#SCOTLANDISNOW

LET'S DO NET ZERO
COP26, GLASGOW 2021

WELCOME TO SCOTLAND

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

"Climate change and nature loss remain the greatest challenges facing this planet and this is our best, perhaps only, chance to address them.

"COP26 must move from the world of promises to action, and mobilise the ambition, finance, resources and joint working needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement goals.

"Scotland, as a responsible global citizen, will do everything we can to play our part."

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

As Scotland welcomes global leaders, international policy makers, scientists, businesses and industries to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), it is clear that the world must come together to deliver the level of ambition needed to safeguard the planet. COP26 in Glasgow is the world's best chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees making it one of the most important gatherings of the century.

On an international stage, Scotland has demonstrated leadership by placing a commitment to achieving net zero by 2045 in a way that's fair for all in legislation. Scotland is at the forefront of the global transition to net zero and was one of the first countries to respond to the Paris Agreement with increased, legally-binding, targets and ambition. It was also among the first to declare a climate emergency and to commit to 100% renewable energy generation.

In the last 30 years, Scotland has halved greenhouse gas emissions and the Scottish economy has decarbonised more quickly than the rest of the UK, and faster than any G20 economy since 2008, but there is still more to be done. The Scottish Government is continuing to support people and businesses to make the changes they need to adapt and to take advantage of new opportunities, including investing in decarbonising homes, supporting a just transition to a low-carbon economy and revolutionising transport.

A new Just Transition Commission has been established to help ensure Scotland's journey to net zero is fair for everyone. Chaired by climate scientist Professor Jim Skea CBE, it will report annually on progress and makes Scotland the first country in the world to commit to a Just Transition Planning Framework, ensuring Scottish values of justice, fairness and solidarity are embodied in a legislative commitment.

A Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan is central in Scotland's ambition to create a future workforce that supports the transition to a net zero economy. A National Transition Training Fund supports people at risk of being left behind in the labour market, to upskill or retrain and a new Green Jobs Workforce Academy will provide the skills needed for new, greener jobs. A £62 million Energy Transition Fund will specifically support businesses in Scotland's oil, gas, and energy sectors to adapt to meet the challenge of net zero. A Young Person's Guarantee will ensure that there's a job or place in education for everyone aged 16 to 24.

The Scottish Government is helping to deliver ambitious outcomes at COP26 as co-chair of the Under 2 Coalition, a global community of state and regional governments committed to ambitious climate action in line with the Paris Agreement. It is using its position to help deliver ambitious outcomes at COP26 and demonstrate that global climate action requires action by governments at all levels.

"2021 is a vital year for climate action and COP26 in Glasgow puts Scotland centre stage. We'll demonstrate the climate action Scotland is taking, the ways in which we put people and wellbeing at the heart of all we do, and how our Scottish values underpin our place in the world.

"Ending our contribution to climate change within a generation will require transformational change across all parts of the economy and society. All of us will need to challenge ourselves to do more and the Scottish Government will support citizens in Scotland and globally to make these changes.

"Scotland is the right place for COP26, especially a COP focused on delivery and action, and one which puts justice and the views of people at its centre. As the birthplace of the industrial revolution, it is right that we are at the forefront of the green revolution."

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero Michael Matheson

The impacts of climate change and a transition to net zero are not felt equally across the world. That is why Scotland has supported climate leaders from the Global South to publish a statement of their key priorities for COP26, including the recommendation that developed countries meet their $100 billion annual climate finance promise and use COP26 to significantly increase the financial support reaching the most impacted people and communities.

Scotland is doubling its financial support for the world's poorest and more vulnerable communities in their efforts to tackle the impacts of climate change to £6 million per year, providing £24 million across this Parliament.

Scotland is also working closely with children and young people to include them in the COP26 agenda, educating them to have the skills and allowing them the opportunities to be advocates for Scotland's net zero ambitions longer-term. As well as COP26, Scotland will host the 16th Conference of Youth (COY16), the UN's official youth event for COP26. The conference which runs from 28-31 October in Glasgow will result in the Statement of Youth, which is presented on behalf of young people at every COP, setting out their hopes and expectations for the climate negotiations.

Samantha Jordan, 17, Western Isles/Na h-Eileanan Siar, said: "The COP26 Youth Climate Programme gives us an opportunity to get involved in the climate change conversation at COP26. Young people in Scotland - and globally - have an extremely important and fundamental role to play in tackling the climate and natural emergencies. Afterall, it's our generation that will face the greatest impact of climate change, so it's essential that our voices are continued to be heard beyond COP26."

SCOTLAND'S ACTION

- Scotland was one of the first countries to respond to the Paris Agreement and amongst the first to declare a climate emergency.

- Scotland's statutory framework on climate change is world-leading. The 2030 target for a 75% reduction in emissions is the most ambitious that we are aware of, in law, for any country in the world. Scotland is also one of only a very few countries to set legally-binding annual targets to reduce emissions in every year from now until net-zero in 2045, which include a fair share of international aviation and shipping and are without any reliance on offsetting credits.

- Scotland is the first government that is not a party to the Paris Agreement to publish an indicative Nationally Determined Contribution.

- Scotland has already halved greenhouse gas emissions and continues to out-perform the UK as a whole in delivering long-term reductions.

- Home to the world's first floating off-shore wind farm, Scotland's renewables expertise is used in 72 countries.

- Scotland is also home to the world's leading wave and tidal energy centre, a sector that has created jobs and investment generating more than £11bn.

- Last year the equivalent of 96% of gross electricity consumption came from renewable sources and by the end of 2021, Scotland will have allocated over £1bn since 2009 to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency.

- In under 10 years, Scotland has funded the restoration of around 30,000 hectares of peatland and has created over 22,000 hectares of new woodland by planting 44 million trees in the last 2 years, which is 80% of all new planting in the UK, to enhance our natural carbon capture potential.

IMAGERY & VIDEO

If you are looking for free-to-use images and videos to accompany your story, we have a number of resources and links available.

You can access imagery for our case studies by clicking on the Dropbox link which also contains a selection of B-roll footage: DROP BOX

A wider range of imagery to enhance your Scottish stories can also be directly sourced from the image libraries of VisitScotland and Scottish Enterprise.

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Weibo.com/discoverscotland

EVENTS

The Lighthouse (Scotland's Centre for Design and Architecture) in Glasgow will be Scotland's flagship venue for COP26. The programme in this venue will encompass up to 90 events, Q&As and round tables, delivered between 1 November – 12 November and aligning with the official themes for the summit. This flagship hub will be complemented by additional spaces hosted in and outside of the Blue Zone and further information will be published on www.netzeronation.scot/whats-happening/glasgow-cop26

GLASGOW RESOURCES

Glasgow City Council has produced a series of bespoke media resources to assist press and broadcasters. A media portal - www.PeopleMakeGlasgowGreener.com/media - contains a digital media kit and multimedia assets of Glasgow, Scotland and the wider UK.

A COP26 Glasgow Broadcast Guide has been produced giving details of filming locations, which are available to book as stand up positions for live reporting or pre-records. The Smart Canal project, Climate Clock projection at the Tolbooth, Glasgow Children's Woodland Project and Whitelee Wind Farm are among the locations featured and sit alongside some of the city's most iconic attractions in the 36-page, full colour PDF guide.

A Destination Media Hub will be located at 40 John Street, Glasgow, G1 1JL within the COP26 Host City Zone. A team will be on hand to assist media with destination enquiries on Glasgow and Scotland, as well as facilitate the booking of official city camera positions. It will operate daily from 9am – 7pm between Thursday 28 October and Friday 12 November for all COP26 accredited media and non-accredited media on presentation of press credentials. Journalists will have access to free Wi-Fi and be able to enjoy a taste of Glasgow with complimentary refreshments from local suppliers.

All necessary measures regarding security and COVID19 mitigation protocols will be in place to protect DMH staff and visitors.

SCOTLAND CASE STUDIES

Many of Scotland's businesses, industries and communities are leading the way globally by demonstrating world-leading changes in tackling the climate emergency and protecting nature. Below are 26 of Scotland's most dynamic case studies demonstrating innovations, solutions and globally-minded collaborations.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND FARM – ABERDEENSHIRE

Kincardine Wind Farm - the world's largest floating offshore wind farm is now complete and operational, and has begun producing and supplying power to the Scottish national grid via a power purchase agreement with Norwegian power company Statkraft.

