



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Conveners  
All Committees  
Scottish Parliament

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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By email only

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3 July 2023

Dear Convener,

**Expected publication of the draft Climate Change Plan 2024-2040**

I am following up on our brief discussion at the Conveners Group meeting on 21 June to propose a collaborative approach to the next draft Climate Change Plan (CCP), which the Scottish Government intends to lay in November. The CCP sets out the Scottish Government's intended actions to meet Scotland's statutory greenhouse gas emissions targets. It sets out how emissions will be reduced across key sectors (including energy, transport, agriculture, buildings and industry). It is published every five years and generally covers a 15-year timespan. It must set out—

- the costs and benefits of policies;
- how the proposals and policies are expected to impact on different sectors of the Scottish economy and different regions alongside how the workforce, employers and communities will be supported; and
- an explanation of how it takes account of Scotland's 'just transition' and 'climate justice' principles.

The CCP and reporting on progress are required by law (see [SPICe Climate Change – Subject Profile](#)). The last full CCP was published in 2018 and covers the period to 2032. A CCP update (CCPu) was published in late 2020 (the [CCPu](#)). It was scrutinised by four committees ([Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform](#); [Local Government and Communities](#); [Rural Economy and Connectivity](#); and [Economy, Jobs and Fair Work](#)). It was noted during this scrutiny that the scale of change needed has no precedent in human history and a number of detailed recommendations were made (see [SPICe Climate Change – Subject Profile](#)).

The CCP includes key policy outcomes for each sector, defined as “a measurable change on the ground resulting from a policy or combination of related policies.” The

[May 2023 CCP monitoring report](#) indicates that of the 43 policy outcome indicators, the Scottish Government classes less than half as “on track” (21), with 9 “off track” and the rest “too early to say”.

### **Proposed approach**

The draft will be laid in the Scottish Parliament for scrutiny for a period of 120 days (of which no fewer than 60 must be days on which the Parliament is not in recess). As convener of the NZET committee, I want to encourage all committees to consider how best we can work together to scrutinise the next CCP. Previous models for collaborative scrutiny of the CCP have included—

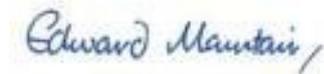
- Each committee taking the lead in scrutinising matters within its remit;
- All participating committees jointly issuing a call for views and working as collaboratively as possible in relation to stakeholder communications, engagement and media work;
- Maximising the time available for scrutiny, with each committee taking evidence and reporting separately to Parliament on issues within their remit (thus allowing time for each committee to take evidence from the relevant Minister or Cabinet Secretary);
- Having a Chamber debate on the report on the draft Climate Change Plan, following a motion signed by conveners of all committees that took part.

I suggest that this remains a good precedent to follow. The main change I would welcome from past scrutiny is *more committees* taking part in this joint work, although I do recognise that there will be some committees for whom, because of their remit, the CCP is not a priority.

To help this round of CCP scrutiny get off to a good start, I have just written to the Scottish Government to request a summary of progress on various relevant matters, such as the recommendations of [Scotland’s Climate Assembly](#) as well as progress against the [2021 Net Zero Nation: public engagement strategy](#). In doing so, I have taken the opportunity to remind the Government of recommendations from Committees’ reports on the draft CCPu about how the Scottish Government should present information to enable effective scrutiny.

I am grateful for your consideration of this letter. Once you have decided your outline approach to CCP scrutiny, it would be helpful if you could write back to me, to help keep me informed in my oversight role. If so, it would welcome a response to this letter by **27 September 2023** if possible.

Yours sincerely,



Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener,  
**Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee**