

Response to DEFRA Consultation on the draft Climate Change Bill June 2007

We are writing as members of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and Scottish Environment LINK, Climate Change Task Force, in response to the above consultation.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland¹ is a wide-ranging coalition of environment and development organisations, unions, faith and community groups, campaigning to limit climate change. Scottish Environment LINK is the network for Scotland's voluntary sector environmental organisations.²

We fully support the submission from Stop Climate Chaos, at a UK level and wish to add a number of supplementary points concerning the Scottish perspective. As there are only a few points, we have chosen to present these in a letter rather than completing the consultation proforma, although we have identified the consultation questions our responses relate to.

Question 1 – Setting Statutory targets

The Scottish Executive has given a commitment to producing a Climate Change Bill with mandatory carbon reduction targets of at least 3% per annum and a longer term target to cut carbon dioxide emissions by a minimum of 80% by 2050 and we urge the UK Government to include the same level of targets in the UK Climate Change Bill.

Question 15 membership and composition of the Committee on Climate change

It is imperative the devolved administrations are adequately represented on the UK Committee, and that conditions in devolved countries are considered fully during its analysis and deliberations, if the Bill is to create a truly effective UK framework for action. The UK Committee should contain representatives appointed from Scotland and should cover all matters under the responsibility of the Westminster Government. With the development of a Scottish Climate Change Bill we would ask

¹ www.stopclimatechaosscotland.org

² www.scotlink.org

for a similar Scottish Committee to be set up to advise the Scottish Parliament on devolved matters. Both sets of legislation would have to make reference to the need for each Committee to seek advice on the implications of any proposals on reserved or devolved matters.

Other Responses or Comments

The UK Government should develop its targets in full consultation with devolved administrations and ensure adequate representation on the Committee for Climate Change. Additional legislation at country level will be required by devolved administrations who may wish to set more ambitious targets, or make provision for specific mitigation measures. In designing the provisions of the UK Bill, therefore, due consideration should be given both to ensuring that a minimum level of emission reduction is guaranteed at the UK level; and to safeguarding the ability of devolved administrations to adopt different approaches to delivery, and/or go beyond the minimum targets set at the UK level.

We also believe that civil society stakeholders should be involved in the passage of the UK and Scottish Bills and ensure continued engagement afterwards, particularly in monitoring and reporting on implementation.

UK reporting structures on carbon emissions will also have to be designed to allow disaggregation of the information at a devolved level and have the flexibility to inform progress on the different programmes operating at the devolved level.

Clifton Bain

On behalf of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and Scottish Environment LINK, Climate Change Task Force

12 June 2007