

Just published: Scottish Nitrogen Balance Sheet

Scottish Government has published an initial dataset and report establishing a [Scottish Nitrogen Balance Sheet \(SNBS\)](#) as required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act. It covers food production (agriculture & aquaculture) transport, industry and energy etc.

Through AIC Scotland, AIC was invited to steer the project from the outset. The findings (basic level to begin with) are well presented in respect to agricultural systems. The report acknowledges the value of different land use and systems in seeking gradual improvements in Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) across all as a relative measure for change. Estimates of Feed Conversion Efficiency are also made for livestock systems. The feed sector and the fertiliser sector have a role in helping to refine/make data more robust over time. We shall need to ensure harmonising of terms and metrics for conversation with farmers, as it is well known that different terminology is used in practice.

We are pleased to see the definitions of Nitrogen Use Efficiency (page 7) applicable to farm, farm type, region and at national level, consistent with earlier work conducted by the EU Nitrogen Expert Panel, with Fertilisers Europe, EU policy input, and United Nations science leads.

A draft statutory instrument has been laid in the Scottish Parliament with proposals for the formal establishment of the SNBS in law including reviews on an annual basis from 2023.

AIC will maintain its engagement as the balance sheet is developed and help to join up thinking with Defra and Devolved Administrations. Work on UK modelling of phosphorus flows ([RePhoKUs project](#)) has also been conducted with a view to scientific publication – AIC has been asked to provide input.