

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM DR GEORGE LINDSAY

Please find my comments below:

The Bill creates a statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland by setting a 50% reduction target for 2030 and an 80% reduction target for 2050.

What are your views on the 2050 target and a 2030 interim target proposed in the Bill?

Such an ambitious target by Scotland alone is a nonsense - if indeed the theory of global warming is real (which it is by no means proven (quite the contrary) any emissions reduction MUST be achieved on a global basis - after all Scotland is only currently responsible for less than 0.2% of world CO2 emissions!!

The Bill requires that the Scottish Government sets annual targets, in secondary legislation, for Scottish emissions from 2010 to 2050. It is proposed that these annual targets will be set in batches, the first being for the years 2010 to 2022 inclusive.

What are your views on the setting of targets in batches from 2010 to 2022?

Any such target set for such a long period ahead MUST have interim targets - if only to be used to compare with the achievements of other countries

The Bill provides that from the year 2020, the annual emissions targets must be set so that each is at least 3% lower than the target for the previous year. Prior to 2020, the Scottish Government has indicated that it intends to set annual targets which build towards delivering emissions reductions of at least 3% each year.

What are your views on this approach or any possible alternative approaches?

See response 2 above

The Bill introduces the concept of a “net Scottish emissions account” as a point of reference against which the target for reducing greenhouse gases can be measured. It is defined as the net Scottish emissions plus or minus any carbon units credited to or debited from the account. Any units purchased may be used to offset Scottish emissions. Any carbon units generated in Scotland and sold to customers outside Scotland, count as emissions made in Scotland.

What are your views on the proposals in the Bill relating to the net Scottish emissions account, and should there be a limit on the number of carbon units which Scotland can purchase?

Purchase of so called carbon credits is a nonsense - remember that this has to be done on a global basis!!

The Bill defines “Scottish emissions”, in relation to a greenhouse gas, as being emissions of that gas which are attributable to Scotland. The policy memorandum states that “Scottish emissions” are defined as being those greenhouse gases which are emitted in Scotland or which represent the Scottish share of emissions of gases from international aviation and international shipping.

What are your views on this definition of Scottish emissions?

Again - what's the point of doing this as stand alone Scottish effort?? Recall that UK heavy industry emitting the highest CO2 levels have already been "exported" so the net impact on global emissions is ZERO.

The Scottish Government has indicated that initially it intends to seek independent, expert advice on climate change from the UK Committee on Climate Change. The Scottish Government states in the policy memorandum that if it determines that the UK Committee on Climate Change does not meet all the advice needed for Scotland, the Bill contains provisions which will allow the Scottish Government to establish a Scottish Committee on Climate Change or to designate an existing body to exercise these advisory functions.

What are your views on the Scottish Government's approach to obtaining independent, expert advice on climate change?

Certain things simply CANNOT be done on a local and parochial manner

The Bill places duties on the Scottish Government requiring that it reports regularly to the Scottish Parliament on Scotland's emissions and on the progress being made towards the emissions reduction targets set in the Bill. The Bill sets out details of these reporting requirements.

What are your views on these proposed reporting arrangements?

Why just parliament - the populace needs also to know

The Bill contains powers to allow the Scottish Government, by regulations, to impose duties on public bodies in relation to climate change, to issue guidance to those bodies relating to their climate change duties and to require that they report upon the discharge of those duties.

What are your views on this proposal?

"Guidance" alone will never be enough to achieve the targets the bill sets

The Bill places a duty on the Scottish Government to produce a report for Scotland, setting out its objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, proposals and policies for meeting them and the timescales within which they will be introduced.

What are your views on this proposal?

Not only objectives need to be set surely - the HOW to must also be spelled out - a wing and a prayer hope is not enough

Muirburn is the act of controlled burning of vegetation on open semi-natural habitats such as muir (Scottish word for moor) or moorland, and includes the burning of plants such as gorse, heather and grass. The Bill contains an enabling power to allow the Scottish Government to vary the permitted times during which muirburn may be made where they consider it necessary or expedient to do so in relation to climate change.

What are your views on this proposal?

Not a clue

The Bill will allow modification by order of the functions of the Forestry Commissioners to enable the Forestry Commission in Scotland to play a greater role in tackling climate change. The immediate intent of the Scottish Government is to take forward proposals relating to renewable energy development on the National Forest Estate and the release of capital from the National Forest Estate for woodland creation.

What are your views on this proposal?

Surely all the FC can do is grow more trees!!??

The Bill requires the Scottish Government to produce an action plan setting out current and proposed measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings in Scotland, as well as measures to encourage behavioural change.

What are your views on this proposal?

Regardless of ones beliefs re global warming this is a good idea - the earth's resources are, after all, limited

The Bill confers powers on the Scottish Ministers to make regulations providing for the assessment of (a) the energy performance of non-domestic buildings; and (b) emissions of greenhouse gases produced or associated with such buildings. The provisions are enabling in nature and the Policy Memorandum provides further information on the Scottish Government's thinking in this area.

What are your views on this approach?

No comment

The Bill places a duty on the Scottish Government to take such steps as it consider appropriate to promote the use of heat from renewable sources. The Scottish Government has indicated this provision will enable it to introduce measures it deems appropriate to incentivise the production of heat from renewable sources.

What are your views on this proposal?

Depends on what is defined as renewable sources - these must be defined

**The Bill sets out measures aimed at improving waste and recycling. The Bill gives powers to the Scottish Government to make regulations in the following areas:
Waste prevention and management plans;**

Waste data;

Deposit of recyclable waste;

Procurement of recyclate;

Reduction of packaging;

Deposit and return schemes;

Charges for carrier bags.

What are your views on these proposals?

No comment

What are your views on the adequacy of the Scottish Government's consultation in advance of publishing the Bill?

No idea - don't know the extent of the consultation

Do you have any views on the Strategic Environmental Assessment which was carried out by the Scottish Government out on the consultation proposals?

Never heard of this assessment - see 16 above

Does the Bill raise any equalities issues you would wish to highlight?

Some people can resort to use of renewables but others can't by virtue of their location - e.g. I do not have a stream/river on my property so cannot resort to hydro

Do you have any comments on the impact of the Bill on sustainable development?

No

Do you have any other comments on the Bill?

No