

## More money for the pedestrian and cyclist and less for the car please!



Walking and cycling ought to be among the first words on the paper when it comes to planning transport budgets. Yet the persistent impression given is that they are an irritating add on to the road transport budget. Currently only 1% of the Scottish Government's transport budget goes on walking and cycling.

Stop Climate Chaos works hard with coalition members such as Spokes, Transform Scotland and Sustrans to secure more funding for active travel options with benefits for health, safety and the environment.

If the Scottish Government is serious about delivering on its ambition for 10% of all journeys to be made by bike by 2020, 10% of the transport budget should be allocated to cycling and walking.

We wrote to the Scottish Government in August 2013, calling on Ministers to double the funding for walking and cycling to £40m in the 2014-15 Scottish Budget. Recently, an additional £20m over the next two years was announced, which is to be commended, but total investment is still under 1.5% of the transport budget. Other aspects of the budget mean that cycling and walking investment will fall again in 2015-16.

This new money is certainly a result of continuing interest in cycling particularly and increasingly vocal groups across Scotland coming together to press for change. Organisations like Spokes, Transform Scotland and Pedal on Parliament have given a focus for people who are concerned about these issues. This autumn, Stop Climate Chaos, with Spokes and others, continues to build momentum for that change.

### Take action

Email your MSPs today, calling for the budget for cycling and walking to be doubled next year and to increase each year thereafter until 10% of the total transport budget is allocated to active travel. **Go to [bit.ly/16t5nhK](http://bit.ly/16t5nhK) to take the action.**

We are also organising a gathering of concerned cyclists and pedestrians, to support this campaign, at **1pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013 outside the Scottish Government's offices at St Andrews House**, Regent Road, Edinburgh. More details and a report of the event will be available on our website: [www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland).

## Climate change is happening, action is needed now

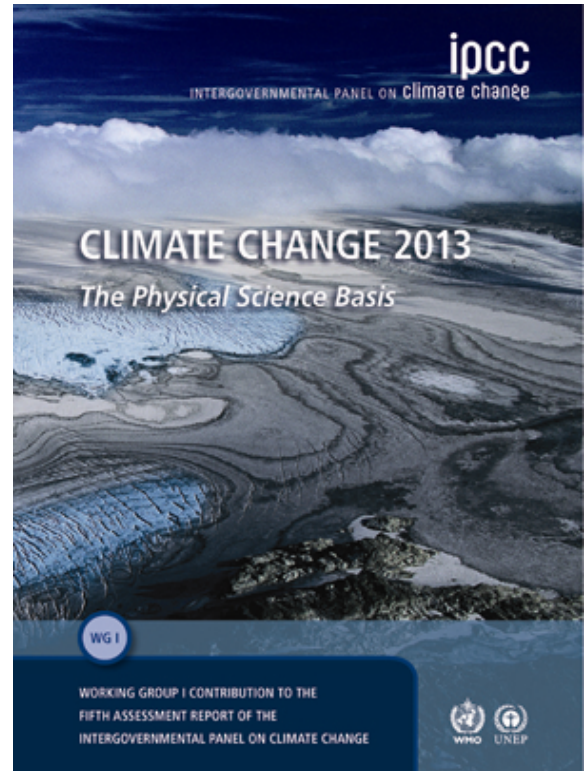
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the body set up by the United Nations to provide comprehensive assessments of the latest science on climate change, produced their 5<sup>th</sup> assessment report in September.

It confirmed that:

- warming of the climate is happening;
- there is a 95% probability that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century;
- each of the last three decades have been successively warmer at the earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850.

You can find the report at [www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1).

Climate change is being increasingly linked to changes in regional weather patterns and increasingly extreme and more frequent weather events. Without urgent action, the effects across the world on, amongst other things, food production, health and political stability are likely to be catastrophic.



