



25 April 2008

The Scottish Government
Climate Change Bill Consultation
1-G North, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear Sir

Climate Change – consultation on proposals for a Scottish Climate Change Bill

Thank you for the invitation to respond to the above consultation. British Waterways fully supports the ambitious aspirations of the Bill and we welcome the opportunity to provide details of our current and future practical contributions to the significant challenge of managing climate change in Scotland.

British Waterways (BW) is a cross-border public corporation, sponsored in Scotland by the Scottish Government and by DEFRA in England and Wales. In Scotland, we are already delivering a valuable contribution to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives (smarter, wealthier & fairer, healthier, safer & stronger and greener) that are essential to enhancing the quality of life in Scotland.

Background

British Waterways manages and cares for over 2000 miles (3200 km) of canals and navigable natural water bodies (rivers and lochs) in Britain as a whole, of which 137.5 miles (220 km) are in Scotland. British Waterways Scotland (BWS) is responsible for five canals in Scotland: the Forth & Clyde, Union and Monkland Canals in the Lowlands, the Crinan Canal in Argyll, and the Caledonian Canal in the Highlands. These canals rely on water supplies from a variety of surface waters including 19 reservoirs and their feeder streams, some of which we own. The canal network passes through the major cities in the Central Belt and over 70% of the Scottish population lives within an hour's drive of our network. Our national coverage, use of water resources and ownership of land provides BWS with a number of opportunities to contribute to climate change management, as detailed below.

Contribution to reducing emissions

We fully support the consultation's proposal to introduce a system of cross compliance in support of emissions reduction as part of the Scottish Government's Budget Spending Review. The following are areas where our activities could contribute to these targets.

Transport

BWS has a role to play in sustainable transport through the provision of safe routes for school children and commuters, particularly in the urban areas of Falkirk, Edinburgh and Glasgow. In addition, we provide UK-based boating holiday opportunities, reducing the potential impact of travelling abroad.

National Headquarters

British Waterways Scotland Canal House 1 Applecross Street Glasgow G4 9SP
T 0141 332 6936 F 0141 331 1688 E enquiries.scotland@britishwaterways.co.uk
www.scottishcanals.co.uk

Scotland's Canals and The Falkirk Wheel



While the canals historically were developed for transport purposes to move freight, over the recent past, their use as transport arteries has significantly declined. However, as part of our efforts to identify new ways to maximise the economic and environmental potential of the canals, we are exploring opportunities to revitalise the network as a sustainable alternative to road transport for freight movements, with particular focus on opportunities on the Caledonian Canal for goods such as timber.

Green energy

The combination of our land holdings and water supply network provides real opportunities for the production of renewable energy from hydropower schemes, wind turbines and heat pump systems on the Scottish Canal network. We already heat several of our operational buildings and adjacent businesses along the Forth & Clyde Canal using heat pump systems supplied by canal water and have a number of micro-wind turbines powering lights on the Crinan Canal. In England, canal water is being used for cooling systems in canal-side business premises.

As a company, BWS is also working to reduce its own carbon emissions by reviewing staff travel behaviour and ensuring appropriate management of its built estate.

Contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change

Flood risk management

Scotland's canal network forms part of the land drainage system and offers both small and large scale opportunities for flood risk management. In order to ensure protection of our canal network, predicted climate change impacts are built into our water resource modelling.

Currently, a number of developments in the Central Belt manage their surface run-off via Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDs) which drain to the Lowland canal network. This reduces the demand on the already oversubscribed sewerage system, particularly in Glasgow. Through the River Basin Management Planning process, we are keen to work with other partners (e.g. Scottish Water) to maximise our potential in this area in future.

On a regional scale, canal restoration projects and new canals have the potential to offer flood mitigation as part of wider sustainable development objectives. A key example is the major River Leven corridor navigation and flood defence draft proposal for the Dumbarton area. BWS conducted a feasibility study and produced a masterplan framework that proposes a new canal along the Leven Valley, the Lomond Canal. This work was done under the auspices of The Scottish Government's canal policy document '*Scotland's canals: an asset for the future*,' (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2002/10/15571/11777>) which encouraged BWS to examine the viability of a navigable link between the Clyde and Loch Lomond. The Lomond Canal forms part of the hugely exciting regeneration opportunity to unlock development opportunities stretching from Bowling, along the north bank of the River Clyde and through the River Leven corridor to Balloch and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. Flood prevention is a strategic issue and the Lomond Canal offers an innovative solution to alleviate the flood risks in Dumbarton, upper parts of the River Leven and, potentially, the Loch Lomond area.

Further details of BWS's current and potential role in flood risk management were provided to Scottish Government in our response to the Flood risk management consultation earlier this month.

BWS is also keen to work with its partners in the Glasgow area in considering potential flood defence measures as part of the wider aspirations for the city's East End Regeneration in advance of the Commonwealth Games.

Adaptation Strategy

BWS would wish to be involved in contributing to the consultation on the Scottish Adaptation Strategy.

Specific comments on consultation questions

Q1 CO₂

Q2 Yes

Q3 End user inventory

Q4 Yes

Q5 – Q12 No comment

Q13 No

Q14 Yes

Q15 UK Committee on Climate Change

Q16 SEPA

Q17 UK Committee on Climate Change

Q18-22 No comment

Q23 Yes

Q24 No comment

Q25 Yes

Q26 This will be dependent on the latest knowledge available.

Q27 Yes, but we would wish to know what detail would be required.

Q28-33 No comment

As a public corporation, we have the opportunity to demonstrate best practice in climate change management and to encourage private sector contributions through partnership working. We look forward to working with the Scottish Government to achieve this across the broad spectrum of our activities.

Yours sincerely

Dr Olivia Lassiere
Heritage & Environment Manager Scotland

cc. by e-mail Margaret Horn, Scottish Government