



## Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Recommendations for Scotland's Climate Change Plan



Leaders of Scotland's five main political parties declare their commitment to work together on climate change, September 2016.

**Scotland's Climate Change Plan**, due to be published in January 2017, will set out the steps that Scotland will take to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years, in order to meet our climate change targets.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland recommends the following proposals for inclusion in the plan:

### **1. Improve the energy efficiency of all Scotland's homes**

Scotland's new energy efficiency programme should support all homes to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least a 'C' rating by 2025, through a mixture of public funding, loans and minimum energy standards. Improving energy efficiency carries many benefits; saving an estimated 1million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year by 2025, while lifting homes out of fuel poverty, improving public health and creating jobs.

### **2. Increase renewable energy across heat, transport and electricity**

The Scottish Government should set a new target to source at least 50% of Scotland's total energy use across heat, electricity and transport from renewable sources by 2030 - up from 13% today. This could save 9.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> across power, heat and transport by 2030.

### **3. Invest in active travel**

The Scottish Government should commit a minimum 10% of the overall transport budget to supporting active travel by 2020. As well as encouraging walking, it would help deliver the Government's commitment to 10% of journeys in 2020 being made by bike. Transport is responsible for around a quarter of Scotland's emissions; a shift to active travel would reduce emissions, cut air pollution and improve public health.

#### **4. No reduction to Air Passenger Duty (APD)**

Air Passenger Duty (APD) should be maintained at least at current levels when powers are devolved to Scotland. Aviation is the most carbon intensive form of travel, and cutting APD would be inconsistent with Scotland's ambitious climate targets. The Scottish Government should work towards developing a fair taxation framework for aviation that reflects aviation's social and environmental impact.

#### **5. Low-carbon farming**

A package of advice, incentives and regulatory measures to cut emissions from farming should be introduced by 2018. With rural land use currently accounting for 25% of Scotland's emissions, a drive to low-carbon farming can reduce emissions across the sector while providing additional benefits such as flood mitigation, river quality and biodiversity.

#### **6. Low carbon heat networks**

A regulatory framework should be introduced, through the proposed Warm Homes Bill, to support much more rapid growth of district heating in Scotland. Heat accounts for over half of Scotland's emissions, yet only 4% of our energy for heating currently comes from renewable sources. District heating could reduce emissions by 0.4 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year by 2030, while reducing heating costs and supporting jobs.

#### **7. Solar Homes**

A new planning requirement should be introduced to require the installation of solar technology in new buildings, domestic and commercial, to be maximised. A reliable and established method of technology, each domestic solar system saves approximately 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> every year. The policy could save 1.5million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030, while creating jobs and saving consumers money on energy bills.

#### **8. Cross-city cycle highways**

A duty on Local Authorities to build at least one cross-city cycle route per city should be introduced, as part of a package of wider measures to support improvement of cycling infrastructure.

Cycling is an important lever in reducing car travel, and therefore emissions. Investing in cycling infrastructure makes it easier and safer for people to travel by bike.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is a civil society coalition campaigning for action on climate change. Members include environment and international development organisations, student unions and trade unions, community groups and faith groups. We represent a broad and diverse cross section of Scottish society.

[www.stopclimatechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org)

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