

Economy and Fair Work Committee
Wednesday 14 January 2026
2nd 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 consultation 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. Last week, the Committee heard from business and industry representatives and experts. This week the Committee will hear from workers representatives to inform a letter to the NZET Committee.

Witnesses

10. The Committee will hear from—

- Claire Greer, Regional Organiser, GMB Scotland;
- Laurie Macfarlane, Co-Director, Future Economy Scotland;
- Dougie Maguire, Lead Officer for the Passenger Sector in Scotland, Unite the Union; and
- Ryan Morrison, Just Transition Officer, Scottish Trades Union Congress.

Clerk to the Committee

January 2026