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Mr Rob Gibson MSP
Convener
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In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



30 October 2014

Dear Rob

PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ANNUAL TARGET REPORT FOR 2012

You will wish to be aware that the third report on the Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions Annual Target for the year 2012 is published today, Thursday 30th October, under section 33 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. It is available online at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/AnnualTargetReport2012>.

I also plan to make a statement on the Report to Parliament on 4 November.

Achievement of Scotland's targets is measured against the level of the Net Scottish Emissions Account (NSEA). This accounts for the greenhouse gas emissions from sources in Scotland, Scotland's share of emissions from international aviation and international shipping, the effect of any relevant emissions removals (e.g. "carbon sinks" such as woodland) and the effect of the sale and purchase of relevant carbon units (tradable emissions allowances).

In 2012, the NSEA figure, after adjustment for EU ETS allowances, was 55,665,180 tCO₂e. This means that the statutory 2012 target, as expressed under the terms of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 53,226,000 tCO₂e in 2012 was missed by 2,439,180 tCO₂e. However, it is worth noting that actual, or source emissions recorded in the same year were 52,895,245 tCO₂e or 330,755 tCO₂e better than the target.



When taking emissions trading into account, Scotland's emissions rose by 0.5 per cent in 2012 on the previous year. The longer term trend to date shows a substantial emissions reduction of 26.4 per cent from the 1990 baseline (1995 for the F-gases). This compares with a 24.2 per cent reduction assumed when the 2012 target was set based on the 1990-2008 greenhouse gas inventory. This percentage reduction demonstrates that the Scottish Government is over half way to achieving its Climate Change Act target of reducing emissions by 42 per cent by 2020.

Kindest regards



PAUL WHEELHOUSE