

I was proud and delighted to read that Scotland had formulated ambitious plans towards low carbon. Now I am reading that the Climate Change plan may be lacking some of the concrete actions required to achieve its own stated goals. Please would you do your utmost to make the plan effective, for the future of our children.

Moira, Glasgow

Thank you in advance for what you are able to contribute to this vital programme for our planet and particularly for the millions of the most vulnerable people who are depending on this target being met.

Elisabeth, Glasgow

Please oppose the granting to new oil and gas licenses in the North Sea in order to reduce our emission reductions and support payments to farmers transitioning to organic production.

Irene, Edinburgh

I am writing to you today as a young Scot who is petrified about the future that I, and all members of my own and future generations, face on our beautiful planet. I believe in Scotland's potential to be a world-leader in climate change policy, and to inspire hope in so many who feel that all is lost.

Rachel, Edinburgh

You are in a position of huge power, and responsibility, to do the right thing for people across the world dealing with the catastrophic impacts of climate chaos now - and for the lives of future generations, in Scotland and around the world.

Rachel, Perth

In the midst of a global pandemic may seem an odd time to continue pushing for more climate action - but of course they're linked, and hence more important than ever. The virus(es) are just symptoms of global problems, and we urgently need people like yourself to look at the big picture 'upstream' and lead the way for planetary action.

Sarah, Perth

I'm writing because I'm frightened for the future of my children. I'm beginning to lose faith in global governments proposed actions to avert climate disaster. But there must still be some hope, for now we are at least still able to create opportunities and provide ourselves and most importantly, the future children of Scotland with a clean, thriving environment in which to live. To step up and DO SOMETHING right. This is the only planet we exist on. Resources are finite.

Nicole, Perth

I'm writing to urge you to finalise a detailed, ambitious and transformational Climate Change Plan update and in particular I want to highlight an aspect which often seems to fall by the wayside, which is the need for a much more central recognition of the vital importance of natural ecosystems in bringing a change to our carbon output. By this I mean not only in terms of carbon capture within natural systems, although that is vital and often under-stated, but also the wider long-term societal or cultural impacts of prioritising space for wild places and the potential of rewilding both of nature and people. When natural processes are allowed to flourish, and people begin to engage with that, it can bring a shift of emphasis away from consumption of goods to a respectful view of our place as being just one part of a wider natural ecosystem.

Andrew, Edinburgh

It's good time for action too with Joe Biden's inauguration as the next US President and his positive moves on the environment, including rejoining the Paris Agreement and committing to attend the Cop conference in Glasgow.

Alistair, Edinburgh

Please make future peoples of Scotland proud to be from a country that stood up and took leadership on the senseless destruction of our life support system. I realise that we the people need to give you permission to make politically unpopular plans, like penalising air travel or curbing polluting road transport. I give you permission to do the right thing, and my voice is one of many. Please listen closely to the outcome of the citizen's assembly on climate change.

Alexandra, Edinburgh

It is also vital that we show global solidarity by committing to champion the voices and increasing support to those most affected by the climate crisis who did the least to cause it. For example, two massive hurricanes struck Nicaragua within two weeks in November, causing nearly \$750 million of damage.

Alice, Fife

Restore our coastal wetlands and seagrass beds in particular (seagrass absorbs 30x more carbon than tropical rainforest)

Hazel, Dundee

I am also very concerned by the plans reliance on CCS technologies that are not currently scaleable.

Rowan, Argyll

I know you will get a lot of these emails, but I hope it will demonstrate to you that there is a real desire among the people of Scotland for our country to make some real transformational changes to help with the climate emergency.

I strongly agree with these proposed concrete actions to reduce emissions: the government should phase out high carbon heating systems in our homes; create more native woodlands; prevent the use of peat in horticulture; and stop building new trunk roads and motorways.

We need detail and to move from strategy and targets to real change happening.

It's Time for Action.

Steve, Aberdeen

Whilst the above suggestions will serve to assist in achieving the climate change targets in the short term, a more radical approach is required for ensuring the longer-term well-being of the planet. As a society, we need to consider reducing our demands on the planet's limited resources by measures such as reducing the growth in the population and implementing an economy that is not based on continuous growth.

Further, we perhaps need to redefine prosperity and to spread resources more equitably across the population such that society becomes less materialistic, less consumerist, and people focus on and enjoy the basic/bare necessities of life. Society has become hedonistic and profligate in its use of the planet's resources.

John, Lanark

With COP26 in Glasgow in November, Scotland showing an example for reducing greenhouse gas emissions is extremely important. We have less than ten years left to tackle this issue before the Earth reaches irreversible tipping points. We already have 1.2 deg C warming and Slater et al.'s research into glacial retreat last year showed that we are following the IPCC's 'worst case scenario'. Last year I personally witnessed alarming ice loss in the Alps (see here for a picture and explanation). Even though I have been aware of climate change for decades, the scale of ice loss shocked me to the core. I urge you to take bold and urgent action, so that in years to come you can tell future generations you did enough.

Anne, Stirling

Thank you for the work you and your colleagues have done to produce the Climate Change Plan update covering 2018 to 2032. It is the more praiseworthy for having been completed during the COVID health crisis and consequent financial crisis overturning the lives of our friends, families and neighbours.

Consensus: the plan spans two Holyrood parliaments from 2021 and goes into a third. Critical to success will be building agreement across all parties in Holyrood to the direction and detail of the plan so that new governments don't chop and change direction mid-stream for the sake of party political beliefs rather than hard evidence. No doubt there will be changes of approach as we move to 2045, but distraction arising from party politics could be seriously damaging. I urge you to build strong consensus across the Scottish Parliament for the Plan and its implementation. Climate Change remains the most serious threat we face; to come through it, we will need steadfast action from all of us.

Firm Policies: I welcome many of the firm policies in the Update: for example, within the buildings sector, the £1.6billion renewable heating fund over the life of the next Parliament, the commitment that new builds will have to have zero-carbon heating from 2024. It feels like there is a chance that we are going to make a real start on the hard changes needed to mitigate the climate and ecological catastrophe from the start of the new Parliament.

Detailed plans: for me, firm policies do not go out far enough on the time line so a lot of the update remains aspirational. For example, by 2030 or thereabouts the vision is to have 50% of the housing stock on zero-carbon heating, but no indications on how we will get there. I urge you to include more detailed policies for years later in the timeline wherever possible in order to make the vision of the plan more convincing.

Ambition: I am concerned that the Plan is not ambitious enough, fast enough. All the global climate updates point to an ever worsening situation. Time is running out fast if we don't make inroads into our carbon emissions. The UK CCC has reported that it will be very hard for Scotland to meet the 2030 target (a 75% cut in emissions from the 1990 level) if detailed legislation is not passed in the next Parliament. Ambition in the Agricultural sector seemed to be especially low in that the emission reductions predicted by 2032 seem much lower in percentage terms than other sectors. Please consider accelerating policies where firm actions have already been identified and seeking areas where you can increase the ambition.

NETS: I am concerned at the apparent reliance on Negative Emissions Technology to meet the 2045 net-Zero target. NETS are, as yet, unproven. They also feel like a wonderful get-out-of-jail-free card lessening the need for our societies to change. There is no indication in the Update of how significant a part of the required emissions reductions are being allocated to NETS. I think you should be upfront about this. We need to phase out fossil fuel dependence, not rely on new and imagined technologies to bale us out.

Transparency: there is no clear statement that doing everything in the Update will deliver the target reductions. Is it known that they would deliver the targets?

Justice at home: I urge that you keep an underlying principle of ensuring the transition benefits the disadvantage in our society most and that the costs of transition are borne by those of us (individuals and organisations) who can best afford it. The opportunities of the transition for sustainable job creation and ending scourges such as fuel poverty are well known.

Justice abroad: the developed economic nations must meet their fair shares of the cost of adaptation in countries already suffering from climate and ecological disasters due to climate change which they did nothing to create. We created the problem. We must pay our share of the cost of the clean-up across the Globe. I urge you to champion the movement for the industrial nations with the wealth derived from economies reliant on fossil fuels to provide the money for poor nations to adapt to the crises we have caused. As a group, we are reneging on the commitments signed at previous COPS and are not delivering the promised funds.

Winning the public over to enormous change: I know that you are consulting on the Public Engagement Strategy and I will respond. This is just to recognise that winning the public over is critical. Elected representatives can't do it all by themselves, but they can communicate their plans, explain openly the catastrophes we are facing; indeed we are in them already. They can talk about this as the most important underlying constant problem we have to face over the next 30 years, always acknowledging that events will force us to deviate from time to time.

Conclusion: be bolder with policies where you can; communicate to the public in every way you can to explain your immediate policies, your vision and the hurdles you are facing. Be open and transparent. Most of all, have a plan that commits to starting the hard task of change in our lives (whether that's heating systems, switching to public transport, having to re-train so as to move from unsustainable jobs) from June 2021. Time is running out fast.

Thank you for the brilliant work you and your team has done. We desperately need you and Parliament as a whole to succeed in winning the support of the public to get behind this vast challenge.

Richard, Aberdeen

I do not underestimate the scale of the problem you are asked to address, but it will not go away and showing a real ambition to take people with you in the Climate Change Plan update is vital.

With only nine years left to meet the 2030 target of 75% emission reductions, it is crucial that urgent action is taken to put Scotland rapidly on course to a low carbon future. Ahead of the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow in November, Scotland has an opportunity to set out a clear, ambitious and urgent plan of action to match its world-leading climate targets.

The need to help all those whose jobs will have to change significantly is shown by the devastation to large parts of Scotland wreaked by the Tories de-industrialisation strategy of the 1980s and 1990s. This transition must be different.

The plan must set out the concrete actions that will be taken to reduce emissions by providing alternatives to the wasteful, extravagant energy usage across Scotland. For example, the government should incentivise new jobs to phase out high carbon heating systems in our homes, create more native woodlands, increase product life and provide opportunity for repair rather than replacement.

Given the widely available alternatives to peat, you must prevent the use of peat in horticulture and break the stranglehold of the new road industry, transferring the priority to alternative transport.

Whilst there are some welcome proposals included, currently there is a risk that the Climate Change Plan update will not include the detail and action we need to meet the targets.

It is also vital that we show global solidarity by committing to champion the voices and increasing support to those most affected by the climate crisis who did the least to cause it. Many of these people must be able to attend COP26, whether in person or virtually, and have a voice that is heard by all.

Malcolm, Borders

I have been reading the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan update. Although it is hugely encouraging in principle and intent, it is short on concrete actions that will be taken to reduce emissions.

This is really urgent, with only nine years left to meet the 2030 target of 75% emission reductions. And it needs to be a flagship issue in this year of Scottish Elections and Cop26. The Scottish Citizens Assembly recommendations strongly point to support for a green recovery, which need not be and must not be overshadowed by the pandemic. It's a remarkable achievement that this CCPU has been drawn up despite the pandemic, and we must hope that a green recovery will genuinely combine 'green' action and a sustainable re-steer of our economy. The Climate Assembly will doubtless also feed into this.

BUT There is a danger that the forthcoming election could swamp important progress, especially on the all-important matter of full public engagement. The kind of understanding and positivity generated by the Citizens Assembly, needs to be shared and boosted across the population as a whole - reading the Climate Assembly diaries and recommendations is an inspiration and shows how people want to get behind the right policies when things are genuinely explained and discussed, but widespread community engagement is desperately needed so that population and politicians can really feel they are working together.

The Net Zero Nation Draft Public Engagement Strategy consultation is aimed at this, of course, but it runs till 17 March so any resulting policies are unlikely to be formulated pre-purdah and actions will be unlikely to happen until much later this year - though hopefully the strategy will be clear by November, galvanised by COP26? The election could also distract from the outcomes of the Climate Assembly as their last meeting is in early March.

The other major problem, is that the plan is lacking in some really important concrete actions that are clearly explained, with timescales. Yes, there are some route maps but they don't really answer the hard question I have heard when discussing these matters: Where are these green jobs? And the route maps don't commit to some key processes. For example, year-on-year phasing out of high carbon heating systems in existing homes, banning the use of peat in horticulture, and stop building new trunk roads and motorways. Whilst there are some welcome proposals included, currently there is a risk that the Climate Change Plan update will not include the detail and action we absolutely need to meet the targets.

It is also vital that we show global solidarity by committing to champion the voices and increasing support to those most affected by the climate crisis who did the least to cause it. I would ask that the final Climate Change Plan Update includes:

Use of our devolved powers in Scotland to provide far more finance to developing countries to help them adapt to the effects of climate change.

Acceptance that emissions from goods we buy from abroad are our responsibility, part of our carbon footprint. It should not develop policies that 'transfer' our emissions elsewhere, reduce others' ability to adapt to the changing climate or make it harder for other countries to make their own fair contribution to the global effort

Carolyn, Aberdeen

Moreover, we need to drastically improve our urban environments to promote sustainable modes of transport, working towards achieving 20 minute neighbourhoods.

Ian, Inverness

The letter below sets out specific actions relating to climate change which I would like to bring your attention to, and plead with you to support. Covid is an immediate emergency and seems to be eclipsing the climate crisis; this must be taken as seriously, and action built in to the covid recovery plan. Please, for all our sakes, and the future of humanity and this planet, hold the government and our nation to account for what has to be done now. This comes from my heart, I assure you; the template letter follows.

Ester, Edinburgh

I'm concerned about our collective future and would urge you to finalise a decent Climate Change Plan update which will empower Scotland to reach the 2030 target of 75% emission reductions.

Hannah, Argyll

Where Scotland leads many others will follow.

Bob, Argyll

The choices made now will impact the future of our world, we need to change the course. As we go now, generations of people will be impacted, not to mention the vast number of species which risk extinction. While our world faces a multitude of crisis's from the climate and biodiversity crisis, to the current health crisis, vast inequality and racism, please take the urgent action needed to Scotland on the right path to addressing one of the crisis's!

Lottie, Glasgow

I have little doubt of your personal commitment to tackling the climate emergency. I am also aware that there are many pressing issues facing the Scottish Government right now, and I don't diminish those if I say that they will diminish if the climate emergency is not addressed seriously and urgently. The fine words we hear have to be converted into meaningful change, and that will require hard decisions with the long view in mind. I for one will vote for those who take that approach.

It would be so good to show Scotland leading.

You know the actions that are needed, including around how our homes are heated, creating more native woodlands, and shifting direction in agriculture/horticulture and transport. The Climate Change Plan update needs more detail across the piece, and an unequivocal commitment to a wider range of actions than the current plan if we are to meet the targets.

It is also vital that we show global solidarity by committing to champion the voices and increasing support to those most affected by the climate crisis who did the least to cause it - the just transition is a global concept as well as local.

Now is an unparalleled opportunity for change, with a real appetite to build back better. You are in the right place at the right time to offer our children and future generations a chance. You can be in the generation of leaders who delivered more sustainable jobs and healthier communities. and a fairer future. It's time for action.

Brian, Shetland

Please make sure that Scotland keeps its promises and sets an example to other nations in our response to the current climate emergency.

Mary, Edinburgh

What is being done to support Tidal, Turbine & Solar energy development? The general public NEEDS to hear what is being proposed and what the time scales for change are.

Susan, Edinburgh

The Climate Emergency

I am writing as retired GP and active member of the health community.

Planetary health

There are two major public health threats facing us at the moment, the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.

We will, thanks to vaccination and other public health measures, be able to deal with the pandemic. Unless we, as individuals, communities, local and national government, radically change our behaviours and policies, we have no chance of effectively responding to the climate emergency. We have ten years left to make changes and the Climate Change Plan needs to reflect this urgency.

Lessons learned from the response to the Covid emergency one are fundamental to the response to the climate emergency. Christiana Figueres, previously chair of the United Nations Climate Change Committee, has made them clear in her seminal book, "The future we choose" (1):

Neither the Covid emergency nor the climate emergency respect boundaries.

Prevention is better than cure.

The poorest will suffer most.

We are only as safe as our most vulnerable.

We need to listen the science and the scientific experts.

The adequate response to such emergencies requires structural change.

Health and sustainability

Health and sustainability need to be at the core of all future planning.

Good social housing with low carbon heating and high quality insulation is, of course, essential for health.

Sustainable transport is essential to reduce air pollution and minimise respiratory and other health problems health. A recent case where the coroner recorded pollution as cause of death on a child's death certificate is salutary for all local authorities. Pollution, and unsustainable transport, kills.

The Green New Deal provides evidence that green economic development is good for jobs, which in turn benefits health, and good for the climate. A "Just and Green Recovery" (2) is essential for the health of the people of Scotland, and for our contribution to planetary health.

Sustainability Development Goals

The Sustainability Development Goals (3) provide a vital framework and these should be referenced.

The climate emergency is a health emergency.

References

The future we choose, Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, Manilla Press, 2020

<https://foe.scot/campaign/just-green-recovery-for-scotland/>

Scotland and the sustainable development goals: a national review to drive action, 30 July 2020.

Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-sustainable-development-goals-national-review-drive-action/>

The draft Scottish Government Budget 2021-2022, published today, fails to give the necessary priority to providing a green recovery from the pandemic, or to address the key issues we will face in coming years, despite assertions to the contrary.

William, Edinburgh

As an older person, I am saddened by years of dreadful or non-existent energy policy (I had a half day strike to support the miners in the 1980s) coming from the London parliament: I hoped and have had better from the Scottish one.

Geraldine, Edinburgh

I really trust that you will do your best not only for us, but for our grandchildren and this generations who follow us.

Cecelia, Edinburgh

While this email seems to cover the problem, I will add that 87% of the population say they want change now. Please act to get this rolling fast. The best future for Scotland is to prove that climate change can be halted.

Julia, Aberdeen

I'm signing this open letter to support what I know is the genuine concern of Scottish Government Ministers to be associated with Scotland marking its place in the world as a visionary country which leads by example when it stands up to the big polluting industries and an economic system that is the cause of so many of our climatic and environmental challenges.

I appeal to you all to support a massive fringe programme of events around COP26 that engages with the central issue of poverty caused by extremes of wealth. I believe that it is possible to create a wellbeing economy in Scotland with its own national bank and currency that imaginatively supports a universal basic income in conjunction with a courageous programme for decarbonisation.

Roland, Dumfries

What is still needed is

- 1. A plan to phase out high carbon heating systems in our buildings*
- 2. , Create more native woodlands,*
- 3. Prevent the use of peat in horticulture and stop the burning of peat for grouse moors etc*
- 4. Need to address the issue of deer management. Deer numbers are historically at a very high number and this is not fair to the deer (as the weakest survive and the herds suffer) but more importantly, deer are a threat to the establishment and natural regeneration of new woodlands. Deer have no predators so the numbers need reduced properly. Wild venison is a very healthy meat with anti oxidants and is much healthier than standard red meat which has a much higher carbon impact. As a nation we should promote wild venison more and we would all benefit as well as new woodlands*
- 5. Please add in to stop building new trunk roads and motorways. The new A96 is not needed!*
- 6. There is much popular support for a Frequent Flyer Levy as this is seen as being both fair and effective. Families could be allowed one foreign flight per year so would not be penalised. Those who fly most tend to be the richest.*

Mary, Aberdeen

My question is: do you agree? If so what will you do this year? If not, why not?

Ian, Glasgow

I urge you to publish a more detailed, ambitious and transformational Climate Change Plan update than the draft released before Christmas.

This requires more concrete actions and commitments to put Scotland rapidly on course to a zero carbon future. YOU have the opportunity to set out a clear, ambitious and urgent plan of action to match its world-leading climate targets.

- 1. Your government should phase out all subsidies to fossil fuel industries.*
- 2. Create more native woodlands,*
- 3. Prevent the use of peat in horticulture and*
- 4. Stop building new trunk roads and motorways.*

Whilst some proposals included in the draft update, there is a high risk that the new Climate Change Plan will not deliver the changes needed to meet the Paris Accord target of less than 1.5degrees warming.

Please also champion the voices of the majority world / global South and increase support to those most affected by the climate crisis who did the least to cause it.

Please make sure you use the opportunity to integrate the Wellbeing Economy Nation, the 20 minute Neighbourhoods, the elimination of systemic racism, the inter-generational poverty and all the other wonderful policies and priorities into the plan for a Just and Green Recovery from the Coronavirus Pandemic.

David, Edinburgh

As so often happens, this letter is prompted by an on-line campaign by people who are tired of being fobbed off by vague aspirations that add up to no action. It's time for the Scottish government to adopt significant policy changes in pursuit of Climate Justice.

William, Edinburgh

We also need full transparency of detail, so that there is accountability for the proposed actions.

Susan, Edinburgh

Please do read this, it's the most important issue in my life and, I believe, the lives of my family, my community and the citizens of Scotland.

Gillian, Inverness

Today's youngsters face a grim future which they are powerless to alter if we do not radically change most aspects of current life and work. We urgently need to transform food, energy, transport, economic and other systems. What an opportunity we have with COP 26 to showcase Scotland's innovative transformation to a fairer, greener, more resilient and prosperous society to the world. What a tragic catastrophe if we don't.

Thank you for boldly updating the Climate Change Plan accordingly.

Anne, Inverness

It is also vital that we show global solidarity by committing to championing the voices and increasing support to those most affected by the climate crisis, yet who did the least to cause it. It is quite literally a matter of life and death.

Graeme, Edinburgh

I would like to add my voice to that of many others in requesting that you give your full commitment to ensure that the Climate Change Plan is formulated to ensure that it is fully effective in delivering its emission reduction target. It is now a planetary imperative which affects humans and the natural world alike.

Katherine, Edinburgh

I am a mother and grandmother. With current government inaction on making the necessary systemic changes to our materialistic, growth-obsessed society, I am deeply fearful of what the future holds. The scientific facts are not encouraging, and lack of courage, knowledge, and the desire to take the lead in protecting Scottish citizens and the land we live are currently leading to disaster. I am an environmental scientist, and I am deadly serious.

Evi, Dumfries

*Please consider the follow points
Stronger commitments to transition rapidly and fairly away from digging up and burning high-polluting fossil fuels. Investment should instead go towards creating green jobs and training in clean green jobs in zero carbon economy. There is too much reliance on Negative Emission Technologies (NETs). Years of climate inaction has meant that governments are relying on false technologies like Carbon Capture and fossil hydrogen to cut emissions. This Plan is worryingly reliant on NETs which may not even materialise to meet targets.*

Instead we should be backing climate solutions that we know work today such as wind, solar and boosting energy efficiency in our homes. More investment and credible plans for cleaning up transport. Transport is a high emitting sector which has made almost no progress for decades. We want to see far more affordable and accessible public transport options along with greater support for walking and cycling.

Margaret, Glasgow

I write as a citizen, parent and grandparent who wants to ensure future generations have a future. My young grandchildren live in Glasgow. It's impossible for them to go out without being exposed to fumes and road pollution. They don't have a car and have to rely on public transport and walking but they are the ones most exposed to dangerous emissions in their daily lives.

Diane, Arran

There should be a stronger commitment to transition rapidly and fairly away from digging up and burning high-polluting fossil fuels. Investment should instead go towards creating green jobs and training in clean green jobs in zero carbon economy.

There is too much reliance on Negative Emission Technologies (NETs). Years of climate inaction has meant that governments are relying on false technologies like Carbon Capture and fossil hydrogen to cut emissions. Instead we should be backing climate solutions that we know work today such as wind, solar and improving energy efficiency in our homes. More investment and credible plans for cleaning up transport. There should be far more affordable and accessible public transport options - especially improving train services in Scotland.

Giselle, Edinburgh

I'm writing with a plea as a concerned, anxious citizen. As just one member of the public, I often feel powerless in the face of the impending climate crisis, the consequences of which are growing day by day, the longer governments carry on down the path of little or no action. Therefore I'm writing to you, Cabinet Secretary, to urge you to help make a real tangible difference.

Georgia, Edinburgh

- ensure the transition away from fossil fuels is both fast and fair,
- ending your over-reliance on speculative technologies like Carbon Capture & fossil hydrogen,
- phasing out high carbon heating systems in our homes,
 - creating more native woodlands,
 - preventing the use of peat in horticulture,
 - no more new trunk roads and motorways,
 - cleaning up transport and boosting cycling.

Alan, Edinburgh

In addition I cannot understand why any effort has yet to be made to persuade the public to waster less, use less plastic and cut their own footprints. Every where I go summer or winter cars sit in car parks with engines running, the amount of litter thrown from cars is embarrassing and the list goes on. When will the government spend a little money educating the public on what they must do starting now to change planet destroying habits? Every day we don't do this makes our chances of successes reduce.

Neil, Aberdeen

I am a person that is committed to clean air for everyone and slowing or stopping global warming. Furthermore, at a local level, improving health and quality of life by promoting cycling, walking and exercise are vital actions. As are the planting of trees and the creation of green spaces. We need to break the obsession with cars that is widely shared by many people and politicians alike. The latter are seemingly more interested in securing the votes of drivers that doing the right thing for current and future generations.

John, Edinburgh

I write to ask that you ensure that Scotland's Climate Change Plan is updated to make it as radical, effective and fair as it can be, with concrete actions and ways forward included. Urgent action is essential if the 2030 target of 75% emission reductions is to be met and it would set a fine example, as host of this year's COP26, if Scotland can show that it is really serious, with a clear and ambitious plan.

Such a plan should include the phasing out of high-carbon heating systems in our homes and offices, the creation of more native woodlands, an imminent ban on the use of peat in horticulture (this was supposed to have ended UK-wide by 2020, a clear failure) and stopping the building of new major roads - concerted efforts to get more freight on to railways (and ships or barges where appropriate). There also needs to be root and branch reform of the current agricultural system away from destructive, inhumane and unhealthy industrial farming and towards small-scale, organic farming, with subsidies for the latter to make its products affordable for all consumers. I don't advocate veganism but there should be concrete action to encourage people to eat less but better quality meat.

The plan should also demonstrate solidarity with those in developing countries, who have done little to cause the current crisis and will need support to raise their standards of living without adding greatly to carbon emissions.

The devastation wreaked by Covid-19 shows us why taking action for climate and nature is essential now. The government must deliver a recovery from the pandemic that builds a better, fairer future resulting in more sustainable jobs and healthier communities. The current plan is a good start but it must contain more specifics in order to result in real action.

Frances, North Ayreshire

*I believe the plan should include:
Stronger commitments to transition rapidly and fairly away from digging up and burning high-polluting fossil fuels. Investment should instead go towards creating green jobs and training in clean green jobs in zero carbon economy. A substantially-reduced reliance on Negative Emission Technologies (NETs). The current Plan is worryingly reliant on NETs which may not even materialise to meet targets. Instead we should be backing climate solutions that we know work today such as wind, solar and boosting energy efficiency in our homes.*

More investment and credible plans for cleaning up transport. Transport is a high emitting sector which has made almost no progress for decades. We want to see far more affordable and accessible public transport options along with greater support for walking and cycling.

Anne, Edinburgh

The current government has NOT done enough for climate change and land reform.

Mary, Edinburgh

Please ensure that the voices of the poorest are heard at COP 26.

Heather, Glasgow

We have also seen the impact on emissions and nature as a result of less non Essential travelling over the past year.

Sylvia, Glasgow

I agree with the below text provided by FOE. We don't have much time left to effect serious, fundamental change so let's not lose this opportunity. The climate crisis is there for all of us to see now. In the year of COP26 make sure that Scotland sets sets an inspiring example. In the past year the public have shown that they can adapt to to profound changes in our way of life.

Mike, Edinburgh

I know that you can do this as a lasting legacy of your outstanding political career.

John, Edinburgh

Please – let's be bold! We can invest most effectively in the renewable energy that will work best and fastest to reduce emissions. We must reduce the emissions and transport from transport. Stop building new roads – put money into cleaner, green public transport. We can provide work, hope and a better environment by creating more native woodlands.

So much to do. So little time. The government plan must set out detailed concrete actions to reduce emissions. But we can plan now for reconstructing a fair, sustainable and invigorating post-Covid economy. It could even be fun.

Fay, Edinburgh

Recovery from the pandemic is an opportunity to grasp the nettle and do things differently from the past. The old way has been put on pause, please don't let it start up again. This is the generation that must clean up the planet, and now is the time for leadership to lead the way.

Susan, Edinburgh

I would like to see stronger commitments to transition rapidly and fairly away from digging up and burning high-polluting fossil fuels. Investment should instead go towards creating green jobs and training in clean green jobs in zero carbon economy. No reliance on Negative Emission Technologies (NETs). Years of climate inaction has meant that governments are relying on false technologies like Carbon Capture and fossil hydrogen to cut emissions. This Plan is worryingly reliant on NETs which may not even materialise to meet targets. Instead we should be backing climate solutions that we know work today such as wind, solar and boosting energy efficiency in our homes. More investment and credible plans for cleaning up transport. Transport is a high emitting sector which has made almost no progress for decades. We want to see far more affordable and accessible public transport options along with greater support for walking and cycling.

Sarah-Jane, Inverness

You will have been bombarded, I hope, with letters about the climate plan. I would like to raise steel making and urge investment into the direct reduction method of steel making which can be done without using coking coal. Scotland led the way in the early 80's with the Korf plant at Hunterston near Airdrie. With this technology there is no argument for the new coal mine in Cumbria.

Stephen, Inverness

While I am proud of the leading role Scotland has been trying to take in facing up to climate change, that needs to be urgently put into practice.

Jenny, Elgin

The government should phase out high carbon heating systems in our homes - there are real alternatives in the heat pump and geothermal industries that have barely registered yet. The plan should include targets to create more native woodlands as vital carbon sinks, and with the complementary benefit of improving biodiversity and the aesthetic quality of Scottish landscape, so growing tourism income. The plan should aim to stop building new trunk roads and motorways, shifting focus and real resources towards cycling, and walking; as well as supporting the rapid growth of electric vehicles and hydrogen powered commercial and public transport. Whilst there are some welcome proposals included, currently there is a risk that the Climate Change Plan update will not include the detail and action we need to meet the targets. The devil is in the detail, but also engagement is created by getting into the detail, there are thousands of willing hands and open minds in the population looking for what they can personally do to act for the future, protecting and enhancing the Scottish economy by tackling climate change.

