



Infrastructure-related carbon dioxide emissions are reduced



Net Zero Buildings Standard supporting over £2bn of public sector projects

THE UK has set itself an ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, with Scotland promising to reach the same goal by 2045.

It is widely recognised that buildings, both during their construction and when operational contribute significantly to carbon emissions, understood to be around 35% of total global energy consumption.

So anything that can be done closer to home to help bring that percentage down will go a long way to helping Scotland reach its 2045 net zero goal.

One such initiative is the **Net Zero Public Sector Buildings Standard**. It is a voluntary standard that was developed by our Net Zero Buildings team on behalf of Scottish Government in collaboration with Zero Waste Scotland and National Services Scotland to support public bodies meet their net zero commitments across all new and refurbished construction projects.

The origin of the Standard stems from what is known across the construction sector as the 'energy performance gap'; the difference between what a new or refurbished building's energy performance actually is, compared to that what was predicted during the design phase.

To help drastically narrow the gap, the Standard sets out a series of easy-to-follow steps which focus on making new and retrofitted buildings as energy efficient as possible.

Such as been the success of the Standard, that the appetite by Scotland's public sector to adopt it has seen the value of projects using it pass well over £2bn and range from a school in Ayrshire to a zero direct emission prison. These projects have committed to clean heating, which has paved the way for this to become a mandatory requirement under the latest **Building Regulations**.

The Standard's energy targets got to the heart of the performance gap, moving the dial on the public sector's energy ambition.



Net Zero Public Sector Buildings Standard

Marie Porteous, former Head of Sustainability & Environmental Management, NHS Lanarkshire (now of NHS Assure, who lead on the application of the Standard to the health sector), said of the Monklands replacement hospital: *"The Standard has assisted NHS Lanarkshire in developing its in-use energy and carbon targets and will support the development, delivery and operational stages of new its new-build and major refurbishment projects. This will help NHS Lanarkshire reach its net zero aims and improve the communities it serves."*