

Air and climate

The climate is changing and air quality continues to impact human health. Immediate action is needed to tackle these challenges.






Good air quality is fundamental to our survival. Scotland's air today is cleaner than at any time since before the Industrial Revolution. This has been achieved through tighter controls on pollutant emissions from industry, transport and domestic sources.

Greenhouse gas emissions, arising predominantly from our use of energy and transport, continue to cause concern.

The climate is changing at an unprecedented rate and greenhouse gases emitted from burning fossil fuels are the main driver. Although overall greenhouse gas emissions have decreased since 1990, emissions from transport continue to grow.

Noise, light and odour are three of the main causes of nuisance complaints. Industry, transport and antisocial behaviour are the main causes. Litter and dog fouling are also a common cause of complaints.

[Click for explanation of diagram.](#)

Topic	Summary
<p><u>Air quality</u></p>  <p>Despite significant improvements, air quality continues to impact on the environment and human health, and further improvements are needed.</p>	<p>Despite improvements in air quality, it continues to have an impact on the environment and human health, and further improvements need to be made.</p> <p>Transport is the most significant source of emissions.</p>
<p><u>Climate change</u></p>  <p>The climate has changed and is continuing to change. Positive action now will help ensure the well-being of the country in the future.</p>	<p>Over the past 50 years it has become increasingly apparent that the world's climate is changing at an unprecedented rate, and science suggests that our use of fossil fuels is one of the main causes of this change.</p> <p>Scotland has already seen changes to its weather patterns over the last century. The impact of these changes will be considerable and could affect everyone in Scotland.</p> <p>We not only need to reduce emissions, but also adapt to climate change.</p>
<p><u>Noise, light and odour</u></p>  <p>Nuisance impacts on people's enjoyment of their environment. Resolving nuisances requires balancing the needs of different groups.</p>	<p>Nuisance is an issue that affects people and their immediate environment or their ability to enjoy their property. Everyone has a different opinion on what they enjoy and what they dislike in their environment. As a result, everyone has a different idea of what makes a nuisance. Nuisance can be perceived as an offence to the senses, which can cause distress, discomfort and inconvenience.</p>