

Briefing: Climate Change Bill Greenhouse Gas emissions targets



If we're going to achieve a zero carbon future, it's vital the Scottish Government's new Climate Change Bill includes some bold new targets.

What are we calling for?

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is calling for Scotland to set new targets to achieve a 77% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest.

Why have we set these targets?

A [team of international experts on climate science](#) recently concluded that if we're going to have a good chance of limiting global warming to 2°C then global emissions need to halve in each decade and reach zero emissions by 2050.

If we're going to go one step further and try to limit global warming to around 1.5 °C, as the world agreed to try to do through the Paris Agreement, then our emissions need to fall to zero even faster, ideally closer to 2040 rather than 2050.

There's no reason we can't achieve this in Scotland. In practice, it would mean reducing our emissions by 77% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. Sticking to this plan would mean we'd be able to reach zero emissions by 2050 at the absolute latest.

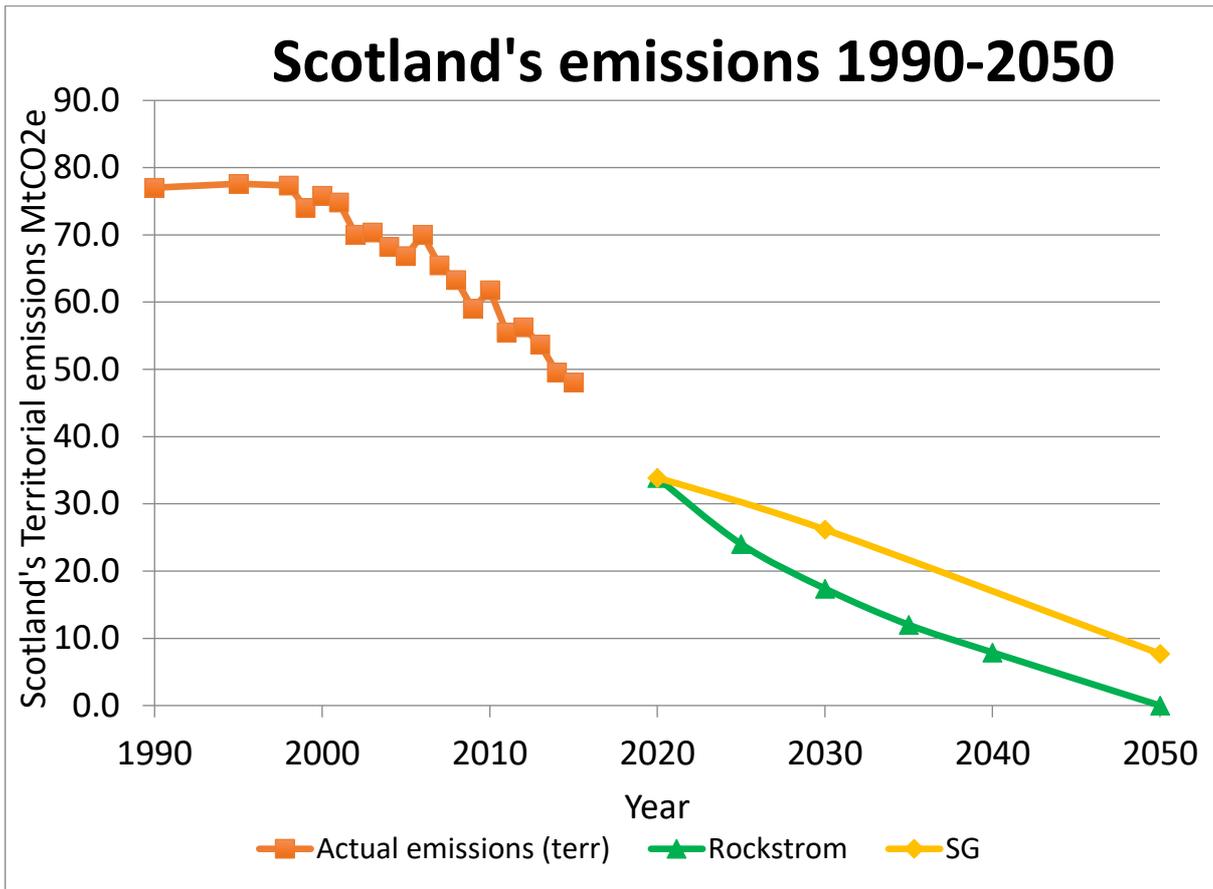
How we get to zero

Setting a target of zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest is the first of our asks for this campaign. In order to get to zero, we need a roadmap for how we're going to get there – which is why we're also asking the Scottish Government to also commit to:

- Make sure their finance budgets factor in the climate change targets
- Set a nitrogen budget for farming by 2020
- Put plans in place for more energy efficient homes by 2025
- Phase out the sale of new fossil fuel cars by 2030.

You can read these other briefings on the SCCS website and on the campaign resource hub [here](#).

Here's what that would look like



This target for 2030 is also consistent with a ['Fair Shares' approach](#), which says industrialised countries should do more towards meeting the 1.5°C temperature limit than countries that have only recently industrialised. This approach comes from looking at historical responsibility of some countries for causing climate change in the first place, as well as how able countries are to reduce emissions now. The Fair Shares approach was used in the civil society ['Fair Shares' report](#), supported by Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, and WWF, to assess the pledges from countries in the run up to the 2015 Paris climate conference.

A Fair Shares approach to the new Scottish Climate Bill would ask for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of between 76% and 86% by 2030 (SCCS is asking for 77%). Alongside this, the UK Committee on Climate Change's [report on the Paris Agreement](#) shows that global CO₂ emissions would need to fall to zero in the 2040s for the world to stay close to the 1.5°C temperature limit. This is why the SCCS target calls for zero emissions by 2050 *at the latest*.

Find out more about the other things we'd like to see in the new Climate Change Bill [here](#).