

Paul Wheelhouse
Minister for Environment and Climate Change
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

12 March 2013

Dear Paul

Reducing emissions in Scotland – 2013 progress report

The attached report¹ is the response to your request for an assessment of Scotland's progress towards meeting emission reduction targets.

It is our second report on Scotland's progress reducing emissions. Our first report in January 2012 was broadly positive about progress to date, but noted that further policy development would be needed to address the significant challenges involved in meeting Scotland's ambitious targets.

This year data is now available for us to report progress against Scotland's first statutory annual target, for 2010. We provide our assessment of progress against the target for 2010 and then consider sectoral, macroeconomic and temperature data for 2011 to assess the likely trend (emission data will be available later this year).

We then assess progress developing and implementing policies in each sector to date, and also look forward to the achievability of future targets, based on the latest emission projections and the Scottish Government's policies and proposals for meeting targets to 2027.

¹ Committee on Climate Change (2013) 'Reducing emissions in Scotland: 2013 progress report' <http://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-emissions-in-scotland-2013-progress-report/>

While the first annual target was missed by just over 1 MtCO₂e, we note that this was due mainly to the exceptionally cold winter temperatures in 2010 which increased demand for energy use in heating, particularly in the residential sector. Gas sales data for the residential sector, which are temperature-adjusted and strip out the effect of the colder temperatures, show a continued downward trend in Scotland over the 2010 period.

On underlying progress reducing emissions, our assessment is broadly positive, with particular achievements in renewable power, home insulations, tree planting and waste policy.

However, more is required, and we make a number of recommendations across the key emitting sectors.

Moreover, we reiterate that meeting targets to 2020 remains extremely challenging, and would require new policies in addition to the current package of policies and proposals, unless the EU strengthens its ambition and tightens the traded sector cap accordingly.

Beyond 2020, the proposed package of measures could meet targets but a high degree of uncertainty remains and it will be necessary for all proposals to be fully developed into policies as soon as possible.

I would be very happy to discuss our report further with you as required, and look forward to our continued work together

Yours sincerely



Lord Deben
Chair, Committee on Climate Change