

# Transport Projects and Local Net Zero Transitions

SCOTS Annual Conference 2026

Alex Rathmell  
Capacity Building Manager

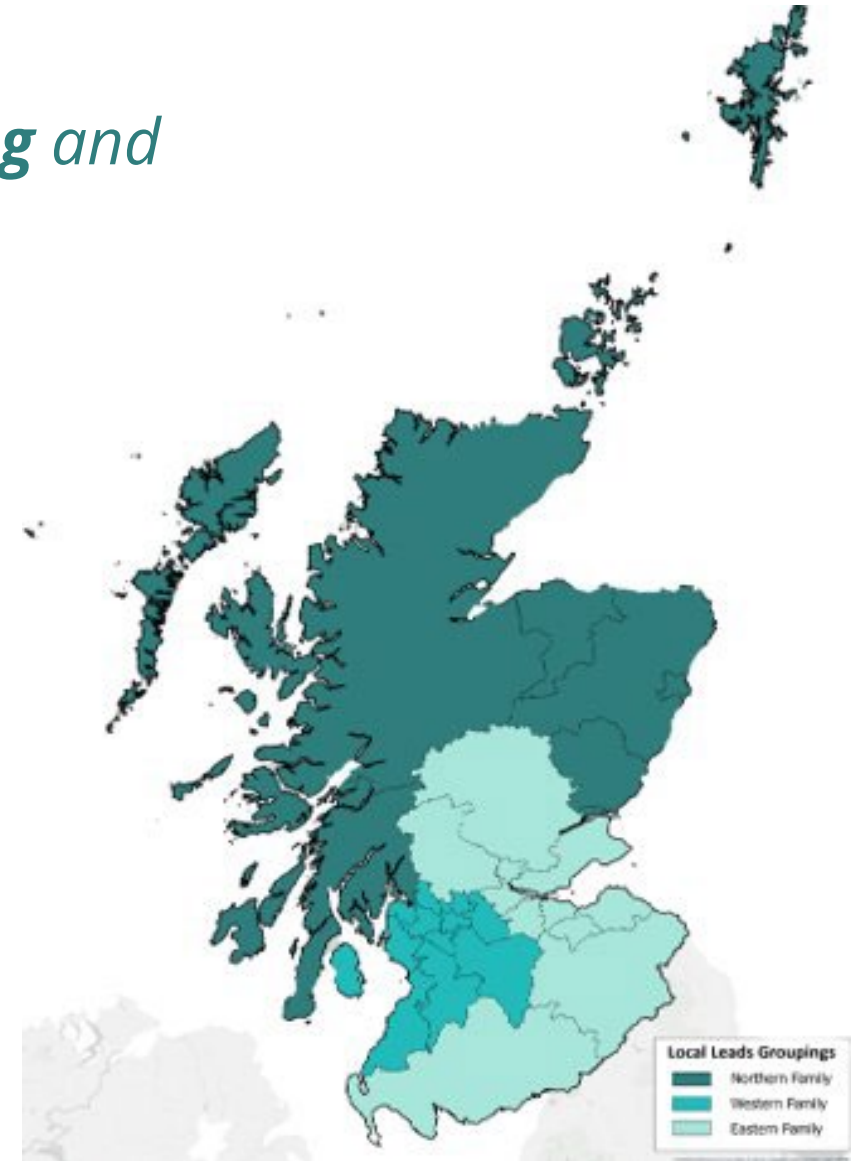


# SCIS: Who are we?

---

*A capacity building programme supporting the **planning** and **delivery** of area-wide emissions reduction*

- Jointly funded by Scottish Government, and all 32 local authorities through COSLA
- Partnership between **Edinburgh Climate Change Institute** and the **Improvement Service**
- Platform partner **ClimateView**



