

# THE PROGRESS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Briefing from Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Gail Wilson 16 April 2019

## 1. Transport and the Climate Change Scotland Bill

Transport has the dubious honour of becoming the single biggest source of emissions in Scotland, accounting for well over a quarter of emissions. It's also the sector that has made the least progress in cutting emissions over the last three decades, with emissions static at 1990 levels.

Scotland's progress in helping people make alternative clean transport choices simply isn't happening fast enough, whether that's encouraging a shift to clean public transport, increasing cycling and walking, or promoting and enabling electric vehicle uptake.

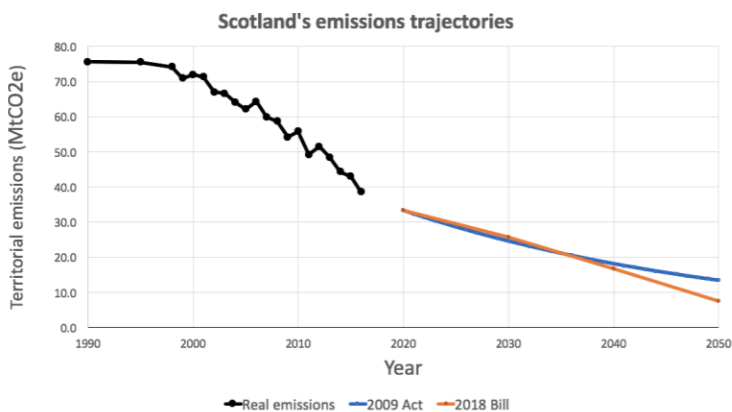


Figure 1: Scotland's emissions trajectories under the 2009 act and the proposed Bill.

In regards to the Climate Change Scotland Bill, SCCS believes that the Bill, as introduced, fails to deliver the Government's own promise to implement the Paris Agreement. It doesn't increase ambition in the short-term (see figure 1), doesn't boost short-term action, and fails to set the date for when Scotland will stop contributing

to climate change. Specifically the 2030 emissions reduction target proposed in the Bill to cut emissions by 66% (on 1990 levels) amounts to no more action than the Government committed to ten years ago in the 2009 Scottish Climate Change Act, as illustrated in Figure 1.

## 2. Progress of the Bill through parliament

The Stage 1 report was published on 4 March 2019 and the stage 1 debate was on 2 April.<sup>1</sup>

Members of the civil society coalition gave evidence in Autumn 2018 to the Committee and urged MSPs to recommend a step change in Scotland's action to tackle climate change within the next decade and to put in place the policies required to bring down emissions.

The report by the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Land Reform and Climate Change committee examined the evidence taken from expert stakeholders, many of whom highlighted the need for urgent action to tackle climate change over the next decade.

The accompanying statement to the report calls for "greater urgency and action across all parts of Government, across the wider public and private sectors and by individuals, to deliver the transformational change needed to reach our targets."

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) welcomes the ECCLR Committee's Stage One Report on the new Climate Change Bill, particularly noting the recommendations to strengthen the Bill to 'ensure that Scotland fully contributes to meeting the challenge of limiting temperature rises to 1.5°C as set out by the IPCC', including urgent action and setting a net zero target.

The stage 1 debate came in the week that over 180 world-renowned scientists from the IPCC met in Edinburgh. The Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition organised a demonstration outside the Scottish Parliament as MSPs inside debated the Bill inside. The demonstrators called for greater urgency in Scottish plans to cut climate emissions, including a significant increase in ambition during the next 10 years.

### 3. SCCS's campaign priorities

Given the latest scientific evidence showing the need for urgent action, SCCS urged MSPs to vote for the Bill at Stage One (which they did), but advocate for amendments at later stages to introduce:

- A focus on action in the next decade, with a target of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
- A target of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 or earlier.
- New policy action to cut emissions from transport, homes and agriculture.
- A requirement for better transparency and read-across between Scottish Budgets and Climate Change Plans.

On transport specifically, in September 2017, First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, committed to phase out the sale of new fossil free vehicles by 2032. This commitment has been warmly welcomed. Now Government need to set out how this will be achieved.

There would be so many benefits of Scotland being ambitious about getting fossil fuel cars off

our streets fast – cleaner air, improved health and new economic opportunities. It could be done by setting a clear statutory target for phase out, together with a requirement for the government to produce and implement a strategy to deliver. Measures to support to support this could include:

- More Low Emissions Zones
- Requiring public vehicle fleets to lead the way
- Financial incentives like workplace parking levies
- Non-financial incentives like preferential bus lane access for EVs, and
- Changes to building regulations to require EV charging points in new build homes.

### 4. Transform Scotland members' session – Thursday 25 April

Transform Scotland's next Members' Session will take place on Thursday 25 April from 15:30 to 17:00 at our office.

We will be joined by Gail Wilson, campaigns manager at Stop Climate Chaos Scotland. Gail will provide a broad overview on the Climate Bill and there will be an opportunity to further discuss the issues raised in this briefing.

The event is open to Transform Scotland's Members and Supporters. It is of course free to attend, but please reserve your place by emailing Matt McDonald on [matt.mcdonald@transformscotland.org.uk](mailto:matt.mcdonald@transformscotland.org.uk).

<sup>1</sup> Stage 1 Report 'Climate Change (Emission Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill - <https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdn.azureedge.net/published/ECCLR/2019/3/4/Stage-1-Report-on-the-Climate-Change--Emissions-Reduction-Targets---Scotland--Bill/ECCLRS052019R1.pdf>

## Scotland's alliance for sustainable transport

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We campaign for walking, cycling and public transport to be the easiest and most affordable options for everyone. Our diverse membership brings together public, private and third sector organisations from across Scotland. We are a registered Scottish charity (SC041516).