

# Climate Change Plan call for views: summary of responses for the Buildings sector

The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee ran a proactive [Call for Views on the forthcoming Draft Climate Change Plan \(CCP\)](#) from 27 June to 19 September 2025. This SPICe briefing highlights key buildings sector issues raised by respondents. It is not intended to be a comprehensive summary, but a brief overview of key issues raised. Full responses are published on the Scottish Parliament website: [Published responses for Draft Climate Change Plan Scrutiny 2025 - Scottish Parliament - Citizen Space](#).

A table of acronyms used to refer to the organisations that submitted responses is included at the end of the document.<sup>1</sup>

## What are the most important policies needed to achieve the proposed carbon budgets?

The key issues raised included the need for **energy efficiency improvements, heat decarbonisation, financial support mechanisms, regulatory certainty, skills and workforce development, public engagement and a just transition.**

There was broad agreement on the importance of a fabric-first approach, the role of heat pumps and the need for a just transition, though some organisations diverged on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of certain technologies, particularly in rural and off-grid areas. A few responses from individuals were more sceptical about the net zero agenda in general.

### Fabric-first energy efficiency

The majority of respondents (including CIAT, BEFS, CS, EHA, WWF Scotland) highlighted the need for energy efficiency improvements, such as insulation, draught-proofing, upgrading windows and doors to reduce heat loss and energy demand in existing buildings, especially in older and hard-to-treat homes.

Some respondents suggested the need for mandating minimum energy performance standards. IKEA, for example, referred to the need for sustainable design principles for commercial buildings:

“To support that progress it would be beneficial to consider updating commercial building regulations to encourage sustainable design principles for new constructions. This includes promoting the integration of renewable energy systems, energy efficiency measures, and accessibility features from the outset. Clear communication and accountability measures could also help

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<sup>1</sup> Note: The table includes all organisations that submitted a response to the Call for Views. However, not all organisations responded to every section, and not all acronyms appear in each briefing.

ensure businesses understand and can comply with these guidelines effectively.”

SEDA highlighted the importance of solar thermal heating systems in reducing energy demand. It argues that solar heating is “clean renewable energy that has been forgotten due to lack of grants for this technology.”

## Heat decarbonisation

The majority of respondents (including WWF Scotland, UKERC, SEPA) also mentioned the need for policies around heat decarbonisation and the phasing out of fossil fuel heating systems (e.g. gas, oil, coal) particularly through the deployment of heat pumps and district heating.

Many respondents supported the wider adoption of heat pumps, which were seen as efficient in reducing emissions. WWF Scotland stated, “Heat pumps offer one of the most effective decarbonisation options, reducing household carbon emissions by up to 90%.”

Some concerns were raised about the impact on the electricity grid capacity arising from the expansion of heat pumps. There was also some concern about the **unsuitability of air source heat pumps** for certain buildings including older, poorly insulated homes.

HC noted the need to take into account what can be done in listed buildings and conservation areas:

“The Highlands have a high proportion of listed buildings and homes in conservation areas, often stone-built, dispersed, and off-gas. Policies must ensure retrofit and heating solutions respect heritage value while delivering carbon reduction and climate resilience.”

Similarly, HES noted that it is:

“...essential that policies recognise that traditional, solid-walled, buildings are a vital element of the transition to net zero and a climate resilient society through providing solutions that reconcile climate and economic objectives”.

Liquid Gas UK argued for a **mixed technology approach**, advocating for bio-LPG especially for rural and off-grid homes, citing cost and feasibility concerns of heat pumps.

Some concerns were raised about the affordability of heat pumps, including the installation and running costs particularly for low-income households. Stakeholders stressed that fossil fuel phase-out policies must be **fair and affordable, especially for low-income households, rural and off-grid homes** (points on financial support are covered in more detail below).

In relation to heat networks some respondents emphasised the **need for clear regulation, financial support, and integration with broader retrofit and energy**

**efficiency programmes.** Public sector leadership was also identified as critical to success. For example, regarding the expansion of heat networks EDC stated:

“Various scales of heat networks can also support the transition to zero direct emission heating and continuing the funding for feasibility work in this area is important. Supporting flexible tariffs, and setting clear customer protection and zoning regulations for heat networks will also play a crucial role in encouraging participation.”

Dr Jess Britton and Professor Jan Webb from the University of Edinburgh (in the UKERC response) said that “acceleration of investment in heat networks is likely to require an obligation on buildings with large heat loads to connect to district heating when available.” They cited research which indicates that such regulations are important in developing certainty in heat network investment but have been absent in Britain, in contrast with other European countries.

Several respondents called for **clear deadlines** and the need for **interim milestones** to guide industry and public planning. Many called for the Heat in Buildings (HiB) Bill to include powers to prohibit fossil fuel heating under specific conditions (see further below for detail on regulatory certainty).

HfS noted that the Climate Change Committee (CCC) does not list any actions the Scottish Government must take in respect of the new build sector to meet the pathway, as it states the New Build Heat Standard (NBHS) has effectively prohibited fossil fuel heating systems in new homes. It argued that attention must therefore be focused on decarbonisation of existing stock through new standards and better enabling of retrofit.

Points were also made around the **need for technical and market readiness** (supply chain development, installer training and public awareness campaigns) to ensure the increase in use of heat pumps and other net zero heating systems.

Other responses mentioned issues related to the reductions in emissions from buildings. For example:

- SCCS said that the need to **decarbonise cooking and hot water should not be overlooked**. It suggested that encouraging the retrofit of PV solar panels by subsidy schemes and/or the reduction of planning barriers should be taken forward.
- EST noted the importance of **considering cooling as part of the clean heat transition** and that policy should prioritise passive cooling measures such as effective shading and natural ventilation. SEDA noted that “design standard must ensure purge ventilation and low-tech alternatives are available to maintain indoor air quality and occupant health in case of system failure or disaster scenarios.”
- HES highlighted the need for **tenement legislation** to facilitate owners within a tenement coming together and taking forward repairs. They stated that definitions of maintenance should be expanded to include zero-carbon

heating transitions, and compulsory owners' associations should be mandated to support this on a tenement-by-tenement level. EST also referred to the situation of flats [citing its report](#) considering how to accelerate retrofit of flats across the UK learning lessons from countries across Europe. They recommended that in Scotland, the gap in financial support for groups of owners in flats should be addressed, noting that current schemes do not include provisions for collective applications.

## Financial support and incentives

The need for **financial support and incentives** was raised by many respondents.

There was **strong agreement that substantial funding is required to support retrofitting and clean heating transitions**. A range of solutions, including VAT exemptions and tax incentives, government grants, low-interest loans, green mortgages and multi-year funding schemes were suggested to support engagement by individuals, local authorities and the private sector.

As examples, Propertymark, stated that:

“... the vast majority of Propertymark sales agent members have made it clear that investing in energy efficiency does not lead to higher house prices which would under different circumstances provide a sufficient incentive. Until this is the case, alternative incentives such as vouchers to cover the costs of retrofit evaluations, loans and grants to pay for energy efficiency improvements, allow energy performance improvements to be offset against rental income or the ability to offset improvement costs against Capital Gains Tax must be provided to support homeowners and landlords to take action.”

SWA called for:

“..tailored support to help businesses take action that suits their operational realities.

Members are particularly looking for:

- Access to expert advice for SMEs to navigate retrofit options and funding.
- Capital support for refrigeration upgrades, insulation, and low-carbon heating systems.
- Solutions to help landlords and tenants share costs and benefits fairly, especially in leased properties.
- Innovative and targeted interventions, such as those linked to business taxes and rates, in these areas are essential to unlock progress and ensure the wholesale sector can contribute meaningfully to Scotland's building decarbonisation goals.”

The **electricity-to-gas price ratio** was identified as a **major barrier** to heat pump adoption, with the need to reform electricity pricing to make electric heating more affordable.

Stakeholders called for **UK-wide energy market reform** to make electric heating more cost-effective. For example, CEP noted:

“Our research shows that when the ratio exceeds 3.4:1, heat pumps become more expensive to run than gas boilers, undermining uptake and creating wider contractionary pressures ([Turner & Katris, 2023](#)). Aligning relative energy prices is therefore essential to unlock both climate and economic benefits.”

Many responses emphasised the need to **protect low-income households** from being left behind to ensure a **just transition** and avoid **exacerbating inequality**, especially in rural and off-grid areas.

