

THE INTER NATIONAL



**RECORD RAINFALL
FORECAST TO CONTINUE
THROUGHOUT AUTUMN**

WE FAILED NO WAY BACK FROM CLIMATE CATASTROPHE SAYS UN REPORT

Experts say droughts, floods, fires, food shortages are the new normal. Political failure means climate change is here to stay...

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 increasing water scarcity, food shortages, and 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?"

NEW TATTIE SCONES RECIPE CRITICISED BY PUBLIC

Spudbakes, the county's leading supplier of potato scones, today began selling new recipe scones with reduced potato content. Spudbakes said that the new mixture for their famous scones will include more flour and salt than potato as they attempts to cut costs and avoid supplier troubles. In the last 5 years potato prices have increased from £250/tonne to £800/tonne, due in part to repeated crop failures.

Spudbakes Head of PR Maris Pipe: "We are proud to provide great tasting scones for Scottish families as we have done for over ninety years. As potato prices rocket, we will continue to provide the same great value we always have and so are forced to change our recipe but without sacrificing the same great taste."

The reaction of customers to the new recipe was not so positive. Many customers took to Twitbook to complain recently of "extreme dry mouth" and compared them to "eating sandal sandwiches." Ben Charter MSP said he would be writing to Advertising Standards Scotland to see if they could continue to call them tattie scones given their minimal potato content.



A spokesperson for the Potato Producers Union commented "Our weather's not what it was, so Spudbakes can't expect to continue making the products the same way the did back in 2010. Potatoes don't grow in Scotland like they used to. Hot and dry summer months quickly followed by flooding rain makes growing anything frankly impossible in some parts of Scotland."

The firm had been long been accused by rivals of exaggerating the potato content of their products. A recent Food Standards Scotland investigation had found the company had not wilfully misled customers but that potato content did vary significantly between batches.



House sharing rockets amongst elderly

New research for housing charity WarmAid has revealed that over 50% of pensioners regularly spend the night in other houses in a bid to save on heating costs. Electricity and gas costs have increased 300% in the last decade, forcing many to share with friends and family as they can't afford to turn the heating on. Jean Cumberland, 79, said "My house is too cold and draughty for me during the night and I can't afford insulation. The gas bills are crippling me and if it wasn't for the generosity of my neighbours in the tenement, I genuinely don't think I'd survive the winter."



Edinburgh to Glasgow commute now averages nearly 4 hours

Data released by the Scottish Government has confirmed that the average car journey time from Glasgow to Edinburgh is now 3 hours and 48 minutes. The 60 miles of road is frequently congested with tailbacks stretching over 5 miles. Transport Scotland have been criticised for creating ever higher road traffic by widening the M8 and failing to help people switch away from cars. Francis Clarkson of the Better Transport Campaign commented "Decades of under investment in our rail network, combined with free parking at many workplaces and continued prioritisation of cars with only person in them means the M8 is bumper to bumper all the way."



CLIMATE CHANGE REACHES 'POINT OF NO RETURN' FOLLOWING DECADES OF INACTION BY GOVERNMENTS, UN REPORT DECLARES

Almost 25 years after world leaders signed the Paris Climate Agreement, which committed nations to holding the increase in global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, that temperature limit has now been breached. Climate scientists warn the world has now reached a tipping point where climate change will rapidly become worse, and there's no way back. Methane release from thawing permafrost has begun to rise sharply and ice cover at the poles has fallen below 5%.

UN chief climate scientist Dr. Stella Pedersen said "This is a sad and terrifying day. Climate migrants already number half a billion, forced from their homes by rising seas, drought and desertification. Conflicts have broken out over crop failure,

food insecurity and water scarcity. To know that this is only going to get worse is heartbreaking, we have failed."

The report documents how the impacts have been particularly severe in the poorest nations. Sub Saharan Africa and South East Asia have seen tens of millions move in search of food and fresh water. It recommends that governments who can still afford it begin a wholesale retreat from coastal cities such as Miami, Shanghai and Rio, rather than continuing to try and fight the rising tide.

Scotland has not been immune to the impacts of climate change. Many farmers and crofters have been forced off the land by repeated failed harvests and livestock disease. Frequent shortages of staple foods

and rising prices in the shops have been compounded by international tensions reducing food imports.

Widespread and frequent flooding has cost Scottish councils billions in emergency support and repairs, and the long battle to save Skye road bridge from the waves was finally lost three years ago. Once raucous seabird cliffs in Shetland and Orkney have long since fallen silent, and only 20 pairs of critically endangered Scottish crossbills are thought to remain in the wild.

Dr Moar Ambushan, who was a lead author of the 2018 IPCC 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', said "Our 2018 report was clear on what would happen if governments didn't act. We warned them, they didn't listen".

Ex-leaders expected to be charged at Climate Tribunal

The Hague's Special Tribunal on Climate Crimes will publish the list of world leaders to be summoned to face charges later this week. Former Heads of State along with key Ministers may be in the dock for their role in the climate crisis. The tribunal was set up eight years ago following widespread public demands for justice that those in power who had made damaging decisions or failed to act had faced no legal repercussions.

Following the conviction of a number of senior coal and oil industry executives in 2038 the body has been preparing actions against world leaders, especially those in office in the critical period after the Paris climate deal.

Speculation has been rife that former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau may be charged in relation to his Government's continued support for the tar sands industry throughout his time in office. His commitment to building mega-pipelines to transport oil, along with forcing First Nations people from their land is expected to dominate the evidence for his prosecution.

The Tribunal Chair Isa Nachula has previously turned her ire on those leaders who highlighted the need and importance of climate action whilst simultaneously supporting the fossil fuel industry.

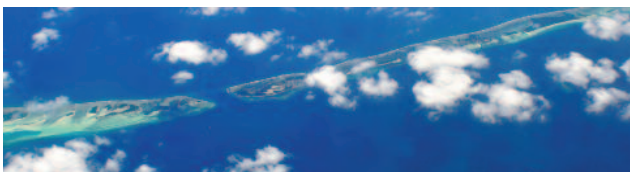
Members of Donald Trump's US administration are still fighting their extradition to The Hague. His inner circle fled to Saudi Arabia at the end of his term and have frustrated legal attempts to bring them to face justice.



Highland games may be forced indoors

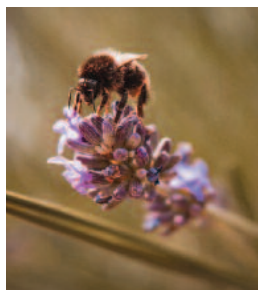
Several Highland Games across Scotland have had to be cancelled or rescheduled due to the dramatic storms sweeping the country. The frequent and unpredictable storms are attributed to the changing climate. The high winds had made many of the traditional throwing events simply too dangerous for spectators.

Discussions are now ongoing about whether these traditional outdoor events should be moved into a huge indoor stadium. A spokesman for the Highland Games Association said "It's been an integral part of our culture to stage these events outdoors but this wild weather means we can't assure the safety of those in attendance. Some towns have viable indoor arenas but many traditionalists are understandably disappointed and have pledged never to compete under any roof. "



Last boat leaves 'paradise' of Kiribati

In a sombre ceremony today, the President of Kiribati took down their national flag and left the island for the last time. The small boat carrying the last 100 residents of the pacific island departed for their new home in New Zealand. Rapid sea level rise in recent months has caused saltwater intrusion into aquifers, making continued life on the island practically impossible. The majority of the island's population had already fled to nearby countries in recent years in search of safety. President Anote said "Truly we have lost our place in paradise. If only other nations had cared as much for our home as we do."



'Robot bees' inventor brings back Nobel Prize

Staff and students at the University of Cumbernauld's Unnatural Sciences Department gave a special welcome to world famous entomon-engineer Dr. Claire McGuinness yesterday as she returned home from Stockholm grasping her Nobel Prize.

As pollinating insects became critically scarce in the 2020s food production became reliant on hand pollination, causing food prices to skyrocket. McGuinness' bees have since made these jobs obsolete in a major technological shift recognised by the Nobel Committee. A giant statue representing her invention is to be unveiled in Cumbernauld town centre following the conclusion of a competitive tender.

THE INTERNATIONAL VIEW: OUR GOVERNMENTS FAILED US ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Editorial

Despite decades of increasingly serious warnings, global governments have collectively failed to address the climate crisis, as today's UN report effectively declaring that the fight to curb climate change is lost.

The safe temperature limit agreed by all world leaders 25 years ago has now been broken, and the devastating consequences are playing out before our eyes. Where did it all go wrong?

The first World Climate Conference was held over 60 years ago in Geneva during February 1979. It led to the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global authority on climate science. That same body, whose first report 50 years ago declared that human activity was substantially increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, today announced that the world has finally reached "catastrophic and irreversible levels of climate change".

For decades, world leaders proclaimed their dedication to tackling climate change. They took to podiums and parliaments around the planet to tell us they cared about climate change, that they understood it to be the defining issue of their time, that they would lead the way in tackling this global issue.

But their actions failed to follow these fine words and today's leaders must deal with the fallout. Entire nations and cultures have been lost, with Pacific Island inhabitants forced

to flee as the waters rose ever higher, eroding their way of life and their history, knowing they would never return. Millions of people fled in search of food and safety as droughts and desertification drove hunger across the world.

Once celebrated coral reefs lie dead and bleached below the sea, a memorial to what was once one of the most colourful and spectacular habitats on earth.

A failure from governments of all stripes to stand up to the power of the fossil fuel industry, and an unwillingness to argue for the benefits of cleaner transport, healthier food and lower consumption has led us to this perilous position.

For a long time it was politely known as 'policy incoherence' but it should have been called rank hypocrisy. Those politicians who sought positive headlines for cycling to meetings whilst urging exploration for more gas should be haunted by their contempt for science and justice.

Our governments knew what we were facing, they knew what they had to do, and they failed us all. Our only hope now is that we salvage what's left of our world and take care of those who desperately need our help.



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.