

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
Wednesday 14 January 2026
2nd Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

Draft Climate Change Plan

Introduction

1. The Rural Affairs and Islands (RAI) Committee has agreed to scrutinise the Scottish Government's draft Climate Change Plan (CCP). The CCP is a document which outlines how the Scottish Government intends to meet emissions reduction targets across all portfolio areas and sectors of the economy.
2. On 14 January, the Committee will continue its scrutiny of the draft CCP, focussing on the chapter of the plan relating to agriculture. It will first take evidence from a panel of industry stakeholders and will then hear from a panel of academics.

Background

3. The draft CCP was published on 6 November 2025. It includes a range of policy measures and other mechanisms aimed at reducing carbon emissions during the period 2026 to 2040 and maintaining progress towards Scotland becoming a 'net zero'¹ nation by 2045. [The draft CCP and its accompanying documentation are published on the Scottish Government's website](#)
4. Scrutiny of the draft CCP is currently being undertaken by a number of parliamentary committees and each committee will focus its attention on issues that are directly relevant to their individual areas of responsibility. This joint effort is being led and coordinated by the Net Zero, Energy and Transport (NZET) Committee. Further information on the scrutiny work carried out by the NZET Committee in relation to the draft CCP can be found on its website.
5. Now the draft CCP has been laid, Scottish Parliament committees with an interest in the plan must consider its contents and report their findings within 120 days (by 5 March). Thereafter, the Scottish Government may decide to revise the CCP to reflect issues raised as part of this scrutiny process and it has committed to publishing a finalised version before the dissolution of Parliament.

¹ Net zero is defined as the point when emissions entering the atmosphere are balanced by removals out of the atmosphere.

RAI Committee scrutiny of the draft CCP

6. The RAI Committee's scrutiny work on the draft CCP will specifically focus on two chapters related to its remit:
 - Agriculture
 - Land use, land use change and forestry
7. At its meeting on 7 January, the Committee took evidence from three panels of stakeholders on the land use change and forestry chapter of the draft CCP. [The Official Report for the meeting will soon be available at the following link.](#)
8. The Committee will take concluding evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands and her officials at its meeting on 28 January. It will then publish a report in time to inform the NZET Committee's consideration of its report on the draft CCP.

Clerks to the Committee
January 2025