



WWF

BRIEFING

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# BUILDING A POSITIVE VISION OF A LOW CARBON SCOTLAND

## Scotland

## ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE

WWF Scotland is pleased to brief for the debate on energy and climate change. In this briefing, we outline the need to refocus our efforts on meeting the targets under the Climate Change Scotland Act and the role that unconventional gas plays within this.

### IPCC conclusions on climate change

Now more than ever, the world needs examples of where climate change legislation is making an impact, so we hope that Scotland remains committed to implementing its Climate Act with the right policies to achieve the necessary emissions cuts. We must listen to and take heed of the IPCC's findings and key messages and inject a sense of urgency into Scotland's climate debate, putting us on course to delivering our high climate change ambitions.

### The Scottish Climate Change Act - annual targets

Having rightly attracted the attention of the world for its ambitious Climate Change Act and its commitment to climate justice, it's critical that the Scottish Government and Parliament now fulfil the promises under the Act and reap the benefits presented by the low-carbon transition.

However, due to a number of reasons including insufficient policy delivery and funding, inventory changes and cold weather, the first two targets under the Act have been missed. In June 2014, we are likely to learn whether the third target (for 2012) will have been missed. A missed target is not simply a mark on a scorecard, it is a volume of emissions emitted into the atmosphere causing damage to our climate, and accumulating year on year. Each missed target erodes not only a sense of pride in our climate change ambition, but it also exposes the missed opportunities to make Scotland a better place.

The signals for the 2012 target so far are not good, with UK emissions having risen by 3% between 2011 and 2012. A third missed target would send a dangerous signal at a time when the world needs examples of climate change laws achieving success.

