



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Briefing for the Parliamentary debate on the draft Report on Proposals and Policies January 2011

Introduction

The draft Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP) was published on 17th November 2010 and sets out how the Government plans to achieve Scotland's emissions reduction targets up to 2022. SCCS has called for a **credible** and **transparent** package of policies that describe the right level of **ambition** needed to hit each annual target as well as the 2020 42% target.

Section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 makes provision for 60 days of Parliamentary scrutiny of the RPP. Following consideration by the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee and the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, a plenary debate will take place on Wednesday 12 January 2011. This debate provides the opportunity for all parties to improve and strengthen the RPP.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) believes Scotland's targets can only be met if the current policy effort described in the RPP is increased, even if the EU does move to a 30% 2020 emissions reduction target. This must involve translating proposals into committed policy action.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The reporting requirements under the Act are rightly explicit in what is required in terms of both action plans and progress reports. The Act states that the first Report on Proposals and Policies, must, as a minimum set out:

- the Scottish Ministers' proposals and policies for meeting the annual targets;
- how those proposals and policies are expected to contribute towards the achievement of the interim target, the 2050 target and, in each target year, the domestic effort target;
- the timescales over which those proposals and policies are expected to take effect.

Content of the RPP

The draft RPP clearly shows that Scotland *can* achieve the statutory annual targets between 2011 and 2022. However, it falls well short of providing the confidence that these targets *will* be hit.

Implementation of only the policies in the draft RPP alongside the current EU target of 20% will mean Scotland only hits the annual target in 2013; all other targets will be missed. Even if the EU increases its target to 30%, the included policies would still only enable us to meet three of the annual targets in the next twelve years. The draft report fails to commit to the required step change in policy action described as necessary by the UK CCC in order to hit the targets.

SCCS would hope to see greater transparency in the final RPP, by making clear the assumptions behind expected policy delivery, e.g. the assumed compliance rates for new build properties. There must also be less emphasis on the use of voluntary approaches, uptake of which is inherently not guaranteed and hard to predict.

We believe the RPP should include a greater balance in the description of costs and benefits than the current draft offers. The final RPP should also ensure that additional social, health and employment benefits are appropriately highlighted.

The Draft Budget also offers the opportunity to support greater investment in policy areas that would ensure we meet our 42% 2020 target. However, SCCS does not believe the Draft Budget is compatible with measures set out in the draft RPP, e.g. funding for the Home Insulation Scheme.

Consideration should be given to when is the best time in the parliamentary cycle to scrutinise the RPP and ensure the Budget provides the necessary support for measures.

Specific areas of concern

The cross-party support for the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 mandates all political parties to improve the current draft RPP by recommending that suggested proposals become committed policies. In particular, SCCS recommends that the final RPP addresses the following priorities:

- **Strong, funded support for the introduction of road traffic demand management measures.** The Climate Change Committee describes the transport sector as having the greatest abatement potential outside the traded sector, so SCCS is disappointed that the draft RPP does not include measures such as parking management, workplace parking levy, road user charging and Low Emission Zones, which were included in a previous draft of the RPP but excluded from the final version published on 17 November.
- **More transport proposals translated into funded policies.** 86% of the emissions reductions in the transport section in 2012 are attributed to proposals only, not enough to make a 'step-change' in devolved policy action described by the draft RPP. Smarter Choices measures such as travel planning, car clubs and community hubs are potentially transformational in shifting transport policy and provide some of the best value for money in carbon abatement.
- **Behaviour change measures in the transport sector milestones.** Examples of this could include the percentage of workplaces and schools at which effective Travel Plans are in operation.
- **Greater funding for home energy efficiency.** The RPP states that the Home Insulation Programme and the Energy Assistance Package will be 'maintained', but based on the numbers of houses to be engaged, we estimate that funding will be significantly cut for both programmes. SCCS is calling for commitment of £100 million per year for a universal home insulation scheme and 'soft' loans package, combined with the introduction of minimum standards of energy performance by 2015.
- **Peatland restoration as a committed policy.** Currently, peatland restoration is described as a proposal in the draft RPP, despite its abatement potential. SCCS believes that there must be a commitment to restoring 600,000 hectares of peatland habitats to store carbon rich soils.

Summary

The RPP does not currently provide the correct balance of policies over proposals and relies too heavily on voluntary measures in order to meet targets. While the policies described in the report will not enable all of Scotland's emissions reductions targets to be met, the 'menu' of proposals included are not committed to, nor funded, in order to be implemented. Without a significant increase in focus to translate suggested possible proposals into actual policies, the current RPP will not enable Scotland to meet its targets.

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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.

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