



## Stop Climate Chaos Scotland manifesto for Holyrood 2021

### Introduction

**Our vision for Holyrood 2021 is for a just, sustainable and flourishing Scotland that is consistent with a climate-safe future at home and abroad.** With this manifesto, we call for rapid and far-reaching action to achieve this goal and to ensure we meet our legally-binding targets. We urge the next Scottish Government to:

- 1. Deliver transformative change to cut emissions across all areas of life**
- 2. Phase out our most polluting activities as part of a Just Transition to a low carbon future**
- 3. Be a good global citizen and demonstrate world leadership by championing climate justice**

The world stands at a turning point. Decisions made now will determine whether the world accelerates towards a devastating climate future, or manages to limit the worst of the consequences of the climate crisis. Limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees will require rapid and ambitious action in all aspects of society. Scotland must do its fair share in this fight against climate change.

**With nine years to meet our target of reducing emissions by 75% by 2030, the actions taken by the next Scottish Government must be nothing short of transformational.**

Equally, the ongoing catastrophic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis will be felt across the next Scottish Parliament. This highlights the need to rebuild a more resilient, green economy. Catastrophic events, with global repercussions, will only become more likely as the impacts of the climate emergency worsen.

Action in the next Parliament is essential to rebuild a flourishing, more sustainable and equitable society and economy. With the expansion of green jobs and industries, and targeted action in our most polluting sectors, the next Scottish Government can deliver multiple benefits for people and the environment.

The current Scottish Parliament marked a turning point in Scotland's approach to the climate, culminating in the passing of stronger emissions reductions targets and commitments to climate justice and just transition. In 2021, Glasgow will host the COP26 summit, one of the most important conferences of its kind and the largest the UK has ever hosted. This conference will bring global attention to Scotland's record on climate change, and is a tremendous opportunity for Scotland to bolster its credentials as a climate leader. **Scotland's climate targets are amongst the strongest in the global North. However, for these to have meaning, it is vital that robust policies are implemented to ensure we are on track to achieve them.**

## **Our asks**

### **1. The next Scottish Government should deliver transformative change to cut emissions across all areas of life.**

#### **Some policies that would help to deliver this:**

- Set a target and invest in measures for all homes in Scotland to reach at least Energy Performance 'C' by 2030, including new standards for the rented sector
- Expand the concessionary bus fare scheme, to incentivise more people to use public transport while disincentivising high emitting transport options
- Ensure everyone has access to healthy and sustainable diets by incorporating the right to food in Scots Law
- Commit to 100% of electricity generated in Scotland coming from renewables by 2032, creating a fully decarbonized electricity system

68% of adults agree that climate change is an immediate and urgent problem<sup>1</sup>, but the era of simply asking individuals to change their behaviour has proven fruitless. Change must be made at the highest level so that the lowest carbon option is the most accessible. This is where our Government and Parliament come in. The next Scottish Government must introduce new, expanded, policy measures and investment that reduce emissions, particularly in our most polluting activities, while recognising evidence that the over-consumption of the richest people are disproportionately creating the climate crisis<sup>2</sup>. This means increasing funding for active travel and low-carbon transport, bringing forward a fair and just food system that allows us to access sustainable, local and healthy diets, and making it easier for people to heat their homes with renewable energy.

### **2. Phase out our most polluting activities as part of a Just Transition to a low carbon future**

#### **Some policies that would help to deliver this:**

- Target agricultural and fisheries support and funding at those practices that benefit people and the environment, such as climate and nature-friendly farming
- Invest in renewable heating, such as heat networks and heat pumps - setting a timescale for their roll out, leading a transition away from fossil fuelled heating

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2019-key-findings/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/confronting-carbon-inequality>

- Expand the active travel budget to spend at least 10% of the transport budget on active travel, and realign wider transport spending to reflect the sustainable travel hierarchy<sup>3</sup>

There has been a historical lack of policy support and very little progress in decarbonising our most polluting sectors, such as transport, buildings and agriculture. This has allowed for the continuation of harmful practices, including the continued expansion of the oil and gas industry, damage to marine and peatland carbon stores, emissions-heavy farming practices, and disproportionate investment in road building at the expense of low-carbon transport options.

To ensure Scotland does its fair share to tackle the climate emergency in a way that protects workers and communities currently involved in these industries, the next Scottish Government must commit to embedding a Just Transition at the heart of all investments, to decarbonise every sector and deliver a prosperous, sustainable and fair economy for all. As well as bringing multiple benefits for our climate ambitions and the environment, promoting the growth of green industries would create urgent, new, and quality jobs, in line with a Just Transition and a green recovery.

Every decision that is made must have climate in mind, to avoid the need for retrofit in future and to reduce the risk that more difficult decisions would need to be made down the line to meet our targets.

### **3. The next Scottish Government must be a good global citizen and demonstrate world leadership by championing climate justice**

#### **Some policies that would help to deliver this:**

- Significantly increase the Climate Justice Fund, using devolved revenue raising powers to ensure all new money is additional to existing commitments, and not simply repurposed from other initiatives, domestic or international, maintaining this in real-terms throughout the next Parliament
- Develop a robust strategy for engagement with COP26 informed by the priorities of countries most affected by climate change, in particular on climate finance for adaptation and loss and damage and investing the resources needed to ensure the voices of impacted communities are heard
- Ensure all policies and proposals, especially those in the next Climate Change Plan, do not have an adverse consequence internationally

As well as emissions reductions, delivering climate justice involves action beyond our borders. For many of the poorest people in the world climate breakdown is already a lived reality. Recognising Scotland's historical role in contributing to the climate crisis, the next

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<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/active-travel/developing-an-active-nation/sustainable-travel-and-the-national-transport-strategy/>

Scottish Government must increase Scotland's Climate Justice Fund, sending a powerful message that it is committed to delivering its fair share and stand in solidarity with those who are already suffering from a crisis they did not cause.

At COP26, global leaders will come to Scotland to discuss the three pillars of climate action: emissions reduction, adaptation, and how to respond to the climate impacts already experienced (so-called "loss and damage"). The next Scottish Government must use all its powers to deliver action in each of these areas, while lobbying for change on any reserved issues. By doing this they can demonstrate leadership at COP26, and ensure the conference leaves a legacy in Scotland that delivers climate justice.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is the biggest civil society coalition in Scotland, bringing together organisations campaigning on climate change. Its members include environment, faith and international development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups.

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