

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Briefing for Climate Change Bill Stage Three Debate

20 September 2019



SCCS is a diverse coalition of international development and environment organisations, trade and students' unions, faith and community groups campaigning together for action on climate change.

Summary

Almost one year ago, the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C warned that rapid, transformational action is required across the next decade to limit warming to 1.5°C. The Scottish Parliament now has the opportunity to embed the required action into legislation.

With the UN climate negotiations (COP26) coming to Glasgow next year, the eyes of the world will be on Scotland and our response to the climate emergency. The Bill is being voted on during the same week as UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in New York, and the world's largest week of public climate action. Scotland must be on the right side of climate history.

The final Act must have a **focus on climate justice at its core, with increased action over in the next decade**. We urge you to vote for:

- A **more ambitious 2030 target**, moving beyond 70% to drive action in the next decade.
- **New policy action** to support energy efficient homes, to use Scotland's land for the climate emergency, invest in low-carbon infrastructure, and to fund a just transition for Scottish farming.
- Amendments which embed **climate justice** and our **global responsibilities** at the heart of our approach to tackling climate change.

Climate Emergency

Since the Climate Change Bill was first mooted over 3 years ago, there has been an increased recognition, both in politics and wider society, of the gravity of the climate crisis and the action required to tackle it.

The IPCC Special Report set out the disastrous impacts of breaching 1.5°C of warming, including 2 billion more people exposed to extreme heat waves, an ice-free Arctic at least once every 10 years rather than once every 100 years, and virtually all coral reefs lost by 2100.

IPCC warned that we could reach 1.5°C of warming by 2030, unless we implement a radical step-up in action and rapidly reduce emissions now and over the next crucial next decade.

At the grassroots, new campaign groups have sprung up, including the global Youth Strikes for Climate movement - with millions joining marches demanding increased urgency during the very week that the Scottish Parliament will pass this Bill.. **There is a clear public demand for more ambition and urgent action from politicians to reduce our emissions.**

Accelerating action in the next decade

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland has strongly welcomed the net-zero by 2045 target in the Bill, understanding that this sends a powerful international message about Scotland's climate ambition, and signals that all sectors of the economy will need to make significant changes.

However, the science is unequivocal; the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C makes clear that the next decade is crucial if we are to reduce our emissions by the levels required to meet our Paris Agreement commitments. Work by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in assessing Scotland's role in delivering the Paris Agreement calculated that, without rapidly accelerating emissions reductions, **Scotland will have used our fair share of the 2°C carbon budget in less than 10 years.**

The case for a stronger 2030 target has never been clearer. We urge MSPs to increase ambition, before it is too late.

In recognition of the scientific evidence, SCCS encourages MSPs to back the strongest ambition possible over the next decade. MSPs should vote for:

- **Amendment 18** which would introduce a **2030 target of 80%** or;
- **Amendment 17** which would introduce a target of **75%**

Climate Justice

As a developed country whose industrialisation contributed significantly to global climate change, and given our ability to do more to reduce our emissions than many other countries, it's imperative that Scotland adopts stronger targets than the global average.

To deliver our global commitments, the Bill must place climate justice and a just transition at its core. Climate justice recognises that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affects the poorest, most vulnerable, and those who have done the least to cause the crisis.

Fully implementing the Paris Agreement

In setting the global goal of keeping temperature rise to *"well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C"*, the Paris Agreement commits signatories to implement climate policies in a fair and just manner - stating that developed countries must take the lead in reducing emissions, and support developing countries to adapt to the effects of climate change. It further states that *"this Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances."*

This Bill must enshrine the whole of the Paris Agreement, including international commitments and principles of climate justice. MSPs should vote for:

- **Amendments 12A and 14A** which ensure climate action in Scotland doesn't negatively impact on the sustainable development of other countries
- **Amendment 20** which ensures the principles of the Paris Agreement, including equity, are enshrined in consideration of Scotland's fair and safe budget
- **Amendment 10 and 19** which define a new climate justice principle and include it in the target setting criteria

Just Transition

It is disappointing that the Bill will not commit to a statutory Just Transition Commission for the duration of our emissions reductions targets. It is also disappointing that the Bill will not require Ministers to identify the scale and sources of investment required to deliver a Just Transition to a zero carbon economy. However, **it is crucial that tackling the climate emergency is done in a way which protects and enhances the livelihoods of workers and communities.**

The Bill must ensure that future plans and policies are developed in a way that helps deliver a just transition for workers and communities and improves social inclusion. MSPs should vote for:

- **Amendments 7, 8 and 35** which require that the Climate Change Plan - with reference to Just Transition principles – explains the impact of proposals and policies on employment in different sectors and regions and sets out support for the workforce, communities and employers.
- **Amendment 36** which includes reporting on the above in annual progress reports to Parliament.
- **Amendment 37** which includes trade unions in the list of relevant stakeholders in the Just Transition principles as set out in the Bill.

