



WWF Scotland
Little Dunkeld, Dunkeld
Perthshire PH8 0AD

Tel: 01350 728200
Fax: 01350 728201
ISDN: 01350 728276
wwfscotland.org.uk

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

14 September - Scottish Government debate: Economic Strategy

WWF Scotland welcomes the opportunity to brief members in advance of this debate. Sustainable development requires us to operate within the environmental limits of our One Planet. Our economic system has an important role to play in securing a future where we live within these limits. With the right framework and approach, Scotland can establish a sustainable economy that ensures a good quality of life, wellbeing and healthy environment for all. Tackling climate change and improving resource efficiency are significant aspects of securing a 'One Planet' future.

- WWF Scotland welcomes that the commitment to add the 'Transition to a Low Carbon Economy' as a Strategic Priority. Scotland's whole economy must become a green economy. As part of this, a transition programme to provide support, training and skills development for all those currently employed in areas incompatible with a low carbon and resource efficient Scotland into alternatives should be established.
- If we are to deliver our emissions reduction targets as established in the Scottish Climate Change Act, the Government must identify and support activity across all key sectors critical to its delivery. High levels of resource efficiency are also key to address unsustainable levels of consumption and ensure future economic success and human well-being.
- To date, much of the 'green job' focus has been on renewables. Opportunities across many other sectors such as home energy efficiency, public transport, food production and waste prevention have not been sufficiently articulated, supported or stimulated.
- The Government Economic Strategy places too much emphasis on 'sustainable economic growth' as the goal and GDP as proxy of success. Other important aspects of progress and prosperity relating to environmental and social goals and underpin our long-term prosperity are inadequately reflected.

Transition to a low carbon, resource efficient economy

WWF Scotland welcomes the inclusion of the 'Transition to a Low Carbon Economy' as a Strategic Priority in the Government's Economic Strategy. We believe that in order to realise the Government's ambitions, Scotland's whole economy must become a green economy. This requires a transition programme of support, training and skills development to ensure the whole of the Scottish economy makes this necessary shift.



Director of WWF Scotland: Dr Richard Dixon
President: HRH Princess Alexandra,
The Hon Lady Ogilvy KG, GCVO
Chair: Ed Smith
Chief Executive: David Nussbaum

WWF-UK a charity registered in England and Wales number 1081247 and in Scotland number SC039593, a company limited by guarantee registered in England number 4016725. VAT number 733 761821. 100% recycled paper
Registered office: Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR

We believe therefore that the Economic Strategy should support activity in all sectors to deliver the measures set out in the Government's Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP) under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act. Scotland's commitment to reduce our global footprint and work towards a zero waste future will require a step change in our approach to resource use and resource efficiency, which must also be reflected in our Economic Strategy.

It is also important that the Government's commitment to a low carbon economy - and to the delivery of the climate change act - is reflected in its forthcoming Spending review and Draft Budget for 2012-13.

Green jobs - beyond renewables

WWF Scotland supports the Government's ambition on renewable energy, however, to date, insufficient attention has been given to other important sectors that have a big role to play in delivering our Climate Act *and* offer huge economic opportunities for Scotland. In its Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP), Scottish Ministers noted the potential for low carbon activity to grow to 10% of the Scottish economy by 2015, with 130,000 jobs in the low carbon sector by 2020. This figure covers sectors such as housing, transport, forestry, waste etc.

WWF Scotland believes equivalent focus should be directed at supporting and stimulating economic activity in all sectors, particularly investment in home energy efficiency and sustainable transport. Scotland's homes, for example, are responsible for over 25% of our climate emissions, and a comprehensive national programme to improve the efficiency of our existing homes could support 10,000 jobs.

Sustainable development, not just growth in GDP

WWF Scotland believes that improved quality, activity, stability and strength of the economy are more important than simply increasing its size. We believe the current emphasis on growth in GDP comes at the expense of achieving truly sustainable development. An increasingly large and robust body of research confirms that, beyond a certain threshold, further increases in material wealth as measured by GDP do not translate into increased well-being in terms of community cohesion, healthy relationships, knowledge, wisdom, sense of purpose, connection with nature, and other dimensions of human happiness.

The Government's National Performance Framework – a framework adopted in 2007 for guiding policy-making and measuring Scotland's progress – is currently undergoing a refresh. WWF Scotland and other organisations such as Oxfam Scotland and Friends of the Earth Scotland believe this is a unique opportunity to engage in a debate about how we want our success to be measured. We therefore call on MSPs to use this opportunity to call for a refreshed framework that puts greater emphasis on social and environmental factors that underpin our long-term prosperity and ability to flourish.

WWF has produced a briefing with Oxfam Scotland and Friends of the Earth Scotland to input into the debate on revising the National Performance Framework.

http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/npf_briefing.pdf

Contact	Eva Groeneveld
Email/Tel	egroeneveld@wwfscotland.org.uk / 07766 150944
Date	12 September 2011

Download Parliamentary Briefings at wwfscotland.org.uk/holyrood