



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

25th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Wednesday 8 October 2014

The Committee will meet at 9.30 am in the Sir Alexander Fleming Room (CR3).

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take at item 4 in private.
2. **Scotland's climate change targets:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Jim Gilmour, Policy Adviser, Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, and John Ireland, Deputy Director of Low Carbon Economy Division, Scottish Government.
3. **The Crown Estate:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Gareth Baird, Scottish Commissioner, Ronnie Quinn, Lead for Energy and Infrastructure in Scotland, and Alan Laidlaw, Rural and Coastal Portfolio Manager, Scotland, The Crown Estate.
4. **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider its approach to scrutiny of Part 4 of the Bill at Stage 1.

Lynn Tullis
Clerk to the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda item 2

Note by the Clerk

RACCE/S4/14/25/1

PRIVATE PAPER

RACCE/S4/14/25/2
(P)

Agenda item 3

Note by the Clerk

RACCE/S4/14/25/3

Agenda item 4

PRIVATE PAPER

RACCE/S4/14/25/4
(P)

Scotland's climate change targets

Introduction

1. Following its consideration of the Scottish Government's Scotland's Second Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP2) in 2013 the Committee agreed, as part of its work programme, to take evidence from stakeholders and the Minister for Environment and Climate Change on the implementation of RPP2 and delivery of Scotland's climate change targets.
2. Further detailed information on the RPP2 process and Scotland's progress towards meeting its climate change targets was set out in the SPICe briefing paper for the Committee's meeting on 1 October 2014.¹

Committee consideration

3. At its meeting on 1 October 2014 the Committee heard from stakeholders on their views of the implementation of the RPP2 and the delivery of Scotland's climate change targets and considered the latest Committee on Climate Change report and latest information from the Scottish Government regarding the 2012 target.
4. The Committee will now take evidence on the above from the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.
5. Written evidence submitted to the Committee since the last meeting can be found in Annex A—

Clerks

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

¹ Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee. Committee papers for 1 October 2014. Available at:
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/Meeting%20Papers/Meeting_Papers_01_10_2014.pdf.

Annex A

Written submission from Sustainable Scotland Network and Keep Scotland Beautiful²

RPP2 and Public Sector Climate Action

Scotland has ambitious emissions reduction targets of 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, with annual emission targets. Since the enactment of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 two iterations of the Report on Proposals and Policies have been produced – one in 2010 and one in 2013. The SSN and KSB welcome the publication of the RPPs, to help set a national route-map for Scotland's emissions reduction agenda.

SSN has been using RPP2 to inform its work on public sector climate action. This includes work on the public sectors' own, direct, corporate emissions, and also work on the public sector's contribution to reducing Scotland's emissions on an area-wide or national basis.

Improving climate change action within the public sector can be strengthened by co-ordinated, consistent and well-informed public sector reporting. SSN believes that public sector climate change reporting should be fit for purpose (effective, efficient and reflective of public bodies' functions) and designed to aid performance improvement and drive climate change action. Moving forward, the development of reporting for the public sector as a whole should build on the voluntary commitment to reporting by Scotland's local authorities through their commitment to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration and the good practice established by the Public Sector Sustainability Reporting (PSSR) process for the rest of the sector.

While RPP2 focuses on the policies and proposals for meeting Scotland's climate change targets, SSN is also working to address the behaviours aspects of delivering low carbon outcomes. Through a new project which utilises the Scottish Government's Low Carbon Behaviours Framework and the 'ISM – Individual, Social and Material' toolkit, KSB staff have been working with SSN members to address low carbon behaviours within their public sector climate change plans and programmes.

RPP2 – General Observations and Comments

² The Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) supports public sector action on sustainable development, with a significant focus on climate change. Having developed as a local authority officers' network, SSN's remit was extended to the wider public sector in 2012 to reflect the extent of the climate change Public Bodies Duties. The network now has members in most public sector organisations – including the four key sectors of local government, universities and colleges, the NHS and NDPBs. The Scottish Government provides funding to Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB), one of Scotland's leading environmental charities, to manage and develop SSN. The SSN Steering Group guides the SSN programme. More on SSN can be found at www.sustainable-scotland.net.

The following ambitions are detailed for the Business, Industry and Public Sector:

- Our Energy Efficiency Action Plan includes a Scotland-wide target to reduce energy consumption by at least 12%. This establishes a minimum level of ambition for all sectors, including the public sector.
- By 2027, we will have witnessed a complete transformation in the way Scottish public bodies work and in how their estates are managed. This will be achieved through implementing and exceeding existing carbon management plans, adopting sustainable procurement processes and through supporting governance arrangements.
- By 2027, we will have made significant progress in transforming energy use in industry and business through resource efficiency measures and low carbon technologies such as CCS and fuel switching.
- By 2050, direct emissions from the sector will be almost zero through reducing the sector's energy demand, the use of low carbon electricity sources, and our ambition for a largely decarbonised heat sector by 2050, with significant progress by 2030.

SSN Comment 1: A 12% reduction in energy consumption ambition is expected in the public sector. Further work could be done, by Scottish Government, SSN and the Climate Leaders Officers Group, to assess how this ambition has been factored in to public sector organisations and where the barriers and opportunities lie for progress. Analysis of the 2013-14 SCCD reports can focus on this issue, for local authorities at least.

SSN Comment 2: On-going discussion across the public sector is needed to improve understanding of what 'a complete transformation' needs to address in order to ensure that public sector bodies are aware of what this transformation means for them and to ensure that public bodies are on track each year to achieve this. Collaborative approaches to organisational and service design and change will be important. In line with this, SSN would be keen to see, in the evolution of the RPP, a recognition of the importance of local authorities and other public bodies in determining climate change solutions that are appropriate for local circumstances.

SSN Comment 3: Adopting sustainable procurement is listed. Given SSN experience of working on sustainable procurement, the network can add value to national policy and delivery structures. Further work on assessing climate change factors within procurement is also needed, on a technical basis. SSN recognises that this is challenging and Scotland is not out of step with work in this area elsewhere, notably around GHG Protocol Scope 3 developments, product life-cycle assessments, and focuses on resource efficiency/circular economy models.

SSN Comment 4: The ambitions stated within the other chapters i.e. Energy, Homes and Communities, Transport, Waste and Resource Efficiency and Rural Land Use have implications for the public sector, particularly public

bodies with larger estates and influence on their wider area. SSN, working with Scottish Government and other stakeholders, is keen to continue to help improve understanding in order to determine the extent to which the public sector is expected to contribute towards these policy ambitions.

Using RPP2 to Inform Public Sector Climate Change Action

SSN co-ordinates local authority reporting on Scotland's Climate Change Declaration. Reports for financial year 2013-14 will be published in November 2014 and SSN will analyse these reports. This analysis will be used to generate recommendations for continuous improvements to reporting and will also help identify gaps in public sector action in meeting the RPP2 ambitions. The SCCD template³ makes explicit reference to the RPP and uses its chapter structure and policies and proposals to structure local authority reporting.

A significant focus moving forward will be to support public sector organisations in 'leading by example' on reducing their own, corporate emissions. SSN, working with a range of SSN members and stakeholders, including the Scottish Government and Resource Efficient Scotland, is working to provide support on this. This includes links to improved reporting of corporate emissions, training and guidance, sharing good practice and supporting leadership initiatives. The Scottish Government's Sustainability Reporting Guidance has been key to setting a common approach on corporate emissions reporting.

The Area-Wide Emissions section of the SCCD reports could be strengthened further by detailing the full list of RPP2 policies, proposals and programmes (including funding streams) that public sector bodies can use to guide and inform local scale mitigation activities. SSN has already been working with SSN members and technical specialists to better understand the alignment of the RPP2 and DECC emissions data for local authority areas with local, public sector climate change activities, plans and data sets. SSN published an online area-wide emission toolkit, which includes three briefing papers and a video of a training session. Further work on understanding public sector roles in delivering the RPP across Scotland would be useful and something that SSN would be interested in playing a role in. Future iterations of the RPP should also address how to devolve decision making to allow local authorities and other public bodies to determine solutions for tackling climate change that are appropriate at a local level.

Public sector organisations are also making progress by developing 'sustainable energy action plans' or similar area-based strategies. Access to improve local data on energy, transport, waste and land use change will be important as this work moves forward. Likewise, capacity building on the issue of carbon assessment of plans and project will be required. SSN's role in

³ <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/media/427981/2013-14-template-update.docx>

sharing good practice and providing training, advice and guidance can be used to provide much of this support.

Public Sector Climate Change Reporting – The Local Government Experience

As mentioned above, SSN co-ordinates Scotland's Climate Change Declaration (SCCD), a voluntary commitment by Scottish Local Authorities to annually report their progress on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Using a template provided by SSN, local authorities report on:

- The Governance, Leadership and Management of Climate Change within their organisation
- Corporate Emissions and climate change action within their estate
- Area-wide emissions and the wider influence the local authority has in their region
- Adapting to a changing climate
- Partnership working and communications

In 2013, 100% of Scottish Local Authorities submitted a SCCD Reports to SSN demonstrating real commitment to the process. SSN conducted analysis on the Reports to generate recommendations to improve future reporting. A copy of the Year 5 Analysis Report can be downloaded [here](#).

SSN utilised these recommendations to develop a new SCCD reporting template for the 13/14 reporting year, available [here](#) and attached to this briefing. The template kept the 5 reporting areas as outlined above but within this overall structure it was improved to align with the Scottish Government's Sustainability Reporting Guidance and Adaptation Scotland's 5 Steps to Managing your Climate Risk programme, and developed to include reporting on the Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-27: The Second Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP2) ambitions within the Area-Wide section of the template.

SSN conducted two rounds of consultation with SSN members to ensure that the template generated was well suited to local authorities whilst ensuring improvement to the level of detail reported. To date, several SSN members have sent completed drafts to SSN and the vast majority of local authorities have confirmed they are on track to meet the November 2014 submission deadline.

The SSN team at KSB will be analysing the reports submitted in November to provide assessment, feedback and recommendations for improvement. This will feed into the work at national level on improved public sector reporting across the approximately 140 Major Players as referenced in the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Guidance.

Public Sector Reporting – Moving Forward

SSN recognises a growing interest in developing consistent climate change reporting for the group of Major Players identified in the Public Bodies Duties

Guidance. SSN welcomes this interest and we are working to play a positive role in developing forward plans for public sector reporting.

SSN would recommend that the development of public sector reporting be informed by the following principles. Reporting should be:

- Designed to support learning, performance improvement and the better delivery of climate change good practice, including scope to empower public sector organisations to set targets and ambitions that are organisationally and geographically appropriate.
- Fit for purpose, effective and efficient, including being designed to reduce reporting burdens on public sector staff – recognising that the public sector is not homogenous and public sector organisations are at different stages of maturity.
- Informed by recognised professional standards, such as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.
- Built on established good practice, such as the SCCD and the Public Sector Sustainability Guidance.
- Developed collaboratively with stakeholders and users, to ensure that reporting is effective and efficient.
- Inclusive of quantitative and qualitative information – to avoid the unintended consequences of focusing narrowly on high-level numbers without understanding the drivers and dynamics within and outwith public sector organisations that influence these numbers.
- Supported by well-informed policy and technical guidance and suitably focused and resource capacity building and support programmes such as SSN.
- Reflective of the Duties contained within the Climate Change (Scotland) Act.
- Able to evolve over time to incorporate new methodologies, standards and scopes.

Work underway within Scotland, in which SSN is an active participant, points to Scotland having the ability to establish a robust and effective reporting regime which works well for public sector practitioners and which is world leading in terms of public sector climate change reporting.

SSN Conference 2014 – Talking Tactics on Public Sector Climate Action

In addition to the support detailed above, SSN also organises an annual conference for public sector professionals. The 2014 Conference will be held in Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh on 25th November and is titled ‘Talking Tactics’. The Minister for Environment and Climate Change is due to open the conference.

The conference will engage public sector leaders, promote climate change good practice and provide delegates with tools, advice and guidance for taking forward climate change action. The conference will also allow delegates to help inform the forward plan for the SSN support services.

The Crown Estate

Background

1. The Crown Estate (a property portfolio owned by the Crown, but not the private property of HM the Queen) is one of the largest property owners in the UK and is independently managed in the UK by the Crown Estate Commissioners. The revenue from the Crown Estate is paid each year to HM Treasury and the Estate is formally accountable to the UK Parliament, to which it makes an annual report.

Scottish management team

2. Scotland is represented on The Crown Estate's Board by a Scottish Commissioner, currently Gareth Baird. Mr Baird is supported by a senior leadership team which comprises of—

- Esther Black leads on engagement, communication and corporate affairs;
- Alan Laidlaw heads up the Rural and Coastal portfolios including aquaculture, forestry and farming; and
- Ronnie Quinn is the Energy and Infrastructure lead, covering offshore wind, wave and tidal energy.

Scotland Report 2014

3. The Crown Estate in Scotland published its *Scotland Report 2014* earlier this year¹. The report includes a review of activities; a number of highlighted case studies; details of work in coastal communities; work towards supporting a sustainable aquaculture sector; and details of contributions to supporting a flourishing low carbon economy.

4. The report states that in 2013/14 a total of £13.6million was paid to HM Treasury by the Crown Estate in Scotland, making up just under 4% of the UK total. This was down slightly (0.7%) from the previous year which saw total revenue of £13.7m. Its current total property value is £267 million which represents 3% of the UK total. This is an increase of 12.5% compared to the previous year, which saw a property value of £237.3m.

5. The report also states that the Crown Estate has made a capital investment totalling £7.3 million in Scotland in 2013/14, compared to a capital investment of £9.6m the previous year. The report states that net investment in Scotland increased by 13.6% this year to £5m, and that greenhouse gas emissions reduced overall by 3%.

¹ The Crown Estate (2014). *Scotland Report 2014*. Available at: <http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/300060/scotland-report-2014.pdf>

RACCE scrutiny of the Crown Estate

6. The RACCE Committee has agreed to hold an annual evidence session throughout this session of Parliament following the publication each year of the Crown Estate's Scotland Report.

7. The Committee previously took evidence from the Crown Estate on 14 November 2012² and on 11 September 2013³.

8. At the session on 8 October 2014, members of the Committee are interested in pursuing the following areas of interest—

- **the current constitutional debate;**
- **marine renewables;**
- **Local Management Agreements;**
- **foreshore issues;**
- **moorings;**
- **community benefit from offshore wind and tidal power; and**
- **land ownership.**

Clerks

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

² Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee. Official Report 14 November 2012. Available at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7941&mode=pdf>.

³ Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee. Official Report 11 September 2013. Available at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8841&mode=pdf>.