



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Briefing for Ministerial Statement: Greenhouse Gas Inventory
2014

Tuesday 14th June 2016

About Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is a diverse coalition of organisations in Scotland campaigning together on climate change. Our members include environment, faith and international development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups. SCCS works to ensure Scotland plays its fair part in tackling climate change and that the commitments set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 are achieved.

Introduction

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 set an interim target of a 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, based on 1990 levels, and a goal of an 80% reduction by 2050. The Act also required the Parliament to agree annual emissions targets, and for the Scottish Government to report annually on progress towards achieving these targets. Every year for the past four years, the reports (reporting for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013) have showed that annual targets have been missed.

Missed targets mean that extra effort will be needed in future years to make up the difference. In addition, Scotland has made much of the world-leading legislation within the Act but four missed annual targets have not sent the right message to the international community about the positive case for reducing emissions. **On Tuesday 14th June the Scottish Government will make a statement on whether the 2014 emission target has been achieved.**

Past annual target results have been affected by accounting changes, with updated scientific understanding increasing Scotland's historic emissions inventory both in 1990 and in more recent years. The Scottish Government attributed last year's missed target to these changes. In contrast, further accounting changes (arising from the EU emissions trading scheme, ETS) will this year provide a significant and mostly artificial reduction in emissions attributed to Scotland's emissions result.

What is most important is the Government's performance at reducing emissions since the Climate Act was passed in 2009. The overall picture is of uneven progress: good progress in electricity (-14% since 2009) and waste (-41% since 2009) and little change in homes (-1.3% since 2009) and transport (-1% since 1990 and -4% since 2009).

In light of the Paris Agreement, which set a target of keeping '*global average temperature to well below 2°C...and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C*', Scotland must begin to make real inroads to reduce emissions, in line with our Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. **Scotland cannot afford to miss the 2014 target. However, neither can it 'rest on its laurels' if the 2014 target is met and achieved.**

SCCS was disappointed with previous missed targets and has consistently called for the urgent introduction of new policies to make up for Scotland 'over-emitting' and to put the

country back on the right track. Whilst some policies and processes were put in place over the past 4 years, transformational policies are still needed across the economy. This is especially urgent for sectors of the economy which have either not delivered significant emissions reductions or have not had significant policy intervention to reduce emissions.

With a new Parliament and newly-formed Government, the time is right to step up climate action in Scotland and to focus on a number of key areas. The next climate change action plan (RPP3) must contain sufficiently ambitious policies to provide confidence that our country is on track to meet our climate commitments. A new Climate Change Act will also offer an opportunity to introduce new policies. SCCS recommends that action is particularly required in the following areas:

Energy efficiency of Scotland's buildings

Last year, the Scottish Government committed to establishing improvement in energy efficiency of Scotland's buildings as a National Infrastructure Project. Renewed effort to ensure all people are living in warm homes is supported by over 50 civil society and business organisations¹. We want to see:

- Funding for this as a National Infrastructure Project reflected in this autumn's Spending Review,
- The introduction of minimum energy performance standards to drive uptake of energy efficiency in all homes.
- A target of supporting all homes to reach at least a 'C' Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) standard by 2025.

Low carbon transport

The sector accounts for a quarter of Scottish emissions and is the only sector which has not reduced its emissions during the past 20 years. The current climate change action plan for Scotland (RPP2) does not contain a single Scotland-level policy to reduce emissions from transport. We want to see:

- Investment in cycling and walking,
- No cut to Air Passenger Duty (APD).

Farming and food

Agriculture and related land use accounts for 23.4% of Scotland's emissions², so improving how the countryside is managed is key to meeting Scotland's targets³. What we eat, how it's produced and how we dispose of food waste, all have an influence on emissions in Scotland. We want to see:

- Policies which promote healthy food choices,
- Measures introduced to meet the Scottish food waste reduction target⁴:
- Regulations requiring all farmers to reduce fertiliser use and improve soil,
- Promotion of organic and low-carbon farming systems.

¹ *No one in Scotland living in a hard-to-heat draughty home by 2025*, Existing Homes Alliance, December 2015, http://existinghomesalliancescotland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/EXHAS_jointstatement_Oct15.pdf

² *Scottish greenhouse gas emissions 2013*, Scottish Government, published June 2015, <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/06/1939/314105>

³ *Reducing emissions in Scotland: progress report 2015*, UK CCC, published March 2015, <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Scotland-report-v6-WEB.pdf>

⁴ "To reduce all food waste arising in Scotland by 33% by 2025 and work with industry to reduce on-farm losses of edible produce" <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/02/1761/5>

Renewable energy

Transformational policies must be introduced to rapidly accelerate the use of renewables in heat and transport. We want to see:

- At least half of all of Scotland's energy (across electricity, heat and transport) being generated from renewable sources by 2030.
- Commitment and action to begin a move away from fossil fuel extraction and use.

A Climate Justice approach

Climate change is already having a severe impact on world's poorest people, those least able to adapt to those changes and particularly to cope with extreme weather events. At the same time, those people who are most affected by climate change have done least to cause it. Scottish Government funds climate adaptation work overseas through the Climate Justice Fund (CJF), established in 2012, which so far had provided £6m for adaptation projects in developing countries. We want to see:

- The CJF increased during this Parliament to match the Scotland's International Development Fund – currently £9m per year - and ensure that the funding available is stable and predictable.

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