

Stewart Stevenson
Minister for Environment and Climate Change
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

31 January 2012

Dear Stewart

Reducing emissions in Scotland – 1st progress report

The attached report¹ is a response to your request for an assessment of Scotland's progress towards meeting emission reduction targets.

The report draws on the latest economy wide emissions data (i.e. for 2009), together with sectoral, macroeconomic and temperature data for 2010, and data on implementation of measures to reduce emissions.

The overall conclusion in the report is broadly positive, based on progress that has been made reducing emissions in key sectors such as power and buildings. However, we also highlight significant challenges meeting ambitious Scottish emissions targets, and required policy development if these are to be achieved.

Our specific conclusions are that:

- Scottish emissions fell in 2009, mainly due to the impact of the recession.
- They are likely to have risen in 2010 given the cold winter, and also due to increased use of carbon-intense fuels in power generation and energy-intensive industry.

¹ Committee on Climate Change (2012) 'Reducing emissions in Scotland: 1st progress report': Available from: <http://www.theccc.org.uk/reports/scottish-report>

- Our assessment of progress to date against milestones for 2020 suggests that good progress has been made on investment in renewable electricity, renewable heat, and preparing for CCS. Progress has also been made in energy efficiency improvement in buildings, purchase of more efficient vehicles, piloting of smarter choices programmes, and schemes to encourage farmers' uptake of climate change mitigation measures
- New policies will be needed to sustain the progress that has been achieved under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act. In some areas, the key policies are UK-level (e.g. Electricity Market Reform and the Green Deal), but there is an important role for the Scottish Government to support and monitor the implementation of these policies in Scotland.
- It will be essential for the Scottish Government to ensure full roll-out of measures in devolved policy areas, such as demand-side transport and agriculture and land use.
- Even with these new policies, either a tightening of the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) cap or additional effort in the non-traded sector will be required to meet targets under the Scottish Climate Change Act. Given uncertainty over whether the cap will be changed, the Scottish Government should explore scope for further emissions reductions across the non-traded sector.

I would be very happy to discuss our report further with you as required, and look forward to our continued work together

Yours ever



Adair Turner
Chair, Committee on Climate Change