



Proposals for inclusion in 2024/25 Programme for Government Stop Climate Chaos Scotland June 2024

The following suggestions have been developed by the [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#) (SCCS) coalition as ideas for inclusion in the 2024/25 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 delivered, they would help to ensure Scotland meets its emissions reduction targets and regains some leadership on action to address climate change, champion climate justice, and deliver co-benefits for health, wellbeing, jobs and tackling inequality.

1. Following the [Cabinet Secretary's statement](#) of 18 April 2024, if it is absolutely necessary and recognising the issues that have caused that to be the case, to introduce and ensure rapid approval of **a focused and forensic bill to alter annual/interim targets to 5-yearly carbon budgets**. In so doing, SCCS' current thoughts are that any such bill:
 - must not amend the 2045 target date for reaching net zero.
 - must ensure that carbon budgets are set in accordance with (or are more stretching than) the Climate Change Committee's recommended pathway to net zero by 2045.
 - should make provision for long-term, sectoral targets/pathways to 2045.
 - should retain annual accountability mechanisms such as progress reports and statements to Parliament by Ministers. These should include reporting on the steps taken to ensure that emissions reductions are fair as well as the co-benefits (for health etc) secured.
 - should retain international aviation and shipping in Scotland's climate targets.
 - should not permit any carry forward mechanism.
 - should require periodic reviews, by the CCC, of carbon budget levels.
 - should require the next Climate Change Plan (CCP) to be produced as soon as possible after the first carbon budget has been set.
 - should retain the just transition and international climate justice principles, as set out in the current legislation, and ensure they are applied to all climate change policy actions. In so doing, the Scottish Government should reconfirm its commitment to UNFCCC principles and international obligations.
2. In parallel to the legislation above, urgently **deliver on and improve the package of policy proposals** outlined by the Cabinet Secretary, taking into account [SCCS' analysis](#). In particular such an improved package should:
 - Introduce a **Heat in Buildings Bill** – based on the proposals in the consultation which closed in March 2024 (see [SCCS consultation response](#)). The current Bill was recently praised by the Climate Change Committee who said, "[if implemented, \(this\) could become a template for other parts of the UK](#)". To deliver significant benefits to household bills, health and emission reductions, there must be a swift passage of the Bill (no later than autumn 2024), with clear and ambitious dates and targets, and a timetable for developing secondary regulations, with a commitment to stakeholder engagement.
 - Implement the (shortly to be passed) **Agriculture Bill, and swiftly develop secondary legislation on farm payments**, so as to reform the system of agricultural support and provide for a just transition to low carbon farming and reducing emissions.
 - A (re)commitment to spend 10% of the **transport** budget on active travel (meaning at least £320m in the forthcoming budget), widen concessionary fares schemes for public transport and confirm the autumn publication of **a finalised (and actionable) 'route map' to delivery of the 20% reduction in car-kilometres**.
3. **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, as well as a commitment to refuse consent for any new fossil-fuel based energy developments within devolved competencies, including the proposed gas-powered power station in Peterhead.



4. Deliver on the commitment to **banning the sale of peat for horticultural use** (see [SCCS consultation response](#)) by announcing a clear timetable for its implementation.
5. Recommit to ambitious annual targets of **woodland creation**, and restore the necessary budget after a recent £32 million cut to Scottish Forestry. Scotland should adopt a target of making at least 50% of new woodlands native, managed primarily for nature with a minimum of 9000ha new native woodland to be created per year until 2045. Additionally, government must deliver on its commitment to a new **National Register of Ancient Woodland** and recommit to restoring **Scotland's Rainforest**.
6. Publish and implement detailed **Just Transition Plans for the transport, agriculture and land use, and buildings sectors**.
7. Introduce proposed **Human Rights Bill (including a statutory Human Right to a Healthy Environment** – with a 'safe climate' one substantive element of such a right).
8. Introduce the proposed **Well-being and Sustainable Development Bill** to implement a statutory definition of sustainable development (in particular to recognise climate mitigation and adaptation as essential elements) and a Future Generations Commissioner (to steer policy development with the aim of ensuring a safe climate for future generations). This statutory provision should be accompanied by a clearer commitment to developing Scotland as a Wellbeing Economy, with clear timelines and strategies to deliver. In the shorter-term, commit to reintroducing the wellbeing economy into a Cabinet Secretary's portfolio after the summer recess.
9. Commitment to publish and introduce for Parliamentary scrutiny and public consultation a **bold and ambitious new Climate Change Plan** as soon as possible after the first 5-yearly budgets are set (anticipated to be in early 2025). This must include new (or reconfirmed) policies to ensure that the emissions' reduction trajectory gets "back on track" and that reductions in line with the CCC pathway to net zero are delivered. Priority areas for new action should be agriculture, transport and buildings (see #2 above).
10. A clear and specific commitment to hold a **convention (or 'summit') ahead of COP29** to focus attention on climate and create political space, following the new legislation, but ahead of the first carbon budget and new CCP. This would help underline the importance of addressing the climate crisis - as set out as one of the First Minister's top four priorities. In accordance with the Scottish Government's climate justice principles, it would be important to ensure that Global South voices were included at such a meeting.
11. A commitment to **attend COP29** and build-on leadership and profile in relation to international climate justice at previous COPs, as well as highlighting and/or announcing new domestic action. This should include maintaining and significantly increasing the Climate Justice Fund, including funding for loss and damage and by generating new and additional funds by making polluters pay (see 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 rather than loans and to gender equality). It should also include efforts to follow-up the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration.
12. 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 embed 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. There should be a commitment to include 'Make Polluters Pay' principles (while protecting low income households) in the upcoming **draft Tax strategy**. SCCS briefing on [Making Polluters Pay and Delivering Climate Justice](#) sets out fiscal measures that make polluters pay and/or support behaviour change to address the climate crisis and the cost-of-living crisis in tandem (see also briefings from SCCS member, the [Poverty Alliance](#)).