Situated 15 km offshore from Aberdeen in Scotland, the wind farm floats in waters between 60 to 80 metres. The 50 MW Kincardine floating wind farm will provide over 200,000 MWh per year to the Scottish grid, enough to power over 50,000 homes.

The project was developed by Kincardine Offshore Wind developer, a subsidiary of Pilot Offshore Renewables, while the engineering, design, supply, construction, and commissioning of the Kincardine floating wind farm was undertaken by Cobra Wind, a subsidiary of ACS Group.

This key technology could help many countries around the world achieve their renewable energy targets.

For further information on the project and for contact details visit www.pilot-renewables.com

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WORLD'S FIRST HYDROGEN HOME HEATING NETWORK - FIFE

H100 Fife is a project led by SGN (formerly known as Scotia Gas Networks), who are responsible for managing the network that distributes natural and green gas to homes and businesses across Scotland. They are partnering with other UK gas operators to deliver a world-first - a 100% hydrogen energy system that will bring renewable hydrogen into homes in 2022, providing zero-carbon fuel for heating and cooking.

The project will construct and operate a hydrogen heat network system that will connect with the ORE Catapult 7MW offshore wind turbine - the world's most advanced, open-access offshore wind turbine dedicated to research and development. This will enable it to directly supply power for hydrogen production.
The project is the first of its kind to employ a direct supply of hydrogen power for domestic heating – putting Levenmouth, Fife and Scotland at the forefront of the clean energy revolution. H100 Fife has an aspiration to provide a hydrogen transformation option for the whole of Scotland.

Read more about the project here https://sgn.co.uk/H100Fife
Press Contact - waseem.hanif@sgn.co.uk

EMERGENCY ONE, THE WORLD'S FIRST ELECTRIC FIRE ENGINE – AYRSHIRE

The 'E1 EV0' fire engine is the world's first fully electric fire engine, which uses battery power for both its engine and water hose pump. Developed by the Emergency One Group based in Cumnock, Ayrshire, it presents an innovative contribution towards a low-carbon economy.

Inspired by the collective global ambition of their Fire & Rescue service customers to reduce fleet emissions and carbon footprint, the new technology brings a cutting-edge zero emission fire appliance to the market and is a fantastic example of an innovative Scottish manufacturer with global export ambitions. The innovation teams at Scottish Enterprise worked closely with the organisation to develop the E1 EV0 that will not only save lives in the role it will serve but positively contribute to a greener future.

Read more about the project here: https://e1group.co.uk/e1-evo
Press Contact: info@emergencyone.co.uk

THE WORLD'S FIRST HYDROGEN-POWERED DOUBLE DECKER BUS FLEET – ABERDEEN

The world's first hydrogen-powered fleet of double decker buses was rolled out in Aberdeen in 2020 showcasing the trailblazing advances in hydrogen power technologies in Scotland. Estimated to save one kilogram of CO_2 per kilometre travelled, the zero-emission fleet emits nothing more than water from its exhausts, helping to contribute to Scotland's ambitions to tackle air pollution. Not only are the buses as efficient as their electric equivalents, they can achieve a greater range of distance and are virtually silent to run - helping to create calmer, quieter streets.

The arrival of these zero-emission public transport vehicles further highlights Aberdeen's status as the energy capital of Europe, and shows its commitment to a green transition as part of Scotland's Net Zero Vision. The technology represents a major leap forward in reducing climate change by demonstrating best practice for green innovation in the transport industry.

Read more about the project here: https://news.aberdeencity.gov.uk/the-worlds-first-hydrogen-powered-double-decker-bus-arrives-in-aberdeen
Press Contact media@aberdeencity.gov.uk

FIRST OFFSHORE HOISTS FOR WIND TURBINES IMPROVING SAFETY FOR TECHNICIANS – FIFE

Pict Offshore is a Fife-based developer of a pioneering new hoist technology that is making the transfer of technicians onto wind turbine platforms safer, simpler and more effective. Its 'Get Up Safe' (GUS) hoist system is a heave-compensated personnel hoist, which is transforming the way that construction, inspection, and maintenance technicians access offshore wind turbines.

