

# Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

## 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2022 (Session 6)

Tuesday, 20 December 2022

### Evidence session on Climate Change Committee's Review of Scottish Emissions Targets and Progress Report 2022

#### Note by the clerk

#### Introduction

1. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee will hear from the Climate Change Committee (CCC) on its annual progress report to the Scottish Parliament, published 7 December 2022 – [‘Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland – 2022 Report to Parliament’](#)
2. This is the eleventh annual progress report to the Scottish Parliament as required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
3. In addition, the CCC also published its [first five-yearly review of Scottish emissions targets](#). The report sets out how climate targets have been updated since CCC’s previous target advice in 2017 to account for changes in methodology for estimating emissions.

#### Key messages

4. The key messages in the report are—
  - Interim targets for 2030 and 2040 do not need to be changed as a result of alterations to emissions accounting methodology.
  - The 2030 interim target of a 75% reduction on 1990 levels by the year 2030 remains very challenging. The CCC “suggests a 65-67% reduction in Scotland’s emissions by 2030 is both feasible and consistent with Scotland’s Net Zero commitment”. The report calls for policies to “go further than the CCC pathway”.
  - The net zero date of 2045 and 2040 interim target of 90% remains feasible. However, significant underperformance during the 2020s and early 2030s would require Scotland to equivalently overperform during the later years of its roadmap.

- Scotland’s annual targets in the 2020s should be adjusted to reflect new methods for emissions accounting.
- The 2020 interim target was achieved. However, this was largely a product of a 19% reduction in emissions in the year 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CCC claims it is unlikely the Scottish Government would have met this target had the pandemic not caused significant travel restrictions. They also state that the rebound in emissions currently being experienced will make it exceedingly difficult to achieve annual targets in the early 2020s.
- The CCC urged the Scottish Government to urgently implement a quantifiable plan which sets out in detail how its policies will combine to achieve its 2030 emissions reduction target.
- The Scottish Government should work more closely with counterparts in the UK Government to realise Scotland’s ambitions for net zero. Greater collaboration would in turn help to maximise Scotland’s efforts to decarbonise in areas currently within reserved competence.
- The Scottish Government’s strategy for decarbonising transport is “falling behind” the rest of the UK. If Scotland is to meet its 2030 goal for reducing car kilometres by 20% on 2019 levels, it must develop new measures for addressing current problems in the transport industry relating to car use and aviation activity.
- Although Scotland has been making progress in terms of local energy and heat network planning, it is currently not on track to meet its targets for decarbonising buildings. The CCC says this is because “there are not yet adequate policies in place to deliver low-carbon heat and energy efficiency improvements at the required rate”.
- The Scottish Government must urgently set out more details on how it intends to deliver low-carbon agriculture policy following EU-exit. This has been made more challenging by the Scottish Government currently having no plans for delivering lower-carbon diets. In terms of decarbonising land management, the CCC says progress has been mixed.

## Evidence session

5. On 20<sup>th</sup> December, the Committee will hold an evidence session with representatives of the CCC to examine its progress report. The Committee will hear from—

- The Rt Hon. the Lord Deben, Chairman, Climate Change Committee;
- Professor Keith Bell, Scotland Champion, Climate Change Committee;
- Marili Boufounou, Senior Analyst, Climate Change Committee; and

- Chris Stark, Chief Executive, Climate Change Committee.

6. This evidence session also offers the Committee an opportunity to pursue some of the key themes arising from recent work on the role of local government in delivering net zero and the future of ferry services.

**Clerks**  
**Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee**