

## **Overview of parliamentary reception: Scotland United for Climate Action**

6-8pm, 7th January 2025 - Holyrood room ... Hosted by Ben Macpherson MSP

*With addressing the climate crisis one of the Scottish Government's top 4 priorities and a new Climate Change Plan being developed during 2025, this reception, hosted by Ben Macpherson MSP with Scotland's climate coalition, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, provides a timely opportunity to hear from communities across Scotland who are taking climate action, and details of the latest research that shows the strong public support for action.*

### Attendees:

- MSPs and their staff, SPICe and other Parliamentary staff
- SCCS members and Board members
- Scottish Government officials
- Stakeholders from agencies, academia
- Community groups and campaigners

### Stallholders/displays:

Showcasing action being taken across SCCS's priority sectors for action and parts of the country:

1. Energy - Community Energy Scotland + Islay Energy Trust
2. Food - Nourish Scotland
3. Transport - Cycling UK + Spokes
4. Heating - WWF Scotland
5. International - Christian Aid Scotland photo exhibition
6. SCCS - info stand
7. Circular economy - FoES + Circular Communities Scotland

### **Running order:**

6.00 Arrivals, networking, photo opportunities, visit stalls, refreshments served

#### 6:45 **Ben Macpherson MSP**

##### *Suggested content:*

- Welcome (including any Parliamentary requirements/logistics)
- Introduce panel of speakers in turn – see biographies in annex.
- Brief comments on context of the climate crisis
- Overview of Scottish Government support for community climate action
- Priorities for 2025

#### 6:50 **Dr Alasdair Allan, Acting Minister for Climate Action**

##### *Suggested content:*

- How the Scottish Government is approaching climate action in a way that retains this public support and delivers co-benefits to both rural and urban parts of Scotland and ensures we bring people with us to reduce backlash and polarisation
- What the Scottish Government is doing to support communities to take action
- Approach to the new Climate Change Plan, engagement with communities and stakeholders
- Climate commitments relating to key sectors

#### 7.00 **Emma James, Researcher, Climate Outreach - slides TBC**

- Overview of Climate Outreach's research into public attitudes towards climate action in Scotland
- Plans for new research in 2025

#### 7:10 **Zarina Ahmad, Climate Change Communicator and PhD Researcher, Co-Director, Women's Environmental Network - slides**

- Common pitfalls with community engagement
- Key principles, time and resources for meaningful community engagement; examples from Zarina's work

#### 7.20 **Mike Robinson, Chair, SCCS**

- SCCS priorities for 2025, opportunities for action
- Overview of new SCCS 'Scotland United for Climate Action' campaign

#### 7.25 **Closing remarks - Ben Macpherson MSP**

##### *Suggested content:*

- Draw out some key points/reflections on the speakers
- Remind about visiting stalls
- Thanks to speakers and to all for attending

Until 8pm Networking, photo opportunities, visit stalls, refreshments served

8-8:30 Stalls and room pack u

## **Speakers' biographies**

### **Emma James**

#### **Researcher, Climate Outreach**

Emma joined Climate Outreach in December 2021 as a Researcher following her completion of an MSc International Environmental Studies degree at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. As a Researcher, Emma focuses on helping to design and disseminate social science research for various climate communicators including Local Authorities and Grassroots Campaigners. As part of this role, Emma also leads workshops and training sessions to share learnings on understanding audiences, and what works best for public engagement with climate change.



### **Zarina Ahmad**

#### **Climate Change Communicator and PhD Researcher at University of Manchester, Co-Director, Women's Environmental Network**

One of the mighty women on Woman's Hour's 2020 Our Planet Power List, Zarina previously founded the Ethnic Minority Environmental Network, leading the charge for increasing participation in environmentalism in Scotland. Zarina has dedicated herself to creating pathways for under-represented groups to belong to the environmental sector – increasing not only a diversity of people, but a diversity of ideas by providing training and creating learning spaces.

Zarina is a researcher on a number of food justice projects, with the Just FACT programme, Nourish and University of Glasgow. At present Zarina is completing a PhD at Manchester University and heads Women's Environmental Network.



Zarina has a number of board positions including the Scottish Women's Budget Group, committee member of JRCT's Sustainable Futures Fund and is on the directorate team of Climate X Change and advisory board for CAST.

### **Dr Mike Robinson OBE**

#### **Chair, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland**

Mike was founding Chair of SCCS in 2006 (until 2010) and has been on the Board of SCCS for most of the past 18 years. He has been Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society since 2008. Through this role – and over the course of the last 30 years – Mike has been among the most active environmentalists in Scotland, involved in many major climate campaigns and initiatives of the past 20+ years.

Mike has held around 40 board roles with different organisations, and is currently an advisor to the Scottish Government, universities and a number of NGO boards, mostly in the spheres of sustainability, education, agriculture and transport.

