

CLIMATE CHANGE BILL CONSULTATION

RESPONSE FROM ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

This response has been gathered from officers and elected Members of Argyll and Bute Council and agreed by the Council's Environment Policy Performance Group. The Group felt that the consultation document was not aimed at the right level as it did not allow lay persons to contribute, although it is a public consultation document.

TARGETS	
1. Should a Scottish target be based on carbon dioxide only or the basket of six greenhouse gases?	<p>There should be a basket of gases rather than focusing on one element. Expert advice will be required to identify measures.</p> <p>Adequate resources will need to be provided in order to tackle and address carbon emissions.</p>
2. Should the Bill contain provisions to alter which gases are included, for example if the reliability of data for a particular gas improves or if science changes in the future about which gases cause climate change?	Yes.
3. The Scottish Government wishes to ensure that the Bill gives sufficient incentives to invest in energy efficiency and renewable electricity. Should the targets be based on source emissions; an end-user inventory; or on individual targets for energy efficiency and renewable electricity? Do you have any other suggestions?	<p>There should be targets for reducing energy use and for increasing the use of renewable energy.</p> <p>Local targets should take account of geography and infrastructure.</p>
4. Do you agree that the Bill should allow the means of measuring the target to be changed through secondary legislation to reflect international developments or unforeseen consequences of the Bill?	Yes.
5. Should the emissions reduction target take account of the abatement effort made by companies under emissions trading schemes? If so, how?	No because abatement schemes do not contribute to an overall reduction in CO ₂ . We should be aware of taking a global approach and demonstrating leadership.
6. Do you agree that international credits should be counted towards Scottish targets? Should there be limits on credits counted towards Scottish targets?	No.

<p>7. Should the Bill allow the level of the 2050 target to be changed through secondary legislation?</p> <p>If so, should this only be allowed on the basis of independent, expert advice, to reflect international developments or unforeseen consequences of the Bill?</p> <p>Should any changes to the target be limited to an increase in the target?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>No.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING FRAMEWORK</p>	
<p>8. What factors should be taken into account when setting the level of budgets?</p>	<p>This should take account of distance and rurality, population growth and migration, geography and infrastructure.</p>
<p>9. How long should interim budget periods be?</p>	<p>4 years, to coincide with government administration cycles</p>
<p>10. How many years in advance should emissions budget periods be set in order to provide sufficient time to develop infrastructure?</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>11. What should be the limit (in terms of absolute quantity or as a percentage of the budget period) on the amount of emissions which the Government can borrow from a following budget period?</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>12. Should the Bill include an interim point target? If so, what year (or years) should it be for (2020, 2025, 2030, etc.)? How should the level be chosen?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>REPORTING SCRUTINY AND FRAMEWORK</p>	
<p>13. Should the Scottish Ministers be required to report on any other issues related to climate change in addition to the requirements already set out. If so, what and how often?</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>14. Is a process of Parliamentary scrutiny the appropriate way of holding the Scottish Government to account if targets or budgets are not met?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>15. What should be the primary source of advice to the Scottish Government for setting emissions targets or budgets and why? Options include: the</p>	<p>The UK Committee on Climate Change</p>

proposed UK Committee on Climate Change, a new Scottish Committee on Climate Change, an existing public body in Scotland, or the Scottish Government itself.	
16. If it were to be an existing Scottish public body, which public body is most suited to carrying out this task and why?	No single organisation has the capacity at present.
17. Which organisation should be tasked with monitoring the progress of the Scottish Government on reducing emissions and why? Options include: the proposed UK Committee on Climate Change, a new Scottish Committee on Climate Change, an existing public body in Scotland, or the Scottish Government itself.	In the short term, the UK Committee on Climate Change. An expert group consisting of representatives from SEPA and other specialist organisations should be brought together.
18. If it were to be an existing Scottish public body, which public body is most suited to carrying out this task and why?	-
19. Should additional independent mechanisms for scrutinising the effectiveness of the Scottish Government's policies in reducing emissions be created by the Bill (in addition to any scrutiny already provided by the Scottish Parliament)?	No.
20. If so, which organisation is best placed to carry out this function and why? Options include a new Scottish Committee on Climate Change or an existing public body in Scotland.	-
21. If it were to be an existing Scottish public body, which public body is most suited to carrying out this task and why?	-
22. Are there any other functions related to climate change, existing or new, which should be carried out at arm's length from the Scottish Government and why?	-
SUPPORTING MEASURES	
23. Should the Bill contain enabling powers to introduce a duty on certain parts of the public sector (i.e. local authorities and large public bodies) to take specified actions on climate change or other specified environmental issues? Why?	Under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 local authorities already have a duty to promote sustainable development and this includes climate change. This should be extended to the whole of the public sector to tie in with the Scottish Government's approach to funding and

	delivering public services.
24. What should such a duty (or duties) include?	<p>A duty should be based on the commitments in the LACCDeclaration and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty to reduce LA's own emissions (where we have direct control) • Duty to measure, monitor and report our own emissions • Duty to collaborate with others (CPP) to reduce area-wide emissions
25. Should the Bill contain enabling powers to introduce statutory guidance for certain public sector bodies (i.e. local authorities and large public bodies) on specified climate change or other environmental measures? Why? Are there gaps in any existing guidance?	<p>Yes, as long as it strengthens and complements the duty that already exists and does not conflict with existing guidance.</p> <p>Additional funds will need to be made available to support new duties.</p>
26. What should this guidance include?	-
27. Should the Bill contain enabling powers to create a requirement for certain public sector bodies (i.e. local authorities and large public bodies) to make regular reports on specific measures they are taking to tackle climate change (whether mitigation or adaptation) or other environmental issues? Why? What should be included in such reports?	<p>All local authorities have signed the Climate Change Declaration and this requires an annual report on progress which should suffice.</p> <p>Account should also be taken of the Single Outcome Agreement between the Scottish Government and local authorities.</p>
28. As a potential non-legislative measure, should current Best Value guidance be amended to take specific account of climate change mitigation and adaptation? If so, how should Best Value guidance be amended?	<p>Emphasise and strengthen the Climate Change aspect of sustainable development; SSN (Sustainable Scotland Network) has produced best value guidance and this could be revised. Training will need to be provided to increase expertise, for example for Audit Scotland staff who are auditing climate change activity.</p>
29. Are there any amendments to existing legislation or any enabling powers needed to allow for variable charging (for example by local authorities) to incentivise action or eliminate perverse incentives?	<p>The expansion of ROCs (Renewable Obligation Certificates) to include community renewable energy schemes.</p>

<p>30. Are there any provisions to help Scotland adapt to the impacts of climate change which should be included in the Scottish Climate Change Bill?</p>	<p>Sufficient funding is required to support adaptation measures, particularly where investment is needed before savings can be made.</p>
<p>31. Should provisions within the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, be amended in order to provide clearer links with emissions reduction? If so, how should this be done?</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>32. What are the equalities implications of the measures in the proposals for the Scottish Climate Change Bill?</p>	<p>In addition to an Equality Impact Assessment being carried out, consideration should be given to adverse effects for disabled people caused by potential transport charging, and adverse effects on people on low income and incapacity benefits caused by 'green taxes' on fuel/car use.</p> <p>Targets could have an adverse impact on people in remote rural and island areas.</p>
<p>33. Is there any existing legislation within the competence of the Scottish Parliament (devolved) which needs to be amended so that appropriate action on climate change can be taken by sectors in society?</p>	<p>-</p>