The GUS system eliminates the need for personnel to access wind turbines via steep ladder and uses a sophisticated motion intelligence system to safely transfer technicians from vessel to turbine in variable wind and weather conditions. Developed in Scotland, this quickly-growing, transformative technology is leading the way on a global scale in ensuring the safety of offshore renewable energy workers.

Read more about the project here: http://www.pictoffshore.com/about-us.htm
Press Contact: info@pictoffshore.com

RESTORING PEATLANDS TO IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL CARBON CAPTURE – SCOTLAND-WIDE

In late 2012, the Scottish Government allocated funds to a NatureScot-led peatland restoration project called 'Peatland ACTION' who used it to support a team of volunteers from Butterfly Conservation Scotland (BCS) called the 'Bog Squad' to improve habitat conditions on degraded lowland peatlands across Scotland.

Restoring peatland can help lock in carbon, tackle biodiversity loss and mitigate impacts of climate change such as drought and flooding. This reduces the carbon that peatlands release and will eventually enable them to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

Volunteers work to install ditch-blocking dams that slow the flow of water to help raise the water table around the ditch. In time, sphagnum mosses and other peatland plants recolonise the ditch and peat-formation starts again, helping to restore the natural hydrological balance of the site. Ditch-blocking alongside scrub clearance helps to ensure that conditions remain suitable for peatland specialist species.

For more information, visit:
www.nature.scot/climate-change/nature-based-solutions/peatland-action-project
Press Contact: Emma.Keenan@nature.scot

MICHELIN SCOTLAND INNOVATION PARC – THE NEW HOME OF GREEN TRAILBLAZERS - DUNDEE

Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc (MSIP) is an ambitious joint venture between Michelin, Dundee City Council and Scottish Enterprise, created to generate economic growth in Scotland and support a fair and just transition to a net zero economy.

With a 32-hectare site and excellent physical connectivity in Dundee, MSIP has flexible, adaptable space for all sizes of businesses to locate. Tenants have unique access to an innovation campus, a Skills Academy, business support and cost-competitive, green energy delivered from sustainable sources. With a site that has been built and maintained to Michelin standard and access to a previous Michelin workforce that has a world-wide reputation for quality and skill, MSIP is built on a legacy of excellence.

Current tenants based here have already created world leading technology in solar power, hydrogen and lithium-ion batteries, and are shining a light on new products and processes that will tackle the climate emergency head-on. The Parc is committed to working in partnership with industry, academia, government and the local community to transform Dundee into a key location for innovation that will progress emerging technology for a greener future.

Read more about the project here: www.msipdundee.com
Press Contact: info@msipdundee.com

THE FIRST DISTILLERY IN THE UK TO ACHIEVE NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS – HIGHLANDS

Located in the remote village of Drimnin in the western highlands of Scotland, new independent distillery Nc'nean has become the first in the UK to achieve net-zero carbon emissions in its production. With sustainability at the heart of its values, the distillery is paving the way for the innovative future of the Scotch Whisky industry.

Nc'nean is completely powered by renewable energy and fires its stills using a wood chip biomass boiler. Any residual carbon emissions are offset through a sustainable tree planting programme and in a pioneering whisky industry-first, all of its bottles are made of recycled glass – reducing the carbon footprint of a typical whisky bottle by 40%.

The distillery also has an ambitious waste-reduction approach, reporting that 99.97% of its production outputs are either recycled or reused. For example, it continuously recycles its cooling water used in the distillation process via a natural pond and uses 80% less water than a traditional distillery. International markets include Germany, France, Netherlands and Italy.

Read more about the distillery's sustainability here: www.ncnean.com/pages/sustainability
Press Contact: press@ncnean.com

EUROPE'S FIRST DIGITAL SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM - GLASGOW

The construction of Europe's first ever 'smart canal' scheme or digital water drainage system on the Forth & Clyde Canal, will mitigate flood risk as well as enable massive regeneration in Glasgow. The project, run via a partnership between Glasgow City Council, Scottish Canals and Scottish Water, will use sensor and predictive weather technology to provide early warning of wet weather before moving excess rainfall from residential and business areas into stretches of the canal where water levels have been lowered by as much as 10cm.

