



Climate action in a climate emergency: the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland strategy 2020-2025

The world stands at a turning point. Decisions made by world leaders in the period of this strategy, and critically within the next 2 years, will determine whether the world accelerates towards a devastating climate future, or manages to limit the worst of the consequences of the climate crisis. In this critical year of 2020, Scotland finds itself in a key position, with Glasgow due to play host to the UN Climate Talks next year, offering a unique opportunity for us to accelerate Scottish climate action, to grow the movement, and to impact on global action. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland's work is more vital than ever in these coming five years, to project a strong, shared voice, and to coordinate to maximise civil society's impact.

SCCS are committed to advocating for action consistent with a climate-safe and a climate-just future. The IPCC, in their 2018 1.5 Degree Report, state that "limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees would require rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society". This strategy lays out Stop Climate Chaos Scotland's approach to securing these rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes "hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society"¹. Our most recent campaign, for a second Scottish Climate Act, resulted in a commitment to a 75% reduction from 1990 emission levels by 2030 and net zero by 2045. Demanding rapid and just action on these targets, and encouraging further ambition will be a key focus for us over the period of this strategy.

Purpose of this strategy document

This strategy is aimed at setting a direction for SCCS for the next 5 years. It is to provide a reference point for the development of annual SCCS plans. This strategy was formulated before, and finalised during, the Covid-19 outbreak with the new, short and longer term, threats and possibilities that crisis brings. Particularly at this time we recognise the need to remain flexible and responsive with our strategy and any plans in the light of the fast changing political, environmental and social circumstances.

The strategy is informed by the document '**An Overview of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland**' of May 2019 with its associated **Theory of Change** 'schematic'. The **Overview** and **Theory of Change** set out in detail our vision, role, values, aims, indicators of success, audiences and the outcomes we want to see. This strategy sets out how we propose working towards these things over the next 5 years.

Our vision:

Scotland is a just, sustainable and flourishing nation consistent with a climate-safe future at home and abroad and has encouraged others to the same goal.

Our aims:

This vision is supported by four core aims:

- **Climate Justice:** *We want to ensure that there is climate justice at home and abroad and that vulnerable people have been able to benefit from a green transition and adapt to the changing climate of our planet.*
- **Action at home:** *We want to inspire urgent action in Scotland and the UK so that Scotland and the UK have done at least their fair share to deliver climate action consistent with a safe future for our planet.*
- **Global Action:** *We want Scotland and the UK to lead and inspire global action so that global climate emissions reach a level consistent with a safe future for our planet*
- **Building the Movement/creating connections for change:** *We want to help inspire a stronger climate movement in Scotland with strong connections in all sectors in the country better equipped to push for all of the above objectives.*

- creating and maintaining a broad coalition and
- working through our members to bring out the voices of their supporter bases.

Over the next five years we want to grow and develop our work in each of these three areas to equip SCCS to advocate for the rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society needed to deal with the climate crisis:

- using our policy, advocacy and campaigns expertise to extend our reach to regional and local decision makers to have more effect on action on the ground
- broadening, deepening and diversifying our coalition to enable us to have more influence across more of society
- helping our member organisations coordinate to activate their supporter base on climate issues on SCCS campaigns, but also out with specific campaigns.

The severity of the climate crisis, and the particular opportunities offered over the next few years, demand special efforts and, for the period of this strategy, we will seek additional resource for some areas of work, particularly in expanding our reach and supporting some of our work around COP26.

Climate Justice:

Ensuring that there is climate justice at home and abroad, and that climate impacted people are able to benefit from a green transition and adapt to the changing climate of our planet is at the core of our 5-year strategy and informs all of the other aims. Specific areas to highlight for focus, each expanded on in one of the other aims, are:

- Advocating for policies that create a more equitable and flourishing society and planet and providing a vision of an equitable and climate-just future here in Scotland and around the world
- Using the year running up to COP, and its legacy, to tell global stories of climate change and to bring in the voices of those most affected by climate change, and strengthen our understanding of just responses to the crisis
- Diversifying our membership to include groups addressing poverty, disability, racial justice and migration
- Ensuring the voices of those most affected by climate change are heard, especially those from the Global South and Indigenous voices.
- Following the principles of Just Transition in the work that we do

Action at Home:

The Scottish Government committed in the Climate Act 2019 to reduce emissions from 1990 levels by 75% by 2030. The next five years, during the period of this strategy, are vital. We will demand immediate and rapid action on this target from Scottish Government and from other actors, and encourage further ambition.

- **We will advocate for rapid and just climate action by Government.** We will continue our policy work with Scottish Government, using COP26 as a lever to ensure an ambitious Climate Action Plan and Energy Strategy. In Year 2 of this strategy we will undertake a review of coalition policy working to come up with proposals to shape our policy work over years 2-5 of the plan.
- **We will develop an action plan to create other connections for change and to reach new audiences to include investigating the possibility of:**
 - A focus on sub-state actors, for example local authorities, to drive transformative action on the ground; to use the impetus of the non-state actors agenda at COP26, and the opportunity to work closely with Glasgow City Council over COP, to kick-start this area of work.

