

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

SUBMISSION FROM Annie Nettleton

A More Ambitious Bill is Needed

Scotland has a chance to lead the way and pioneer meaningful change, which will inevitably have to be followed by most other countries. Wealthy nations, which have already done far more than their fair share of polluting must now take bold steps to slow climate change. Climate change is already happening and it is immoral that those who have made least impact on a changing climate are least well placed to deal with the effects. E.g Low lying nations such as Bangladesh and Pacific islands being swamped by rising sea levels, poor farmers in Pakistan with no chance of diversifying seeing their crops ruined by drought.

The bill does not commit us to cutting climate emissions any further in the next decade- a time which is so key to limiting global warming to 1.5C, as committed in the Paris Agreement. The new bill only brings forward our commitment by two years to 66% reduction by 2030. We need net-zero emissions by 2040. With climate change happening now this is the only responsible step we can take. Lets act responsibly and fairly and be the country our grand-children read about that led the way in reversing the upward trend in emissions.

This is how I believe we can achieve this:

- Use government policies to enact a massive cultural shift. We have seen this happen over a short period of time with anti-smoking policies. E.g a heavy tax on disposable items, tax on businesses producing non-recyclable waste.
- Focus government spending on emissions reducing activities such as public transport, providing grants for new Scottish recycling plants to put an end to the exporting of our resources.
- Become energy self-sufficient. Instead of importing gas from the USA and Russia we should harvest our own natural renewable resources. Money needs to be invested in researching energy storage and micro-power. These will be technologies of the future. Scotland could be ahead of the game.

We must act boldly right now.

Annie Nettleton