



MSP Briefing

Creating a Positive Climate

Ambition and action in the Climate Change Bill

The Climate Change Bill is an exciting opportunity to deliver positive action on climate change. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland believes that the Bill, as introduced, fails to deliver the Government's own promise to implement the Paris Agreement. It doesn't increase ambition in the short-term, doesn't boost short-term action, and fails to set the date for when Scotland will stop contributing to climate change. We want to see the following included in the Bill.

Ambitious new greenhouse gas reduction targets

Set new targets to achieve a 77% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest.

The Paris Agreement means Scotland must increase emission reduction targets in the Climate Change Bill, both short term, by 2030, and long term, to 2050. A [team of international experts on climate science](#) recently concluded that if we're going to have a good chance of limiting global warming to 2°C then global emissions need to halve in each decade and reach zero emissions by 2050. If we're going to go one step further and try to limit global warming to around 1.5 °C, as the world agreed to try to do through the Paris Agreement, then our emissions need to fall to zero even faster, ideally closer to 2040 rather than 2050. To do this would mean reducing our emissions by 77% by 2030 and 90% by 2040 – based on our emissions in 1990. Sticking to this plan would mean we'd be able to reach zero emissions by 2050 at the absolute latest.

Ensuring the Scottish Budget invests in our zero-carbon future

Ensure that future finance budgets are consistent with our climate targets.

At the moment, the Scottish Government has a Climate Change Plan which outlines the next steps they'll take on the road towards our zero-carbon future. But as it stands, the Government doesn't have to say how much it's spending or planning to spend on specific initiatives to help achieve this plan. That means when the Scottish Government sits down to plan its budget, it's not obliged to think about the Climate Change Plan. We want the new Climate Change Bill to legally require the Government to link its Budget to the Climate Change Plan. That way, actually delivering the Climate Change Plan will become more of a priority and we'll be able to tell more easily if the Government's investing the money needed to achieve it in practice.

Improve the energy efficiency of all Scotland's homes

All homes should have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of 'C' by 2025

Energy efficiency is one of the lowest-cost ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation are cheap to install, saving energy and emissions for decades, as well as lifting households out of fuel poverty and

improving public health. It's also great for the economy, creating up to 9,000 jobs and with much of the work going to small and medium-sized businesses. Earlier this year, the Scottish Parliament voted for all homes to be brought up to a good energy performance standard of C by 2030. However, the Government wants this by 2040 and its new Fuel Poverty Bill does nothing to tackle leaky homes, despite a 2016 manifesto commitment to introduce a Warm Homes Bill. The Climate Change Bill must enshrine targets for all homes to reach at least an Energy Performance Certificate rating of 'C' by 2025-2030.

Introduce a greener farming programme

Introduce a package of low-carbon farming measures, including a Nitrogen Balance Sheet by 2020.

Farming and other land management accounts for 26% of Scotland's emissions including the vast majority of Scotland's methane and nitrous oxide emissions, both powerful greenhouse gases. To meet our new climate targets farmers must take action to farm in ways which reduce emissions of nitrogen and methane. Changing the way we farm using low-carbon techniques can reduce these emissions as well as improving air quality, water quality in the countryside, habitats for wildlife, and keep soils healthy and productive. One of the key things to do to cut nitrous oxide emissions is to ensure farmers use fertilisers more efficiently and that's why we want to see Government create a Nitrogen Balance Sheet for Scotland by 2020. This technique would create a nationwide picture of the country's nitrogen use emissions, and help design recommendations for farmers and reduce food waste.

Act now to create a positive climate for Scotland's future

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is a diverse coalition of organisations campaigning together on climate change, including environment, faith and development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups.

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