



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

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Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP,
Scottish Government,
St Andrew's House,
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(sent by email to firstminister@gov.scot)

24nd November 2023

Dear First Minister,

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) was pleased to be invited to attend your 'Climate Conversation', earlier this month, and to have the opportunity to discuss a number of important issues with you, the Cabinet Secretary, several of our member organisations, and a range of others. Apologies that I was unable to join you, but thank you for enabling Lloyd and Becky to represent SCCS, who have briefed me on the discussions.

It was very welcome to hear that you and the Cabinet Secretary restated your strong commitment to climate action in and from Scotland, including by protecting the credibility of Scotland's global leadership on climate justice at and beyond COP28. I'm sure you would recognise that this must be backed up with action now and at key moments over the next few months.

SCCS is very concerned at the delay to Scotland's critical Climate Change Plan, and this is especially worrying given that the Chief Executive of the Climate Change Committee has said that this is not necessary. However, the key issues now must be clarity on the new timeline for the plan and that the delay is fully utilised to ensure it drives rapid delivery of meaningful climate action. In relation to the UK Government's policies, and their effect on the plan, we would warmly welcome greater clarity, including the publication of data, to better explain to the public how the two government's proposals interact in terms of emissions' reductions.

In the meantime, amid a climate and nature emergency, and having missed eight out of the last 12 emissions reduction targets and missed 11 out of 20 Convention on Biological Diversity "Aichi" Targets, we clearly cannot stand still. Bold action is urgently needed, and there are a number of policies that can be progressed now, and in advance of the CCP's publication.

For example, reforming the funding system for agriculture, accelerating peatland restoration, making our homes warmer, enabling more sustainable transport options, and progress on universal education on climate solutions. There are a raft of further proposals within our Climate Manifesto which we have prepared that are also worthy of consideration. The Scottish Government can, as the CCP remains under preparation, take significant steps in these areas and more, including through its upcoming Budget processes and within legislation currently under consideration.

In relation to the upcoming Budget, it is clear that significant new finance is needed to invest in climate action in Scotland. Globally, and in Scotland, richer people are driving the planet to the point of destruction and they should therefore pay disproportionately more towards robust climate action. In Scotland, analysis suggests that people in the richest 5% of households are responsible for more than four times the consumption emissions of those in households with the lowest 5% of incomes. This inequality rises even higher for particular categories of activities, with - for example - their emissions from aviation 11 times higher. To sustain and deepen public support for climate action, we must fund it fairly, by making polluters pay and we welcome your government's in-principle support for the polluter pays principle.

It is always incredibly valuable to hear the views of those representing the Global South and we thank you for facilitating and seeking to support the important contributions of Harjeet Singh and Augustine Njamnsi at the meeting. As you heard from them, the devastation wreaked by the climate crisis is growing fast with lives and livelihoods being destroyed. We were, therefore, pleased to hear you confirm your attendance (and that of the Cabinet Secretary) at COP28. Both at the event and otherwise, SCCS would encourage you to continue the Scottish Government's past approach of "constructive disruption". In particular, we hope you will heed the words of Harjeet and Augustine and press for a doubling of adaptation funding, to champion the priorities of the Global South in the delivery of the Loss & Damage Fund, including ensuring it is locally-led and is delivered in ways that are gender transformative, and real action on fossil fuels, including supporting the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. A full paper outlining our priorities for COP28 is included with this letter, and has been sent to your officials. Crucially, in order to maintain credibility in this disruptor role we need to make sure we are pressing forward with our own action on climate and nature here in Scotland.

Thank you again for the invitation and useful discussions; I hope that you and the Cabinet Secretary also found the meeting helpful – and will consider regular events of a similar nature. In particular, we welcome your suggestion of "real time" dialogue during COP28 with SCCS members in Dubai and back in Scotland, and look forward to hearing from officials on proposed meetings at the conference. In the meantime, SCCS looks forward to continuing to work with you and your team on the four pillars of delivery highlighted in the meeting. We hope that discussions and meetings with relevant officials will enable conversations to continue in relation to both the CCP and COP28.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Màiri McAllan MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition for information.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Robinson

Chair, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland