



## Supporter Briefing

# Talking to your MSP about Scotland's draft Climate Change Plan

### Introduction

On 19<sup>th</sup> January, the Government published their draft Climate Change Plan - setting out how they intend to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 66% (from 1990 levels) in the next 15 years.

This new plan paints an attractive vision of the kind of low-carbon society we could be living in in 15 years' time – a cleaner, healthier, more prosperous Scotland. We have concerns about the plan's current lack of detail on how that vision will be achieved, but **we have the chance to improve it.**

***"The urgency could not be clearer. This draft plan was published straight after news that 2016 was the hottest year on record. With the threat from climate change increasing and affecting the lives of people here in Scotland and around the world, it's time to shift up a gear".*** Tom Ballantine, Chair of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Four committees of MSPs are now reviewing the draft plan, and **they want to hear your views** before they make a report of their recommendations at the end of February. In March, all MSPs will get the chance to debate the plan in Parliament.

The four committees reviewing the plan are:

- Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
- Economy, Jobs and Fair Work
- Local Government and Communities
- Rural Economy and Connectivity

### Meeting your MSP

The more that MSPs hear about an issue from their local constituents, the more likely they are to take action.

**Almost everyone in Scotland is represented by at least one MSP who sits on one of the four committees scrutinising the draft Climate Change Plan** - these MSPs have the most influence to shape the climate change plan. [Click here to find if your MSP is on one of the committees](#)

However, **all MSPs** will get the chance to debate the plan in Parliament in mid-March so even if your MSP doesn't sit on one of the committees, you should still contact them.

**Going to see your MSP in person** is the most effective way to raise an issue; making the extra effort demonstrates how much you care about climate change. One MSP said they view every one person that goes to meet them in person as the **equivalent to receiving 200 emails** on the same subject!

[Read our guide on how to arrange a meeting with your MSP](#)

If you're not able to meet your MSP in person, why not consider writing them a letter or email?

## The Climate Change Plan

The draft plan sets out a positive vision of Scotland's future - cleaner, healthier and more prosperous. It aims to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 66% (from 1990 levels) in the next 15 years. **However, it currently lacks the details and concrete action that will get us there.**

Half of Scotland's total climate emissions come from transport and farming, but the plan doesn't contain enough actions to cut emissions from these areas. Climate experts have repeatedly said that Scotland needs to do more to tackle emissions coming from transport, agriculture and heating.

*Ask your MSP to support the following measures in the final Climate Change Plan:*

### Low carbon transport

Action is needed to reduce emissions from transport, is responsible for a quarter of total emissions. There should be support for people to switch from petrol & diesel cars to public transport, walking, cycling or electric vehicles.

- more money for walking and cycling infrastructure (10% of the total travel budget)
- measures for cutting car use in cities, including planned Low Emission Zones (a pollution charging scheme) and giving local authorities the ability to bring in Workplace Parking Levies

### Energy efficient homes

The Climate Change Plan should contain a commitment to making all Scotland's homes energy efficient by 2025.

This needs a clear timetable of action, and it needs investment.

Doing this would reduce emissions from heating, while also reducing heating bills, lift people out of fuel poverty and create jobs.

Energy efficiency measures would save 1million tonnes of CO2 a year by 2025 .

### Climate friendly farming

Measures are urgently needed to help farmers reduce emissions.

Farming is responsible for almost 25% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions. This plan doesn't do enough to cut emissions here - in fact; it's the area with the lowest planned reduction.

The final plan should include a timetable for bringing in compulsory carbon audits (a kind of carbon footprint test), and soil testing (allowing farmers to reduce nitrogen emissions from fertiliser), and more support for low carbon organic farming.

*Each committee is reviewing different aspects of the draft plan, so you may want to talk about a different point depending on which committee your MSP sits on:*

#### Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform

This is the committee leading the review of the plan, so you can raise all the above points

#### Economy, Jobs & Fair Work

Talk to MSPs on this committee about energy efficiency

#### Rural Economy and Connectivity

This committee deals with both transport and farming

#### Local Government & Communities

Talk to MSPs on this committee about energy efficiency

For more detailed information on all these points, please visit the policy page on the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland website: [www.stopclimatechaos.org/sccs-policy](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/sccs-policy)