



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland
2nd Floor, Thorn House
5 Rose Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2PR
chair@stopclimatechaos.scot
www.stopclimatechaos.scot

John Swinney MSP,
First Minister
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

20th May 2026

(sent by email to firstminister@gov.scot)

Dear John

Congratulations on your re-election as an MSP, and subsequent re-appointment as First Minister, you must be pleased with the outcome despite the undoubted challenges of this next term of office.

[Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#) (SCCS), as the largest civil society coalition ever formed in Scotland, is keen to work with your government in any way we can to help build consensus for climate action, so we can ensure the targets are achievable, can deliver meaningful change to improve people's lives now and in the future, and can reclaim Scottish leadership on this critical issue, which we believe is not just morally right but also economically far-sighted.

SCCS therefore welcomed your pledges during the election campaign that:

- "Scotland will play its full part in tackling the climate and nature emergencies"; and
- "We will end Scotland's contribution to climate change by 2045 in a just and fair way which protects jobs and livelihoods."¹

and look forward to these being reflected in your government's early actions and the Programme for Government.

The recommitment to a policy of achieving net zero by 2045 is very welcome, especially if it is accompanied by the necessary leadership from every department of government. The delivery of the policies and proposals set out in the [Climate Change Plan](#) (CCP), as adopted in March 2026, are clearly a priority – but this must also be considered as a first (and minimum) step to remain on track to achieve this ambition. I trust you would recognise that there is a significant risk that the pathways outlined in the CCP will not deliver necessary emissions reduction – given its substantial over-reliance on NETs, and lack of sufficient (or delayed) action on agriculture, heating and transport. These will continue to struggle without ambition and strong leadership.

Thus, alongside implementation of the CCP, we would like to seek reassurance that the new Scottish Government:

- Set out the evidence and rationale for its predictions in relation to NETs;
- Finalise and publish an Energy Strategy, including a clear plan for a just transition away from fossil fuels;
- Review and strengthen proposals for emissions reduction in the agriculture sector, as well as maximising the carbon benefits of woodlands, peatlands and marine habitats;
- Introduce a Heat in Buildings Bill within the first year, along with supportive regulatory action and adequate funding; and
- Set out clearer, firmer and bolder ambitions to deliver a modal shift in transport.

¹ SNP manifesto: https://issuu.com/hinksbrandwise/docs/snp_manifesto_the_scottish_parliament_election_2



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland
2nd Floor, Thorn House
5 Rose Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2PR
chair@stopclimatechaos.scot
www.stopclimatechaos.scot

In addition to the actions above to reduce emissions, Scotland has also been a leader in international climate justice. We hope your government will continue and enhance this leadership, building on your manifesto commitment to "grow the Climate Justice Fund" (launched by your government in 2013) and "to fostering a new global approach to Loss & Damage" (as your government did in 2019).

Addressing climate change (both reducing emissions and adapting to its impacts) should be a cross-government priority. As such, we would ask that you introduce strong governance, to ensure that all parts of government and its agencies are delivering and understand their responsibilities to assist in the journey to net zero. We welcome the adopted CCP's enhanced focus on delivery, but also commend [the recommendations of CERG](#) alongside our own manifesto of 2023.

One area where strong cross-government commitment is needed is in relation to funding and revenue-raising. In this regard, the proposed Private Jet Tax is a welcome first step, but further action is needed to adapt tax policy to ensure that the largest emitters contribute the most and that sufficient revenue is available to fund a just transition. Without sufficient funding for skills and positive technology it is hard to see how it will be possible to make significant gains without risking further inequalities.

We also welcome the SNP's commitment to "introduce a Human Rights Bill in the next Parliament"². I would like to assume that this would include provision for a safe climate as a core and substantive feature of the Human Right to a Healthy Environment, as this is clearly such a central component.

SCCS looks forward to working with you and your ministers and would welcome an early opportunity to discuss our next steps with you.

Dr Mike Robinson OBE FRSE
Chair, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

P.S. Once the dust settles I would welcome a chance to revisit our discussion from January with the 6 immediate actions. I have already begun the discussion with the CEO of SPEN about business representation, but keen to collaborate with you on this

² SNP manifesto: https://issuu.com/hinksbrandwise/docs/snp_manifesto_the_scottish_parliament_election_2