

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy regarding the Climate Change Plan, 24 March 2026

Dear Ariane,

I am pleased to inform you that, following a period of scrutiny and consultation on the draft Climate Change Plan published in November 2025, the finalised Climate Change Plan has now been laid. It can be found online [here](#). The Plan has been published alongside our new [Circular Economy Strategy](#) and [Environment Strategy](#). Together these set out our approach to building a more sustainable Scotland.

As you are aware, the Plan outlines the policies and proposals that will ensure the first three carbon budgets are met, covering the years 2026-2040. Completing the Plan is a momentous step towards achieving a just transition to net zero by 2045, and offers huge opportunities for economic growth, cleaner air, improved public services, and cheaper heating. As you will be aware, the recent assessment by the Climate Change Committee found that our emissions reduction targets are achievable, and we are already over halfway to net zero.

This Plan has been a collaborative effort, drawing on the views and expertise of a wide range of stakeholders to whom I am grateful. In response to the scrutiny undertaken on the draft CCP, we have significantly strengthened the final Plan, particularly around how delivery of action will be supported and monitored. This includes new detail of the key performance indicators that will be used for monitoring and evaluation, allowing more effective real-time assessments of delivery progress. I am grateful to the LGHP Committee for its report on the draft CCP and the recommendations contained within it. These were reviewed as part of this finalisation process, and I would like to draw specific attention to Annex 4 of the Plan. This outlines the feedback we received on the draft from both the public consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny, and the changes we have made in response.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and the rest of the LGHP Committee for your engagement on the Plan throughout its development process. I appreciate the work that has been completed by the Committee at pace to enable us to publish the final Plan in this Parliament. Cross-Parliamentary co-operation on climate change will continue to be vital in the next Parliament, as the Plan enters its implementation stage to deliver a fairer, greener Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Martin
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy