



Scotland's centre of expertise connecting  
climate change research and policy

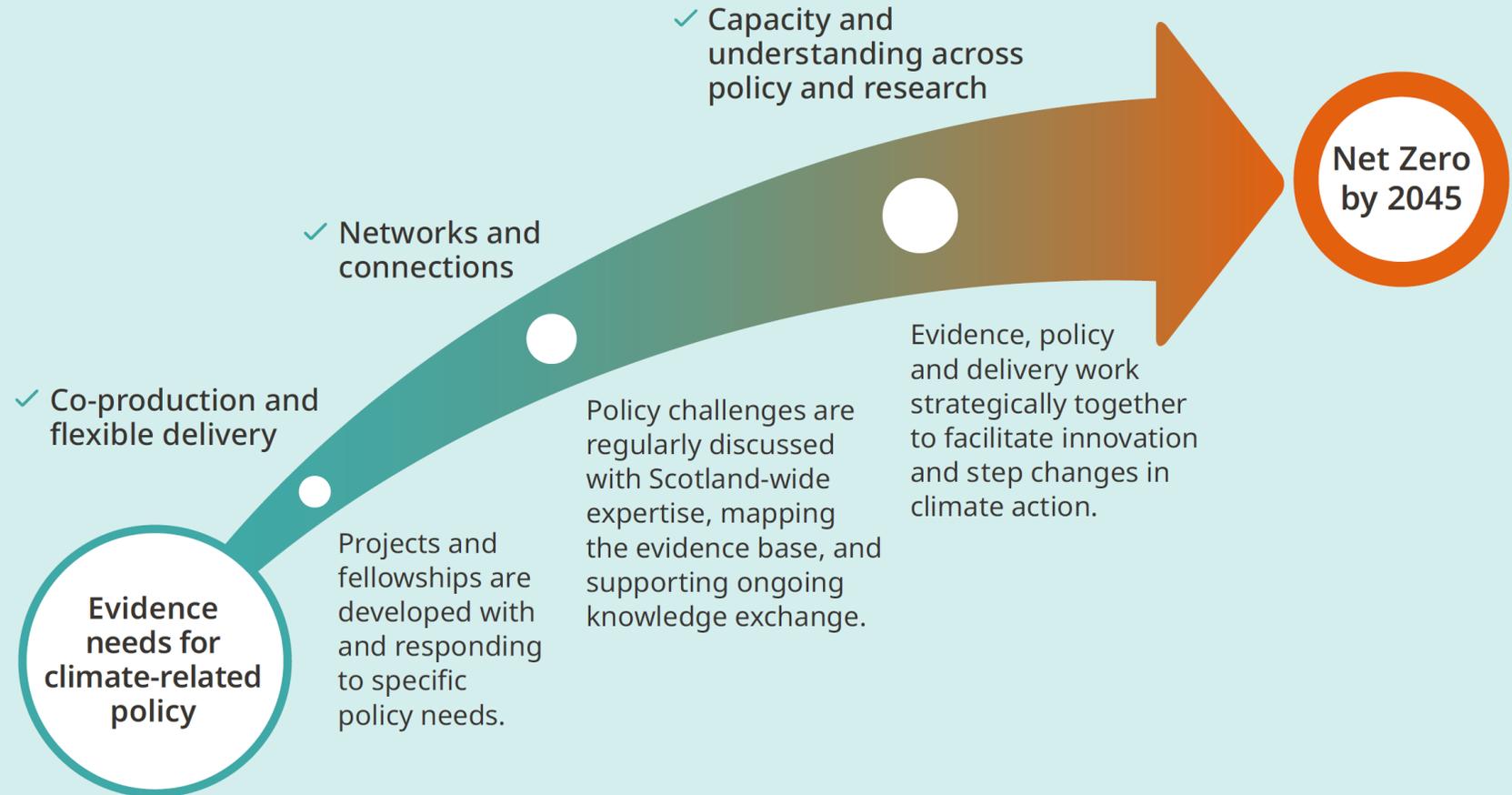
# The environmental, social and economic benefits of sustainable travel to local high streets and town centres

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We bring scientists and policy makers together to create policies that are informed by the best available evidence.

## How our work supports a net zero Scotland





Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot



**cenex**

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# The challenge: 20 percent reduction in car km by 2030



**Walking and wheeling**



**Cycling**



**Public transport**



**Taxis and shared transport**



**Private car**



# A vision for a thriving high street



Plans for the pedestrian 'piazza' on London's Oxford Street. Photograph: Westminster Council



Sustainable travel has environmental, economic, and social benefits for local high streets and town centres.



# Why sustainable travel is good for business

*In the UK the estimated net annual economic benefit for individuals and society from all walking and wheeling trips is £5.4 billion. Of this total, £251 million is from people with a car choosing to walk or wheel for transport.*

*Investments in walking and wheeling infrastructure have been found to increase land values between 70-300% with retail commercial rates increasing in the range of 10-30%.*

*Sustainable travel yields time benefits; Dublin bikes reduce journey times by 34% and of €6 million in monetised benefits annually.*

*In Stoke-on-Trent, the widening of footways, installation of seating, and planting of trees increased footfall by 30%, attracting new businesses and cafes.*



**Busier  
businesses  
for everyone**



**Places  
valued by  
everyone**



**Better  
opportunity  
for everyone**

# Safety, clean air and more nature

*A cyclist requires approximately 12% of the space needed to park a car.*

*More sustainable travel can also result in increased biodiversity, reduced noise and reduction in road surface temperature. All of which benefit our environment.*

In Edinburgh 20 mph speed limits, reduced collisions by 40%, with a 39% reduction in casualties and a 23% reduction in the number of road traffic fatalities.

Cycling prevents 4,199 serious long-term health conditions each year in the UK. This saves the NHS in sampled cities £27.5 million per year, equivalent to the cost of 920,000 GP appointments.



**Healthier  
streets for  
everyone**



**Safer  
streets for  
everyone**



**Better  
access for  
everyone**

# High streets and town centres for people, business and the environment

Sustainable travel is one way to help us do this. When people walk, cycle and use public transport it reduces the number of cars on our high streets. Less cars frees up space for living, it reduces congestions, free up parking spaces and make more space for people walking and cycling.

More space for everyone: Active travel is a better use of space. Cycling uses 12% of the space cars need for parking.



## Better environment for everyone

Every year, **260,000kg** of NOx and **38,000kg** of particulates are saved by cycling instead of driving.



## Better access for everyone

For the last decade, disabled people made **38%** fewer journeys than non-disabled people in the UK and **1 in 5** disabled people felt unable to travel due to the lack of appropriate transport options.



## Better opportunity for everyone

In the UK the estimated net annual economic benefit for individuals and society from all walking and wheeling trips is **£5.4 billion**.



## Safer streets for everyone

Edinburgh saw **40%** fewer collisions with **39%** fewer casualties and a **23%** reduction in fatalities in one year due to **20mph** speed limits.



## Places valued by everyone

A study across European cities have shown consumers' preference for green streets for cycling and favoured detours to avoid grey streets.



## Busier businesses for everyone

Improvements in walking and cycling can increase local retail spend by up to **30%**. London high streets saw a **216%** rise in socialising with improvements.



## Healthier streets for everyone

Cycling and walking in Mini-Holland, Waltham Forest increases life expectancy by **7 months** and adds **204,000** life years to its residents.

# climateXchange

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