Views called for on climate change report by Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

A call for views on proposals for how Scotland will meet climate change targets from 2013-2027 has today been launched by the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee. The second draft climate change report on proposals and policies (RPP2) was published today by the Scottish Government. MSPs will also scrutinise the effectiveness of the proposals and policies that were set out in the Scottish Government’s first report, covering 2010-2022, and will look at what progress has been made.

Convener of the Committee Rob Gibson MSP said:

“Scotland has led the way in tackling climate change by creating some of the world’s most challenging targets. Whilst these targets are clearly long term, unless we act now, we are at risk of causing irreversible damage to our climate and environment. Our Committee will be looking at overarching issues such as how behaviour change can make a difference to more specific issues such as how we use our land and resources.”

The Committee will focus on issues such as climate change governance, land use, resource use and behaviour change. MSPs will take evidence from stakeholders and report to Parliament by the end of March.

The Committee is asking for views in the following areas as they relate to their remit:

- The effectiveness of progress towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in the RPP1 and the appropriateness of the proposed adjustments to the proposals and policies within the RPP1;
- The effectiveness of the proposals and policies with the draft RPP2 for meeting the annual emissions targets;
- How these proposals and policies are likely to contribute towards the achievement of the interim target, the 2050 target and, in each target year, the domestic effort target; and
- The appropriateness of the timescales over which the proposals and policies within the draft RPP2 are expected to take effect.
Background

The Climate Change Act 2009 was passed by the Scottish Parliament in June 2009. This provides a statutory framework to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in Scotland by setting an interim 42 per cent reduction target for 2020, with the power for this target to be varied based on expert advice and an 80 per cent reduction target for 2050. The document produced by the Scottish Government to outline how they will meet the targets is known as the report on proposals and policies.

There has already been one report on proposals and policies which was published in 2010 and covered how the Scottish Government was going to meet its targets from 2010-2022. The second report covers the period from 2013-2027.

Responses to the call for evidence should be sent to racce.committee@scottish.parliament.uk by 20 February.

Three other Committees will consider RPP2 and they will take evidence on issues within their remit. The Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee will look for views on decarbonising the energy sector and reducing energy demand, as well as fuel poverty. The Local Government and Regeneration Committee will consider how communities, local authorities and the planning system can contribute to delivering emissions targets. The Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee will look in detail at fuel poverty as it relates to energy efficiency in housing, and issues relating to transport. The Committee will also examine issues relating to procurement, broadband infrastructure and Scottish Water.

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