



Flood Resilient Scotland Knowledge Exchange Programme

Summary Report 2023/2024

This programme is delivered by Sniffer and
funded by the Scottish Government



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Introduction

Sniffer is delighted to be working with stakeholders across Scotland, and beyond, to deliver a programme of activities to support Scotland's flood resilience. We acknowledge funding from Scottish Government and the multi-sector steering group who shape the programme.

In this summary report we provide an overview of the Flood Resilience knowledge exchange programme 2023/24, with a particular focus on the outputs of our work. The key elements of the programme are coastal adaptation knowledge exchange, and an annual two day Flood Resilience conference - a hybrid event in February 2024.

In parallel with this programme, we also delivered a stakeholder engagement process to support the development of Scotland's first Flood Resilience Strategy. Sniffer was delighted to have worked with the Scottish Flood Forum and ClimateXChange to support this stakeholder engagement. The output of the engagement is reported here: <https://www.sniffer.org.uk/flood-resilience-strategy-for-scotland>

What next

We are encouraged by the increase in depth and breadth of involvement in flood resilience conversations and look forward to developing the programme during 2024/2025. We have received extensive feedback and ideas for 'what next' and are planning to have a more interactive conference in 2025, with greater focus on land use and land management, planning and development decisions, and increased input from researchers. We also intend to focus on how communities can be part of decision making to create climate resilience places.

We will extend the KE programme coastal change theme during 2024/25 with events on strengthening relationships and knowledge sharing between coastal authorities; supporting applications to the Coastal Change Adaptation Fund; and upskilling key decision makers in coastal communities and adaptation.

We look forward to strengthening our links with all those with interest in flood resilience.



Ruth Wolstenholme
Managing Director, Sniffer

The programme steering group was: Ruth Wolstenholme and Emilie Wadsworth (Sniffer), David Faichney and Billy Pugh (Scottish Government), Iris Krammer (SEPA), Dawn Lochhead and Grant Vanson (Scottish Water), Kirsty MacRae (Scottish Flood Forum), John Wright (Mott MacDonald), Peter Robinson (AECOM), Will Burnish (Moray Council), and Susan Veitch (The Highland Council). Many thanks for their time and insights.

Overview of programme activities

14 September 2023 - Coastal adaptation webinar

Coastal change adaptation in Scotland - Scottish Government funding call for case studies 2024-25

1 February 2024 - Coastal adaptation webinar

Moving from shoreline management to coastal change adaptation in Scotland

16 April 2024 - Coastal adaptation webinar

'Passing on the baton': Sharing learning of adapting Scotland's coasts to climate change

8 - 9 February 2024 Hybrid Conference

Scotland's Flood Resilient Future

"If you think that coastal adaptation is expensive, wait until you see the costs of inaction."

(webinar participant)

Webinar series

Coastal change adaptation

With climate change impacts being experienced faster and more severely than our modelling has projected, coastal adaptation is something that we are going to have to learn by doing and get good at, fast. Innovative approaches are needed at our coast to address the challenges posed by coastal erosion, rising sea levels, and increasingly severe storms because of climate change.

This webinar series was designed to share learning from case studies funded by Scottish Government's Coastal Change Adaptation Fund, and provide the latest updates from leading coastal change scientists. The ambition for this series was to foster innovative approaches to coastal management and build our collective knowledge base to tackle this emerging threat.

21 

Speakers



546

Online



Webinars

Learning by doing,
innovating together



Scottish Government funding call for coastal change adaptation case studies 2024/25 - guidance for prospective applicants



Chairs: Dr Alistair Rennie (Dynamic Coast / NatureScot), Tracy McKen (Scottish Government) and Cat Payne (Sniffer)

Webinar for Local Authorities and their partners to learn more about the Coastal Change Adaptation (CCA) funding available for case studies for 2024-25. This two hour session covered the application process for the 2024-25 round, and provided examples of the type of project covered in previous funding rounds. Attendees were able to ask questions of funders, and previous applicants about how to apply and what is involved.

