

Mr Rob Gibson MSP

Convener

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

The Scottish Parliament

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Dear Rob

## **THE SCOTTISH GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ANNUAL TARGET REPORT AND THE SCOTTISH REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE INTERIM TARGET**

I am writing to advise of the laying today of two statutory reports in Parliament under the terms of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. I will be making a statement to Parliament on both reports later today.

### **Scottish Greenhouse gas Emissions Annual Target Report**

Section 33 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 requires Scottish Ministers to lay before the Scottish Parliament a report in respect of each year in the period 2010-2050 for which an annual target has been set which, amongst other things, must state whether the annual target for the target year has been met and if not, why not.

The Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions Annual Target for the year 2013 is the fourth annual report to be laid in Parliament and draws on data published in June in the Scottish greenhouse gas inventory. The report will also be available online at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/10/8032>.

Achievement of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions 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).

The report shows that, in 2013, the NSEA figure, after adjustment for EU ETS allowances, was 49,724,807 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This means that the statutory 2013 target, as expressed under the terms of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 47,976,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2013 was missed by 1,748,807 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

Scotland's emissions, when adjusted to take emissions trading into account, fell by 14.0 per cent in 2013 on the previous year. The longer term trend to date shows a substantial emissions reduction of 38.4 per cent from the 1990 baseline (1995 for the F-gases). This compares with a 31.7 per cent reduction assumed when the 2013 target was set based on the 1990-2008 greenhouse gas inventory. This percentage reduction demonstrates that the Scottish Government is more than three quarters of the way to achieving its Climate Change Act target of reducing emissions by 42 per cent by 2020.

The annual target was missed, due to the impact of successive revisions to the data.

### **Scottish Report on Progress Towards Meeting the Interim Target**

Section 39 of Climate Change (Scotland) Act requires Scottish Ministers to lay before the Scottish Parliament a report on progress towards meeting the interim target. This is a one-off report setting out progress that has been made in reducing emissions and whether progress is consistent with meeting the interim and 2050 emissions reduction targets. The report will also be available online at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/10/2756>

The interim target is a 42% reduction in 2020 from a 1990 Baseline and the 2050 target is an 80% reduction from the 1990 Baseline.

The report shows that the percentage reductions achieved in Scotland's Net Scottish Emissions Account (NSEA) for the years 2010 to 2013 have been greater than the percentage reductions initially envisaged for those years under the Climate Change Act. Based on current progress, Scotland is therefore clearly on track to meet its Interim 42% Reduction Target in 2020, and is on the extrapolated trajectory required to deliver the 2050 Target.

I am copying this letter to all committees of the Scottish Parliament.

Kind regards

**AILEEN MCLEOD**