



# Scotland

## Our Climate Action Story

The purpose of this briefing, and the film to which it is linked, is to inspire other countries to follow Scotland's ambitious path on climate action.

### **Scotland's world-leading climate legislation**

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009<sup>1</sup> was one of the first pieces of domestic climate change legislation to be passed anywhere in the world. It was approved unanimously by the Scottish Parliament with support from all five main political parties: the Conservatives, the Greens, Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party.

Tens of thousands of people lobbied their political representatives to support the Act with business leaders, the farming community, trade unions and civil society also backing it.

To date, the Act is the world's most progressive climate change legislation in a number of areas:

- A target to cut Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.
- An interim target to reduce emissions by 42% by 2020, compared to 1990 levels.
- Annual emission reduction targets which, from 2020, must be at least 3% per year.
- At least 80% of each year's emission reductions must come from within Scotland, with a limit of only 20% coming from the use of international carbon credits.
- Scotland's emission reduction targets also include Scotland's share of emissions from international aviation and shipping.

Though early annual targets have been missed, Scotland is making progress and – with further strong action – it remains committed to delivering our emission reduction targets.

### **Renewable energy production**

In May 2011, the Scottish Government also announced its target to generate the equivalent of 100% of Scotland's total electricity demand from renewable resources by 2020<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/12/contents>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Energy-sources/19185/17612>

Scotland's renewable energy sector is a major part of our economy, supporting over 11,000 jobs and, in 2012, over 40% of Scotland's electricity demand came from renewable sources – displacing more than 10 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Scotland's Climate Justice Fund

Scotland contributes to the United Nations' Green Climate Fund through the UK Government. However, since 2012, the Scottish Government has committed additional funding by establishing the Scottish Climate Justice Fund<sup>3</sup>. Worth £6m over three years, the Fund is also additional to the Scottish International Development Fund. It supports climate adaptation projects in Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia, with a focus on water-related adaptation projects.

The fund is relatively small but it shows leadership in acting to address climate justice; recognising that while Scotland helped cause climate change, the world's poorest people are suffering most.

Scotland's voice is also being heard. In February 2012, Members of the Scottish Parliament took part in what is believed to be the world's first parliamentary debate on climate justice. In October 2013, the Scottish Government, in collaboration with the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, also hosted an international conference on the issue.

## Supporting local communities to cut emissions

Since 2008, communities across Scotland have had access to the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund<sup>4</sup>. This invests in local projects which inform people about climate change and which help people change their lives, individually or as a group, to reduce their emissions.

The £10m per year Fund supports activities such as: installation of energy efficient measures in community owned buildings; advice and support on energy efficiency; initiatives to provide lower carbon travel alternatives; provision of community growing space and eating more sustainably; and schemes to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. Some 676 community group projects across Scotland have already received more than £59 million since the Fund was launched.

## Spreading Scotland's story

We know Scotland cannot tackle climate change alone. However, we believe Scotland's climate action story shows that ambitious action can be delivered.

Please share this film to highlight Scotland's example: <http://bit.ly/1wpyavZ>

## Useful links

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland: [www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland)

The Scottish Government: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange)

The 2020 Group (Scottish business grouping): [www.2020climategroup.org.uk](http://www.2020climategroup.org.uk)

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/climatejusticefund>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/>