We are very grateful to the following, who also kindly presented at this event:

- Professor Jim Hansom (Dynamic Coast)
- Kat Calisaya (SEPA)
- James McLeod (Dumfries & Galloway Council)
- James Green (Orkney Islands Council)
- Alan Fraser (The Highland Council)
- Duncan Morrison (Scottish Borders Council)
- Brian Templeton (Dumfries & Galloway Council)

Watch the recording of the session [here](#).
View the slides [here](#).



Moving from shoreline management to coastal change adaptation in Scotland



Online

Chairs: Dr Alistair Rennie (Dynamic Coast / NatureScot), Tracy McKen (Scottish Government) and Cat Payne (Sniffer)

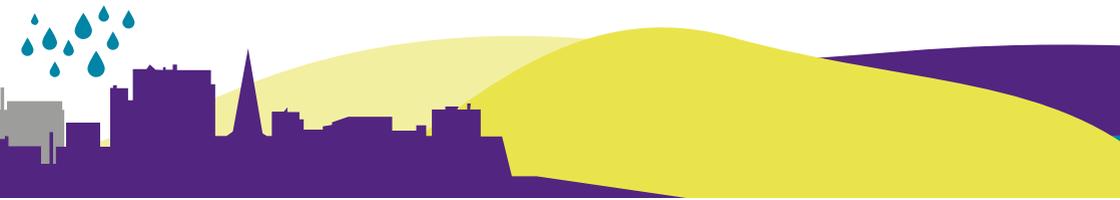
This two hour webinar showcased some of the excellent work being undertaken across Scotland to adapt to the coastal dimensions of climate change, which have been funded by the Scottish Government's Coastal Change Adaptation Fund. The event was designed to help local authorities and other coastal landowners to better understand the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) guidance and the shift away from making decisions on a case-by-case basis, often in isolation to dynamic adaptive pathway decision making in the light of coastal change. It highlighted the different ways that people are using the new CCAP guidance and the different types of solutions arising across Scotland.

We are very grateful to the following, who also kindly presented at this event:

- Dr Matt Palmer (Met Office)
- Kat Calisaya (SEPA)
- Dr Rick Haynes (Fife Council)
- John Lavery (Mott MacDonald)
- Dr Doug Pender (JBA)
- Greg Guthrie (RHDHV)

Watch the recording of the session [here](#).

View the slides [here](#).



'Passing on the baton' - Sharing learning of adapting Scotland's coasts to climate change



Online

Chairs: Dr Alistair Rennie (Dynamic Coast / NatureScot), Tracy McKen (Scottish Government) and Cat Payne (Sniffer)

At this webinar case studies funded in previous rounds of the Scottish Government's Coastal Change Adaptation Fund passed on the baton and shared outcomes from their projects, their experiences, what they have learned, what they might do differently next time. This was with view to helping the 2024-25 case studies to build on their learning and avoid common pitfalls when developing innovative approaches to coastal change adaptation.

This event was also designed to be of interest for local authorities who are using the direct distribution of funds from the CCA or other funding for coastal change adaptation. The webinar provided a space to reflect on previous CCA funding case studies to see how past learning can be capitalised on, and offer a safe space for collegiate knowledge exchange with half of the session devoted to Chatham House Rule discussion.

We are very grateful to the following, who also kindly presented at this event:

- Lorna Jarvie (South Ayrshire Council)
- Scott Greig (Ayrshire Roads Alliance)
- Dr Rick Haynes (Fife Council)
- John Lavery (Mott MacDonald)
- Colin Buchanan (Isle of Luing Community Trust)
- Ameer Scott (Fife Council)
- Susan Veitch (Highland Council)
- Will Burnish (Moray Council)

Watch the recording of the session [here](#).

View the slides [here](#).

An illustration of a city skyline in purple and grey silhouettes against a background of rolling hills in yellow and purple. The sky is light blue with three white clouds. On the left, a yellow hill is being rained on, with several blue raindrops falling from it.

Scotland's Flood Resilient Future

Scotland's Flood Resilience
Conference 2024

8 – 9 February 2024

Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

Scotland's Flood Resilience Conference 2024

MAIN THEME

Scotland's Flood Resilient Future



41

Presenters



Workshops



372 382

In person

Online

23

Marketplace organisations



19

Years Sniffer has been running the conference

8

Sessions



#FRS2024

#FloodResilience2024

Scotland's Flood Resilience Conference 2024

The conference was held at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh in February 2024, and built on the success of the 2023 hybrid conference style. All plenary sessions and Q&A were open to those attending in person and online delegates. The conference included an exhibition / marketplace for in person attendees.

The theme of the 2024 conference was Scotland's Flood Resilient Future. Ahead of the Flood Resilience Strategy consultation going live, the conference provided an ideal opportunity to raise collective ambition and plan together for the future.

Màiri McAllan, the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy, opened the conference and participants greatly appreciated her staying on for questions, indicating the importance of flooding to Scottish Government.



Ms Màiri McAllan, the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy, opening the conference



Dr Rebecca Wade, the pre-dinner speaker

We were also delighted that CIWEM ran their popular Property Flood Resilience Industry Training Foundation Course. The conference also hosted a workshop on the Scottish National Adaptation Plan consultation.

We greatly enjoyed hearing from our dinner speaker, Dr Rebecca Wade, who provided inspiring insights from her voyage of discovery as part of Homeward Bound Women in STEM leadership initiative, culminating in a life changing trip to Antarctica.

Our conference endnote speaker, Dr Heather Reid, summed up the triple challenge of the nature-climate crises, and the impacts as well as opportunities that land use and land management have on climate and biodiversity. This brought together many of the themes of the earlier sessions and leaving us all with hope.



Dr Heather Reid, with the closing keynote speech

Scotland's Flood Resilience Conference 2024



Opening Session of Day 2 focussing on learning from recent events



Delegates at a consultation session for Scotland's National Adaptation Plan 3

Plenary sessions were recorded and links to recordings are given below:

Day 1, Session 1: Policy [FRS 2024 Session 1a](#) and [FRS 2024 Session 1b](#)

Day 1, Session 2: Placemaking [FRS 2024 Session 2](#)

Day 1, Session 3: Coastal Change [FRS 2024 Session 3](#)

Day 1, Session 4: Funding and multiple drivers [FRS 2024 Session 4](#)

Day 2, Session 1: Learning from recent events [FRS 2024 Session 5](#)

Day 2, Session 2: Community resilience [FRS 2024 Session 6](#)

Day 2, Session 3: Individual resilience [FRS 2024 Session 7](#)

Day 2, Session 4: Keynote speech [FRS 2024 Session 8](#)

Flood Resilience Conference 2024

Summary of conference reach



Delegate numbers

- 754 delegates registered for the conference.
- Attendance was higher than the 2023 conference by 134 delegates
- There was a relatively even split between online and in person attendees (382:372).

Sector of delegates

- 22% - consultancy or other private sector business (down from 38% in 2023),
- 29% - central government / national government bodies (up from 24% in 2023),
- 16% - Local Government (same as 2023),
- 12% - academia or educational institutions (up from 11% in 2023),
- 16% - third sector, community groups and charities (up from 6% in 2023).



Organisations represented

- 206 organisations attended the conference either online or in person,
- 78% of Scottish Local Authorities (25 Councils) sent one or more delegate to the conference.

With a cap on the number of delegates who could attend the conference in person from any one organisation many organisations were represented by different staff on each day, and many more delegates attended online.

The following organisations had the highest number of delegates and / or speakers across in person and online:

1. SEPA (85)
2. Natural Resources Wales (41)
3. Scottish Water (31)
4. Scottish Government (31)
5. Office of Public Works, Ireland (18)



Flood Resilience Conference 2024

Feedback summary

Sniffer invited all delegates, speakers and exhibitors to complete a feedback survey about how they had found the conference and to identify areas for improvement for future events.

Of those who responded to the survey over 96% rated the event as Good (39.1.2%) or Excellent (59.7%). The main reasons respondents attended the conference were to learn from best practice, to network and to hear policy updates. 40% of those who completed the survey attended the event for the first time (up from 27% in 2023).



A highlight video reel is available here: [Flood Resilient Scotland 2024](#)



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Sniffer is a Scottish sustainability charity working. We work with people, places and organisations for a flourishing and fairer future in a changing climate. We take a collaborative approach, working with a wide range of partners to understand and respond to the impacts of climate change. Our workstreams focus on Climate Ready Placemaking, Climate Ready Leadership and Innovation.



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#FloodResilience2024