



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

2nd Floor, Thorn House

5 Rose Street

Edinburgh

EH2 2PR

info@stopclimatechaos.scot

www.stopclimatechaos.scot

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP,
Leader, Scottish Liberal Democrats
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

(sent by email to Alex.Cole-Hamilton.msp@parliament.scot, cc Liam McArthur MSP)

23rd January 2024

Dear Alex,

Thank you very much for joining Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and several of our members for a photoshoot as part of our '[new year's climate resolutions](#)' campaign. We believe it is vital that all political parties work together to build support for strong action, so we were pleased that leaders or spokespeople from four (of the main five) political parties attended the photoshoot, and we are writing in these terms to all party leaders.

The climate resolutions the SCCS coalition would like to see all party leaders adopt are:

- **Act now: no more delay:** turn rhetoric into action by urgently delivering a bold, ambitious climate plan that meets or exceeds Scotland's legal climate targets

[The vast majority of people in Scotland are concerned about the climate crisis](#) and our climate targets were passed with cross party support. To ensure we meet and exceed future targets, the new Climate Change Plan must contain transformational new policies across all sectors.

SCCS is disappointed at the delay to Scotland's critical Climate Change Plan, and we are seeking clarity on the new timeline for the plan and pushing for opportunity to be made of the delay to ensure it includes action to drive rapid delivery of meaningful climate action. We are also seeking greater clarity, including the publication of data, to better explain to the public how the UK and Scottish government's proposals interact in terms of emissions' reductions. Anything you can do to support these calls would be very welcome.

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 in advance of the CCP's publication, that we hope all parties can support. 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.

- **Show global leadership:** in this decisive decade, set a strong example and inspire others through world-leading Scottish nature and climate policies.

As a country whose development has historically benefitted from burning fossil fuels for energy, we now have the responsibility and the opportunity to lead by example. Scotland's climate leadership is needed, necessary and is the right thing to do.

We can inspire others to act by showing how to fairly transition away from fossil fuels to a low carbon, more just society, and supporting communities around the world who are dealing with the worst impacts of a climate crisis they did not cause. This includes supporting ambitious global agreements, such as endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, a global exit plan to phase out fossil fuels.

- **Make polluters pay:** fund climate action fairly by making people and corporations who are causing the crisis pay the most.

Globally and in Scotland, the climate crisis is being driven by the actions of the richest and biggest polluters – [In 2022, the five biggest oil and gas companies made record profits of over £150 billion](#), yet they continue to be highly subsidised by the UK and other governments. In Scotland, [analysis suggests that people in the richest 5% of households are responsible for more than four times the emissions from the things they consume than those in households with the lowest 5% of incomes](#). Richer people are driving the planet to the point of destruction, so to sustain and deepen public support for climate action it must be funded fairly, by making polluters pay. Supporting fundamental reform of the devolved tax system would deliver increased climate and social investment.

As part of our campaign we gathered suggestions for new year's climate resolutions for party leaders to adopt, and received hundreds of messages, which [can be read here](#), and examples are given in the annex below. People in Scotland care deeply about climate and nature, and want to see Scotland's political parties work together to lead the way in delivering a just transition and set a strong example to other nations. In the course of this year, it is probable that there will be a UK general election - an [SCCS briefing on UK/reserved matters is available here](#).

At the start of this critical year, we would be delighted to continue this conversation, and will continue discussions with Liam McArthur MSP about setting a meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Robinson

Chair, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland
2nd Floor, Thorn House

5 Rose Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2PR

info@stopclimatechaos.scot
www.stopclimatechaos.scot

Annex: Public suggestions for new year’s climate resolutions

 <p>NOW WE RISE Add your voice to show Scotland is United for Climate Action Your 2024 New Year’s climate resolutions for Scottish party leaders</p> <p>I'm looking to you for leadership. Be courageous: make the difficult decisions. Rise above party politics and do what is right for Scotland and the world.</p> <p>Ruth</p>	 <p>NOW WE RISE Add your voice to show Scotland is United for Climate Action Your 2024 New Year’s climate resolutions for Scottish party leaders</p> <p><i>We only have one planet, Scotland can show it is leading the world on climate action but work on this needs to step up a gear. Our future and that of our children and grandchildren depend on it.</i></p> <p>Patricia</p>	 <p>NOW WE RISE Add your voice to show Scotland is United for Climate Action Your 2024 New Year’s climate resolutions for Scottish party leaders</p> <p>Act now to deliver a climate plan that actually meets legal targets.</p> <p>Set a global example</p> <p>Make polluters pay more</p> <p>Natasha</p>
 <p>NOW WE RISE Add your voice to show Scotland is United for Climate Action Your 2024 New Year’s climate resolutions for Scottish party leaders</p> <p>Stop Rosebank and other new oil fields.</p> <p>Fight for a just transition for oil workers.</p> <p>Insulate homes</p> <p>Diana</p>	 <p>NOW WE RISE Add your voice to show Scotland is United for Climate Action Your 2024 New Year’s climate resolutions for Scottish party leaders</p> <p>Start delivering on the wellbeing economy</p> <p>Mariana</p>	 <p>NOW WE RISE Add your voice to show Scotland is United for Climate Action Your 2024 New Year’s climate resolutions for Scottish party leaders</p> <p>Listen to the science and protect our world for this and future generations</p> <p>Annette</p>
 <p>NOW WE RISE Add your voice to show Scotland is United for Climate Action Your 2024 New Year’s climate resolutions for Scottish party leaders</p> <p>Scotland should show the world how a country can take action and lead the way on the climate and nature crisis, have politicians who don't go back on their word. Scotland should punch above its weight to reverse and improve habitat and species loss as well as carbon emissions.</p> <p>Lindsay</p>	 <p>NOW WE RISE Add your voice to show Scotland is United for Climate Action Your 2024 New Year’s climate resolutions for Scottish party leaders</p> <p>Use the green revolution now to ensure that Scottish families benefit from jobs which lead the world, through the innovation, development and deployment of practical solutions to our and the world's crisis.</p> <p>Moir</p>	 <p>NOW WE RISE Add your voice to show Scotland is United for Climate Action Your 2024 New Year’s climate resolutions for Scottish party leaders</p> <p>On every possible occasion work cross-party lines implementing chaos-diminishing policies. Elevate improved public transport across the whole of Scotland involving ferries, rail and bus services, as a key policy issue, thus creating less need for car journeys. In line with above deny further licenses for drilling for oil and gas and increase production of green energy</p> <p>Marij</p>