



Councillor Aitken warmly welcomed the fact that so many city leaders answered the call to action on climate change as Glasgow prepares to welcome the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, in November.

With the backing of such a diverse range of companies, organisations and institutions, she believes that Sustainable Glasgow can be the basis for extensive collaboration on the effort to decarbonise the city in the years ahead.

Councillor Aitken said: "I am delighted there has been such an overwhelmingly positive response to the launch of Sustainable Glasgow. Cities must lead the way to a sustainable future for our planet and Glasgow can become the city of our times, on the issue of our times.

"Cities are where the carbon is emitted, through our homes, our industries, our transportation, and this is where the change needs to take place to achieve carbon neutrality. The launch of Sustainable Glasgow can be a landmark in our race to Net Zero, the start of a collaboration that delivers a sustainable future for our city and citizens.

"Glasgow can match ambition with achievement, combining a green and inclusive urban environment with a green and inclusive economy. But Government, neither local nor national, can do this alone. As our nation's largest city, Glasgow is renowned as a centre for innovation and for the new green economy. We have plenty to build upon with genuine partnership working between the local authority, business, industry and our academic sectors already one of our international selling points.

"As hosts of COP26, Glasgow has an opportunity of global significance to promote and accelerate our efforts to secure a just transition to carbon neutrality. Economic growth, improving the quality of life of all of our citizens and carbon neutrality are entirely compatible, but we all must begin planning for it now."

At the launch event, key speeches were given by Councillor Aitken, George Gillespie, Executive Director for the council's Neighbourhood and Sustainability department and Michelle McGinty, who is leading Glasgow City Council's team preparing the city for COP26.

But delegates also heard responses to the climate change challenge from keynote listeners Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Principal and Vice Chancellor at the University of Strathclyde; Frank Mitchell, CEO at Scottish Power Energy Networks and Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli, Principal and Vice Chancellor, University of Glasgow.

The launch also involved panel discussions with:

- Andrew Jarvis, MD at First Bus; Lucy Gillie, Southseeds, Emma Woodham, Glasgow Science Centre and Brian Evans, City Urbanist.

- Fiona Landy, Transport Scotland; Sam Gardener, Scottish Power; Jill Murie, Glasgow Centre for Population Health; Karen Turner, Centre for Energy Policy and Catriona Patterson, Creative Carbon Scotland.

All delegates were asked to say how their sector and organisations can contribute to the city's carbon reduction targets. How carbon reduction activity can be better coordinated and how to monitor progress were central questions during discussions.