



Dear Supporter

Thank you for your interest in campaigning for a strong Scottish Climate Change Bill by visiting your MSP and talking to them about your concerns.

This year is a pivotal time for climate change legislation. We are counting down to the talks in Copenhagen in December 2009 where world leaders will agree on future global emissions reductions. For many, this is seen as our last chance to get the world's greenhouse gas emissions under control – if we don't manage it this time we may have to deal with the consequences of runaway climate change in the near future.

Scotland's Climate Change Bill has a significant part to play in this. This is the strongest climate change legislation on the world's table, and is due to become an Act around the time of Copenhagen. So this Bill should set the bar for other developed countries when they develop their own climate change legislation. Scotland should lead the way.

So it's vital that that Scotland's proposed legislation stays strong. We have a minority government, so we need all our MSPs to vote against any amendments that may weaken it, and for amendments that may strengthen it. MSPs are influenced by their constituents – and welcome meetings with them – so this is a great time to make your views heard.

We hope you find this briefing pack useful in helping you make the most of your visit to your MSP. Go as soon as you can – the earlier you go, the more influence you have.

Please get in touch if you have any questions – either via Stop Climate Chaos Scotland or, if you are a supporter, one of the member organisations listed at the end of this briefing. We'd be interested in hearing from you – and about how your visit went.

Good luck!

Ruth Dawkins
Stop Climate Chaos Co-ordinator

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Visit your MSP about the Scottish Climate Change Bill

On Thursday 4th December the Scottish Climate Change Bill was introduced to Parliament. Thanks to the 21,000 people from around the world who responded to the consultation, the Bill sets strong measures to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gases. However, there is still plenty of room for improvement before it becomes an Act at the end of 2009.

To make sure that the Scottish Climate Change Bill is strengthened and becomes a genuinely world leading piece of legislation, all MSPs must support a strong Bill. One of the most effective ways to influence your MSP is to meet them face to face and raise your concerns.

Make it your New Year's Resolution to visit your MSP – and go as soon as you can – the earlier you go, the more influence you have.

To help inform your visit:

Attend one of the free meetings being organised by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (the coalition of organisations campaigning on climate change) to give you background information about the Bill and how to prepare for your meeting. They are free and informal and no previous experience is required.

Thursday 15 January, 6.30 – 9pm - Quaker Meeting House, Edinburgh
Contact WDM: office@wdmscotland.org.uk or 0131 243 2730

Friday 16 January, 7 – 9pm - Eden Court, Inverness
Contact Lexi Barnett: abarnett@sciaf.org.uk or 0141 354 5555

Thursday 22 January, 6.30 – 9pm - Greenpark Community Centre, Falkirk
Contact Julie Stoneman: campaigns@wwfscotland.org.uk or 01350 728200

Tuesday 27 January, 6 - 8pm - Hillhead Library, Glasgow
Contact Juliet Swann: Juliet.Swann@rspb.org.uk or 0131 311 6500

Wednesday 28 January, 7 - 9pm - Aberdeen Arts Centre
Contact Diane Green: DGreen@christian-aid.org or 0141 241 6130

For more information and to book your place simply contact the relevant organisation.



Guide to lobbying your MSP

Why lobby?

Direct contact with MSPs is a powerful way to achieve change. The more MSPs hear about an issue from their local constituents, the more likely they are to take action. Remember, MSPs are re-elected every four years by people like you, so they want to hear about your views.

Lobbying your MSP in person

Going to see your MSP in person is a particularly effective way to influence their views as making that effort demonstrates how strongly you feel about the issue. One MSP stated that he views every one person that comes to see him in person as the equivalent of receiving 200 emails on the same subject.

The following points are tips to help you get the most from your time with your MSP.

Who is my MSP?

You have more than one MSP. Each resident of Scotland has one constituency MSP and seven Regional (or "list") MSPs that represent them. You can find out who they are by using the Scottish Parliament's MSP locator on their website – visit

www.scottish.parliament.uk/msp/membersPages/MSPAddressPostcodeFinder.htm and just enter your postcode.

Alternatively you can ring the Scottish Parliament public information service on 0131 348 5000.

Which MSP should I visit?

You can visit any or all of your MSPs. The best way to decide which one to visit is to look at their web page on the Scottish Parliament website and see what they do – members of the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee (the committee that scrutinises the Bill), spokes people on the environment, and Party Leaders, for example, will have particular influence. But all MSPs will have some influence.

When should I visit?

Go as soon as you can – the earlier your visit, the more influence you have, particularly during the first stage of the Bill (January - April 2009). It will still be useful to visit your MSP after this time, right up until the final votes on the Bill take place, which is likely to be after the summer.



Before the meeting

Make an appointment

Contact your MSP's local office to arrange a meeting stating the issue you want to discuss (this will allow the MSP to come to the meeting prepared). Contact details for MSPs' local offices are available from the Scottish Parliament's website (visit www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/MSP/MSPHome/Default.aspx). Most MSPs will be happy to meet with their constituents during their regular 'constituency surgeries' (usually on a Monday, Friday or Saturday).

If you have difficulty in finding your MSP's local office then call the Scottish Parliament Public Information Service on 0131 348 5000 and ask to be put through to their office.

Prepare

Read the briefing in this pack to inform yourself of the key points that you want to raise. If you go along with others, plan in advance who will make what points and have some practice sessions beforehand to make sure your message comes across as clearly and succinctly as possible.

The key questions you may like to ask is – what will your MSP do to ensure the Scottish Climate Change Bill remains strong? By strong we mean it must:

- Have a target of 80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050.
- Include annual statutory targets of at least 3% year on year reductions.
- Include emissions from international and domestic aviation and shipping.

Be punctual

... but be prepared for the fact that MSPs often run late.

During the meeting

Keep it short and on track

It is worth asking at the start how much time you have available. State your concerns clearly, stick to the issue and try not to get diverted into general debate or let your MSP side track you! Be aware of time so that you can make sure you cover all the points you wish to make. At the end of the meeting, discuss with your MSP the best course of action and make sure this is understood on both sides before you leave.



Take notes

By taking notes, you can follow up any important points. If you are asked a difficult question, offer to find out more and come back with a response.

Be courteous

How you put your message across is as important as what you say. Be confident and assertive but stay calm and polite. Your MSP will welcome the opportunity to meet with his or her constituents so you should assume from the outset that they are happy to listen to your views, unless they prove otherwise. Let them know that you will be interested to see their progress and that you will be writing to them again to follow up this meeting.

After the meeting

Say thank you

Follow up the meeting with a thank you note restating the key points that you raised with them and remind them of any action they agreed to take.

Keep the discussion going

Keep your MSP informed about events and campaign initiatives with further letters highlighting any new developments. By building a relationship with your MSP, you will make more of an impression.

Be persistent

If you don't get the response you want from your MSP, go and meet them again armed with more evidence to support your arguments.

Let us know how you get on

We would be interested to know if you have made your visit so we can monitor how many MSPs have been visited. Your conversation with your MSP is of course private, but if you would like to share any of its outcomes, please use the feedback form in this pack.



What do other supporters say about lobbying?

"It's worth while making the effort to go and see your MSP. They will make the time to receive you and are generally interested in your views - particularly if your views are informed"

Barry Dalglish, WWF supporter

"I have met with politicians at Holyrood, Westminster and in their local constituency surgery and have always found them to be very welcoming and willing to listen to my concerns. In my experience, politicians welcome contact with individuals who are passionate about issues and who can provide them with solid facts which show that action is needed"

Ian Waldram, Christian Aid supporter



Report of MSP Constituency Visit

Please use this form to let us know you have made your visit for our records. Your discussion with your MSP is confidential – but we would be interested to know any key points you wish to share

Your name:

Name of MSP:

Who attended:

Meeting at:

Date of
meeting:

Notes (e.g.
MSP's reaction,
position etc.)

Any Follow Up
Action?

Full name:

Postcode

Email:



Through which organisation did you hear about this project?

- ☐ Christian Aid
- ☐ Oxfam
- ☐ RSPB Scotland
- ☐ SCIAF
- ☐ Stop Climate Chaos Scotland
- ☐ WDM Scotland
- ☐ WWF Scotland

Other (please state which).....

From time to time Stop Climate Chaos Scotland would like to contact you with relevant information about our campaign work. We will not pass your details onto any other organisations.

- ☐ I am happy for Stop Climate Chaos Scotland to contact me by email
- ☐ I do not wish to receive information from Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.

Please return this form to the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Co-ordinator

Until January 30th 2009 the SCCS Co-ordinator will be Ruth Dawkins who can be emailed on ruth.dawkins@rspb.org.uk

From February 2nd 2009 the SCCS Co-ordinator will be Gail Wilson who can be emailed on gail.wilson@rspb.org.uk

Forms can also be sent by post to SCCS Co-ordinator, RSPB Scotland HQ, Dunedin House, 25 Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh, EH4 3TP.



Contacts

For more information or advice, please contact one of the following people, depending which organisation you support:

	Christian Aid	Diane Green DGreen@christian-aid.org 0141 241 6130
	Oxfam	Sarah Watson SaWatson@oxfam.org.uk 0300 200 1250
	RSPB Scotland	Juliet Swann Juliet.Swann@rspb.org.uk 0131 311 6500
	SCIAF	Lexi Barnett abarnett@sciaf.org.uk 0141 354 5555
	WDM Scotland	Liz Murray liz@wdmscotland.org.uk 0131 243 2730
	WWF Scotland	Julie Stoneman jstoneman@wwfscotland.org.uk 01350 728 200

If do not support any particular organisation above, please contact the overall co-ordinator:



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Ruth Dawkins (until Jan 30th)
ruth@stopclimatechaosscotland.org
0131 311 6500
Gail Wilson (from Feb 2nd)
Gail.Wilson@rspb.org.uk
0131 311 6500



Scottish Climate Change Bill Briefing Notes

A Scottish Climate Change Bill will provide a statutory framework across Scotland to reduce climate-changing emissions, and this should be welcomed. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland believes there are three key things that must be included in the Bill to ensure its success. They are: a statutory reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 80% by 2050, statutory annual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 3%, and the inclusion of emissions from aviation and shipping.

An 80% reduction by 2050

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland welcomes the Scottish Government's stated commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050. There is a strong scientific rationale for this target. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change, to stand even a 50% chance of avoiding a rise of 2°C - widely accepted as the 'danger threshold' of global warming - we must stabilise atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ equivalent at 400-450ppm.¹ We have already reached 430ppm, and the window of opportunity for taking the necessary action is shrinking every day. Scotland's fair share of global efforts to avoid a 2°C rise means reducing our emissions at least 80% by 2050.

Statutory annual targets of 3% emissions reduction

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland believes that the Scottish Climate Change Bill should include not just a long-term reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions, but also statutory annual targets of at least 3%. The 2050 target is an important goal but, in order for it to be meaningful, it must be matched by a commitment to year-on-year reductions. Without those annual targets, there is a risk of inaction in early years and delays in making early progress towards the 80% cut. With a Parliamentary cycle of under 4 years a multi year budget period also risks avoiding accountability and simply shifting responsibility for any failure to make adequate progress into the subsequent Government.

A legislative commitment to annual reductions targets of at least 3% would ensure the 80% reduction goal becomes a meaningful figure and would ensure the Bill fulfils its ambition of providing 'a strong example to other countries showing what can be done'.

¹ <http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/ar4-syr.htm>



Inclusion of emissions from aviation and shipping

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland strongly believes that emissions from international aviation and shipping should be included in the Scottish Climate Change Bill's reduction targets.

Aviation is the fastest-growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK, and urgent action is required to put it on a more sustainable path.. Since 1990, UK CO₂ emissions from aviation have risen by 125 per cent; they are currently growing by between 5 and 10 per cent a year. In Scotland, the contribution of international aviation has risen from around 5% of all GHG in 1990 to around 13% of all GHG in 2004.

Although emissions from international aviation and shipping are not included in global climate agreements, states are required under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol to report them as a 'memo item', and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) publishes internationally-accepted guidelines on how to do this. The UK Government has for several years compiled and reported official figures for emissions from international aviation and shipping – based on fuel taken on-board at UK ports - for inclusion in our national GHG inventory. These official figures go back to 1990 and so disaggregated Scottish data could be used to include aviation emissions on the same basis as other sectors from the moment the Bill becomes law.

Further Information

More detailed briefings will be available soon on the 80% target, statutory annual targets, and aviation and shipping.

Please contact the SCCS Co-ordinator if you are interested in receiving more information.

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From February 2nd 2009 the SCCS Co-ordinator will be Gail Wilson who can be emailed on gail.wilson@rspb.org.uk

Alternatively, keep an eye on the website at www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland where they will be made available for download.