

Economy and Fair Work Committee
Wednesday 7 January 2026
1st Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

Draft Climate Change Plan 2026–2040 Note by the Clerk

Background

1. The Scottish Government published its [draft Climate Change Plan for 2026–2040](#) on 6 November 2025.
2. The draft plan sets out how Scotland intends to meet emissions reduction targets. The targets, agreed by the Parliament, have been revised three times, most recently in the [Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#), which replaces the previous system with 5-year carbon budgets.
3. In June, following [advice from the Committee on Climate Change](#), the Scottish Government laid [draft regulations](#) proposing emission levels for 2026-2045. The Parliament approved these regulations in October.
4. The draft plan sets out how the 5-year carbon budget will be met. The Plan is split across seven chapters, with each chapter covering a different source of emissions.
5. The Scottish Government's public runs until the end of January 2026.

Parliamentary Scrutiny

6. The Parliament has 120 days from publication, ending 5 March 2026, to scrutinise the draft plan. The Scottish Government's own [consultation on the draft plan](#) runs until the end of January.
7. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport (NZET) Committee is co-ordinating the Parliament's scrutiny.

Scrutiny by the Economy and Fair Work Committee

8. The focus of this Committee's scrutiny is—
 - Chapter 7 of the draft plan: Business and Industrial Process and Negative Emissions Technologies; and
 - Just Transition – a thread throughout the draft plan.
9. The Committee will take evidence on Wednesday 7 January from business and industry representatives and experts and on 14 January from workers representatives, to inform a letter to the NZET Committee.

Witnesses

10. Today, the Committee will hear from—

- Professor Paul de Leeuw, Director, Robert Gordon University Energy Transition Institute;
- Stacey Dingwall, Head of Policy and External Affairs (Scotland), Federation of Small Businesses;
- David Thomson, Chief Executive, Food and Drink Federation Scotland;
- Professor Karen Turner, Director of the Centre for Energy Policy, University of Strathclyde; and
- Richard Woolley, Head of Energy and Climate Change, Chemical Industries Association.

Clerk to the Committee
December 2025