

Ministear airson na h-Àrainneachd  
Minister for Environment  
Roisin Chonaigean BPA  
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Patrick Harvie MSP  
Convener  
Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH991 SP

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Dear Patrick,

At the conclusion of the deliberations of the Short Life Working Group (SLWG) on Annual Targets, Stewart Stevenson, then Minister for Transport, infrastructure and Climate Change, committed to keeping Group members informed about the progress of initiatives and pilot projects which the Group had considered. While I appreciate that many of the members of the SLWG are also TICC Committee members I thought it would be helpful to write to the Committee separately on this. In recent months there have been a number of positive developments. These are summarised below, with links to further detail on the Scottish Government website where available.

- Scottish Green Bus Fund – we announced in November that an additional £1m would be allocated to the fund, taking total funding to £4.4m. The Fund incentivises the purchase of Low Carbon Vehicles (LCV) by funding up to 100% of the price difference between a LCV and its diesel equivalent. Fifty low carbon buses will enter the Scottish Bus Fleet as a result of the Fund.  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Transport/BusandTaxi/scottishgreenbusfund>
- Extending the infrastructure of the district heating network in Aberdeen - £1m of funding has been provided to Aberdeen Heat and Power to support the laying of highly insulated district heating pipes, plus additional generating capacity.

- Research on restoration of peatland landscape - £200,000 will be shared by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the RSPB to research peatland restoration. In particular we are funding work with SNH to develop an inventory of Scotland's carbon-rich soils and are supporting RSPB's peatland restoration work at Forsinard to examine different approaches and the associated benefits  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/12/14122804>
- Additional funding for the Energy Saving Scotland small business loans scheme – an additional £375,000 has been allocated to this scheme which encourage businesses to improve the energy efficiency associated with their buildings and processes. This takes total funding to £5.375m.
- Historic Scotland Energy Efficiency Pilot Refurbishment Projects – £170,000 has been allocated to support experimental pilots which investigate which interventions are appropriate for traditionally constructed buildings.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours



**ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM**