

**Stop Climate Chaos Scotland policy paper:
How Scotland can show global climate leadership in the run up to, and during COP28
November 2023**

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (“SCCS”) is a diverse coalition of over 60 civil society organisations in Scotland who campaign together on climate change. Our members include environment, faith and belief groups, international development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups. We believe that the Scottish Government should take bold action to tackle climate change, with Scotland delivering our fair share of action to keep global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees and supporting climate justice around the world.

Climate context

From devastating droughts to catastrophic floods, the impact of the spiralling climate crisis could not be clearer, and those with the least responsibility for causing rising global temperatures are facing the most severe - and deadly - consequences.

The UN Secretary General, António Guterres, recently said: *‘humanity is on thin ice — and that ice is melting fast.’* He called on the world’s nations to *‘massively fast-track climate efforts by every country and every sector and on every time frame.’* Similarly, Lord Deben, the outgoing chair of the Committee on Climate Change, has said: *“our children will not forgive us if we leave them a world of withering heat and devastating storms where sea level rises and extreme temperatures force millions to move because their countries are no longer habitable. None of us can avoid our responsibility. Delay is not an option.”*

Scotland has been a global climate leader. When our Climate Change Act first set targets for emissions’ reductions, they were “world-leading”. The Scottish Government has also championed international action and committed funds to climate justice and to Loss & Damage. These steps are welcome. However, our current net-zero targets are now no longer unusual (other countries have matched them) – and we have missed our targets in eight of the past twelve years. The Scottish Government’s own monitoring shows we are off track for our 2030 and 2045 targets.

COP context

Recent COPs have failed to deliver progress on commitments to reduce emissions or deliver adequate, appropriate finance to the countries facing the worst climate impacts. However, while the process is far from perfect, COPs remain a significant moment for global climate diplomacy, and should be a key opportunity to hear and act on the priorities of the Global South and deliver stronger commitments to action.

The key points from [SCCS’s reaction to the outcome of last year’s COP in Egypt](#) were:

- Loss and Damage was on the agenda for the first time, and positively, agreement was reached to establish a dedicated new fund for this
- Lack of firm commitment to immediately phase out all fossil fuels sets us on course for extremely dangerous levels of heating and will result in escalating Loss and Damage debt owed
- The Scottish Government has continued to show welcome leadership on Loss and Damage on the international stage, but must commit to urgent new action to slash Scotland’s emissions and meet domestic climate targets by making polluters pay for the damage they are creating. Committing to a just phase out of oil and gas is essential to this.

The Transitional Committee established at COP27 to make recommendations on the operationalisation of the Loss & Damage Fund concluded in early November with a delicately poised agreement to submit to the conference. Global South countries made major concessions to reach a consensus agreement, and many are deeply concerned that this agreement will not deliver a fit-for-purpose fund that meets the needs of communities facing climate injustice.

Many civil society organisations, and others - [including Pope Francis](#) - have also expressed serious concerns about prospects for a strong outcome, with the host country the UAE being so heavily invested in fossil fuels.

SCCS asks for COP28

SCCS has produced a [Climate Manifesto](#), which aims to set out the full range of policy measures that are necessary to deliver action and justice. The Climate Manifesto includes proposals for international processes, such as COPs, and UK, Scottish and local governments. SCCS considers the asks below to be of most priority for COP28:

The UK Government should adopt a progressive position at COP28 by supporting agreements to:

- Maintain ambitious targets
- Go beyond emissions reductions/demand management and address the supply of fossil fuels as well. This means an agreement to end new oil, coal and gas and a plan to phase out existing production. They should back the proposal for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty which would provide this exit plan from fossil fuels
- Commit to paying fair shares of international climate finance, including loss and damage, which must be transparently in addition to Overseas Development Assistance and in the form of grants and not loans
- Deliver a just transition that leaves no one behind

The Scottish Government should build on leadership at previous COPs, support the priorities of the Global South and drive progress by making ambitious announcements on:

- Emission reduction - commit to publishing an ambitious new Climate Change Plan that clearly demonstrates how the policies will deliver emissions reductions that meet legal targets, as a minimum.
- Climate finance -
 - Significantly increasing the Climate Justice Fund using devolved revenue-raising powers to ensure the money is additional and not simply repurposed from other initiatives, domestic or international, and does not detract from action on climate emissions at home
 - Calling proactively, for other rich countries, including the UK, to increase their own contribution while championing additionality
 - Exploring how Scotland could raise significant additional monies through measures which make polluters pay for their damage.
 - Champion Global South priorities for the establishment and delivery of the Loss and Damage fund
- Just Transition - this has an increasing profile in the UNFCCC arena. Scottish Government could build on the learnings from the [Glasgow Climate Dialogue on Just](#)

[Transition](#), and the leadership on foundational elements of JT they have shown (such as the establishment of a Just Transition Commission, Just Transition principles and requirement to put forward policies in law, a JT Fund for the North East, and a JT Minister) by committing to taking forward the [JTC recommendations](#) in a gender just way, standing in solidarity with Global South JT demands, and doing what it can to advance the this agenda at COP28. As the JTC said *“Scotland can be a voice for multilateralism, internationalism, and climate justice, at home and abroad. As geopolitical strains risk governments and private actors backsliding on their commitments, the Scottish Government can be a voice for raising ambition domestically, at COP27 and beyond.”*

- Fossil fuel exit plan - after decades of climate negotiations that have failed to address fossil fuels (the root cause of the crisis) there is an urgent need to change this. The Scottish Government should give its backing to the bloc of Pacific Islands governments who are spearheading the development of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would complement the Paris Agreement by halting new fossil fuel development, managing an equitable phase out of all fossil fuels and laying the foundations for a true global and just energy transition