspiration to reality. The second brings into conversation the lived experiences of four communities which are already net-zero to offer insights into the feel and sense of living in such an environment – these conversations either live (remotely) or recorded 'in conversation with'.

Both of these will be designed to lead to a round table workshop (part three) for participants to get their feel of what would they believe to be important to them in a net-zero city or place. These small group discussions will thus flesh out what is needed to make Glasgow as a net-zero city also a liveable city and help identify future agendas.

Contributions Sought

We would welcome suggested contributions from those involved in current net-zero communities, towns and cities, and from those involved helping to achieve such an aim. We would in particular welcome ideas around governance and leadership (for example as a mayor or city leader), urban design (eg an architect), residents and university or other civic partners as innovators.