

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Tuesday, 13 January 2026
2nd Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

Climate Change Plan - Note by the Clerk

Background

1. At today's meeting, Members will take evidence from a panel regarding the Draft Climate Change Plan ("the Plan") in the context of public health.
2. This is one of two planned meetings considering the Plan and its potential impact on public health as well as health and social care services.
3. The Net-Zero, Energy and Transport Committee is the lead Committee scrutinising the plan. A wide range of organisations [submitted views](#) on what should be in the draft CCP, which closed in September 2025, and the Net Zero Committee is conducting further engagement through the Your Priorities platform which will run until [25 January 2026](#).
4. Given the cross-cutting nature of the Plan, a number of other committees are involved in its scrutiny with the approach being to share evidence and coordinate a response to the Scottish Government. These include:
 - [Economy and Fair Work Committee](#)
 - [Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee](#)
 - [Rural Affairs and Islands Committee](#)
 - [Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee](#)
 - [Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee](#)
 - [Criminal Justice Committee](#)
 - [Finance and Public Administration Committee](#)
 - [Public Audit Committee](#)

Draft Climate Change Plan

5. The Scottish Government laid its [draft Climate Change Plan \(CCP\): 2026-2040](#) in the Scottish Parliament on 6 November 2025.
6. There is a SPICe Hub on Climate Change and Scottish Parliament Committees including scrutiny of the draft Plan. [The Hub provides links to blogs relevant to the Plan](#) such as related policies, proposals and sector summaries.
7. A SPICe fellow also wrote a briefing on climate change and the impacts on health. This [includes a section on "co-benefits"](#).
8. The draft Plan is set out as addressing and necessitated by the health risks associated with climate change:

“Scotland’s changing climate also poses growing risks to households and businesses through physical damage to homes or assets, health and safety risks to employees and customers, disruption to supply chains, reduced access to finance or insurance coverage and increased risks to employee health and safety.”

9. The draft CCP identifies a number of health co-benefits from cleaner air, warmer homes, healthier food, health-promoting natural and built environments, high quality public services and fair work.
10. Depending on CCP policy decisions, outcomes in health and social care could represent the potential benefits of coherent, monitored climate actions in the various domains and sectors covered by the draft Plan, resulting in improved population health and wellbeing.

Today’s meeting

11. At today’s meeting, Members will hear from a panel of academics including –

- Professor Jill Belch – Co-Chair of Air Pollution Working Group, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh;
- Professor Ruth Doherty – Chair in Atmospheric Sciences, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh;
- Dr Andrew Sudmant – Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, University of Edinburgh;
- Professor Peter Scarborough – Professor of Population Health, University of Oxford.

Clerks to the Committee

January 2026