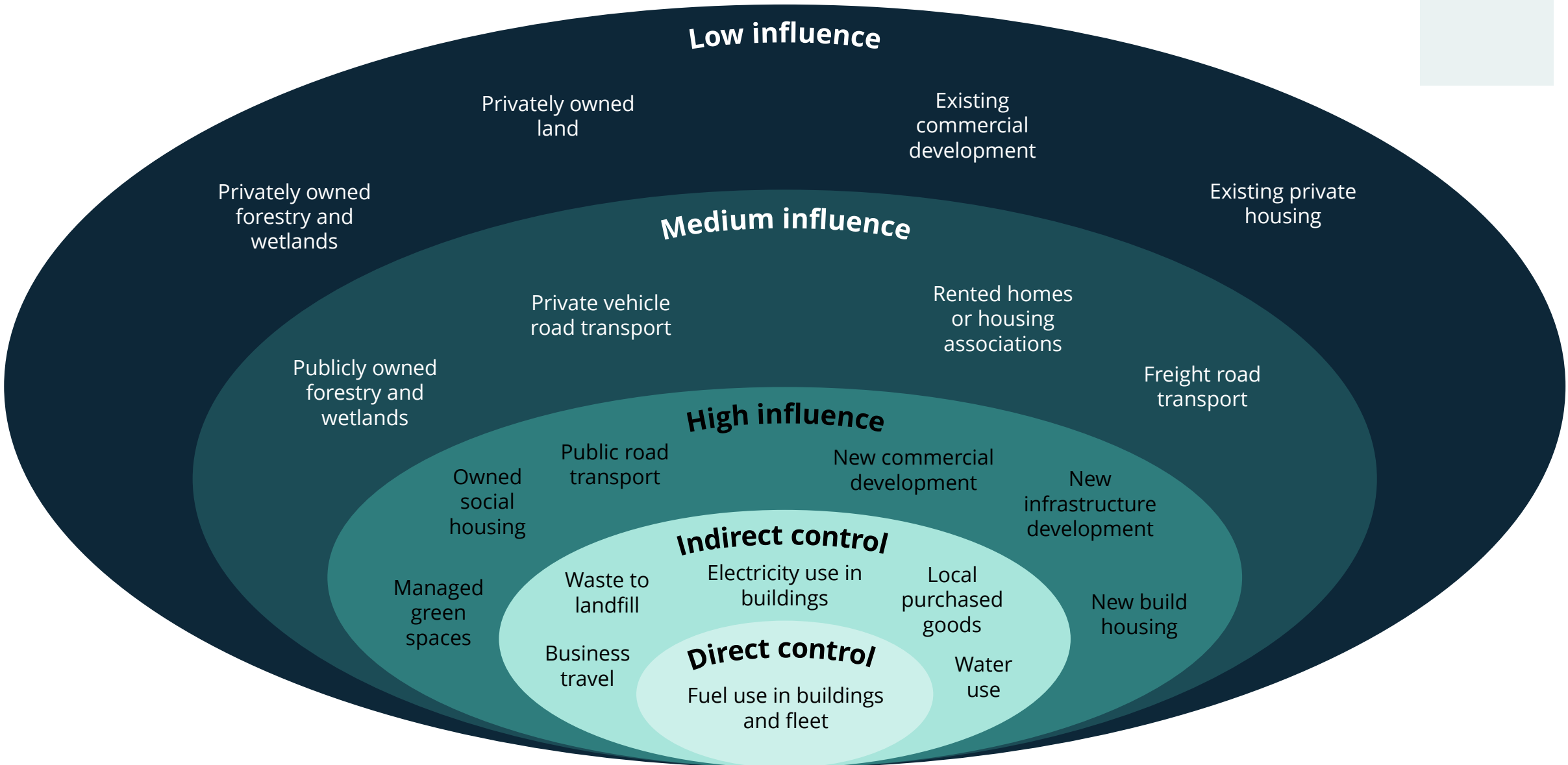
# Strategies, route maps, road maps, plans...

