



# Scottish Climate Change Rally

## SUPPORTER BRIEFING



**Date: Wednesday 22 April 2009**

**Time: Midday – 2pm**

**Place: Outside the Scottish Parliament**

2009 is a pivotal time for climate change legislation. We are counting down to the talks in Copenhagen in December where world leaders will agree on future global emissions reductions. For many, this is seen as our last chance to get the world's greenhouse gas emissions under control – if we don't manage it this time we may have to deal with the devastating future consequences of runaway climate change.

Scotland's Climate Change Bill could act as a lever in negotiations. It is due to become an Act just before Copenhagen, so could set the example for other countries to follow. Scotland could lead the way.

With a target of 80% reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, our Bill is pretty strong, but it still needs toughening to give it more urgency. So we need to influence our MSPs to make sure they propose and vote for amendments that sharpen up the Bill.

The Rally seeks to demonstrate to MSPs the widespread public support for a stronger Bill – so we need as many people as possible to turn up and show MSPs that people in Scotland really care.

### **What's happening?**

The rally is being held on a Wednesday because this is when most MSPs will be sitting in Parliament. We need them to understand the strength of public support for a strong Scottish Climate Change Bill so when they come to vote in the first parliamentary debate on the Bill (the "Stage One" debate) - which will be soon after the Rally – they will vote in favour of a strong Bill.

The rally will start at midday and go on til 2pm. Come to all or part of this **but the crucial time is between 1 – 1.30pm** as that's when we'll call the MSP photoshoot, so that's when we need most people.

You will be able to:

- 'Plant some people' to symbolise the thousands of people in Scotland who want a strong Bill
- Hear a short talk from Mike Robinson, Chair of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (at 12.30pm) and Patrick Harvie MSP, Convener of the committee which is scrutinising the Bill (at 1pm)
- Enjoy some climate change-themed performance art including stilt-walkers
- Meet with MSPs as well as staff and supporters from the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition, who will be mingling in the crowd.

The rally is being held by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) - a diverse, growing coalition of organisations campaigning on climate change. The SCCS Coalition has over 30 Scottish members, representing more than 1.5 million supporters, including environment, faith and development organisations, trade unions, community activists, and women's and students' groups. For more information, visit [www.stopclimatechaosscotland.org](http://www.stopclimatechaosscotland.org)

### **Tell your MSP you're coming!**

All MSPs will be encouraged to come out of the parliament to see what's happening and be part of a photoshoot, demonstrating their own support for a strong Scottish Climate Change Bill. They will receive a letter from Stop Climate Chaos about the event, but there's nothing like a letter from their constituents to persuade them!

So why not send a letter or email to your MSPs saying that you'll be there and you hope they will join in too? You have one constituency and seven regional MSPs and you can find out who they are and their contact details using the Scottish Parliament's postcode finder at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/msp/membersPages/MSPAddressPostcodeFinder.htm>

### **What to bring**

- Check out the weather forecast and wrap up accordingly – bring a brolly in case of those April showers!
- Your cardboard 'person to plant' if you have one prepared (download from the SCCS website). We will have plenty on the day for you to colour in and write on, and some sticks for you to fix them on so you can plant them.
- Banners/flags from your own organisations – some will be provide on the day.
- You may want to bring a snack and hot drink to keep you going and, if you are on any medication, make sure you bring it.
- If you are bringing children, please keep a close eye on them at all times. Make sure they carry your mobile number.

## How to get there

The Scottish Parliament building is located in the Holyrood area of central Edinburgh at the foot of the Royal Mile near to the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

More detailed information and a map can be found on the Scottish Parliament's website at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/visitingHolyrood/howToFindUs.htm>

## What improvements do we want in this Bill?

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland commends the Scottish Government for showing leadership and committing to at least 80% cuts in greenhouse gases by 2050 in the Bill. However, if we are to really tackle climate change, we need to act urgently so there are two main things that the Bill needs to address:

- statutory annual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 3% year on year **starting now**
- the inclusion of emissions from international aviation and shipping **from the beginning**.

