

Paul Wheelhouse
Minister for Environment and Climate Change
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
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Dear Paul

Reducing emissions in Scotland – 2014 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 third report on Scotland's progress towards meeting emission reduction targets, and reports on progress towards achieving the second annual target. We provide our assessment of progress against the target for 2011, the latest year for which official data is available. We also consider traded sector data for 2012, as well as macroeconomic and temperature data, to give an indication of what is likely to have happened to emissions in Scotland in 2012 (the 2012 inventory for Scotland will be available later this year).

We then discuss underlying progress towards reducing emissions through the development and implementation of policies and measures.

Scottish emissions were slightly higher than the legislated target in 2011, by around 0.8 MtCO₂e. This can be attributed to the recent revision of the Scottish greenhouse gas inventory, which added 1.2 MtCO₂e to estimated emissions in 2011. However, it should not distract from the assessment of underlying progress reducing emissions.

¹ Committee on Climate Change (2014) 'Reducing emissions in Scotland: 2014 progress report' – attached separately.

While the inventory revision represents an improvement in the methodology for estimating emissions, it will continue to make achievement of currently legislated targets more difficult. There are two basic options for addressing this. The first is to adjust targets, for example by recasting these in terms of year-on-year emissions reductions or by revising the targets to allow for the inventory revision. The second would be to adapt to the inventory change by finding additional opportunities to reduce emissions that go beyond current and proposed policies.

Scotland has made good progress in a number of key emitting sectors, namely renewable electricity, energy efficiency and fuel efficiency of new vehicles, despite the first two legislated targets being missed. However, challenges remain to achieve the stretching annual emissions targets and sectoral targets set out by the Scottish Government and further action is required in terms of policy development and implementation.

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