## **Regulatory certainty and the Heat in Buildings Bill**

Many responses stressed the need for **clear, enforceable regulations**, particularly through a **Heat in Buildings (HiB) Bill** (e.g. EHA, CIAT, UKERC).

IPPR Scotland argued that the pace of voluntary action is too slow and regulatory intervention would help accelerate pace. It described a regulatory approach to clean heat as having several virtues, including co-ordination and certainty, and that it could also:

“support promises of fairness across the transition. The voluntary alternative leaves households wondering if their own sacrifice is going to be matched by their neighbours. Regulation can situate individual action in a collective project which prevents free-riding.”

Delays in introducing the HiB Bill were noted as **undermining industry confidence**.

Several responses expressed concern that the **original ambition of the HiB Bill had been weakened and proposals had been diluted**. For example, EHA said that the Bill’s proposals will not encourage enough people to act and that:

“The most significant gap is the lack of policy to drive action amongst Scotland’s owner occupiers - by far the largest tenure and accounting for 60% of Scotland’s homes. As recognised by the CCC, dropping the proposed point of purchase trigger from the Heat in Buildings Bill creates a significant policy gap in the Scottish Government’s approach. This would have required people purchasing a home to end their use of fossil fuel heating within a set period. The point of purchase trigger would provide a clear, steady and manageable pipeline of homes to be upgraded. Approximately 100,000 homes are sold each year, and having this visible and reliable flow of demand would enable industry able to scale over time and ensure an affordable and achievable transition throughout the 2030s.”

The EHA set out more details on its views on what a HiB Bill should contain a Fuel Poverty Duty requiring Ministers to ensure that regulations support progress toward fuel poverty targets alongside emission reduction targets. EST stated that:

“If stronger regulatory policies on heating and energy efficiency are not included in the final Heat in Buildings Bill, it will be essential that the Climate Change Plan commits to publishing a clear regulatory roadmap - outlining how and when future decisions will be made - to provide certainty and support the transition to clean heat and improved building performance. “

Some respondents called for **minimum energy efficiency standards**, **point-of-sale triggers** and **mandatory heat network connections**. There was also a strong emphasis on ensuring that the HiB Bill supports a **just transition**.

HfS did not support the introduction of a Scottish equivalent to Passivhaus standard and suggested that future changes to building standards for new build homes should not be introduced until the 2030s. They argued that new builds are already highly efficient, and that further tightening standards could lead to financial and opportunity costs and that regulatory divergence from England could disrupt the GB-wide supply chain.

## **Skills and workforce development**

Several responses highlight the need to **build the retrofit workforce** and improve **installer training**. CITB noted:

“CITB’s analysis of the Climate Change Committee’s trajectories of the roll out of various low carbon interventions in its Seventh Carbon Budget has identified that Scotland requires an average of 8,800 people every year, through re-training and new roles, in domestic energy efficiency from 2025 to 2050, in order for Scotland to meet its net zero target\*. The analysis identified several skills gaps within the existing workforce which need to be addressed, with plumbing and HVAC trades and electrical installation trades accounting for over 55% of the total labour demand.”

Respondents placed an emphasis on **technical education and vocational training** to build a retrofit workforce. This includes:

- **Retrofit assessors and coordinators.**
- **Heat pump installers.**
- **Skilled trades in insulation and ventilation.**

Responses also highlighted the importance of:

- **Certification schemes**, to ensure quality and trust.
- **Competency frameworks**, for installers and assessors.
- **Standardised retrofit methodologies**, to avoid poor outcomes.

RICS highlighted the need to **improve the training on retrofit assessments**, noting that:

“Regulation in the sector changed significantly with the introduction of [PAS 2035](#) in 2019, a standard that provides guidance on and sets out a process for retrofitting residential property. Most publicly funded domestic retrofits are covered by PAS 2035. However, the standard does not cover the assessment process in significant detail, so training and the quality of assessments vary.”

RICS referred to other accreditation schemes that should be used retrofit measures, their specification, and installation. For example, RICS Residential Retrofit Standard.

BE-ST called for a **government-led oversight and accreditation mechanism for retrofit assessment** that covers assessment, design/specification, installation, evaluation and occupancy. They said it should have clear scope, competency requirements (including routes via professional bodies), and independence from product/installation outcomes to maintain public trust.

## Public engagement and advice

Multiple organisations (including CEP, CS, UKERC, Liquid Gas UK) stressed that public engagement, trust and participation are essential to achieving climate goals.

**A reason for the relatively low uptake of low- and zero-carbon heating technologies was attributed to a lack of awareness, financial clarity and confidence among property owners.** Respondents argued that without robust engagement strategies, even well-funded and technically sound policies may fail to deliver meaningful change.

A need for trusted advice services and public education campaigns was noted. **Home Energy Scotland** was frequently mentioned as a vital national advice service. Some stakeholders emphasised the need to **expand and properly resource Home Energy Scotland** to meet growing demand.

There were also suggestions for tailored advice for vulnerable groups and community based support. For example, an individual respondent suggested that there was, “growing interest in area based retrofit hubs run on a not for profit basis to support people through the complexities of upgrading properties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions” and provided an example - [People Powered retrofit](#) in Manchester.

Other suggestions included **national awareness campaigns, community engagement events and energy education programmes** aimed at facilitating behavioural change.

## Equity and Just Transition

Responses revealed a strong emphasis on ensuring the transition to net zero is **fair, accessible and inclusive**, particularly for those most affected by energy poverty and poor housing conditions. Again, the need for financial support mechanisms was highlighted to address fuel poverty.

Some concerns were raised about the **lack of regulation and support for owner occupiers**, who make up a significant portion of Scotland’s housing stock. It was

argued that without clear policy drivers, these homes are at risk of being left behind in the transition.

C2050's engagement with young people across Scotland highlighted a particular concern of young people about the issue of justice in our buildings and home transitions and affordability concerns. The group also highlighted the need for **protections for renters** and suggested that:

“renovictions’, meaning the eviction of tenants to allow for major renovations, often done to re-rent the unit at a significantly higher price, is a significantly growing concern in Scotland.”

Other respondents emphasised that **rural and off-grid properties** face unique challenges and require **tailored solutions**, such as flexible heating technologies and workforce development.

**Other policies** mentioned by a few respondents included:

- **The need for regulation of embodied carbon in construction materials and processes and promotion of reuse and refurbishment over demolition.** For example, ABCA highlighted the lack of policy frameworks and tools to address embodied carbon. They called for legislation to support circular construction, including reuse quotas, a retrofit-first approach and the development of a deconstruction industry. They referred to their research, conducted with Strathclyde University, which informed a roadmap for embodied carbon policy. SEDA also called for embodied carbon to be regulated through building standards, similar to France's approach. They supported the introduction of **material passports and pre-demolition audit**. SEDA also mentioned the need for Scotland's bioeconomy strategy to align with the construction and agriculture sectors and that it should promote the use of locally sourced, bio-based materials. Similarly, CIAT advocated for the **expansion of timber framing in construction practice with an emphasis on sourcing timber which is sustainable, local**, and from forests managed to minimise their broader impact on the environment and biodiversity.
- **Local authority leadership.** Dr Britton and Professor Webb from the University of Edinburgh (in the UKERC response) noted the publication of local authority Local Heat and Energy Efficiency strategies (**LHEES**) **has helped to develop a stronger evidence base** to inform retrofit and heat decarbonisation in buildings, but there is ongoing **uncertainty in the delivery of LHEES**. They suggest a rapid, systematic review of LHEES and delivery plans to ensure alignment of plans with priorities in the draft CCP and intended HiB bill. Their response points to a number of research articles relevant to local government.

## **When should these policies be introduced, and over what timeframe should they be implemented?**

A common response was the need for urgency and immediate action, to avoid locking in emissions and to provide certainty for industry and the public. EST noted:

“Many of the core policy levers - supply chain support, awareness raising, advice services and financial offerings - are already in place in Scotland, but they now need to be significantly enhanced and scaled up. This should happen as soon as possible.”

Some responses stressed that delays undermine confidence, increase costs and reduce effectiveness.

Although a need for immediate action was identified, some respondents argued for **phased implementation approaches**, designed to allow time for infrastructure development, stakeholder preparation and market adaptation. There was some variation in how quickly and in what order policies should be implemented.

For example, Dr Tariq Umar (UWE Bristol) provided a detailed suggested timescale:

“Overall Timeline Summary

2025–2027: Early actions, including new building standards, energy audits, and pilot retrofitting programs.

2028–2032: Scaling up, including major retrofitting programs, incentives for low-carbon technologies, and regional decarbonization planning.

2033–2040: Full-scale transformation, phasing out gas boilers, completing building retrofits, and ensuring that all new builds are zero-carbon.”

Respondents also made similar points to the previous question, such as the need for policy co-ordination, clarity and certainty, workforce planning and skills development, and implementing policies in a way to support the just transition.

## What are the expected costs of implementing these policies?

Many respondents did not provide information on estimated costs for all policies they mentioned, although many responses referenced the need for substantial investment, funding challenges and mechanisms.

Points made included:

- Public investment is essential, especially for low-income households and rural and island communities.
- Private finance mobilisation (e.g., green mortgages, ESCOs (Energy Service Companies), co-investment models) needs to be encouraged.
- Innovative financing models should be encouraged. For example, BE-ST mentioned the KfW Bank in Germany who provide repayable low/zero interest loans that can be converted into non-repayable grants if a higher level of energy efficiency is achieved.

- Local authorities face significant funding gaps and require sustained support.
- Immature supply chains (e.g., for external wall insulation) increase costs. Industry innovation is key to reducing costs over time.
- Investment in skills and training is needed to support retrofit delivery.
- The need for upfront project development which could catalyse pipelines of projects. Within this there should be targeted innovation focused on outcomes, one of which is to reduce the cost of interventions in the built environment sector (BE-ST).
- ClimateXChange pointed to a [report that identifies](#) demand uncertainty, revenue instability and the evolving regulatory environment as significant barriers to funding and financing heat networks in Scotland.

In relation to individual policies, some respondents provided estimated costs. For example, Dr Tariq Umar estimated the costs of retrofitting older buildings (including insulation, upgraded windows, and heating systems) at around: £10,000 - £30,000 per property; and heat pumps installation costs to be £6,000 - £12,000 for homes and between £20,000 - £50,000 for commercial buildings. RCPE estimated costs for a heat pump to be around £7,000 - £12,000 per-household, and solid wall insulation to be around £10,000 - £15,000. But they added that “these costs can be significantly reduced through area-based delivery, economies of scale, and supply chain development. Cheaper alternatives such as installing/upgrading loft insulation and changing to LED lighting should be standard.”

Dr Hawker from University of Strathclyde and Dr Winskel from University of Edinburgh (in the UKERC response) point to research which suggests that a 20-25% fall in the cost of heat pump installation is likely by around 2030. They state that this indicates that heat pump affordability is likely to remain a barrier to policy delivery in the late 2020s and early 2030s and that “this suggests policy should better reflect the cheaper running costs of heat pumps, for example, by supporting device rental, pay-as-you-save or heat-as-a-service schemes.” It referred to ClimateXChange research on this.

A few respondents did provide some overall estimated costs for decarbonising the buildings sector in Scotland. For example, RCPE cited Scottish Government and CCC figures:

The Scottish Government previously estimated it would cost £33 billion by 2045 to fully decarbonise buildings. [Heat in Buildings Strategy \(2021\)](#). The UK-wide cost of reaching Net Zero in buildings is projected to be around £250 billion by 2050, according to the Climate Change Committee. Scotland’s share is roughly 13%, or £32–35 billion.

EHA referred to research it had commissioned with WWF Scotland to better understand the potential costs to households and the Scottish Government of implementation of these policies, and noted they would share the key findings from that research when available.

## What are the expected benefits of these policies?

The majority of respondents identified some expected benefits of these policies. The most commonly mentioned benefits related to environmental and health benefits.

In relation to **environmental benefits**, these included the potential reduction in carbon emissions especially from heating systems, improved air quality, resource efficiency and the circular economy with an emphasis on reuse, repair and sustainable materials. It was also noted that better-insulated buildings withstand better extreme weather events, contributing to climate adaptation.

**Health benefits** cited included reduced respiratory illness, cardiovascular diseases and mental health issues arising from living in warmer, drier homes.

The **financial and economic benefits** of these policies in the building sector were also noted. These included lower energy bills from installation of energy efficiency measures, job creation in construction, retrofitting, manufacturing and green technologies.

A range of **equality and social benefits** were highlighted around the just transition, and community resilience. Several systemic and strategic benefits were also identified including:

- Alignment with climate targets: Supports Scotland's net zero goals and international commitments.
- Energy system transformation: Integration of renewables and smart technologies reduces grid strain and enhances flexibility.
- Cultural and heritage preservation: Retrofit of historic buildings supports conservation while meeting climate goals.

## What do you think the key challenges would be in delivering these policies?

The responses revealed a broad consensus on several main challenges, including **financial barriers, workforce and skills shortages, public engagement and regulatory alignment**. Many of the points made in this section reflected points made in response to the question on what the most important policies are to achieve the proposed carbon budgets level for 2026-40.

A dominant theme across responses was **cost and financial barriers** (e.g. SE, IKEA, CS, HfS, HES). As with responses to previous questions, the high upfront cost of retrofitting buildings and installing low-carbon heating systems was mentioned, as was affordability, grant complexity and energy pricing. Respondents emphasised **the need for grants, subsidies and low-interest loans, especially for low-income households and small businesses**.

Organisations also highlighted the economic risks of unequal access to funding and the need for energy price reform to make heat pumps more viable. CEP noted:

“Financing remains a hurdle: even with grants of £7,500–£9,000, many households face affordability gaps, and social housing funds often cover only half the required costs. Research further shows that people from minority ethnic groups and disabled households face specific barriers to accessing green choices ([Calvillo & Martiskainen, 2025](#)). Without targeted interventions, there is a risk that the transition exacerbates inequalities rather than reduces them.”

**Skills and workforce shortages** was another key theme (e.g. CITB, CIAT, HES, SE, CS, CEP, IKEA, local authorities, UKERC, SCCS and individuals). Respondents stressed the urgent need for training and recruitment, particularly in retrofit, heat pump installation and traditional building techniques. Organisations called for modular training systems, apprenticeships and diversification of the workforce to meet demand.

**Public Awareness and Engagement** was another key theme (e.g. CS, SCCS, UKERC, Scotland Excel, local authorities, CIAT and individuals). Respondents noted low public awareness, misinformation and resistance to change. They called for trusted local engagement, nationwide campaigns and clear messaging to build confidence and understanding. CS’s response, for example stated:

“Consumer Scotland’s recent investigation into growing confidence in the green home heating market set out the scale of the challenge in Scotland to reduce carbon emissions from home heating in Scotland. The sector has suffered for many years from poor trading standards, misleading claims, and scams. This can damage consumer confidence and impede uptake. Consumers should enjoy strong protection and have access to secure methods of redress when things go wrong. Mechanisms for consumer advice, protection and redress need to develop quickly to reflect the innovative characteristics of many sustainable products and services.”

Professor Pidgeon and Professor Henwood from Cardiff University (in the UKERC response) pointed to research undertaken by the UKERC that identifies a number of challenges to be considered by the Scottish Government. For example, research that identifies that people are more likely to support low carbon technologies if they know somebody has already had low carbon heating installed; this has been labelled a ‘social circle’ effect, and points to the importance of supporting first home movers of home decarbonisation in Scotland.

**Regulatory and Policy Alignment:** Respondents highlighted inconsistent regulations, lack of enforcement and policy uncertainty. Organisations stressed the need for cross-party support and coordinated planning across sectors.

Some respondents raised challenges relating to **equity and inclusion** (including, for example, CS, SCCS, SE, UKERC, Local Authorities, HES, CIAT and individuals). Respondents warned that low-income and vulnerable groups risk being left behind. They called for targeted support, inclusive design and community-driven approaches to ensure a just transition.

Other challenges cited included the need for political will and policy continuity, technological challenges such as retrofitting older buildings, the need for electricity grid upgrades to support increased demand from heat pumps and the need for mixed technology approaches.

## **How could these policies support a Just Transition for workers and communities?**

The responses raised themes including **green job creation and skills development, equity and inclusion, fuel poverty and housing quality, economic diversification and community resilience.**

The most prominent theme was the **creation of green jobs** and the need for training and reskilling, especially for workers transitioning from fossil fuel industries. Organisations highlighted the potential for thousands of new roles in retrofit, heat pump installation and energy efficiency, and stressed the importance of apprenticeships and regional training hubs.

**Equity and inclusion** was also a key theme, with groups such as SCCS, PHS and the ALLIANCE advocating for fair access to green jobs, especially for underrepresented communities including women, ethnic minorities, disabled people and those furthest from the labour market. There was a call for inclusive recruitment, fair wages and community engagement to ensure no one is left behind.

Fuel poverty was another major concern, with strong support for targeting low-income households for energy upgrades, to improve health and reduce bills.

Economic diversification and community resilience were emphasised by contributors like ABCA and SCCS, who argued for investment in local infrastructure and support for new industries in areas dependent on fossil fuels. ABCA and others also highlighted the opportunity to integrate traditional building skills with modern low-carbon techniques, especially in heritage conservation areas.

**Kate Berry, Senior Researcher, SPICe**

**4 November 2025**

## Table of acronyms used to refer to organisations

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full form of respondent</b>
C2050	2050 Climate Group
ABCA	Anderson Bell & Christie Architects
ACC	Aberdeen City Council
AGS	Auditor General for Scotland
ALLIANCE	Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland
BE-ST	Built Environment Smarter Transformation
BEFS	Built Environment Forum Scotland
BHHPA	British Holiday & Home Parks Association
CCAN	Cardross Climate Action Network
No acronym used	Climate Cafe Shetland
CEP	Centre for Energy Policy, University of Strathclyde
CERG	Climate Emergency Response Group
CIAT	Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists
CITB	Construction Industry Training Board
No acronym used	Colleges Scotland
CreScot	Creative Scotland
CS	Consumer Scotland
No acronym used	Culture for Climate Scotland
CXC	ClimateXChange
No acronym used	Cycling UK
No acronym used	Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Network
EDC	East Dunbartonshire Council
EHA	Existing Homes Alliance
EMEC	European Marine Energy Centre
EST	Energy Saving Trust
FDFS	Food and Drink Federation Scotland
FES	Future Economy Scotland
FOES	Friends of the Earth Scotland
GCC	Glasgow City Council
GGM	Get Glasgow Moving
HC	Highland Council
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HfS	Homes for Scotland
IKEA	IKEA Ltd
IPPR Scotland	Institute for Public Policy Research Scotland
No acronym used	Liquid Gas UK

No acronym used	Logistics UK
RESPECT project	LUNZ Hub RESPECT Project
MCS	The MCS Foundation
NECCUS	North East Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage
NESTRANS	Nestrans (Regional Transport Partnership for Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire)
NHS Lothian	National Health Scotland Lothian
NFUS	National Farmers Union Scotland
NS	NatureScot
No acronym used	Nourish Scotland
No acronym used	Orkney Islands Council
No acronym used	Paths for All
No acronym used	Peat-free Partnership Scotland Advocacy Group
PHS	Public Health Scotland
No acronym used	Perth and Kinross Council
No acronym used	Propertymark
PS	Police Scotland
QS	Quakers in Scotland
QMS	Quality Meat Scotland
RCPE	Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh: Air Pollution Working Group and Climate Café
RICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
RMT	National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers
RSPB Scotland	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
SAP	Scottish Agroecology Partnership
SC	Scottish Care
SCCS	Stop Climate Chaos Scotland
SE	Scotland Excel
SCIS	Scottish Climate Intelligence Service
SEDA	Scottish Ecological Design Association
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SEStran	South East Scotland Transport Partnership
SF	Stockfree Farming
SLC	South Lanarkshire Council
SPT	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
SRAEHL	Scottish Research Alliance for Energy, Homes and Livelihoods
No acronym used	Seafood Scotland
SSN	Sustainable Scotland Network

StC	Stirling Council
SuSc	Sustrans Scotland
SWA	Scottish Wholesale Association
TACTRAN	Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership
No acronym used	Transform Scotland
UKERC	UK Energy Research Centre
UoGSoL	University of Glasgow, School of Law
UWE Bristol	University of the West of England Bristol
WWF Scotland	World Wide Fund for Nature Scotland