

NO NEW PETERHEAD GAS

An open letter to the Scottish Government

The Scottish Government must reject the application to build a new gas burning power station and carbon capture plant at Peterhead.

First Minister John Swinney,

Màiri McAllan MSP Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy,

Gillian Martin MSP Minister for Climate Action;

Right now, the final decision to approve the construction of a new gas burning power station with carbon capture lies with you.

Climate science is crystal clear that to limit global heating to 1.5°C, fossil fuels must be rapidly and fairly phased out. COP28 in December reaffirmed that developed countries must take the lead on a transition away from fossil fuels. **Approving a new fossil fuel burning power station would take Scotland in completely the wrong direction.**

The Scottish Government has missed 8 out of its last 12 climate targets and due to a lack of government planning and action the UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) has now said that the critical target of reducing emissions 75% by 2030 is no longer credible. At this critical juncture, your government must do everything possible to get back on track. This is a moment to redouble efforts, not support a project that will lock in higher fossil fuel emissions for decades to come.

The existing gas burning power station at Peterhead has been Scotland's single biggest polluter for the past five years and Ministers must not approve a plan that would make it even worse.

Fossil fuels are driving the cost-of-living crisis, and our current energy system is dominated by exploitative fossil fuel companies who are benefitting from ordinary people's hardship. Over 30% of

Scottish households are living in fuel poverty, having to choose between heating and eating, and that number is growing. Meanwhile, companies like Equinor and SSE who are behind this project are posting record profits. New gas will keep Scotland locked into fossil fuels and high energy prices for decades to come. New renewable energy is already significantly cheaper than new fossil fuel power.

Renewables are already delivering, generating the equivalent of 113% of Scotland's overall electricity consumption in 2022. Instead of extracting and burning new gas to generate electricity, the Scottish Government must build on this success and continue to swiftly scale up renewable energy, including renewable energy storage technologies.

CCS has a long inglorious history of failure, of being over-promised and under delivered despite billions of pounds of funding. There is no evidence that the proposed carbon capture plant at Peterhead will be any different. This whole project is also founded on the idea that if any carbon was captured it would be buried under the North Sea for eternity. Approving this sends the message that the Scottish Government is content to turn the North Sea – home to an abundance of marine life - into a carbon dumping ground.

The Scottish Government cannot afford to gamble our future on a technology which has already had decades to prove itself and failed. We know that the easiest way to reduce our carbon emissions is simply not to create them in the first place by stopping burning fossil fuels.

A just transition for workers means funded pathways to secure, well-paid jobs in fields we know will reduce our carbon emissions and improve lives such as renewables and home insulation programmes. Workers and communities dependent on the current energy system should not be strung along with empty promises of jobs in fairytale carbon capture. Instead, planning and investment is needed now to support workers and communities in the northeast transition.

The construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure would undermine the shift to renewables, strengthen the grip of fossil fuel companies on Scottish households and put us at greater danger of climate breakdown. The Scottish Government has full power over this decision and must set us on the correct path to a fossil free future.

The following organisations urge you to wholly reject the application and implement real and meaningful just transition that can address inequality and the climate crisis.

SIGNED BY ...

Aberdeen Climate Action

Biofuelwatch

Christian Aid

Climate Camp Scotland

Common Weal

Divest Lothian

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC)

Edinburgh Climate Coalition

Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland (ERCS)

Extinction Rebellion Scotland

Fossil Free Parliament

Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Friends of the Earth Scotland

Friends of St. Fittick's Park

Fuel Poverty Action

Global Justice Now

Global Witness

Green New Deal Rising

Greenpeace UK

Huntly Climate Action

North East Scotland Climate Action Hub (NESCAN)

North Sea Knitters

Oceana UK

Oil Change International

Oxfam Scotland

Parents for Future UK

Parents for Future Scotland

PCS Union

Platform

SCIAF (Caritas Scotland)

Scotland's International Development Alliance

Scottish Womens Budget Group

#StopRosebank

Stop Burning Trees Coalition

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS)

Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Time for Change Argyll and Bute

Tipping Point UK

Transition Edinburgh South

University and College Union (UCU)

Uplift

Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland

XR Aberdeen

Young Friends of the Earth Scotland