Phil, Aberdeen

Finally, I spent eight years of my life campaigning against Unconventional Coal and Gas Extraction and we have INEOS on our doorstep owned by someone who does what he likes. If the Scottish Government is serious about reducing emissions, we need to move away from polluting fuels, which are dangerous to both the environment and health. A first step would be to improve electric charging speed and availability in every existing fuel garage and please do not dismiss the public concern over this issue.

Vivien, Falkirk

I would also like to see:

Stronger commitments to transition rapidly and fairly away from digging up and burning high-polluting fossil fuels. Investment should instead go towards creating green jobs and training in clean green jobs in zero carbon economy.

More investment and credible plans for cleaning up transport. Transport is a high emitting sector which has made almost no progress for decades. We want to see far more affordable and accessible public transport options along with greater support for walking and cycling.

The plan shows too much reliance on Negative Emission Technologies (NETs). Years of climate inaction has meant that governments are relying on false technologies like Carbon Capture and fossil hydrogen to cut emissions. This Plan is worryingly reliant on NETs which may not even materialise to meet targets. Instead we should be backing climate solutions that we know work today such as wind, solar and boosting energy efficiency in our homes.

Amanda, Edinburgh

The plan must set out rock solid actions that will be taken to reduce emissions which show definite outline for small and large steps. For example, the government should phase out high carbon heating systems in our homes, create more native woodlands, prevent the use of peat in horticulture and stop building new trunk roads and motorways. Whilst there are some welcome proposals included, currently there is a risk that the Climate Change Plan update will not include the detail and action we need to meet the targets. I noticed in the plan it talked about an important role for Grangemouth. I think Jim Radcliffe, Chief Executive of Ineos and therefore the person who controls Grangemouth will need to move substantially from his current position. I have heard him announce that we will not be able to get down to net zero CO2 emissions by 2045. He together with other leaders in control of businesses which impact on the environment needs to demonstrate honest steps they plans to take to acheive this goal. Business often asks for support from government. This is a time when they need to demonstrate commitment to the wealth and wellbeing of the country and the world in the way they operate. If it is not substantially greener, it is not good enough. The public have transformed a lot big business needs to do this too.

Mary, Edinburgh

Action against climate change is urgent. The changes in our weather patterns are already affecting us. Please make Scotland a leader in fighting this global problem.

Julia, Aberdeenshire

I would also like to see more investment in green energy and incentives for people to use green energy. I would also like to see all houses built to higher environmentally friendly standards with more insulation and technologies which require less energy and also incentives for people to add appropriate technology to existing homes.

Mary, Aberdeenshire

I hope you are sympathetic to this and will act accordingly.

Kevin, Edinburgh

I'm writing to urge you to take urgent updates to the Climate Change Plan. I was absolutely shocked to read through it and discover the huge omissions to the plan. This is the only opportunity that we have to make the pivotal changes to our country contribution to the planetary crisis we are facing.

I care passionately about the land use section particularly, and was dismayed to see that the plan does not commit to woodland creation targets, nor to a commitment to end peat burn, and does not address deer management.

It is imperative that land use is planned to allow as much natural regeneration as possible, and until deer management is addressed this will not happen.

The opportunities for circular economies are so great, and such a huge part of discussions around European cities right now. Scotland must be at the head of this transformation, and make bold action for transformation.

Public transport is an essential issue for this plan to uphold.

I urge you to be so much bolder within this visioning and within the statement of intent. You are representing the people of this land whose lives depend on your course of action right now, as does the entire planet.

I look forward to hearing the updates and hope that they will do justice to the scale of urgency that we are faced with.

Be bold! The future of the earth and humanity depends on it.

Amy, Glasgow

To be honest I am feeling very disheartened with the Scottish Government's attitude to the Climate Change Plan. We all know that time is precious. We all are aware that the clock is ticking on the planet of ours and yet I and many others feel helpless because no one in power seems to be taking it seriously enough. Major change has to happen both on our streets, in our homes and in our industries. Please, Please.....

New cars must be electric sooner, heating must become carbon neutral sooner and we must close down the oil industry and start utilising serving up wave, wind and tidal energies and their respective storage facilities. I am not a scientist just an anxious citizen who wants somewhere beautiful for my grandchildren to live. A place as lovely as I had. At the rate we are going this will not be the case. Please lead the way. Show the world how it should be done, Please.

Valentine, Dundee

