

## **20% Reduction of Car-kms – an introduction**

The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan update, published on 16 December 2020, included a commitment to reduce car kilometres by 20% by 2030, from a 2019 baseline<sup>1</sup>. Transport Minister Greame Dey announced that a plan for achieving this reduction would be published by the end of 2021.

### **Background**

Transport is just under 40% of Scotland's total greenhouse gas emissions, and cars are the single biggest contributor. It will be impossible to achieve emissions reductions without moving away from private car use. However, policy-making has encouraged car use for decades. Significant changes will be needed to achieve the 20% reduction.

### **What measures are already in place?**

Very few policies have been introduced to introduce car use in Scotland. An increase in funding for active travel infrastructure – from a very low base – will eventually translate into modal shift from cars to walking and cycling for short journeys in built-up areas. Low Emission Zones in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Dundee are very small areas that will exclude tiny numbers of cars.

There are huge opportunities to change our transport system, especially in our biggest cities and towns.

### **What measures are being advocated for?**

Friends of the Earth Scotland has been advocating for an end to trunk road expansion, taking public transport back into public hands and running it as an essential service, and making changes to the planning system, which would prevent out-of-town retail parks and car-dependent residential developments.

### **Where do we need to make an impact?**

Car-use reduction is not about limiting anyone's access. Clearly there are many journeys that will always need to be made in a private car, such as some people with disabilities and people who live in rural areas.

This is about moving as many journeys as possible to sustainable transport. This will centre on short journeys in built-up areas and intercity journeys.

Friends of the Earth Scotland advocates more powers for councils; city councils will need a broad palette of tools while rural councils may not need to use many of them.

### **What happens next?**

The plan will be scrutinised by MSPs and will be out for consultation, most likely 12 weeks. It is worth noting this runs parallel to the National Planning Framework consultation, which has the capacity to deliver powers to city councils to end our car-centric transport system.

Friends of the Earth Scotland will be running online briefings to explain these plans in more detail. Contact Gavin (below) if you'd like to be included.

For more info, contact:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2020/12/16/back-to-the-future-reducing-car-travel-in-scotland/>