

Monday 8th October 2040

# THE INTER NATIONAL



**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH  
NICOLA STURGEON ON HER  
ROLE AS UN SPECIAL ENVOY  
FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**

# WE DID IT! SCOTLAND ENDS CLIMATE POLLUTION

Scotland hailed for climate leadership  
as emissions reach net-zero target.  
We look back at how it was achieved.

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## ON THIS DAY

### 8TH OCTOBER 2018

## GLOBAL REPORT URGES INCREASED CLIMATE ACTION

The world is hurtling towards catastrophic climate change endangering entire nations and millions of lives, warns an international report published today. The report authors called for decisive action from governments to avert international disaster.

The 'Special Report on Global Warming at 1.5 degrees', by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that if global warming reaches 2°C up to 10 million people will be forced to flee due to sea level rise. It also predicts water scarcity, food shortages, heat related illnesses and death, likely to result in a surge in conflict within and between nations.

Lead author Dr. Moar Ambushan said "This report should be a serious wake up call to everyone. Failure to act quickly enough will lead to widespread devastation. We are currently racing towards a cliff edge, but we still have a chance to change path.

"Climate change is killing people already. We know what the solutions are but we need to rapidly scale up their implementation, moving away from continued use of fossil fuels must be a political priority for every nation."

The report spells out that the world has a rapidly shrinking window in which to act if the 2°C limit is to be avoided. It urges all nations to act immediately to cut their climate emissions, end the use of fossil fuels and swiftly transition to clean, green energy.

Environmental campaigners attended the SNP party conference in Glasgow, urging the Scottish Government to heed the climate warning. They argue that the Government's new Climate Change Act should drastically reduce emissions over the next decade, and target an end to Scotland's climate emissions by 2040.

Caroline Rance of Friends of the Earth Scotland commented "The Scottish Government have a clear choice to make. Will they listen to this new evidence and act now to protect Scotland? Or will they continue on with these weak plans which could help lead us down the path to climate catastrophe?"

# SOLAR POWERED TRAIN MAKES FIRST IRISH SEA CROSSING ON GIANT'S BRIDGE

After two decades of marine planning and construction, the Giant's Rail Bridge has been officially opened between Scotland and Northern Ireland. The new railway bridge spanning the Irish Sea makes it possible to travel from Portpatrick to Bangor in just 35 minutes. Passengers can now go from Glasgow Central to Dublin's Connolly station in just 90 mins with a stop at Belfast on the way.

To celebrate the opening of the bridge, Irish Taoiseach Iarn Rod, and Northern Irish First Minister Bess Mates, joined our own First Minister for the train's maiden journey from Glasgow.

A joint statement from the three governments paid tribute to all those involved in the bridge's design and construction saying "We've long sought ways to increase cultural, social and business links between our great cities and are delighted the bridge is now open. To have used our world-leading solar energy expertise to power these trains makes this day all the more satisfying."

Despite praise from just about everyone else involved and the wider public, the project was criticised as "short-sighted" by Heathrow Airport CEO Judy Free. While refusing to acknowledge the huge popularity of good railways amongst the public, Free claimed that the land used for



the railway outside Glasgow should have been saved in case the domestic flights market improved from its record lows. After finishing a foul-mouthed unprovoked tirade about the injustice of tax, Free was bundled out of her press conference by aides while repeatedly shouting, "London is an economic hub" at the assembled media.

The trains are named in honour of the mythological giants Fionn MacCool and Benandonner who fought across the sea. They boast Guinness and Tennents on draught, coastal views and a designated chatty carriage. The only downside is that every seat is booked for the next 3 months.

