



membership resources

Briefing 09/45 August 2009

Climate Change Delivery Plan

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and Email Contacts (Scotland)

CC: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts (England, Northern Ireland and Wales)

Key issues

The key sectors for abatement

The high level measures required in each sector to deliver the interim, 2020 targets in both 34% and 42% Scottish target

The four transformational outcomes required by 2030 to put Scotland on the right track to meet its 2050 target

Milestones and actions; and barriers and risks around implementation

Where the policy levers sit, e.g. at EU, UK or Scottish Government levels

A Report from the Scottish Government

1. Introduction

This briefing is intended to highlight some of the Scottish Government's major intentions regarding the Climate Change Delivery Plan, designed to allow Scotland to meet its statutory climate change targets.

The effect of climate change on ambient temperature is a global issue which threatens human life as well as natural resources such as water supplies and food production. It increases the risk of disease, flooding and also causes rising sea levels.

Scotland endures additional pressures upon the environment such as rising levels of consumption and increasing competition for natural resources such as fossil fuel, timber, water and land. As such, Scotland will need to reduce its environmental impact on both a local and global scale.

The Scottish Government would like to see Scotland become a leading nation in developing a sustainable way of life whilst reducing the impact it has on the environment. The Climate Change (Scotland Bill) commits Scotland to reduce its emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 with an interim target of at least 34% by 2020.

There will be positive outcomes and benefits for Scotland linked to the drive to reduce climate change. These could include economic opportunities in renewable energy's, technology export, manufacturing opportunities in marine energy and deep-water offshore wind power, as well as an increase in rural jobs in biomass and renewable heat. Due to its tidal and offshore wind resources, high skill levels and innovative businesses, Scotland has the potential to become the green energy capital of Europe, as well as a world leader in offshore renewable energy technology, plus carbon capture and storage. Improving efficiency could also reduce costs and promote competitiveness.

In order for targets to be reached, the legislation must be translated into everyday life. Businesses, the public sector, voluntary, community groups and individuals all have a role to play. Public understanding will be essential, the Scottish Government, its agencies and non-governmental partners will have to work together in order to explain what is needed as well as providing incentive. In order to reduce emissions, action will be required in transport, housing, business and land management, as well as other areas.

The public sector alone is a substantial purchaser and is in a position to potentially encourage the development of greener goods and services. It can demonstrate its commitment by ensuring that the whole of the public sector in Scotland pays full regard to the environmental consequences of the goods and services it buys and/or provides.

The following are some of the high level measures required to meet the interim statutory targets for 2020 as well as some of the measures of work required to be done

in order to prepare for the more radical changes required to be met before 2030, if emission targets are to be achieved by 2050.

Further information can be found on the Scottish Governments website: www.scotland.gov.uk

2. Main Proposals

There are already a number of actions that have been undertaken by the Scottish Government in order to begin to tackle climate change. These include, the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill, placing Scotland's commitment to reduce its emissions levels on a statutory footing, policy options and public spending decisions are helping to reduce carbon emissions, plus the funding for community renewable and micro-generation has tripled. The Scottish Government is also currently pursuing a zero waste policy that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Climate Challenge Fund is encouraging community action by making over £25million available for communities to pursue their own ideas, they are also providing a guide to improving sustainable procurement, encouraging public bodies throughout Scotland to source fresh, locally available produce, as well as this investments in Smarter Measures and public transport, in partnership with local authorities are encouraging more walking and cycling.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Bill requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emission year after year from 2010 until 2050, it aims to increase the rate of reduction from 2020 onwards to at least 3% per year and will specify more detailed annual targets in 2010 for each year until 2022.

Reducing emissions requires the following;

- Reduce energy use by decreasing demand whilst increasing the efficiency with which energy is used.
- Reduce the use of fossil fuels and produce more low carbon energy.
- Reduce consumption, particularly of products which emit greenhouse gases as part of their manufacture.
- Sequester carbon geologically and in soils and vegetation.

The main sectors targeted by the Delivery Plan are electricity demand and supply, heat demand and supply, transport, rural land use and waste. Greenhouse gas emission targets in Scotland, the UK and Europe are based upon the emissions that arise from the production of goods and services within a country, as such the Bill requires the Government to report on Scottish consumption of goods and services each year. This Delivery Plan is informed by the best available evidence, drawing upon the analysis of the UK Committee on Climate Change coupled with internal analysis by the Scottish Government.

Reducing emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels over the next 40 years will require quite radical change. Some sectors will find it difficult to reduce emissions by this extent without unacceptable changes in Scotland's social fabric or significant changes to consumer behaviour. As such, other sectors may have to go further.

There are four transformational outcomes aimed at by Government;

- A largely de-carbonised electricity generation sector by 2030.
- A largely de-carbonised heat sector by 2050.
- Almost complete de-carbonisation of road transport by 2050 with significant progress by 2030.
- A comprehensive approach to ensure that carbon (including the cost of carbon) is fully factored into strategic and local decisions about rural land use.

Evidence suggests that countries like Scotland can reduce demand and de-carbonise its energy supply, due to its rich natural resources and highly skilled workforce. The challenge is for Scotland to do this whilst maximising the economic opportunities that it may provide.

The statutory planning system also has an important role to play in climate change mitigation. Development plans, prepared by local authorities and national park authorities indicate where development should happen and where it should not. They also provide a basis for decisions about individual applications for planning permission.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment begins in April 2010 and will regulate emissions from large, non-energy-intensive commercial and public sector organisations which are not already covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme or Climate Change Agreements, (including local authorities and government departments). It is intended to create a general awareness of energy use in large organisations and to drive changes in behaviour and infrastructure.

Reducing wasteful use of energy can have significant savings for the public sector as well as commercial organisations. This year the Government will consult upon the Energy Efficiency Action Plan which will cover both electricity and heat use. It will encourage society and its organisations to take up potential benefits associated with using energy efficiently. Evidence suggests that one of the barriers to taking action is lack of knowledge, to address this issue, all households will be fitted with "*smart meters*" by 2020, which will provide real time information on energy consumption. Better understanding of both household and business electricity consumption can lead to approaches such as the use of dynamic pricing, (where the price is set by demand levels throughout the day), allowing for load balancing across the electricity grid.

In relation to heat energy, the Carbon Reduction Commitment will provide commercial businesses and public sector organisations with an incentive to reduce heating demand, as well as encouraging the use of lower carbon heat. The key actions

to be taken to tackle heat energy are improving boiler efficiency, improving insulation and the use of lower carbon sources to generate heat energy including waste industrial heat and other forms of combined heat and power. It is the intention that there will be a largely de-carbonised heat sector by 2050 with significant progress by 2030. The Scottish Government is also bringing forward a Home Insulation Scheme in order to increase the uptake of energy efficiency measures such as loft and cavity insulation. By the year 2020, all new houses built in Scotland will be low carbon.

Another significant sector that is scheduled to see change is the transport sector. It will contribute to the Scottish target with improvements in the energy efficiency of petrol and diesel vehicles, an increased uptake of hybrid and/or electric engines, plus supporting infrastructure. Reduced travel will be encouraged along with a shift towards less carbon-intensive modes of transport. Road space allocation, changes to the pattern of development in order to reduce the need to travel, efficient driving through improved driver behaviour and the use of sustainable bio-fuels. It is hoped there will also be a widespread uptake of improved vehicle efficiency in vans and HGVs. That there will be widespread adoption of eco-driving and there will be speed limit reductions on motorways.

The public sector in particular will be expected to lead by example in its vehicle procurement policies in making the transfer from conventional to hybrid and electric cars, priming the demand for electric charging infrastructure. It is planned that there will be almost complete decarbonisation of road transport by 2050 with significant progress by 2030. Increasing the use of electric cars and vans will mean the development of an electric charging infrastructure. It is perhaps important to note however that there are a number of potential stumbling blocks to be overcome. These include the cost to the public and private sector as well as the potential of failure of the main technology required and lack of public support.

Similarly, the waste sector will be expected to reduce emissions. The UK Government Landfill Tax is designed to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill, as are other key drivers such as funding, voluntary agreements with industry, producer responsibility legislation and advice on resource efficiency and waste prevention. Further reductions will be tackled through more waste prevention work, more recycling and further development of the use of anaerobic digestion in Scotland. Measures will include using public procurement to drive waste management outcomes.

3. Conclusion and APSE comment

If a successful delivery of emission reductions is to be achieved in the time scales intended, the Government believe that there will need to be changes in Scottish society, the Government itself, the public sector, businesses, voluntary and community groups and individuals as a whole. The Climate Challenge Fund may make such

changes socially acceptable whilst the Carbon Reduction Commitment will see an increasing number of businesses become subject to the effective management of heat energy.

How well Scotland can deliver upon these pledges may depend on the level of co-operation that takes place the co-ordination of policy approaches with the UK and EU Parliaments. It is important to note however, that the aim of the Scottish Government bringing forward the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill is a desire for Scotland to demonstrate a strong leadership and to even influence others within the international community. The engagement strategy will need to consider how the Scottish Government can galvanise support and action from others in the global effort to tackle climate change.

APSE recognises the importance of battling the effects of climate change in order to protect the natural environment and its importance in relation to the overall health and quality of life of people in general. Any action designed to address this issue is welcomed by APSE. This report suggests that local authorities would be expected to lead by example, whilst this move should be encouraged it is perhaps important to note however that costs, particularly under the current financial climate could be a serious issue and impact upon local authorities overall delivery outcomes. APSE would hope that while intent on becoming a European leader in relation to tackling climate change, any planned actions by the Scottish Government would take into account financial restraints and make use of the kind of best value practices, currently exercised within many council service areas today.

APSE would welcome any comments to this, which should be sent to gmooney@apse.org.uk

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