



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

## Proposals for inclusion in 2023/24 Programme for Government

The following suggestions have been developed by the [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#) (SCCS) coalition. They are offered as ideas for inclusion in the 2023/24 Programme for Government. They seek to underline, develop and build on existing commitments, both in policy and under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, as amended. If agreed, they would help to ensure Scotland meets its emissions' reduction targets and regains its leadership, in the UK and internationally, on action to address climate change and champion climate justice together with co-benefits for health, wellbeing, jobs and tackling inequality.

1. A clear and specific commitment to hold **a convention (or 'summit') ahead of COP28** to focus attention on climate and create political space ahead of the new CCP and COP28; and, if possible, to set out details of date, invitees, speakers, etc. This would deliver on the commitment made by the First Minister at FMQs on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023. Further proposals from SCCS on the nature/structure of such an event have been provided separately (see follow-up letter to FM, dated 25th July 2023).
2. A commitment to **attend COP28** and build-on leadership and profile in relation to international climate justice at previous COPs. This should include maintaining and significantly increasing the Climate Justice Fund, including funding for loss and damage and (see #8 below) by generating new and additional funds by making polluters pay (see also #9 below). It should include working with international partners to seek further commitments on climate action and delivering a Just Transition, especially an effective and fair implementation (including policies on grants not loans and to gender equality). It should also include efforts to follow-up the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration.
3. (Re)confirm **commitment to annual, 2030 and 2045 emissions' reductions targets**, set by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, and underline agreement to CCC recommendation that 2030/2045 targets are still appropriate and achievable.
4. Commitment to publish and introduce for Parliamentary scrutiny and public consultation **a bold and ambitious new Climate Change Plan** in November 2023 – for finalisation during 2024. This must include new policies to ensure that the emissions' reduction trajectory gets "back on track" and that annual, 2030 and 2045 are met. Priority areas for new action agriculture (see #7 below), transport (see #8 below) and buildings)
5. Complete Parliamentary stages and begin implementation of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill, and in particular to ensure that the new licence system for muirburn prevents such activity on peatlands, except in defined, exceptional circumstances (see [SCCS stage 1 evidence](#)). In addition, a clear commitment and timetable for **banning the sale of peat for horticultural use**, flowing from the recent consultation, should be announced (see [SCCS consultation response](#)).
6. A commitment to **publish the final version of the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan**, confirming a policy of a presumption (and commitment to vocally argue) against new oil and gas developments (including those fields consented but yet to be developed). This presumption should be accompanied by a clear plan to manage the wind down and deliver a Just Transition (see also [SCCS briefing](#) and [letter to First Minister](#) on oil and gas; and [SCCS response to draft ESJTP](#)).
7. (Re)confirm the expected **Agriculture Bill** to reform the system of agricultural support and indicate that providing for a just transition to low carbon farming and reducing emissions from agriculture and land use will be a central (and statutory) purpose.
8. A (re)commitment to spend 10% of the **transport** budget on active travel (meaning at least £320m in the forthcoming budget for 2024/25), widen concessionary fares schemes for public



transport and a timescale for the publication of a finalised (and actionable) 'route map' to delivery of the 20% reduction in car-kilometres.

9. A commitment to follow-up the welcome Scottish Government-commissioned research on **fiscal measures** with a short life working group to assess the findings and explore which/what/how to implement, and the embedding of the "make polluters pay" principle into financial decision making. In particular, this work should focus on identifying measures that can encourage and/or fund action to reduce emissions in agriculture, transport and buildings. For further information, see SCCS briefing on [Making Polluters Pay and Delivering Climate Justice](#). As the report sets out, fiscal measures that make polluters pay and/or support behaviour change (e.g. funding for public transport) can address climate change and deliver social justice/address the cost-of-living crisis in tandem (see also briefings from SCCS member, the [Poverty Alliance](#)).