

Scotland Policy Conferences:

Next steps for climate policy in Scotland - the *Climate Change Plan*, adaptation and just transition

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 5th November 2026

Taking Place Online



SCOTLAND POLICY
CONFERENCES

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Science and evidence for the *Climate Change Plan* 2026-2040 - considerations for implementation, monitoring and policy development**
Professor Mat Williams, Chief Scientific Adviser, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, The Scottish Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **The *Climate Change Plan* - delivery choices, investment and just transition**
priorities for the first statutory carbon budget periods | sequencing measures across sectors and implications for businesses, public bodies and communities | near-term steps and measures dependent on developing technologies and infrastructure | monitoring progress, accountability and policy adjustment | investment conditions, planning, infrastructure and commercial risk | implications for established and emerging industries | skills, employment and workforce transition | local and regional economic benefits | affordability and the distribution of costs | coordination across national and local government | public and stakeholder engagement
Simon Kerr, Head, Heat Networks, Scotland and NI, SAV Systems
Andrew Walters, Senior Director, Turner & Townsend; and Doctoral Researcher, University of Aberdeen
Alan Wood, Director, Environment and Infrastructure Services, Aberdeenshire Council
Senior representative, finance
Senior representative, transport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Climate and environment commitments - implementation, oversight and accountability**
Mark Roberts, CEO, Environmental Standards Scotland
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Nature, climate and land use - priorities for biodiversity recovery in Scotland**
Stuart MacQuarrie, Director, Nature and Climate Change, NatureScot
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Place-based approaches to climate adaptation and biodiversity recovery**
Senior representative, local authority
- 11.50 **Climate adaptation, nature recovery and environmental governance**
implementation of the Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-2029 | Climate Ready Regions and place-based delivery | local authority funding, capacity and flexibility | flooding, coastal change and infrastructure resilience | Coastal Change Adaptation Plans and options for protection, adaptation and managed change | nature restoration targets and implementation of the Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2026 | implications for farming, crofting, forestry and land management | food production, rural livelihoods, housing and infrastructure development | environmental monitoring, enforcement and accountability | funding, investment and cross-sector responsibilities
Simon Jones, Director, Environment and Visitor Services, and Deputy CEO, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority
Elise Cartmell, Zero Emissions Lead, Scottish Water
Senior representative, biodiversity
Senior representative, wildlife
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Scotland's climate objectives and a just transition - priorities and next steps**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Scotland Policy Conferences