

Key points

The Scottish Government's revised Energy Strategy will be published against a backdrop of worsening climate impacts, skyrocketing energy bills and record-breaking oil industry profits. The new strategy and accompanying Just Transition Plan will set the direction of travel for Scotland's energy system during this crucial decade of action on the climate crisis. It is essential that the ESJTP charts a clear path away from our broken fossil fuel energy system, to a climate-safe future with clean, affordable renewable energy for all. Crucially, it should:

- Set an end date for fossil fuels and committing to phasing out oil and gas production within this decade;
- Reject new fossil fuel infrastructure and any role for CCS or hydrogen in the energy system;
- Focus on demand reduction and demonstrate how the material demands of the future energy system can be met sustainably;
- Prioritise public and active travel investment alongside renewable heat and large scale insulation programmes to tackle the climate crisis and reduce inequalities;
- Establish a national energy company, support councils to develop more locally-owned renewables, and make community ownership accessible for all;
- Ensure the involvement of workers and their trade unions and impacted communities in the development of plans to deliver on the ambitions of the ESJTP.

Building a future-proof, fossil free economy

Scotland's energy system is hurting people and our climate. Greedy fossil fuel companies are being allowed to make obscene profits while households are fearful of what their next bill will bring. There is an urgent need for action to support people now, and to build a more resilient, affordable energy system to prevent climate breakdown and future social crises. The ESJTP sets the framework for Scotland's energy system over this crucial next decade for climate action. The Scottish Government must seize this opportunity to put in place the foundations for a just transition to meet our fair share of global efforts to avoid catastrophic warming, charting a path away from climate-destroying fossil fuels to an affordable, reliable energy system, powered by renewables and run in the public interest.

A clean break with fossil fuels

Expansion of fossil fuel production is inconsistent with preventing climate breakdown and any new infrastructure or investment will only serve to entrench our reliance on volatile oil and gas. Experts at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research have calculated that for only a 67% chance of keeping to 1.5°C, the UK must end oil and gas production by 2031.¹ This date takes into account the capacity of different producer nations to phase out extraction from an equity perspective such as providing basic needs of citizens and a just transition. For the UK, as a wealthy country with oil and gas a relatively small part of the overall economy, this date should enable sufficient time to ensure the transition is fair to workers and communities who currently rely on the industry for their livelihoods. In light of this, the Scottish Government's acknowledgement that '*unlimited extraction of fossil fuels is not consistent with our climate obligations*' is welcome, but it must go further.² **The ESJTP must build on this by setting an end date for fossil fuels within this decade, in line with our fair share of meeting the 1.5°C goal.**

Fossil fuel companies are delaying the transition to renewable energy and pushing dangerous technologies such as carbon capture and hydrogen that will lock us into the continuing use of fossil

¹ [Phaseout Pathways for Fossil Fuel Production Within Paris-Compliant Carbon Budgets](#)

² [A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Programme for Government 2021-22 - gov.scot](#)

fuels - allowing the greedy oil and gas companies to keep on polluting the climate, as well as making huge profits. Experience shows that carbon capture projects have a lengthy record of failure around the world.³ Research has shown that powering our heating and transport with renewable electricity is more efficient and affordable than using hydrogen.⁴ **The ESJTP must reject new fossil fuel infrastructure and investment and any role for Carbon Capture and Storage and fossil hydrogen in our energy system.**

Demand management, global just transition and circular economy

Demand management must be central to the new ESJTP. Heat pumps, wind turbines and electric cars will all require finite natural resources, so the material demands of policies and opportunities to recycle critical minerals in existing materials must be considered throughout the energy transition. The impacts of aggressive mining companies are felt mainly in the global south and Scottish Government policies do not consider the full potential environmental and social benefits of reducing energy demand. Without plans to minimise material demand and greener, fairer use of materials, there is a risk that the transition to renewable energy systems is unsustainable and replicates the injustices of the current system. **The ESJTP must assess the material demands of the new energy system and demonstrate how they can be met sustainably while aligning with circular economy ambitions, carbon impacts and the fair supply of materials globally.**

Prioritise public & active transport, energy efficiency & renewable heat

Prioritising public and active transport and energy efficiency and renewable heat are essential to reducing demand for energy and phasing out fossil fuels. But they are also essential to tackling the cost of living crisis and tackling inequality. Volatile fossil fuels are driving the cost of living crisis with 88% of homes in Scotland reliant on costly mains gas, oil or LPG to heat their homes, while our housing stock is poorly insulated and hard to keep warm. Fossil-fuel cars, largely owned by higher-income households, continue to dominate and pollute our streets, while people on the lowest incomes largely use public transport and walk. There are huge potential co-benefits to be had from shifting from fossil fuels to renewables for people's bills, for better connected communities, energy security and emissions reductions. **The ESJTP must prioritise public and active travel alongside renewable heat and large scale insulation programmes, to tackle the climate crisis and reduce inequalities.**

Put power into people's hands

Our energy system is dominated by private companies who have continued to extract phenomenal profits at a time of crisis, as the planet burns and ordinary people choose between heating and eating. Control over energy must be shifted away from corporations which prioritise profit over people and planet, and into democratic control. The Scottish Government must use its powers to establish a publicly-owned National Energy Company empowered to drive new renewable generation, renewable heating and energy efficiency projects, alongside greater support for local authorities and communities to develop their own locally owned renewable projects. **The ESJTP must prioritise the needs of people and planet, not private profit, by committing to establish a national energy company, support councils to develop more locally-owned renewables, and make community ownership accessible for all.** Workers and communities dependent on the current energy system for their livelihoods will be significantly affected by the transition to a renewable energy system. They also have the skills and knowledge crucial to helping shape the future. **The Scottish Government must ensure the involvement of workers and their trade unions and impacted communities in the development of plans to deliver on the ambitions of the ESJTP.**

³ [Report: Fossil Fuel Carbon Capture & Storage - Friends of the Earth Scotland](#)

⁴ [Report exposes high cost, low efficiency of hydrogen - Friends of the Earth Scotland](#)

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