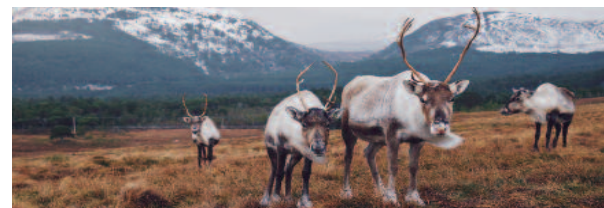


### Oil rig playground opens in Aberdeen

A new adventure playground has opened in the shell of an old oil platform. The rig was previously off the coast of Shetland for 20 years but stopped producing oil in the mid 2020s. The 100m structure was seized by the Police Scotland proceeds of crime task force and bought at auction by entrepreneur Kevin Steen. Steen employed a team of engineers and designers over the past 3 years to repurpose the rig into a climbing wall, rope course and Scotland's highest helter skelter.

### Krofting up in the Cairngorms

Early noughties celebrities Kim Kardashian and Kanye West are buying a smallholding in the Cairngorms. Attracted by the excellent transport links and world-class healthcare, they've bought a small croft as they plan their retirement. The Cairngorms has seen a rise in small scale producers attracted by the fertile farmland. West, whose star has faded since his two failed Presidential bids, said "We want to grow a few veggies, tend to our chickens and live the quiet life."







# MAKING CLIMATE CHANGE HISTORY

Scotland is celebrating today as official figures show we've ended our contribution to global climate change. Our forests and peatlands are now absorbing more greenhouse gas emissions than are produced by our population and industry. The 'net-zero by 2040' target set in the world-renowned 2019 Climate Change Act spurred a host of new policies and injected fresh political energy into our collective fight against global temperature rise.

The First Minister said today "We can all be immensely proud that Scotland is amongst the first countries in the world to end our contribution to climate change. Twenty years ago, our predecessors in this Parliament took decisive action to set this in motion – ensuring not only that Scotland did our fair share in averting dangerous

climate change, but enabling us to build a better, healthier, greener and fairer nation."

Scotland's climate emissions have fallen rapidly as businesses, communities and local government switched from a reliance on polluting oil and gas, to producing their own sustainable wind, solar and tidal power.

Since 2020 all new residential and commercial developments have been built to exacting energy efficiency standards with solar panels and wind turbines as standard. The national 'Warm Homes' programme of home insulation saw overall 2 million properties cut their energy usage.

Scottish innovations in renewable heating schemes saw the "Aberdeen-model" copied across the continent, while petrol and diesel vehicles were driven off the roads for good in favour

of a well connected network of renewable-powered public transport and cycle friendly cities.

Scotland's ambition at that time was seen as key in accelerating the global momentum on climate action following on from the Paris deal and the seminal IPCC 1.5°C report of 2018.

The First Minister concluded "When the Government set this target in 2018 they didn't know exactly how it would be delivered but they knew it was what needed to be done. We thank them today for securing Scotland's future and showing us how to be a good global citizen."

Several other previously high emitting nations are expected to reach net-zero in the next 12 months with Sweden, New Zealand and the UK all awaiting official UN verification.



## Greener, cleaner and leaner: Scots fitter than ever

A new report by Scotland's Chief Medical Officer has revealed that Scots are in the greatest shape ever! The report, which assesses our mental and physical health every year, reveals that more active lifestyles, better diets, warmer homes, reduction in air pollution and the introduction of compulsory three day weekends are leaving us healthier and happier. Scots' love of walking and cycling has long been cited as a contributory factor in the increasing life expectancy across all income categories.

A Government spokesperson said "while three day weekends are an obvious winner to keeping us happier, two hours of physical exercise for all school kids each day has created the biggest improvements in mental health with most kids too shattered to stay up past 8pm demanding to watch the latest series of Peppa Pig."

The CMO's report cited Scotland's incredible decade of sporting excellence as one reason behind the nation's new found fitness: "With Judy & Andy's coaching, many predicted Sophia Murray's tennis success but coupled with the men's and women's football teams both returning with World Cup trophies, Scots have been truly inspired to get out onto the grass themselves."



## Even more Sunshine on Leith

Crowds gathered today to see solar panels being placed on the final house in Leith that had been without them. The Independent Council of Leith said installation of these panels meant that 100% of residential properties now had some form of solar energy generation. The city began a scheme in the early 2020s funded by the Proclaimers Charitable Trust which saw energy used locally and revenue invested in panels for the community. The model is being examined by local authorities from around the world with delegations from Zambia and Indonesia having visited the port city in recent months.

The good news follows the recent decision by Argyll & Bute, Highland and Clackmannanshire councils to stop charging most residents council tax, as income from green energy continues to grow.



## Hollywood film champions Scotland's new bears

Scotland's wild bear population will feature in a new documentary set to hit our screens this winter. Filming took place over a two year period in the Grampians, and stars a bear family facing challenges including fishing, finding food and avoiding off-piste skiers. The vast forest cover in the Grampians has proved a perfect habitat for the bears with their numbers climbing rapidly since their reintroduction 10 years ago.

Jenny Aiken, Scottish Forest Heritage said "given the huge effort Scotland has put in to rewilding and reforestation, it's wonderful that the world can see these animals in their true home."

## Europe's oldest man, 132, to release autobiography

Kenny Tring, Europe's oldest man, is to embark on a tour of Scottish bookshops to promote his autobiography "Tales from the Plastic Age." The book will feature Tring's personal account of surviving the 1980s and early 21st century austerity, as well as his reflections on technological and cultural changes.

He told *The InterNational* "I was having the funniest conversation with my great-great-granddaughter when she asked me what plastic was. It hit me right there and then that people might be interested in what my life was like then, and the huge changes I've lived through." Tring became Europe's oldest man ten years ago and attributes his longevity to a nip of whisky each day and "Scotland's well funded public health care and clean environment."



# THE INTERNATIONAL VIEW: SCOTS SHOULD BE PROUD OF CLIMATE EFFORTS TODAY

## *Editorial*

We've done it. After decades of work, lashings of Scottish ingenuity and a hell of a lot of tree planting, Scotland has ended our contribution to climate change.

**W**e finally passed that magic milestone when our natural world pulls more climate changing gases out of the atmosphere than our businesses, transport, homes and farming release.

It was right that we did our fair share of the work to fix the problem. After all we have benefited from the fossil fuels in the North Sea and the 'father of the oil industry' James 'Paraffin' Young was born in Glasgow.

Thanks must go to those who came before us and aimed high for Scotland's future. They didn't know how we'd get there but knew we had to try. The changes brought by the need to cut emissions have led to huge knock on benefits - cleaner air in our cities, healthier food in our bellies and an improved relationship with our natural world. The dramatic fall in energy demand through warmer homes also led to the early closure of Scotland's nuclear plants at Torness and Hunterston.

To those who said we're only a small fraction of the problem, we turned out to be a big part of the solution. Scottish patents on tidal and wave energy are now used in an estimated 65% of marine energy systems around the world. Incoming Italian Prime Minister Silvia Ziti, who has been elected on a platform of radical climate action, has spoken of the profound personal impact of Scotland's climate ambition when she studied in Edinburgh in the 2020s.

It reminds us that we don't know who will be inspired by our positive example and how that will ripple out into the world.

**Those who said it couldn't be done have been silenced today whilst the rest of us should be shouting from the solar rooftops with pride at our collective efforts.**



### **Scotland has a choice to make.**

This paper illustrates two possible futures for Scotland, viewed from 2040, and the world's fight against climate change. In one view, warm words but a lack of political action lead us ever closer towards irreversible climate change. In the other, ambitious action delivers huge benefits at home and further galvanises climate action around the world.

#### **Today, we stand at the crossroads.**

Catastrophic climate change is not a certainty, but we only have a short time left to change course. Scotland's new Climate Change Act could be the roadmap to a better future, but so far the plans aren't strong enough.

The Scottish Government must do more to cut climate emissions over the next decade, and set a target to get all greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2040.

As SNP members, you have an unique opportunity to urge greater climate action in this crucial next decade. By encouraging your party to set higher targets you can help drive innovation and progress towards a fairer, healthier Scotland that stands proud on the world stage.

#### **The future depends on you.**