



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

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Rob Gibson MSP
Convenor of Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

13th July 2015

Dear Mr Gibson,

Potential upcoming climate change issues for Committee consideration

With the latest report from the UK CCC having been published in March, and the 2013 emissions figures now available, we thought this was a good opportunity to highlight to the Committee potential areas we think would merit your attention over the coming months.

At the end of last year, you wrote to the Climate Change Minister reminding her of the requirement, under Section 36 of the Scottish Climate Change Act, that the Scottish Government has a responsibility to bring forward compensatory policies and proposals, to make up for higher emissions resulting from missed annual targets.

As you are aware, the Act requires these to be laid before the Scottish Parliament 'as soon as reasonably practicable' after the missed target announcement. We note that this did not happen last year following the announcement of the 2012 emissions figures. It is important that the Scottish Government meet this statutory requirement this year in response to the 2013 emissions figures. We encourage the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee to pursue this issue with the Minister in the early autumn.

In June this year, we warmly welcomed the Government's commitment to making energy efficiency a National Infrastructure Priority. More than half of Scotland's climate emissions come from heating of space and water, and energy efficiency could reduce this figure as well as helping to address Scotland's high levels of fuel poverty. Because of the significance of this sector in reducing emissions, we would ask the Committee to consider seeking an update in the autumn on the development of this important policy.

Transport remains the sector of most concern to us in terms of plans to reduce Scotland's emissions. Over two years since the RPP2 was published, there is still no indication of any forthcoming Scottish transport policies to reduce emissions. Proposals urgently need to be further developed and additional actions identified to set us on a convincing path to low carbon transport required in the future. We would suggest that the Committee and/or your colleagues in the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee could seek evidence from the Transport Minister on planned actions to reduce climate change from that sector.

We feel it may also be useful to seek an update from the Chair of the Cabinet Sub Committee on Climate Change, to better understand its progress on these crucial areas of energy efficiency and transport.

We would be interested to engage with any Committee members planning to attend the UN climate talks in Paris, particularly to underline the cross-party support in Scotland for ambitious climate action. We believe that Scotland has a good story to tell internationally – albeit noting the need to deliver on our carbon reduction targets. We will continue our work this year promoting our short film *Scotland's Climate Action Story*, to encourage other developed countries to commit to similar climate ambition.

We would be happy to discuss these points further with you or the Committee clerks over the summer recess. Please contact us using the contact details at the top of this letter to make the necessary arrangements if that is of interest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Ballantine". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Ballantine
Chair of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland