2021 has been a busy year for SSN supporting the public sector with climate action towards Net Zero. Post COP26 and with publication of the ‘Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency’ guidance by the Scottish Government and the ‘Scottish Progress Report’ by the Climate Change Committee, practitioners are keen to hear about priorities and the challenges and opportunities ahead to meet net zero by 2045.

This interactive conference will explore what next for the public sector post COP26. Hear from a range of speakers and join workshops as we discuss the challenges facing the public sector in developing the skills and finance necessary to achieve net zero. We’ll be asking ‘what now?’ as we explore five key topics:

- Net zero direct emissions – setting and meeting targets
- Nature based sequestration on public sector land
- Reducing embodied emissions in supply chains
- Skills for transition to net zero
- Putting the Just Transition into practice

The conference audience will include leaders, policy makers and practitioners from across the Scottish public sector, including local authorities, NHS Boards, universities and colleges and the wide array of national and regional public bodies that are all actively involved in SSN.
COP26 and Public Sector Climate Action: What Now?

09:30 – 09:40  Welcome & Forward Look  
John Wincott, SSN Chair

09:40 – 09:45  Ministerial Address  
Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

09:45 – 10:30  Keynote Speaker – Scotland’s Progress to Net Zero... What Now?  
Chris Stark, Chief Executive, Climate Change Committee

10:30 – 11:15  Panel Discussion – Public Sector Climate Leadership  
*Public Sector leaders respond to Chris Stark & outline next steps for Public Sector action.*  
*Q&A from the floor*

11:15 – 11:30  Break

Supporting Public Sector Climate Collaboration

11:30 – 12:00  Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency  
Gavin Barrie, Energy & Climate Change Directorate, Scottish Government  
*Co-developing the new SSN Manual*  
June Graham, Data & Engagement Officer, SSN

Topic Workshops: Building the Manual and Prioritising Actions

12:00 – 13:00  Workshops  
A series of concurrent workshops on key Net Zero topics where we will explore ‘what now?’. Designed to share knowledge and identify the practical steps that can be taken to share opportunities and address barriers to delivery, including policy, finance and skill challenges.  
1. Net Zero Direct Emissions – Setting and Meeting Targets  
2. Nature-based Sequestration on Public Sector Land  
3. Reducing Embodied Emissions in Supply Chains  
4. Skills for the Transition to Net Zero  
5. Putting the Just Transition into Practice

13:00 – 13:45  Lunch & Networking

13:45 – 14:20  Workshops (continued)  
Identifying and confirming key priorities for action (*to feed into final plenary*)

14:20 – 14:30  Break

Investing in Net Zero Action

14:30 – 14:35  Welcome back & Introduction to Final Plenary Session  
Chair: John Wincott

14:35 – 15:45  Closing Plenary and Panel Discussion  
Dr Andy Kerr, UK & Ireland Lead, EIT, Climate-KIC  
Prof. Dave Reay, Executive Director, ECCI  
Lisa Hough Stewart, Communications Lead, Wellbeing Economy Alliance  
*Q&A from the floor*

15:45 – 16:00  Closing Remarks and Next Steps for SSN