Stop Climate Chaos Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee’s Inquiry into the Scottish Government’s Renewables Targets. This evidence is supported by the organisations listed at the end of this document. Achieving the target to meet 100% equivalent of Scotland’s electricity consumption from renewables by 2020 will be a critical part of the effort required in Scotland’s transformation to a low carbon economy.

The Scottish Parliament recognised the need for Scotland to play its part in tackling climate change, when it unanimously passed the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The 2020 renewables target is a vital step in the journey to reduce our emissions by at least 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels).

Hitting the 2020 electricity target is a key milestone towards the Scottish Government’s commitment to a virtually decarbonised power sector by 2030. A report produced by Friends of the Earth Scotland, RSPB and WWF Scotland, entitled ‘The Power of Scotland Secured’\(^1\), shows that by 2020 it is possible for Scotland to exceed our electricity needs, bring in substantial export revenue, and also allow for significant electrification of heat and transport sectors, all without endangering important environmental interests.

We welcome the commitment to the development of a clean, green and secure energy supply for Scotland. For this to be sustainable, it is important to ensure that renewable energy is sited so as to minimise possible impacts on Scotland’s natural heritage.

Improved demand reduction will make the renewables target easier to achieve, since it is expressed as a percentage of final demand. It is therefore essential that demand reduction and energy efficiency are given clear priority, in line with the energy hierarchy.

**Conclusion**

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland believes it is necessary and feasible for Scotland to produce equivalent to 100% of its electricity demand from renewable sources by 2020. This transformation of our energy sector offers huge opportunities to Scotland as we build a domestic energy supply, create green jobs and protect homes from rising fuel prices.

**About Stop Climate Chaos Scotland**

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is a diverse coalition of organisations campaigning together on climate change, including environment, faith and development organisations, student unions and community groups.

We worked together to inform the debate around the Scottish Climate Change Act when it went through Parliament in early 2009. Since then we have continued our engagement with the Parliament to ensure that Scotland meets the ambitious targets set out in the Act.

Gail Wilson  
Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Co-ordinator  
29 February 2012  

The following members of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland support this evidence:  

Association for the Conservation of Energy  
Changeworks  
Christian Aid  
Church of Scotland  
Fife Diet  
Friends of the Earth Scotland  
Greenpeace  
Iona Community  
NUS Scotland  
Oxfam Scotland  
People & Planet Scotland  
RSPB Scotland  
SCVO  
Scottish Seabird Centre  
Sustrans  
Transform Scotland  
Transition Linlithgow  
UKYCC  
WDM Scotland  
WWF Scotland