Consumption emissions

Our carbon footprint is not limited to greenhouse gas emissions released from within Scotland. We are also responsible for emissions associated with goods and services which we import from overseas. While Scotland's domestic production emissions have been falling, emissions embedded in imported goods and services have been increasing.

On the path to global net-zero, the CCC has stated that “actions that the UK can take to reduce its consumption emissions could be as effective in tackling climate change as actions to reduce territorial emissions.”

Understanding the drivers of our consumption emissions and taking action to reduce them is crucial to playing our global role in tackling the climate crisis. MSPs should vote for:

- **Amendment 24** which strengthens reporting on consumption emissions, helping us to understand what goods and services are responsible for the largest share of emissions.
- **Amendment 34** which requires future Climate Change Plans to include proposals & policies on addressing consumption emissions

Delivering on our targets

SCCS has consistently argued that the Bill needs to be expanded to include some of the policy measures or additional targets which will help us achieve the Bill's objectives. This was reaffirmed by the Stage One report, which criticised the lack of costed policy proposals in the Bill, calling for “costed measures, where possible” as well as “additional types of targets.” Although some amendments were made in this space at Stage 2, this Bill remains a missed opportunity to deliver some of the many fundamental regulatory and policy changes needed in transport, heating, agriculture and land use to drive decarbonisation in the economy.

To deliver the required level of change and give long term confidence to key sectors, **the Bill needs to be amended to include measures to reduce emissions from key sectors:**

Home energy efficiency

Heating requirements across homes, non-domestic buildings and industry currently accounts for around **half of all Scotland's emissions**.

The vast majority of homes in Scotland need to be supported to achieve at least an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C standard by 2030, and zero-carbon by 2045 if we are to achieve net-zero. Setting a stronger energy efficiency target and stopping fossil fuel heating in new homes will contribute to reducing emissions from heating our homes.

Nitrogen balance sheet

Excessive nitrogen use is one of the most pressing global environmental concerns, so the creation of a balance sheet is vital in contributing towards Scotland's circular economy and emission ambitions by ensuring that nitrogen is used efficiently across all sectors.

SCCS welcomes the Programme for Government commitment to develop a nitrogen balance sheet. This has been a key SCCS ask for the bill and we welcome **amendment 23** which would require a nitrogen balance sheet to be created within a year of the Bill passing.

Land Use

Land use is a sector in which big wins can be achieved in emissions reductions. Commitments in the Programme for Government to identify land use pathways to net zero were welcome.

Cutting emissions is also key to protecting our land and food systems. The IPCC (2019) Special Report on Climate Change and Land and explicitly states that *“rapid reductions in anthropogenic GHG emissions across all sectors following ambitious mitigation pathways reduce negative impacts of climate change on land ecosystems and food systems. Delaying climate mitigation and adaptation responses across sectors would lead to increasingly negative impacts on land and reduce the prospect of sustainable development.”*

In terms of mitigation through land use, the next decade is also key as sequestration projects such as peatland restoration, tree planting and soil carbon improvements will take time to establish and create real impacts.

To drive forward policy change, MSPs should vote for:

- **Amendment 23** requiring a nitrogen balance sheet be created within a year of the Bill
- **Amendment 30**, which would require Climate Plans to set out measures for improving the energy efficiency of homes to at least an EPC C standard.
- **Amendment 25** which seeks to strengthen the mandate of the land use strategy to facilitate the delivery of climate change targets.
- **Amendment 27** which requires future Climate Change Plans to set out proposals and policies in the Climate Change Plan for the establishment, support and resourcing of regional land use partnerships and frameworks.
- **Amendment 26** requiring a new Climate Change Plan within 6 months

Infrastructure spending

To deliver the speed of decarbonisation needed, it is vital that the Scottish Government's capital investments in infrastructure are aligned with our climate change goals, that they support decarbonisation, and that they do not leave us with stranded assets in the form of infrastructure that is not usable in a climate-neutral Scotland.

Current Scottish Government capital expenditure is not consistent with the climate emergency, and SCCS has consistently called for improvements in climate/budget reporting to require the Scottish Government to better align its capital investment with its climate change targets.

MSPs should vote for:

- **Amendment 15** which requires Ministers to report on whether Infrastructure Investment Plans are consistent with meeting climate change targets.

Please find overleaf the full list of amendments, in the order of the Marshalled List, which SCCS is supporting.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland also supports the briefing from Scottish Environment LINK.

For more information contact:

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Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

List of supported amendments: Climate Change Bill Stage 3



In order of the Marshalled List:

Amendment number	SCCS position
17	Support
18	Support
19	Support
3	Support
20	Support
1	Support
21	Support
22	Support
23	Support
24	Support
25	Support
26	Support
27	Support
28	Support

Amendment number	SCCS position
29	Support
6	Support
30	Support
32	Support
34	Support
35	Support
7,8	Support
9,10	Support
12A	Support
36	Support
37	Support
14A	Support
15	Support
16	Support