The project aims to create a 'sponge city' that will see North Glasgow passively absorb, clean and use rainfall intelligently; before periods of heavy rain, canal water will be moved safely through a network of newly created urban spaces – from sustainable urban drainage ponds to granite channels – that absorb and manage water in a controlled way. This cutting edge technology is one of very few examples of its kind in the world.

Read more about the project here:
www.scottishcanals.co.uk/placemaking/north-glasgow/glasgows-smart-canal
Press Contact: Josie.Saunders@scottishcanals.co.uk

THE WORLD'S FIRST CLIMATE POSITIVE VODKA - ANGUS

Nàdar Vodka is the world's first climate positive vodka and with a carbon saving of more than 1.53kg of CO_2 per bottle, it puts it at the forefront of fighting climate change and biodiversity loss. The distillery produces the spirit for its vodka using the humble garden pea; avoiding the need for synthetic fertilizer and reliance on imported protein for animal feed.

The single-estate distiller controls the growing, distilling and bottling process, which ensures provenance and traceability. Arbikie Distillery also uses its knowledge of growing, and the ever-changing Scottish climate to produce the finest spirits from some of the best agricultural land in the country.
The distillery is continuously expanding and exports Nàdar Vodka globally.

For more information, visit: www.arbikie.com/field-to-bottle
Press Contact: iain.stirling@arbikie.com

FIRST COMPANY TO TURN WHISKY WASTE INTO HIGH VALUE BIOFUEL - EDINBURGH

Around 90% of a distillery's typical output is made up of organic, low-value by-products. Edinburgh-based biotech firm, Celtic Renewables, is the first company to produce biofuel from the by-products of the Scotch Whisky industry. Founded in 2011, Celtic Renewables has developed ground-breaking technology that converts these materials into high value renewable chemicals, sustainable biofuel and other commercially and environmentally valuable commodities.

Celtic Renewables' award-winning technology is revolutionising the way in which one of Scotland's leading industries is adapting to build a greener, circular economy for Scotland. The business has already created a profile globally and generated awareness of its patented clean-tech process which will help play an important role in achieving Net Zero across the world.

For more information visit www.celtic-renewables.com
Press Contact - enquiries@celtic-renewables.com

THE FIRST NATION IN THE WORLD TO CREATE INNOVATIVE DIGITAL UNESCO TRAIL - SCOTLAND-WIDE

From awe-inspiring volcanic landscapes to stunning city architecture, Scotland is home to several UNESCO destinations that are recognised globally for their significant cultural or natural heritage value.

Scotland is the first nation in the world to create a UNESCO Trail that brings together the country's full range of UNESCO place-based designations (World Heritage, Global Geoparks, Biospheres and Creative Cities), whilst promoting responsible tourism. It aims to encourage visitors to stay longer, explore more and spend in the local supply chain, in turn contributing to the economic and social wellbeing of communities.

The digital trail highlights where possible, how to get around Scotland's 13 place-based UNESCO sites using public transport and other low-carbon means to help visitors make travel choices in line with Scotland's green ambitions.

For more information on Scotland's UNESCO digital trail visit:
www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/marketing/toolkits/unesco-trail
Press Contact - Louise.Purves@visitscotland.com

FIRST NATIONAL PARK RANGER SERVICE TO USE AN ELECTRIC BOAT - LOCH LOMOND

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, which covers 720 square miles, and is less than an hour away from the city of Glasgow, introduced a new fully electric boat for its Park Rangers earlier this year. This zero-emission vessel is three times more efficient than a traditional boat and creates less disturbance to surrounding wildlife, as well as zero water pollution.

Exploring more sustainable ways for staff and visitors to travel in and around the park is one of many measures being implemented as part of the National Park Authority's Mission Zero – a commitment to becoming a net zero organisation by 2030. The vehicle fleet for park rangers is now 41% electric, e-bikes are being trialled for volunteers and visitors are being encouraged to use more sustainable travel options. These include encouraging visitors to travel by train rather than car, and explore the park on foot or by bike. The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust have mapped out a number of e-bike routes to support this.

For more information: www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/publications/mission-zero
Press Contact: PR&Media@lochlomond-trossachs.org

A PIONEERING ENERGY SYSTEM TO CONVERT BODY HEAT INTO ELECTRICITY – GLASGOW

SWG3, Scotland's leading multi-discipline arts venue, is set to introduce BODYHEAT - a radical new system of capturing and transforming the enormous amounts of heat energy generated by customers, visitors, performers and staff at SWG3's gigs and club events. The venue will convert body heat into electricity that will power the venue's lights and electricity - an innovative new method of thermal control that will drastically reduce the site's energy usage, with potential savings of up to 70 tonnes of carbon per year.

Developed in collaboration with TownRock Energy geothermal energy consultants and Harley Haddow engineering consultants, installation will start later this year. The project is part of SWG3's bold ambition to become a carbon-neutral venue.

For more information, visit:
www.swg3.tv/news/2020/december/swg3-radical-plans-to-use-clubbers-body-heat
Press Contact: press@swg3.tv

3D MAPPING TO MEASURE THE ACCELERATED ICE LOSS IN GLACIERS - DUNDEE

The University of Dundee has developed an innovative 3D process to creatively document the ice loss in glaciers.

Collaborating with the University of Iceland and the Icelandic Meteorological Office, this pioneering process involves using old aerial photos and modern-day drone photography to capture and shed light on the accelerated ice loss from some of Iceland's largest glaciers.

This revolutionary technique has allowed the university to document the dramatic ice-loss on a group of outlet glaciers on the south side of Vatnajökull, one of the largest ice caps in Europe. This vital process supports global climate change research with the University of Iceland and the Icelandic Meteorological Office. This ground-breaking work adds new dimensions both to the monitoring of glacier recession and to the communication of the severe impacts caused by catastrophic climate change on sensitive environments.

More information: www.dundee.ac.uk/stories/drones-help-map-icelands-disappearing-glaciers
Press Contact: press@dundee.ac.uk

WORLD-FIRST METHOD TO CONSERVE GENETIC DIVERSITY IN SOME OF THE MOST ICONIC WILD SPECIES – SCOTLAND-WIDE

In the face of climate change pressures on biodiversity, Scottish scientists have developed a world-first method to help understand and conserve genetic diversity in some of the nation's most iconic wild species: heather, red squirrel, golden eagle, Scottish bluebell and Scots pine. Researchers have identified a list of target species of particular importance for Scotland and developed a 'genetic scorecard' for each, assessing their genetic diversity and any associated risks.

Research found that a number of species were classed as being at risk of severe genetic problems as a result of factors including non-native species, disease, habitat loss and pollution. Conservation action is now underway to address these threats and this new method for assessing genetic diversity will help further target long-term conservation strategies.

For more information, visit: www.nature.scot/scotland-world-first-genetic-diversity
Press Contact: Emma.Keenan@nature.scot

UNIQUE SHIPPING SERVICE REDUCING 'TIMBER-MILES' - ARGYLL

Around a quarter of Scotland's timber producing forests are in Argyll on the west of Scotland. TimberLINK is a service which ships up to 100,000 tonnes of timber a year from the Argyll ports of Ardrishaig, Campbelltown and Sandbank to wood processing plants in Ayrshire.

As well as helping to ensure economic development around the local ports, the service significantly reduces 'timber-miles' by removing around 8,000 lorry journeys, or nearly 1 million lorry miles, each year from busy and scenic roads between Argyll and Ayrshire. This includes busy tourist routes on the Argyll peninsula and the A82 through Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

For more information, visit www.forestry.gov.scot/forestry-business/timber-transport/timberlink
Press Contact: steve.williams@forestry.gov.scot

THE WORLD'S FIRST GREEN RECOVERY PLATFORM - STIRLING

The Forth ERA is a multi-million pound project led by the University of Stirling that will provide the region with the world's first green recovery platform. This state-of-the-art environmental digital monitoring system will support a just transition to a net zero economy by supplying real time environmental data.

The new technology will act as a "living laboratory" – capturing, processing and sharing data from across Forth Valley using EE's 5G network. It will use sensors, satellite data and artificial intelligence to provide vital information on water quality and other factors to inform decisions that could provide major economic and sustainability benefits to the area.

Experts say the innovative, cross-disciplinary approach – bringing together science, research, business and regulation – will be a global exemplar of green recovery, which is easily scaled and could be replicated worldwide.

For further information visit:
www.stir.ac.uk/about/international-environment-centre/forth-environmental-resilience-array
Press Contact: communications@stir.ac.uk

THE UK'S MOST ADVANCED CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE PROJECT – ABERDEENSHIRE

Based in the heart of the UK's oil and gas industry on the north east coast of Scotland, the Acorn Project is an ambitious climate mitigation programme that repurposes existing gas pipelines to give easy access to world class CO_2 storage. This approach offers a fast and cost-efficient way of establishing a CO_2 transportation and storage hub, unlocking the carbon capture and storage of hydrogen infrastructure that is essential for meeting Scotland's net zero targets.

The Acorn Project is considered to be the UK's most advanced carbon capture and storage (CCS) and hydrogen project, delivering the critical infrastructure that's needed to help cut carbon emissions from homes and industry.

Central to its approach is repurposing existing infrastructure, which removes the high capital costs associated with carbon capture and storage and establishes the transport and storage set up needed to import CO_2 from ships at nearby Peterhead Port and from Scotland's industrial heartland in the centre of the country.

The project's proximity to the deep-water port at Peterhead creates an ideal opportunity to import significant volumes of CO_2 from other emitters across the UK and Europe, helping Scotland to cost effectively build a fairer, greener economy, transforming carbon intensive industries while sustaining and creating jobs.

With Government support matched by industrial and private finance, Acorn can be operational by the mid-2020s and is expected to be storing at least 5Mt/yr of CO_2 by 2030.

For more information visit: www.theacornproject.uk
Press Contact: charlotte.hartley@pale-blu.com

THE UK'S LARGEST HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT – HIGHLANDS

Cairngorms Connect is the UK's biggest habitat restoration project and is a partnership of neighbouring land managers, committed to an ambitious 200-year vision to enhance habitats, species and ecological processes across a vast area within the Cairngorm National Park.

In Scotland the environment lends itself to "landscape scale" management for nature, connecting protected areas and encouraging natural restoration and expansion of habitats over vast areas. Cairngorms Connect works with like-minded, committed people from all areas of life to deliver a healthier, natural landscape that supports strong, economically vibrant local communities. Partners are working together to create a wilder landscape to allow forests to expand, naturalising rivers and restoring huge tracts of peatland.

For further information and contact details please visit: www.cairngormsconnect.org.uk
Press Contact - enquire@cairngormsconnect.org.uk

THE SUCCESSFUL RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE BEAVER – SCOTLAND-WIDE

The European beaver Castor Fiber was hunted to extinction in Britain around the 16th century. Following a recent comprehensive trial by Scotland's nature agency, NatureScot, the protected species has now been successfully reintroduced. The latest population survey showed that the number of beavers in Scotland has now more than doubled in the last three years to around 1000 animals, and the population now ranges from Glen Isla to Dundee and Stirling to Crianlarich. It is expected that Scotland's beaver population will continue to expand into Loch Lomond in the future.

As a keystone species, beavers create areas of wetland, locally change tree cover and diversify riparian habitats. The trial showed an overall increase in biodiversity in beaver occupied areas. The return of beavers to Scotland and their recognition as European Protected Species heralds one of the most significant changes to the natural environment in many years.

For further information and contact details please visit: www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-species/protected-species-z-guide/protected-species-beavers
Press Contact: Emma.Keenan@nature.scot

SCOTLAND'S NATURAL HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAMME - DUNDEE, HIGHLANDS, LANARKSHIRE AND NORTH AYRSHIRE

Green Health Partnerships is an innovative wellbeing programme that aims to increase physical activity and improve mental health through engagement with the natural environment. The partnerships promote cost effective, nature-based initiatives to help address health and well-being challenges.

Led by local health boards and local authorities, these partnerships bring together the health, social care, environment, leisure, sport and active travel sectors in order to make more use of local green space as a health-promoting resource. There are currently four cross-sectoral Green Health Partnerships in Dundee, Highlands, Lanarkshire and North Ayrshire and the work includes a 'prescriptions' referral process for healthcare professionals to link patients with nature-based interventions, such as health walks, cycling, community gardening and conservation volunteer work.

Funding is provided by NatureScot and Transport Scotland with additional support from Scottish Forestry, Public Health Scotland, sportscotland, Paths for All and The Conservation Volunteers.

For further information please visit:
www.nature.scot/professional-advice/contributing-healthier-scotland/our-natural-health-service/green-health-partnerships
Contact: Emma.Keenan@nature.scot

NEW HIGHLY PROTECTED MARINE AREAS TO INCREASE BLUE CARBON CAPTURE - WEST OF SCOTLAND

Scotland has long been a world leader and innovator when it comes to marine environmental protection with a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) put in place to protect iconic species like minke whales and puffins, vulnerable ecosystems and habitats including those which capture and store blue carbon.

Scotland's MPA network now covers 37% of its seas which exceeds the proposed global target of 30% by 2030. It includes Europe's largest MPA, the West of Scotland MPA which covers an area of over 100,000 square kilometres and is giving additional protection to some of the deepest parts of Scotland's seas.

Marine Scotland is now taking further action on the climate and biodiversity crisis by continuing to expand the MPA network and introducing new Highly Protected Marine Areas which will cover at least 10% of Scotland's seas by 2026. These HPMAs will protect blue carbon and critical habitats, providing opportunities to enhance biodiversity and for ecosystems to recover.

For more information visit: www.gov.scot/policies/marine-environment/marine-protected-areas
Press contact: Gillian.Provan@gov.scot

THE LARGEST PLANTING OF TREES IN SCOTLAND THIS CENTURY – SUTHERLAND, HIGHLANDS

From end to end, a new 933 hectare woodland has been approved by Scottish Forestry which will stretch over 12km along Strath Carnaig in the Sutherland region, strengthening the current native woodland networks on a landscape scale.

Nearly all the new trees – 1.4 million in total - will be native species, mostly Scots pine and birch with rowan, oak, aspen and alder. The scheme is a great example of the collaboration between farming and forestry - benefitting both the farming business and environment at the same time.

The new planting will sequester nearly 50,000 tonnes of CO_2 by 2045, contributing towards the Scottish Government's climate change commitment to reach net zero emissions. This is the equivalent to soaking up the emissions of 11,000 cars being used for a year and will greatly improve native woodland and habitat networks.

For more information and contact details please visit:
forestry.gov.scot/news-releases/highland-farmer-to-create-landscape-size-woodland
Contact - steve.williams@forestry.gov.scot

MEAT MANUFACTURER ON TARGET TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL BY EARLY 2022 – AYRSHIRE

'We Hae Meat' is one of the most sustainable meat manufacturers in the UK. The Ayrshire-based family-run business has already reduced its carbon footprint by 97% and is on target to be carbon neutral by early 2022. As well as installing a renewable power plant that burns wood from their own and other local farms to provide 100% of their hot water and heating requirements, the company launched all products into packaging trays that are fully recyclable, as well as creating returnable and reusable packaging solutions with their suppliers. The business has also replaced its diesel van fleet with electric hybrids.

The company is now working towards reducing its emissions by 107% to allow it to reach its carbon neutral ambitions.

For more information please visit: www.wehaemeat.co.uk/sustainability
Press Contact: info@wehaemeat.com

A CROFT ENTERPRISE CULTIVATING TREES AND LIVESTOCK TOGETHER FOR NATURAL CARBON MANAGEMENT – HIGHLANDS

Lynbreck Croft is an award winning Highland croft located in the Cairngorms National Park and is at the forefront of Scotland's effort to combat the global climate emergency.

The owners of the multi award-winning 60 hectare croft have introduced a number of sustainable forest and carbon management practices. These include the planting of 11 hectares of woodland, 9 hectares set aside to natural regeneration, as well as additional small 'agroforestry' copses in a grazed pasture and over 1km of hedging. Each of its initiatives have been implemented to capture carbon from the atmosphere and help to mitigate against the impact of climate change.

Having established an innovative, high-nature value crofting enterprise where trees are a vital part of the livestock system, they have also been recognised with the Scottish Crofting Federation's 'Best Crofting Newcomer' award.
For more information visit: www.lynbreckcroft.co.uk
Press Contact: hello@lynbreckcroft.co.uk