Significant effort is required to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, including:

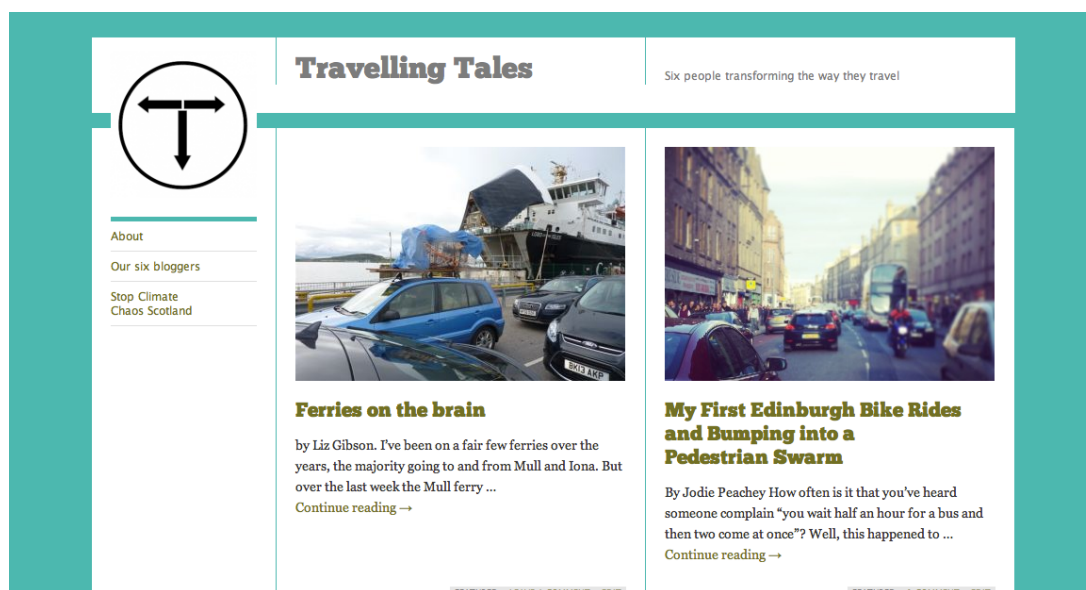
- A massive reduction in the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas);
- Reducing the amount of energy people use in their homes;
- A huge increase in the deployment of renewable energy;
- Less driving and flying, more walking and cycling.

A move to a green, sustainable economy could bring multiple benefits. The next two years leading up to a major UN climate change conference in Paris in 2015 will be critical. At that conference in 2015, it is anticipated that a new global deal on climate change, covering all countries, will be agreed.

Over the coming months, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland will give you opportunities to influence what happens. These will be publicised at [www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland).

## Reducing emissions, delivering climate justice

*Six bloggers, six weeks, one challenge: to change the way they travel*



Autumn 2013 sees the launch of a new project from Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.

A lively new blogging website – *Travelling Tales* - features regular blogs from a small group of people across Scotland taking on the challenge to switch to a more low carbon form of transport for six weeks.

Transport choices affect all of us. We all need to move about, whether that's popping down to the shops, commuting to work, taking children to school or going on holiday. Everyone uses transport in one form or another. The travel choices we make have an impact on the environment, including our individual and collective carbon footprints.

The Travelling Tales website will share some real life stories about transport choices. Our bloggers are sharing their experiences of starting to use low carbon forms of transport, highlighting the highs as well as the lows.

Follow the blog at [www.travellingtales.org](http://www.travellingtales.org) and on Twitter @TravelTalesScot.

## What is Stop Climate Chaos Scotland?

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is the largest ever coalition of Scottish civil society. Our membership is drawn from across the Scottish community: faith groups, trade unions, environment, education and international development groups and, of course, cycling groups including Spokes.

## Why campaign together?

We believe we can achieve more together than we can apart. We campaign for national and international action on climate change, the defining issue of our time.

## Stop Climate Chaos Scotland successes?

- 2009** The Scottish Parliament passes the strongest climate change legislation in the world, in large part as a result of pressure from civil society. Over 8,000 people gather in Glasgow, calling for global action on climate change.
- 2011** We encourage all political parties to increase their commitment to action on climate change at the Scottish parliamentary elections.
- 2012** The Scottish Climate Justice Fund is launched, providing much-needed funding for people in developing countries who are already suffering from the impacts of climate change, such as more frequent and severe droughts and floods. We organise a demonstration in Edinburgh, called 'On Yer Bike!', which helps reverse planned cuts to active travel in Scottish Government's 2012/13 budget.



## What's next?

Scotland has world-leading targets for reducing emissions and ambitious targets for creating renewable energy. Scotland must deliver on its climate commitments and ensure emissions reduce year on year in line with the Scottish Climate Change Act.

We also need other countries to commit to ambitious emissions reductions and to deliver climate justice for those in developing countries who are already suffering the impacts of climate change.

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Stop Climate Chaos is a charity, registered in Scotland, number SCO39643