



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Committee Conveners
Scottish Parliament
26 June 2025

Dear Conveners

Joint scrutiny of the draft Climate Change Plan

As you know, the Conveners Group has agreed to make collective scrutiny of the Scottish Government and public bodies' response to the climate crisis a collective committee priority this session and I would continue to encourage committee colleagues to look to make time in their work programmes to consider the next draft Climate Change Plan (CCP) when it is laid.

As Convener of the Committee leading this joint approach to scrutiny, I am writing to update you on recent developments and notify you of the Call for Views that we are about to launch as we head into summer recess.

The Climate Change Plan and draft Climate Change Plan

The CCP is a strategy document which outlines how the Scottish Government intends to meet emissions reduction targets across all portfolio areas and sectors of the economy. These targets have been agreed by Parliament in three pieces of legislation in [2009](#), [2019](#) and [2024](#). The legislation includes a statutory requirement for the Scottish Government to publish, and lay in Parliament for consideration by committees, a draft Plan on how they intend to meet the targets.

The last full CCP was in 2018 so this will be the first time the Scottish Parliament has considered a statutory draft CCP since the 2019 and 2024 Acts. (The CCP "update" in 2020 was non-statutory.)

The 2019 Act:

- Introduced a net zero target for 2045, and interim targets.
- Changed the period for Parliamentary consideration of a draft Plan from 60 to 120 days.

The 2024 Act:

- Repealed the interim 2030 and 2040 targets for emissions reduction and abolished the system of annual percentage-based targets for emission

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We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

reductions set out in a straight line between the interim targets. The 2045 target of net zero emissions was retained.

- Replaced this system of target setting with a system of 5-year carbon budgets, to be set by regulation by the Scottish Government following advice from the Climate Change Committee (CCC).

Laying of the first carbon budget regulations

The CCC published '[Scotland's Carbon Budgets: Advice for the Scottish Government](#)' on 21 May 2025. The CCC report gave advice on the level of Scotland's four carbon budgets, from 2026 to 2045.

The Scottish Government laid [draft regulations setting carbon budgets](#) for the next four 5-year carbon budget periods, running from 2026 – 2045 on 19 June 2025. These have been referred to the NZET Committee to consider. These are subject to the affirmative procedure. We will take evidence in September and publish a report shortly after. If the regulations proceed to the Chamber, we expect them to be taken shortly before or after October recess.

Alongside the regulations the Scottish Government published, as required by the 2024 Act, an [indicative statement](#), which offers some idea of the policies and proposals we can expect to see in the draft CCP and may be helpful to committees for planning purposes.

The regulations are important in themselves but also because of their effect in triggering the next step in the scrutiny process. If and when the regulations come into force (which would be a day after they are agreed), the Scottish Government is then legally required to lay a draft CCP within two months.

We can therefore expect a draft CCP to be laid sometime between October and the year end (if the regulations are agreed). I know that effective forward planning is important for all committees, especially as we move into the final months of this session. Given this, and given also the various timetabling requirements for the CCP laid down in the relevant legislation, the NZET Committee has [written to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy](#) seeking information on when she expects to lay a draft and final CCP, and NZET clerks will notify their counterparts once a reply is received.

Call for Views

As well as providing this latest information on timetabling, I also write to notify you of the NZET Committee's Call for Views on the next draft CCP. I had hoped to be able to share a draft of the Call with all Conveners in early June, to allow the opportunity for any feedback, reflecting our collective approach to scrutiny in this area. However, as I mentioned to Conveners at the Conveners Group meeting on 18 June, the regulations were not laid, as expected, in late May, and this meant that this approach was not possible. However, I hope you will agree that the questions, prepared by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre, are comprehensive.

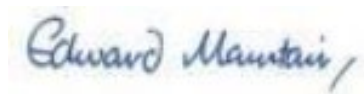
The [Call for Views](#), which launches tomorrow (Friday 27 June), will run throughout summer recess, closing on **19 September 2025**. Responses will of course be available to all committees with an interest in scrutiny, as will analysis of responses by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre.

A word on timing: the Call for Views is being run now and not following the draft CCP being laid. The main reason for this is that the Scottish Government will run a consultation on the draft whilst it is subject to Parliamentary consideration and the Committee's view was that running a consultation simultaneously with the Scottish Government risked causing both confusion and "consultation fatigue". Running this consultation upstream of the laying date also seems to the Committee to have positive aspects, enabling committees to be better prepared and better aware of stakeholder and expert views before the formal scrutiny period commences.

I would strongly encourage committees and clerks to share the Call for Views, once launched, with your stakeholder networks to increase responses from those with a specific interest in your committee's remit.

I will write back to Conveners later in the year with more information about our joint approach to scrutiny of the draft CCP, in the light of any further information about the laying date and other key milestones.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain".

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee