



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Key Message Briefing Paper – Ambitious emissions reduction targets, the maintenance of a domestic effort target and a fair and safe cumulative budget

Ensuring a Strong Interim Target

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) support an emissions reductions target of 42% by 2020 as a huge step forward to improving the Climate Change Bill. There is a moral imperative to act on climate change and developed countries must lead the way with ambitious, scientifically led emission reduction targets.

We hope you will consider supporting amendments 7, 8, 94, 94A, and 100.

Maintenance of Domestic Effort Target

Yet however strong the interim target we achieve, this could be undermined if the Bill allows a significant number of overseas carbon credits to be counted towards our targets. A major SCCS success obtained at stage 2 was in the form of a 'domestic effort target' (also supported by Scottish and Southern Energy) that would ensure at least 80% of annual reductions were achieved in Scotland. Government amendments 22 and 23, would reverse this incentive and, when placed along side their existing access to 20% credits, has the effect of allowing a total of some 60% of reductions to be achieved outside of Scotland. This not only removes the incentive to drive domestic emissions reductions, it also creates a significant loophole in the Bill that deprives investors of the certainty they need in order to commit funds towards a green economy.

SCCS believes that developing countries should not subsidise Scotland's own historic and current responsibility to reduce our emissions.

We hope all members will oppose amendments 22 and 23.

A fair and safe cumulative budget

Because greenhouse gases linger in the atmosphere for a number of years, what matters when it comes to tackling climate change is the total cumulative amount of greenhouse gases emitted over a number of years not meeting a specific 'point in time' percentage target. By ensuring annual targets are placed in the context of a fair and safe cumulative emissions budget we can ensure we do as much as possible to avoid dangerous climate change. Alison McInnes' amendments 103 and 104 will ensure, when setting targets, Ministers have regard to a fair and safe cumulative emissions budget between 2010 and 2050. It should be noted that much of the language in this amendment, including the term 'anthropogenic climate change' is drawn from the Kyoto protocol.

We hope all members will support amendments 103, 104

For further information please contact:

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Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is a growing coalition of organisations campaigning on climate change. SCCS brings together environment, faith and development organisations, trade unions, community activists, and women's and students' groups.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is a charity, registered in Scotland, no SC039643