

Keith Brown MSP
Minister for Transport and Veterans
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

19th March 2012

Dear Mr Brown,

Significant changes needed to transport plans to reduce emissions

We are writing to you today to express our deep concern about the lack of credibility of the transport elements the Scottish Government's draft plan to reduce climate emissions. In particular, we are alarmed at the complete absence of any Scottish 'policies' in the plans to reduce emissions from transport.

The plan to meet climate emissions targets is a key test of the Government's commitment to the environment and on the degree to which it takes seriously the ambitions enshrined in the Scottish Climate Change Act. Given that transport accounts for a quarter of Scotland's emissions, and that emissions from that sector are higher now than they were in 1990, the baseline year, emissions from transport must be addressed as a matter of priority.

In a recent Parliamentary Committee meeting about this, you said: "We are using all the levers that are available under our devolved powers and resources to tackle the challenge of transport emissions abatement." There are a range of actions that the Scottish Government could take to significantly reduce emissions from this sector, which could also deliver huge economic, public health and quality of life benefits.

We cannot achieve the longer-term emissions targets to reduce emissions by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 without a significant shift in how people travel. We call upon you to amend the transport section of the Government's climate change plan to ensure that Scotland retains credibility in its climate change efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Richard Dixon
Director of Friends of the Earth Scotland

John Lauder
Director of Sustrans Scotland

Dr David Brennan
on behalf of Pedal on Parliament

Colin Howden
Director of Transform Scotland

Dave du Feu
Lead Organiser of Spokes

Lang Banks
Director of WWF Scotland

Tom Ballantine
Chair of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland