The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Climate Action Committee

Nick Halfhide
Chief Executive Officer
NatureScot

4 September 2026

Dear Nick,

Climate Action Committee - determination of committee priorities

On behalf of the Committee, many thanks for giving evidence to us on priorities within the Committee's remit.

The Committee agreed to write to you seeking your views on themes which the Committee did not cover at the meeting on 3 September:

Organisational priorities across Session 7

1. What do you see as the priority areas which this Committee should focus on this session to have the most impact?

2. In particular where do you think engagement by the Climate Action Committee could help to enhance public participation and awareness?

Pre-budget scrutiny

3. What implications do the commitments in the Programme for Government have on your resource needs for the 2027-28 Scottish Budget, and what do you expect your key financial challenges to be in the next financial year?

Specific policy areas and forthcoming policy milestones

4. The Scottish Government has indicated that it is not expecting statutory nature targets to be introduced within the next year. What are your views on the proposed timescales?

5. What engagement will your organisation expect to have in the development of statutory nature targets?

6. What are your views on progress, and the anticipated timescales for action and delivery, of Ministerial duties under the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 to

set targets for a circular economy and to produce a statutory code of practice on household recycling?

7. How are you working with other organisations to tackle these pollutants such as 'forever chemicals', microplastics and sewage-related contaminants in drinking water and water bodies and their upstream sources?

8. What are the key obstacles to progress on water and climate resilience within the current legislative framework?

On behalf of the Committee, a response is requested by **10 September 2026**, to allow us to take account of your answers in preparation for our forthcoming evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs.

If you have any comments or questions, the Clerks would be happy to answer these.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart McMillan MSP
Convener