### 1. An 80% reduction by 2050

**This commitment is already in the draft Bill and the Scottish Government should be commended for showing leadership on this.**

It is imperative that this target remains in the Bill. There is a strong scientific rationale for this target. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to stand even a 50% chance of avoiding a rise of 2°C - widely accepted as the "danger threshold" of global warming - we must stabilise atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent at 400-450ppm. We have already reached 430ppm, and the window of opportunity for taking the necessary action is shrinking every day. Scotland's fair share of global efforts to avoid a 2°C rise means reducing our emissions at least 80% by 2050.

### 2. Statutory annual targets of 3% emissions reductions

**The draft Bill proposes delaying annual targets of at least 3% until 2020. Because of the urgent need to reduce emissions, this annual target should start immediately.**

The 2050 target is an important goal but, in order for it to be meaningful, it must be matched by a commitment to year-on-year reductions of at least 3% **from the start**. This is imperative if we are to make early progress towards the 80% cut as well as demonstrating to other countries showing what can be done.

### 3. Inclusion of emissions from aviation and shipping

**The Bill says emissions from international aviation and shipping will only be included after more consultation and legislation. It is important that the Bill is absolutely clear that all emissions have to be included from the start, including those from aviation and shipping.**

Aviation is the fastest-growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK, and urgent action is required to put it on a more sustainable path. Since 1990, UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from aviation have risen by 125% and they are currently growing by between 5 and 10% a year. In Scotland, the contribution of international aviation has risen from around 5% of all greenhouse gases in 1990 to around 13% in 2004.

Although emissions from international aviation and shipping are not included in global climate agreements, states are required under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol to report them as a "memo item" and the IPCC publishes internationally-accepted guidelines on how to do this. The UK Government has for several years compiled and reported official figures for emissions from international aviation and shipping – based on fuel taken on-board at UK ports - for inclusion in our national greenhouse gas inventory. These official figures go back to 1990 and so disaggregated Scottish data could be used to include aviation emissions on the same basis as other sectors from the moment the Bill becomes law.

### **Further information**

More detailed briefings are available at: [www.stopclimatechaos/scotland](http://www.stopclimatechaos/scotland).

### **The fun bit**

To help MSPs understand the amount of support there is for a world-leading Scottish Climate Change Bill, we'll symbolise it by having thousands of 'people' planted near the parliament. We'll have plenty on the day for you to plant – but you may like to personalise your own in advance to make it stand out from the crowd, and bring others on behalf of family or friends. And if you can't make it – don't worry - just send us your 'people' and we'll plant them for you!

1. Print out the next page.
2. If you have some, stick the person onto some card and cut your figure out
3. Colour it in, add glitter – what ever you like to make it stand out from the crowd
4. Add your name and town - and a message to your MSP about climate change and why you think we need a strong Scottish Climate Change Bill.
5. Get all your friends and family to do the same
6. Bring them along to the rally – and we'll give you a stick so you can plant it.
7. If you can't make it, just send back your figures by post or by email to:

Gail Wilson  
SCCS Co-ordinator  
c/o RSPB Scotland HQ  
Dunedin House  
25 Ravelston Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH4 3TP

Or [gail.wilson@rspb.org.uk](mailto:gail.wilson@rspb.org.uk)

For further information please contact:

**Gail Wilson**, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Co-ordinator  
c/o RSPB Scotland, 25 Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 3TP Tel: 0131 311 6500 Fax: 0131 311 6569  
Email: [gail.wilson@rspb.org.uk](mailto:gail.wilson@rspb.org.uk)

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is a growing coalition of organisations campaigning on climate change. SCCS brings together environment, faith and development organisations, trade unions, community activists, and women's and students' groups.

**Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is a charity, registered in Scotland, no SC039643**