



## Proposals for inclusion in 2025/26 Programme for Government April 2025

The following proposals have been developed by the [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#) (SCCS) coalition as ideas for inclusion in the 2025/26 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. Fast, fair delivery of these is needed to make meaningful progress towards one of the Scottish Governments top 4 priorities in the final year of this session of the Scottish Parliament, with no further delays or backtracking on climate policies.

Further coalition priorities can be found in our report '[Time for Action: Policies for a greener, fairer, healthier Scotland](#)'.

- 1. Commit 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.**

In order to ensure this is properly scrutinised and agreed prior to the 2026 election, a draft will need to be laid before Parliament by September at the latest. This must include new, as well as 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 - as per the proposals below.

- 2. Deliver the Scottish Government's 18th April 2024 policy package**

A new package of measures was announced by the Scottish Government on the 18th April 2024 to demonstrate "the seriousness with which this government treats the climate and nature crisis." However, progress to deliver these has been slow. Policies which should be delivered in the next year include:

- A national integrated ticketing system for public transport
- The development of high level principles of air departure tax (see more in item 5 below)
- A Just Transition Plan for Mossmorran

- 3. Implement the 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.**

Currently, less than 10% of public funding given to the industry pays for farming methods that support nature and tackle climate change. Public funds should be focused on helping small farms and farms furthest from market signals to adopt new practices and invest in new systems, including using powers on capping and tapering payments in the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024 to maximise the cost effectiveness of public spending.

- 4. Introduce a Heat in Buildings Bill – based on the proposals in the consultation which closed in March 2024 (see [SCCS consultation response](#)).**

The original Bill was praised by the Climate Change Committee who said, "[if implemented, \(this\) could become a template for other parts of the UK](#)". This should create the frameworks needed to accelerate the transition to greater energy efficiency and the replacement of fossil-fueled heating systems with zero-carbon systems, thereby reducing emissions, improving health and creating jobs.

The Bill should remain as ambitious as possible, including:

- targets for transitioning to zero emission heating systems
- establishing minimum energy efficiency standards
- financial support for homeowners funded through progressive taxation

There must be a swift passage of the Bill with clear and ambitious dates and targets, and a timetable for developing secondary regulations, with a commitment to stakeholder engagement.



**5. Operationalise the Air Departure Tax (ADT) with a new higher rate for those choosing to travel by private jet, as a climate just first step towards a robust aviation demand management strategy**

It is three years since the Climate Change Committee said [an aviation demand management framework should be in place by the mid-2020s to “annually assess and, if required, control”](#) emissions. The Scottish Government accepts that aviation emissions must be reduced, and that ADT “[could and should make a contribution](#)” to achieving this. However, Transport Scotland’s [Aviation Statement](#) fails to consider the need for demand management or reduction and focuses on new technologies without any recognition of the deliverability risks. The Air Departure Tax (Scotland) Act 2017 provides wide powers for the Scottish Government to apply a tax on passengers on flights leaving Scotland’s airports. However, it has yet to be operationalised, and could be done so with a fair exemption for passengers from the Highlands and Islands, and increased rate for those travelling by private jet.

With [nearly 13,000 recorded private flights involving Scotland’s airports in 2023](#), a tax on high-polluting, luxury private jets would strongly align with climate justice and the polluter pays principle.

**6. 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.

**7. Deliver on the commitment to ban the sale of peat for horticultural use (see [SCCS consultation response](#))**

The Natural Environment Bill is a good opportunity to introduce the long awaited legislation to end sales of peat in horticulture. We support Scottish Environment LINK’s calls for the Bill to introduce:

- A clearly defined, fixed date for ending sales of peat in horticulture for a) bagged compost for amateur growers as soon as possible and b) professional growers within two seasons, with only limited exceptions.
- An end to the sale of imported peat and exports of peat from Scotland, both for growing media and for horticultural products grown in peat.

**8. Recommit to ambitious annual targets of woodland creation, and restore the necessary budget. Additionally, the government must deliver on its commitment to a new National Register of Ancient Woodland.**

**9. Progress Just Transition Plans for transport, agriculture and land use and buildings sectors**

- Finalise and implement a detailed transport plan, currently subject to consultation
- Publish draft agriculture and land use and buildings plans

**10. Commit to attend COP30 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 (as outlined in 1-9 above)**