

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

SUBMISSION FROM Rachael Chanarin

My Submission – put energy into innovation for the future and save energy doing it:

I am willing and dedicated to changing my lifestyle and habits to reduce my footprint.

There are however limitations to what I can do without the help of the Scottish parliament and government. People in this country (myself included) need help to understand the fundamental issues that need addressed and how we can address them.

There needs to be a strong framework and legislation to back it up. It is clear this has worked with smoking, for example. It can work for climate change.

I want to ask the Scottish Government to make a clear commitment to reducing all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero before 2050 at the latest. Not just carbon dioxide emissions.

I also want to ask the Scottish Government to commit to reducing emissions by a more ambitious amount than currently planned for 2030.

If the parliament sets out a clear message of commitment and puts in the framework and legislation to do so this would send out a message to the markets that change is an inevitability.

This would give investors the confidence to go into new areas and develop the technology and industries to move forward in transport, food and waste management and all kinds of other things.

I say 2030 because by setting a greater target sooner we will show the urgency of the situation and really inspire action.

Leaving it till 2050 could be leaving it too late. That should be the very latest that we achieve the goal and to get there we need to be focussing on what we can do now and in the next 10 years.

Then if we achieve Zero Net Emissions before 2050 it will be a huge bonus.

If we only aim for the single target of Net Zero Emissions by 2050 it is far enough away to make it easy for people to put off and ignore.

In the face of Brexit and an uncertain economic future Innovation is what this country needs to thrive. The private sector loves nothing more than new markets to go into, build up and develop. We could be world leaders at the forefront of developing these markets in relation to addressing climate change.

The future Scotland needs this. This could likely be one of our main future exports and our main USP as a nation.

We have already shown we have talent in the areas of green energy and waste management. Now we need to show what we can do with transportation through technology and social policy.

One of the most wealthy woman in Scotland is the owner of stagecoach. Obviously it isn't a bad idea to invest in running busses. With the right investment we could be setting up a network of funky green commuter busses running on bio fuel and getting people to and from work every day. (this is just one of my dreams among many)

The overarching goal of the Scottish Government it is stated is – Sustainable economic growth.

This statement seems impossible when you think of it in terms of constant growth which is in fact unsustainable.

Look at those words differently – economy, something we could all apply a little more to our lives. And sustainability, the same. This way we can grow in ourselves and everything around us and thereby truly realise that goal of sustainable economic growth.

A commitment to supporting and investing in sustainable methods of agriculture, transport, construction and so on are many ways to grow the economy sustainably.

The Scottish government would be able to say it truly lives up to its goal of sustainable economic development.

Yours ardent supporter on this bill

Rachael Chanarin