---

- More than 300 climate-active plans, strategies and route maps across Scottish LAs
- A wide array of policies, strategies, plans, programmes and route maps at Scottish and UK Government level
  - Lots of desired outcomes
  - Many unquantified interventions
  - Hard to share, interact and update



# Area-wide emissions & the Local Authority influence



# Untangling

---

## Interventions

20 mph zone

Street cycle stores

Dynamic traffic lights

Fuel taxes

Congestion charges

*What does this intervention save us in tCO<sub>2</sub>e?*

*Are we going to reach our target?*

*What about adaptation?*

*How much will our plan cost and how much will it save?*

## Outcomes

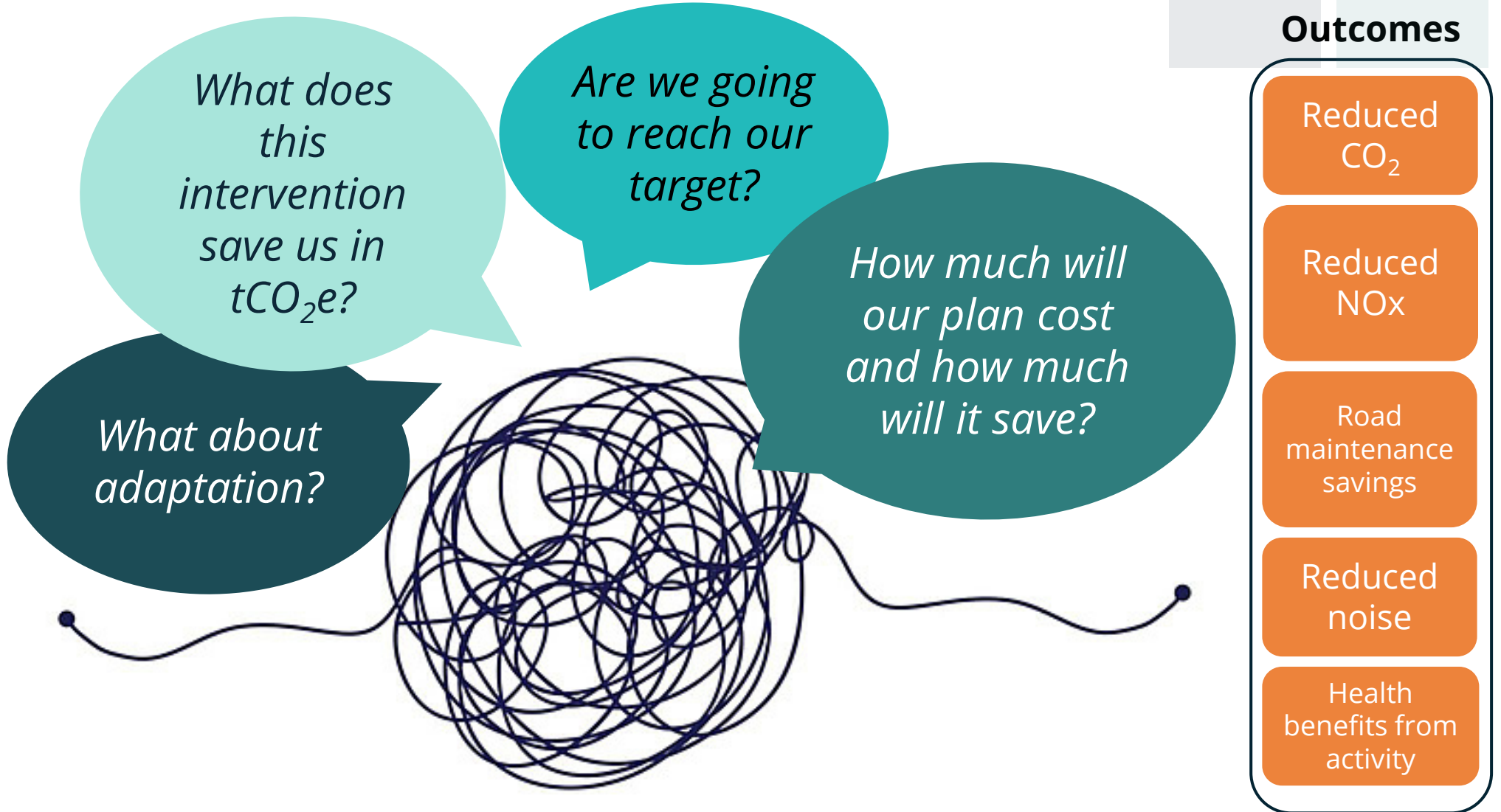
Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>

Reduced NOx

Road maintenance savings

Reduced noise

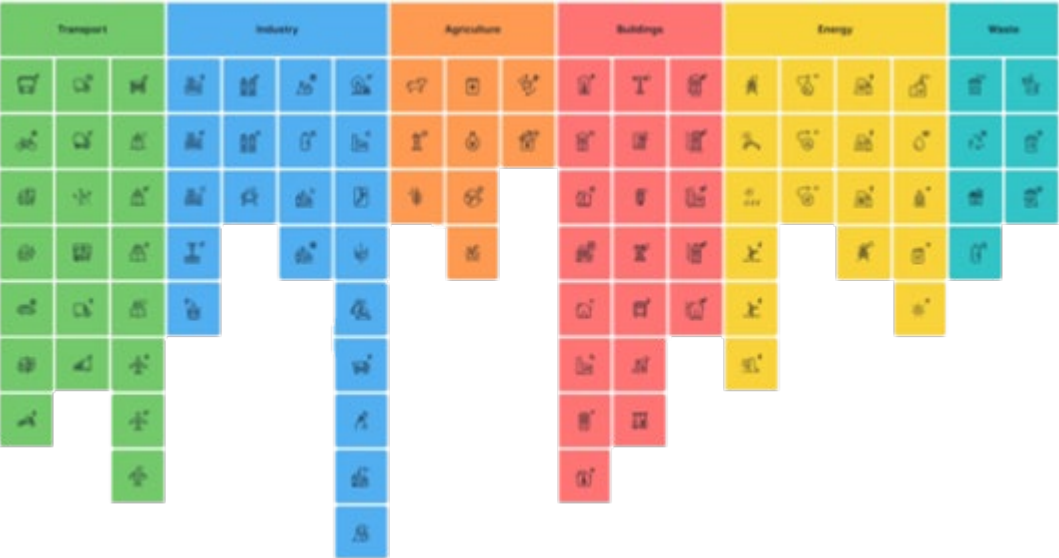
Health benefits from activity



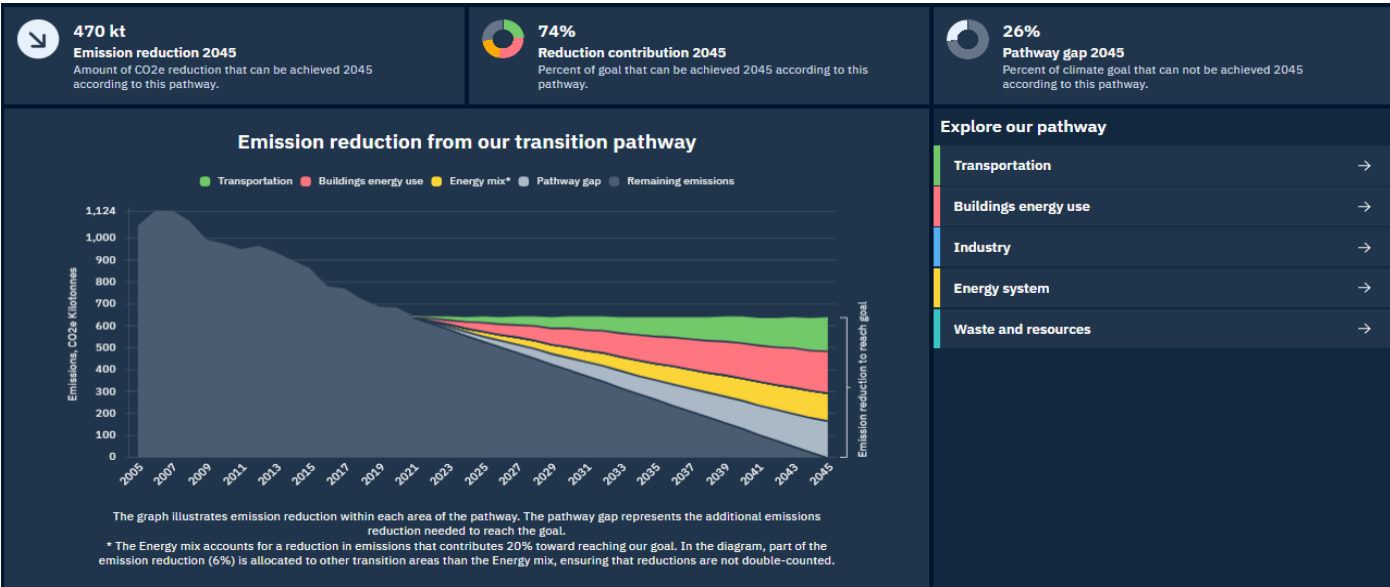
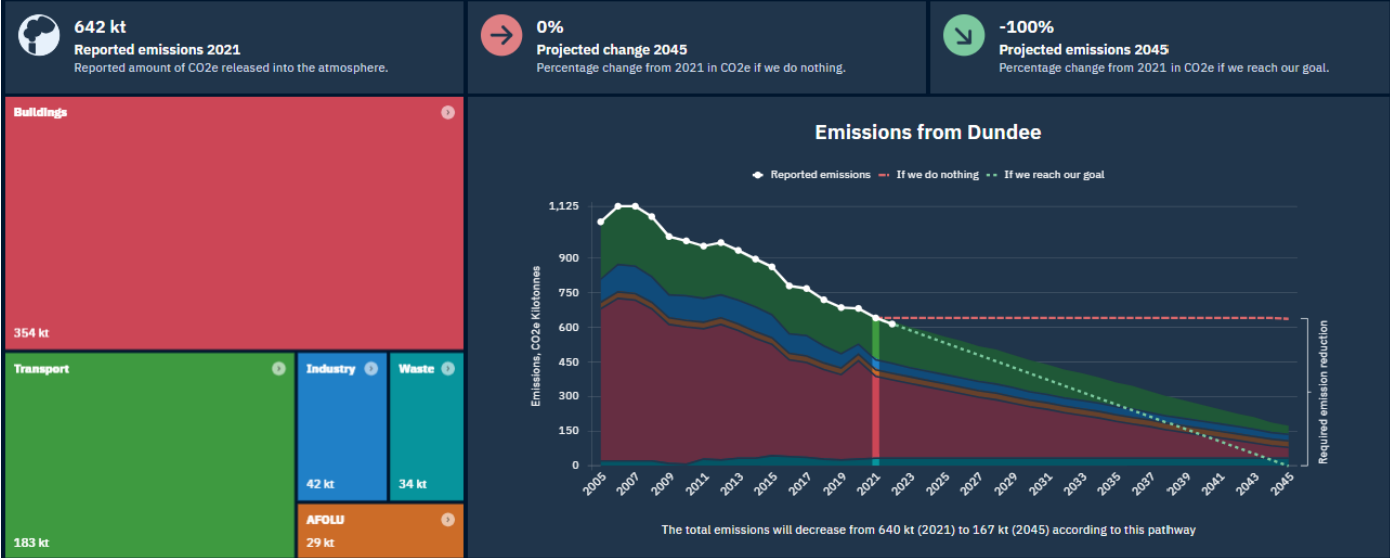
# Common Language, Framework and Platform

ClimateView  
Emissions inventory

Transition Elements Framework

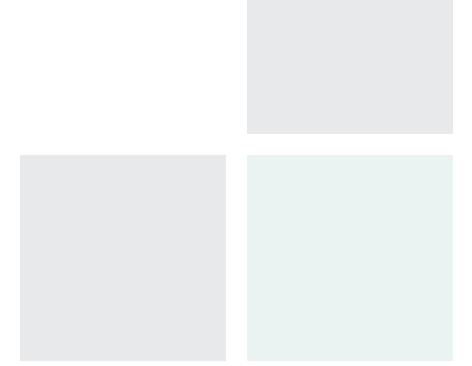


Transition Pathways

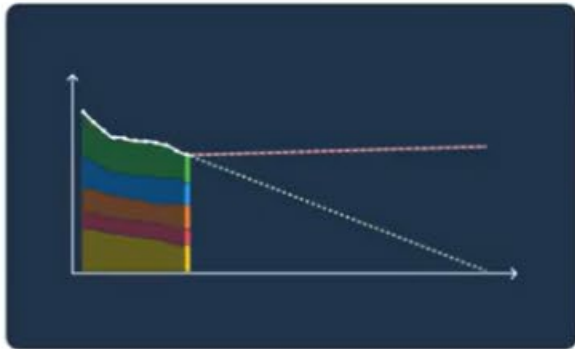


# SCIS Framework

---

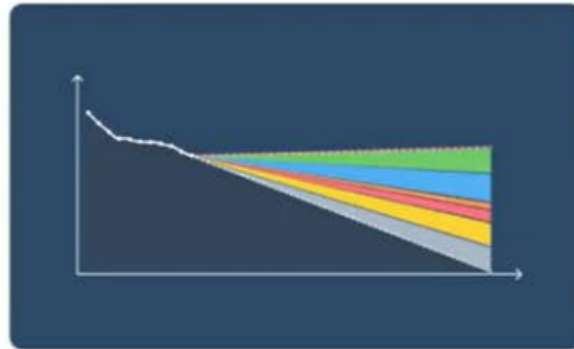


## Emissions Inventory



*What is the current situation?*

## Transitions



*How can we solve it?*

## Interventions



*What are we doing?*

## Indicators



*How is it going?*

# How SCIS helps

---

## Track Progress

Track progress on activity shifts rather than just emissions



## Better Conversations

Improved communication both internally and externally on key transitions



## Consistency

Consistency across Local Authorities – package interventions together into investable size



## National Government

Provide clear indications to national government on what's working (and not working) in climate policy



## Amplify Efforts

Collate and reinforce otherwise spread-out efforts to amplify impact



# Transport Transition Elements Zoom In

---



## Shift to walking and cycling

Assumes a shift of journeys from private ICE car to active travel (walking, wheeling, cycling)



## Shift to travel by electric bus

Assumes a shift of journeys from private ICE car to electric bus



## Shift to electric cars

Assumes a shift in stock and therefore journeys from ICE cars to electric cars



## Shift from car to remote working

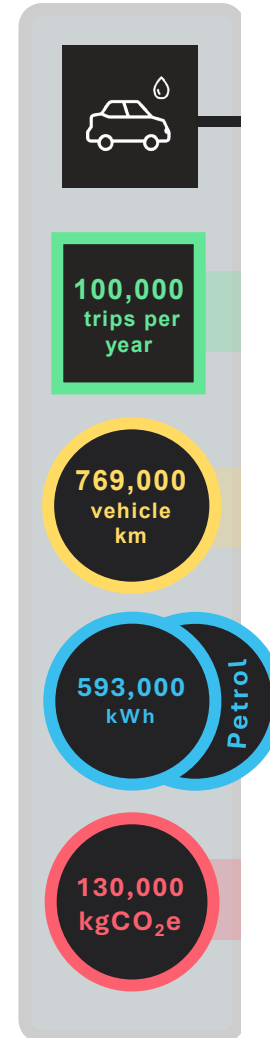
Assumes a shift of commuting journeys from private ICE car to remote working

<https://www.transitionelements.org/>



Shift to travel by electric bus

TRAVEL BY  
FOSSIL FUEL  
CAR



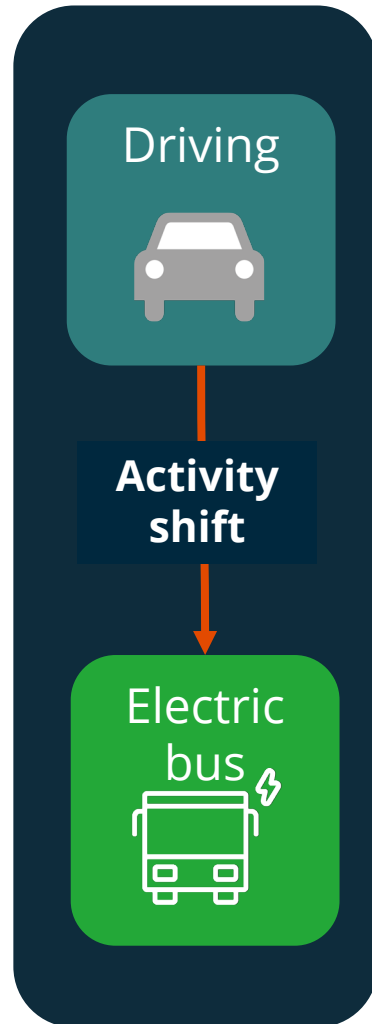
BASELINE

TRAVEL BY  
ELECTRIC  
BUS

# Interventions: The 'How'

*'An intentional action to change a situation'*

The set of actions, policies and projects taken in order to close the gap between where we want to be and where we are now



## 'The How'

Increase bus frequency at peak times

Provide free bus travel

Congestion charge for cars

Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>

Reduced NOx

Road maintenance savings

Reduced noise

Health benefits from activity

# Transition Teams

Cross-functional teams that

- develop strategy
- deliver interventions
- realise outcomes

Supported by team of SCIS  
Local Leads

Core User(s)

Climate Change Team

Service Area Expertise

Sectoral Managers/Heads of Service

Elected Members

Partners

Scottish Government

The Public

**Essential**

**Supportive**

Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>

Reduced NOx

Road  
maintenance  
savings

Reduced noise

Health benefits  
from activity

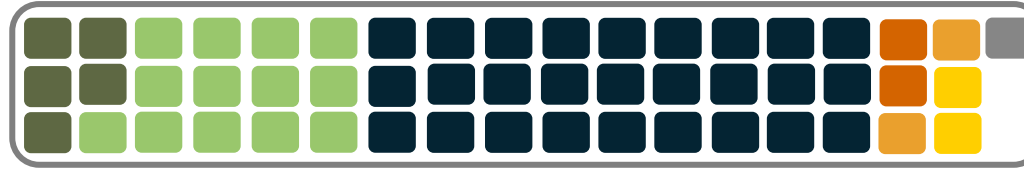
# Pathways, Gaps and Opportunities

## Barriers

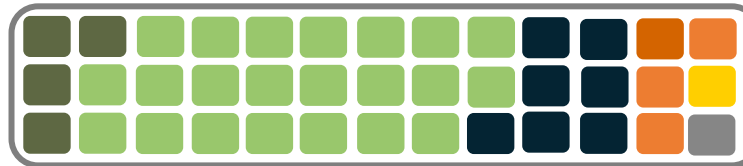
### Transition Element

### Number of Interventions

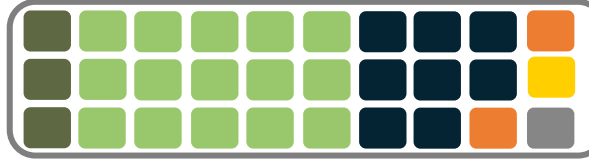
Shift to walking and cycling



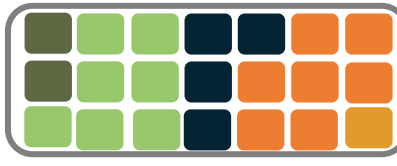
Retrofitting *houses* to be more energy efficient



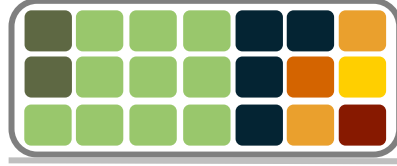
Retrofitting *flats* to be more energy efficient



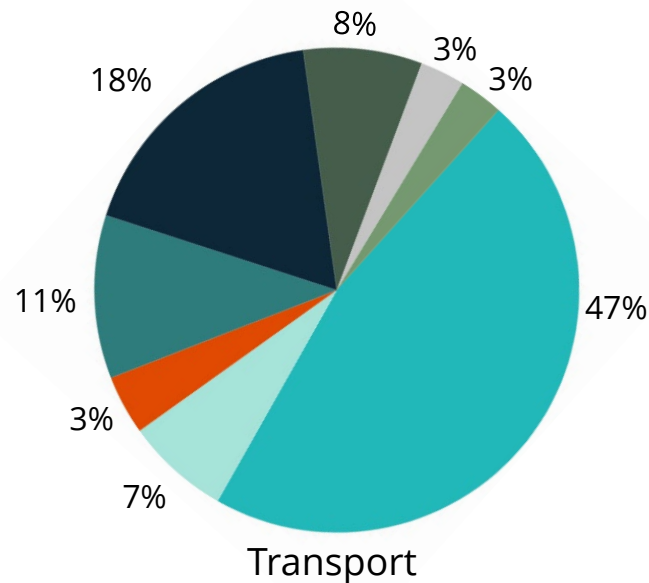
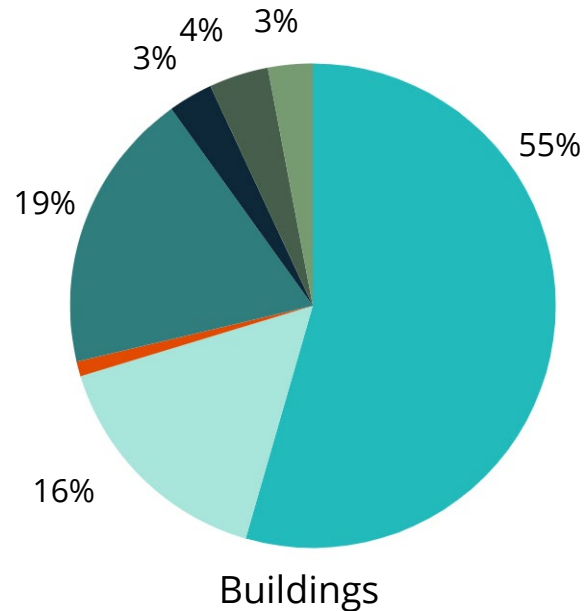
Shift to district heating in *houses*



Shift to electric cars



### Thematic Breakdown of Barriers For Buildings and Transport



- Funding
- Delivery
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Capacity
- Power
- Guidance
- Other
- Data

- Delayed/siloed and lack of funding
- Limited economies of scale and limited to void properties
- Partners/ service area senior management engagement

- Lack of funding, especially beyond feasibility stage
- Lack of political will/legislative power/regional governance
- Infrastructure investment cost

# SCIS and Transport

---

## **Local** (setting Transition Pathways)

- e.g. Dundee City Council's Transport Team

## **Regional** (capturing regional interventions)

- e.g. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)

## **National** (aligning with national policy and priority)

- National Transport Board
- Transport Scotland



# Progress To Date: Key Figures

Since officially launching in September 2024, SCIS has...



**100%**  
of local authorities  
engaged in the  
User Journey



**32**  
ClimateView  
dashboards with  
standardised area-  
wide inventories



**142**  
Platform users  
provided with a  
log-in



**38**  
Capacity building  
workshops and  
drop-ins



**Over 1,500**  
Interventions  
entered into the  
platform by officers



**6**  
'Roadshow' events  
held across  
Scotland

# Thank you

[climateintelligenceservice.scot](https://climateintelligenceservice.scot)

[linkedin.com/company/scottish-climate-intelligence-service/](https://linkedin.com/company/scottish-climate-intelligence-service/)

[info@climateintelligenceservice.scot](mailto:info@climateintelligenceservice.scot)

