

Edward Mountain MSP
Convenor, Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

10 March 2025

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 February 2025 requesting the Climate Change Committee's views on what a 'good' Climate Change Plan (CCP) from the Scottish Government would look like.

In our 2023 report [Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland](#), we included priority recommendations setting out key considerations for the CCP:

- Increase transparency around the Scottish Government's expected pathways to Net Zero. This should involve publishing more details on the assumptions that underpin these pathways and how the abatement set out in the upcoming Scottish CCP will be achieved by planned policies, setting out the quantified abatement expected to be achieved by each policy.
- The CCP should set out clear roles and responsibilities for delivering aspects of emissions reduction and climate change adaptation, as well as details of how these will be coordinated and accountability mechanisms. This should cover coordination of actions across Scottish Government, collaboration with the UK Government, and partnership with local authorities.

In a letter from Professor Piers Forster, Interim Chair of the Climate Change Committee to Mairi McAllan MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition dated 14 May 2024 on the [design and implementation of carbon budgets in Scotland](#), we said that the Scottish Government should develop a monitoring and evaluation plan that can be used to identify where there are risks of delivery falling behind the pace of change that is required.

- This should include the latest emissions data and underlying indicators of progress, including metrics tracking uptake of the various low-carbon technologies and consumer/business choices that will be required.
- The Scottish Government should aim to track a range of key indicators and use these to identify whether deployment is scaling up at the pace required to meet future carbon budgets.
- To enable effective scrutiny and support collaborative efforts between the Scottish Government, businesses, and the public, the Scottish Government should be transparent in

this monitoring and evaluation. This can allow for early identification of potential issues before they translate into impacts on emissions trajectories, allowing action to be taken to mitigate the risks and get things back on track.

- The Scottish Government's delivery plans should include a range of credible contingency plans that can be activated to achieve this if necessary.

We will be providing advice on Scotland's carbon budgets on 21 May 2025 in which we will also provide recommendations on the CCP.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Pinchbeck
Chief Executive, Climate Change Committee