

Place Standard with a Climate Lens

Abridged guidance for organisers & facilitators



Public Health
Scotland



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Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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 **sniffer**
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for a resilient Scotland

Architecture &
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Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

 **SSN** Sustainable
Scotland
Network

 **ekos**
Economic and Social Development

Ideas for how to run a Place Standard with a climate lens session

You can use the Place Standard tool whenever people want to discuss the future of a place. Adding the Climate Lens will help to consider how big trends such as climate change and decarbonisation might affect a place.

To use the Place Standard with a Climate Lens effectively you will need to consider 3 key stages. Suggestions of what to do at each stage are noted below and further details provided in the following pages.

Planning the session (Step 1-3)



1. Choose when to hold your Place Standard with a Climate Lens assessment.
2. Consider which are your most important questions and the needs of your audience(s). Structure your sessions around these.
3. Consider using some of the new Climate Lens facilitation tools to support conversations (see Appendix I).

During the session (Step 4-8)



4. Explain climate concepts and trends at the start to help participants understand them.
5. 'Set the scene' in a way that encourages people to think beyond their daily experience.
6. Define the timeframe that you want to consider in the session introduction.
7. To help tackle challenging problems, help the group identify what actions might be needed.
8. Use the extra Climate Lens prompt questions for each Place Standard theme. These will help to draw out the links between your place and climate change.

After the session (Step 9)

9. Provide follow up communication to session participants.

Refer to the detailed guidance for further information on each of the steps noted above.

Additional Climate Lens Prompts for use with the Place Standard

Prompt questions within the Place Standard tool are designed to support and expand discussion. You will find it helpful to plan which to use in advance to suit your project and your place.

First, refer back to the decisions that you made earlier about the structure and purpose of the session. Review the new Climate Lens prompt questions for each of the Place Standard themes below. Also, any of the prompt questions already in the 2022 version of the Place Standard climate could also be useful, so have a look at those too.

All of these prompts are intended to help you but are not prescriptive and can be tailored for your local situation. You may want to create a bespoke 'script' or prompt sheet for facilitators with the key prompts that you have selected.

Within the Climate Lens there are also some more general questions – the two big Climate Challenges - to help people better understand the climate challenge and the different type of action needed to cut emissions and respond to climate impacts. These general questions set the scene and help people to visualise what climate action and impacts might look like in their place. The questions in the Climate Lens cover the topics of decarbonisation /net zero, and adaptation which have been framed as two big challenges, which are:



Big Challenge 1

How can we achieve our target of net zero emissions by 2045?

Big Challenge 2

How can we adapt this place to already unavoidable climate change?



When thinking about how these challenges and the prompt questions fit into the structure of your Climate Lens session, we suggest:



Using the two 'big challenges' (see the following pages) and the general questions linked to these as a more accessible way for people to think about the two sides of the climate action coin - adaptation and mitigation.



Using these helps people visualise the local implications of climate action in a general sense. Then, by using the additional prompts for each theme, you can integrate the two 'big challenges' into the structure of the Place Standard Tool – which is already successful at turning complex ideas about health, wellbeing, and the physical, social and economic environment into simple questions.



With the extra prompts we are simply able to layer on the climate 'stuff' into this straightforward place-related structure. This makes it easier for people to discuss how climate change impacts and action will impact their places across many different themes.

The Place Standard Tool is designed to help you consider complex issues at a local level. Using the Climate Lens will help you to layer climate change as one issue (amongst others) that needs to be considered across our placemaking.

Prompt questions - created for each of the 14 Place Standard themes - are designed to support discussion. The additional Climate Lens prompts for each theme are designed to integrate the topics of mitigation / NetZero and adaptation / resilience into the placemaking conversation. This helps to make considering the 'big challenges' more accessible to people.

You can also find these in the following pages.

Big challenge 1 How can we achieve our target of net zero emissions by 2045?

What might a net zero place look like?

- People can access what they need locally.
- People choose walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and ride sharing over private car use.
- There are lots of green and wild spaces. There is a healthy natural environment which stores carbon. For example, peatland, forests, marshes, and seagrass flourish.
- Healthy, happy, active people with good community and access to secure employment, education, and volunteering opportunities.
- The benefits of the green economy are shared widely, and no community is left behind. People are supported to participate in the green economy and there are employment, retraining, education, and volunteering opportunities.
- Homes and buildings are energy efficient, cosy, and cheap to run. Gas and oil heating has been replaced by electric, biomass, heat pump or district heating.
- Using low carbon energy for heating and renewable energy to generate electricity is common. For example, wind turbines, solar panels and renewable heating like biomass, district heating and heat pumps.
- People think about what they are buying, where products come from, and the environmental impacts associated.
- People's consumption habits include more repairing, conservation, sharing and recycling.
- Sustainable energy, goods, and services are provided. Locally grown food is popular. More money stays in the local economy.
- Safe and well-maintained spaces and shared community assets with space for nature.

General prompt questions for thinking about net zero / mitigation / decarbonising

- In your place, what activities use fossil fuels such as petrol, diesel, and gas? What could be done to minimise fossil fuel use by doing these activities less? Or can we do these activities in a different, low carbon way?
- How can your place be developed to allow people to live without fossil fuels?
- What industries, businesses and people could be left behind if we cut out fossil fuels? How can we include everyone in the move to net zero?
- Is there local space for greenspace, tree-planting, and natural habitats (peatlands, wetlands) so that greenhouse gases can be removed from the atmosphere naturally?

Prompts specific to each of the 14 themes can be found in a table in the following pages.



Big challenge 2

How can we adapt this place to already unavoidable climate change?

What might a climate resilient place look like?

- Empowered people who take personal responsibility for their resilience if they can. People who look after their neighbours. Strong community spirit, and a culture of looking out for vulnerable groups.
- Monitoring and warning systems to alert the community to extreme weather.
- Somewhere that is resilient to extreme conditions. For example, a place that is designed to slow and store the flow of rainwater. Places designed to store floodwater in communal green areas like parks and sports pitches where it can do the least damage.
- Green streets with trees and greenery. Green buildings with planting on roofs and walls for shade, natural cooling, air quality and flood prevention
- Strong local supply chains and spare / back up capacity for essential materials / services. A culture of local food and sustainable agriculture.
- Robust buildings and infrastructure. Passive solar design, natural ventilation, and flood protection features. For example, flood doors and air brick covers.
- A place where vulnerable activities and communities are protected from climate risks. For example, somewhere where coastal development is planned with sea level rise in mind.

General prompt questions for thinking about adaptation / resilience to climate change




- How does this place cope with current hazardous weather events? For example, heavy rain, snow, and high winds, are problems visible already?
- What features (physical, economic, social) make the place vulnerable or resilient?
- How do you think your place can be more resilient?
- Would you describe the community as strong, cohesive, and integrated? Are there divisions and marginalised groups? How could we support people to help each other?
- Climate change events happening somewhere else could impact on your place. Has this happened before?



Prompts specific to each of the 14 themes can be found in a table in the following pages.








Prompt questions for each PST theme



The below table outlines prompt questions for both big questions 1&2 in relation to the 14 Place Standard tool themes. A facilitator resource is also available which has the standard category questions alongside the Climate Lens ones for ease if being used in tandem. However, it should be noted that there may be some areas of duplication.

PST theme	Big challenge 1 'How can we achieve our target of net zero emissions by 2045?'	Big challenge 2 'How can we adapt this place to already unavoidable climate change?'
<p>Moving around</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What could encourage people to move around in ways that avoid using petrol and diesel? Consider walking, wheeling, cycling, electric vehicles? • How could people reduce the amount of travel done using petrol or diesel? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is moving around in different weather conditions - for example, rain, snow, wind, and heat - possible for everyone? • What alternative options are there? What would help to make active journeys more comfortable in all weathers?
<p>Public transport</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would support people to use public transport more? How could we reduce or replace car use? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there delays or cancellations due to the weather? • What do people do? • How could we make it more comfortable to use public transport - waiting for it and travelling on it - in any weather?
<p>Traffic and parking</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we change our place so that cars are not the most convenient choice, especially for short journeys? This may involve traffic free spaces, dedicated active travel routes, e-bikes, changing where cars park. • Is there safe parking available for alternatives such as mobility aids, buggies, cycles, electric cycles, including bigger cargo bikes and trike? • What about parking and charging for electric cars? • How could walking and cycling become the more convenient and appealing option? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there locations that a lot of people go to in good weather? • Are there covered and secure cycling parking areas?

PST theme	Big challenge 1: 'How can we achieve our target of net zero emissions by 2045?'	Big challenge 2: 'How can we adapt this place to already unavoidable climate change?'
Streets and spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where could streets and spaces have trees and more green spaces? This can help to improve air quality, store carbon, and grow food? • How can we enhance streets to make them an appealing place to spend time and carry out daily activities on foot? • How can we make streets safe and inclusive for everyone? Including those with physical and sensory disabilities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we make sure streets and spaces are still safe and pleasant places to walk, meet or socialise even in bad weather? • Or do they go elsewhere? • Are high temperatures an issue in areas where there is no shade? • Could streets and urban spaces be rearranged to make room for trees and greenspace? These can provide benefits in reducing temperature extremes and surface water flooding.
Natural space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can existing natural spaces be made better at absorbing carbon from the atmosphere? For example, through tree planting, peatland restoration, or wetland creation? • Are existing natural spaces accessible and engaging? • How can green spaces - such as parks, gardens - better enhance biodiversity? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could more natural space be available in your place? Even small spaces can develop to encourage wildlife. • Is there space available to soak up rainwater and provide space for flood water? Also to provide shade, and shelter?
Play and recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we increase local play and recreation opportunities? What is available to avoid people feeling they need to drive for their leisure time? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about how and where people play and spend their time in different weather conditions. • Could playspaces or parkland become multipurpose allowing for flooding to protect buildings and infrastructure downstream? • Does the weather ever lead to overcrowding of spaces or facilities? For example, outdoor spaces in hot weather, indoor facilities in rain or cold?

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<p>Facilities and services</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security is becoming more challenging. Is food grown in the area and how could this be better supported? • What else do local people need to reduce the impact of their consumption? Is there recycling, repair or sharing resources nearby? • What space is there for removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere? Either trees or through technical carbon capture? • Can I access what I need locally? Are there spaces where I can access services online to reduce the need to travel? For example, digital medical consultations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do facilities and services cope with extreme weather? • Is demand affected by different weather? • Are there plans in place to help people access services in hazardous conditions? •
<p>Work and local economy</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there opportunities for work and training that is part of the move to a net zero economy? For example, jobs in green technologies providing low carbon products and services? • Think about new jobs that could be available in the area, especially if there has been a loss of traditional industry. For example, renewable energy, forestry, retrofitting homes with energy efficiency measures, repair and reuse, maintenance of low carbon technologies, habitat restoration? • How can we make sure everyone has a role when it comes to the transition to a low carbon economy? Are there local industries that will suffer or people who may need to retrain? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have any businesses struggled following severe weather? What could help them to cope or get up and running again? • Are people able to work from home/ a local work hub if bad weather disrupts travel to a more distant workplace?

PST theme	Big challenge 1: 'How can we achieve our target of net zero emissions by 2045?'	Big challenge 2: 'How can we adapt this place to already unavoidable climate change?'
Housing and community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are homes energy efficient, easy/ affordable to heat? • Are there local renewable energy or low carbon energy resources to heat or power homes? For example, wind, wave, rivers, forestry, solar, district heat networks. • Do homes have space for cycle storage, charging electric vehicles and for recycling facilities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are homes healthy places to live? Are they prone to flooding, damp/ mould, draughts, cold, or over-heating? •
Social interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there opportunities for people to support each other to reduce their emissions? For example, informal sharing of bikes, cars, excess food, and other items to reduce waste? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an emergency - such as flooding, heatwave - is everybody looked after? Think about vulnerable groups and their support needs (some effects can be long-lasting).
Identity and belonging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does everyone feel that they can contribute to take action to address climate change at a local level? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a sense within the community that climate change will affect everyone? •
Feeling safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we help people feel safer, so they don't feel they need private cars to protect them? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there environmental or weather conditions which make this place feel unsafe? (Flooding, air quality, busy roads, ice, high winds, storm surges).

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<p>Care and maintenance</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are spaces for walking and cycling cared for and maintained? For example, to the same safe level as spaces for private vehicles? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do local buildings and infrastructure cope with the climate today? What about in the future? • Are repairs carried out? Has there been damage or increased maintenance due to the weather?
<p>Influence and sense of control</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all people in the place feel part of, and connected to, a vision and plan for a net zero future? • Do people feel they have the tools and support they need to reduce their emissions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a positive vision for the community's future? • Does it include what the place may look like because of climate change?

