

Additional Comments International Climate EU 2050 strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emission reductions

The 32 Scottish Local Authorities are politically and operationally committed to mitigating and adapting to climate change, playing a lead role in emission reduction and delivering energy efficiency projects and public services. Local governments are key actors in delivering action on climate change. Practically speaking, local government is an essential vehicle in delivering National Government policy. Additionally, of course, local authorities are directly concerned in combatting climate change through their own democratically accountable decision-making processes, and activities.

COSLA supports domestic plans to raise targets for emission reduction from 80% by 2050 to at least 90% by 2050 and for a net-zero target to be set as soon as is practicable. To achieve total decarbonisation of the transport sector by 2050, we have called for even more ambitious domestic emission reduction targets.

The Covenant of Mayors has been effective in capturing the ambition of Local Government but there needs to be more funding directly linked to SECAP development and delivering the climate actions. For local implementation of the Paris Agreement, Scottish Local Government should continue to be supported with effective EU/national policies as well as regulatory frameworks and adequate budgetary commitments.

Integrating climate change into governance and management structures continues to be important and efforts must continue to meet other local priorities such as urban regeneration, economic growth, fuel poverty, energy security, which helps climate actions be prioritised. Research better able to inform practice and local decision-making should be supported.

Sustainability can be provided by delivering actual savings which is a fundamental issue when the full life-cycle impacts are accounted for i.e. what the land/biomass would have otherwise been used for. Looking at associated socio-economic and CO2 impacts can help.

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