- More policy, advocacy and campaigns work at the local authority level to include working with relevant local civil society groups: this area of work would need additional resource to see it delivered with funding needed for an additional member of staff.
- Creating a compelling vision of a zero carbon Scotland and how to reach it. A vision to show how we can create a more equitable and flourishing society while delivering the ‘rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society’ necessary for a climate-safe future.

Global Action:

The first 2 years of this strategy gives us an unparalleled and unique opportunity for ‘Scotland and the UK to lead and inspire global action’ as COP26 comes to Glasgow in 2021. Our focus, therefore, will be on COP26 for the coming period and, thereafter, creating a lasting legacy from the UN conference, and its surrounding activities, following this through to input at future COPs.

We will focus activities in the first period of the strategy on COP26. Our key activities for COP26 will be those that will create connections, drive rapid and just climate action in Scotland, make the biggest difference to a successful COP, and front-line the voices of those most affected by climate change. These are expanded on in the COP26 strategy document.²

- **We will create a lasting legacy from COP26:** we will invest in ensuring a strong legacy from COP26 in Glasgow by continuing partnership working, growing the movement through new members and connections, and putting climate justice at the heart of what we do. We will seek public involvement in taking action and we will offer assistance to other civil society organisations mobilising around future COPs, especially COP27.
- **We will harness positive Scottish Examples to lever more ambition.** Where appropriate we will use case studies to inject a sense of ambition and can-do attitude globally, including SCCS’s successes in driving policy and legislation change in the Scottish Parliament, recognising that Scotland has world leading targets but needs to do more to deliver its fair share of climate action
- **We will advocate for Scotland to take a transformative, Climate Justice centred approach to the crisis.** We will push the Scottish Government to do its fair share of tackling the climate emergency, recognising that we have a moral obligation to cut emissions faster and offer support including finance to global south countries. We will campaign for solutions that are just at the national and local level too, ensuring the burden and benefits of solutions are shared fairly.
- **We will tell compelling stories to drive and inspire action.** We will focus on the voices of those impacted most by climate change, especially those in the global south, indigenous groups, and those most vulnerable within our own communities.

Building the movement/ creating connections for change:

In order to create the change that we need to see across the whole of society to achieve a climate-safe and climate-just future, we will involve much more of society in the climate movement. Our aims in this will be to: have better policy; better interactions at a local level; have a broader audience (through our members to their supporters/members); ensure a transition to a more equitable, just future where all can flourish.

We will concentrate on our model of working via our members to communicate and activate their own supporter bases, and we will become more effective at helping our members encourage their supporters to get active on climate change, in addition to specific SCCS campaigns.

- **We will expand our membership in strategic areas and create a more diverse coalition:** Building on our coalition model, where we work together and where members pool resources and work to shared goals, we will develop a plan to create new connections for change, and to expand our membership, investigating options:

² To be written following the sign-off of this strategy, and the establishment of the COP26 Steering Group

- To make connections and attract members to provide new policy expertise to help us advocate for the fundamental transformations we need
 - To connect with more groups and organisations that are active on a local level, particularly focussing on specific cities during the period of this plan.
 - To connect with poverty, racial equality, refugee and disability groups: to help us develop a vision and policy for a transition that works for those most vulnerable in society.
 - To connect with groups within the professions e.g. engineers, lawyers, doctors, actuaries, architects, teachers, artists
- **We will reduce barriers to participation in SCCS activities for smaller and grassroots organisations, and new members.** We will create more accessible ways of working and increase participation among smaller groups and new groups. This will contribute both towards our aims of having much wider civil society buy-in and relevance, and help to deliver more locally relevant work.
 - **We will work more closely with other coalitions and networks:** To achieve wider impact and reach we will work closely with both those that are our members and those that are not to expand the reach of our work where it will support our aims.
 - **We will help our members to activate their supporters/members on climate change:** We will build on our strength of helping our members activate their own supporter base during Climate Bill campaigns, to support our members to activate their supporters on climate change issues both via SCCS specific campaigns, and in business as usual, thus having a reach to a large portion of the Scottish public.
 - **We will develop a plan to develop connections for change with non-civil society actors.** In the second half of the period of this strategy we will reach out to and involve wider society, for example Universities and other educational institutions, local authorities, and local business, to influence and accelerate action on the climate crisis.

Delivering the Strategy:

SCCS operates with a degree of organisational sovereignty, constrained by the willingness of our members to support particular activities with money, people and other resources. This organisational sovereignty is expressed, for example, by reaching common policy positions which member organisations then spend time advocating for on behalf of SCCS including publishing opinion pieces, press releases, briefings etc. in the name of our coalition which reflect a common coalition view.

Over the next year we do not want to change our operating model significantly but we may want to look at the board make up and look for additional resource to assist with our aim to devote more effort to building a stronger climate movement.

We expect to use the following approaches, among others, to deliver the strategy³

- Policy development and advocacy, supported by public campaigning
- Public campaigning and engagement to build awareness and encourage social transformation
- Roundtables and sectoral engagement, policy and advocacy, public campaigning
- Building strong relationships and alliances to increase motivation and commitment to net zero
- Where appropriate highlighting the Scottish example globally – in events, communications etc.
- Where appropriate highlighting international good practice of just transition in Scotland

³ As taken directly from the board paper ‘SCCS Strategy 2020-2025 - Overview of Discussions so far’