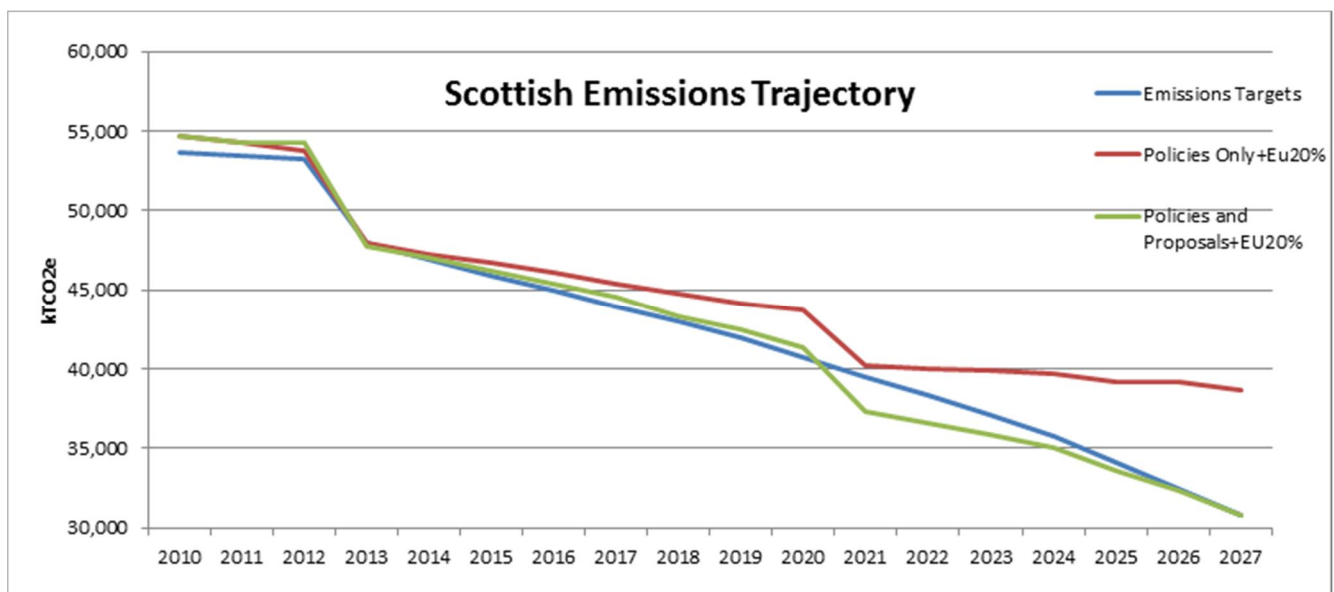
## Achieving multiple wins

We think Scotland can be a global exemplar in low carbon living, implementing policies that bring about warmer homes, better transport and cleaner energy. Building a low carbon Scotland will reap many rewards, not just for the world's climate, but also for people's wellbeing.

Many of the policies contained within the Government's climate change action plan, the RPP2, will deliver benefits across Scotland; green jobs; warmer homes; better public transport; cleaner air; a better environment for all. For example, WWF Scotland has already outlined the benefits of three policies to Scotland – on renewable heat, on minimum standards in existing homes and on travel planning schemes [<http://bit.ly/RjYPeO>].

## Exhausting all policy options

It is our view that the Scottish Government has not exhausted its policy options on this agenda, and we must see a concerted effort to develop and implement new policies to reduce emissions across the economy. The graph below, using data from Government's RPP2 (Report on Proposals & Policies), shows that more effort is needed to stay below the blue 'target' line. The red 'business as usual' line is not an option to meet our climate targets.



This concern was echoed by the UK Committee on Climate Change in its 2014 report where it recommended a number of areas in need of stronger policy action, including more funding for home insulation schemes, more effort on renewable heat and scaling up pilot projects in transport and agriculture.

The UKCC has suggested two options of meeting future targets; recasting or revising current targets to allow for changes in inventory; or adapting to the inventory change by finding additional emissions reductions over and above those identified in RPP2. WWF Scotland believes the Parliament must defend the currently legislated targets and find new policies to meet the challenge. We must get to a point that we can clearly identify the fingerprint of Government policy on Scotland's emissions trajectory.

## Examples from other countries

There are a number of countries that are already implementing emissions-cutting policies that we think could be developed in Scotland. The GLOBE report, published in February 2014 showed that almost 500 climate laws have been passed in the 66 countries covered by the study. Key progress in 2013 includes:

- El Salvador's National Climate Change Strategy
- China's National Adaptation Plan
- Jordan's National Climate Change Policy
- Kenya's 2013-2017 Climate Change Action Plan

Importantly, developing nations are not standing idly by waiting for climate change impacts to overwhelm their infrastructure or livelihoods. We're already witnessing a geographic shift in renewable energy investment, with China now the world's biggest renewables investor spending more in 2013 than European countries combined.

## Unconventional gas extraction - incompatible with Scottish climate change ambitions

In moving to a decarbonised energy system, we need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels rather than encouraging new fossil fuel sources into the market. WWF Scotland is therefore very concerned that by opening up a Pandora's box for new unconventional gas, we are paving the way for locking in a high-carbon pathway at a time when we need to develop an exit strategy from fossil fuels.

Recently, the IEA sent a strong warning to the global community stating that rather than expanding the fossil reserve base, the world needs to leave about two thirds of the presently existing commercially viable reserves in the ground in order to stay below the 2 degree limit of dangerous climate change. Those "reserves" still exclude to a large extent those "unconventional" shale gas and shale oil "resources" that increasingly enter the reserve base resulting from technological progress. Furthermore, while WWF Scotland supports the testing of CCS technology on existing power stations, building in a reliance on CCS to secure the decarbonisation of the power sector is a very high-risk approach.

Scotland's commitments to meet its obligations under the Climate Change Act, its international reputation for climate change, its policy to decarbonise the energy system by 2050 and its 100% renewables target will seriously lack credibility if Scotland were to go down the route of facilitating or encouraging an alternative fossil fuel. WWF Scotland urges the Scottish Government to use planning regulations to rule out its exploitation on Scottish soil.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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