

## 1. What development will we need to address climate change?<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

Planning policy must be amended to reflect the climate emergency which the First Minister has declared and which the Scottish Government has committed to tackling. Meeting our climate targets should be a stated objective of NPF4 in particular *we should bring all planning in line with our Paris Agreement obligations.*

Every development in the planning system, including at local planning authority level should take climate impact into account. *One of the over-arching aims of all development should be about moving towards a zero-carbon future.*

- Strengthen the Scottish Government's indefinite moratorium on fracking and unconventional oil and gas. It should be absolutely clear and watertight that no developments in this sector are allowed.
- No new fossil fuel developments should be permitted -no coal, oil or gas energy generation
- No projects below 50MW for which approval is currently granted by local planning authorities.
- No new LNG terminal and gas power stations like the one currently proposed at Hunterston - this would have huge climate impacts and would be giving further support to fracking in the US
- As we work towards the target of net zero emissions by 2045 and local authorities across Scotland move to divert waste from landfill before the ban on biodegradable waste to landfill comes into force in 2025, we must ensure that we do not rush to build more incinerators in Scotland.
- No new plastic production plants given the increasing and immense harm that plastic is wreaking on our local and global environments and wildlife

## 2. How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future?<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

- Make reducing air pollution, particularly from transport, one of the key principles of future planning decisions.
- Prioritise sustainable transport and end developments, both commercial and residential, that rely on, or assume, widespread car ownership.
- Ensure that developers have a responsibility to extend the network of segregated cycling, ensuring safe cycling is a viable option.
- Make electric vehicle charging points essential components for any parking proposals.
- Set a date for the complete ban on fossil fuel vehicle traffic, beginning by turning Low Emission Zones into Fossil-Free Zones in city centres .
- Build future homes in Scotland with circular economy principles. *We should also build all new homes to Passive House standards.*
- We need to work to ensure that our rural and coastal communities are clean and free of waste, in particular plastic pollution.
- We need to recognise and provide more green places as a way of improving mental health
- Active travel should be a prime consideration in all new developments

## 3. What does planning need to do to enable development & investment in our economy to benefit everyone?<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

- Support the move to a circular economy
- We need to prioritise impacts on local communities more
- We need to move away from our car-centric towns and cities . Priority should be given to public transport and active travel
- More transparency should be asked of developers and locally-owned developments should be favoured in order to boost local economies rather than companies that are based abroad and who don't pay any tax

- We need to prioritise local/high street shops and businesses rather than building more huge shopping centres which are mostly for those who have cars. We already have overprovision of these big shopping centres which have sucked the lifeblood out of the high street and are now themselves failing.

#### 4. How can planning improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places?<sup>[SEP]</sup>

- Special places need protection e.g peatlands - Peatlands are places of important biodiversity and also absorb more CO<sub>2</sub> than forests. They are therefore crucial in tackling the ecological and climate crises.
- Vacant or derelict land should be protected from speculation via ownership by bodies who have no intention of appropriate development. Brown field sites should always be the preferred option for developments in order to protect the green belt
- Built and green heritage should be better protected since these embody the unique character of a place.

#### 5. What infrastructure do we need to plan and build to realise our long term aspirations?

- Supporting the roll out of a mix of renewable energies including wind, solar, tidal generation and a range of storage solutions including battery storage and pumped hydro.
- Roll out of renewable heating and heat networks at scale across Scotland,
- New developments must be required to install renewable heating instead of fossil fuelled heating systems, in line with the Government's commitment to phase out fossil fuel heating in new developments given consent after 2024.
- Create conditions favourable to community energy projects, in order to meet the Scottish Government's target of achieving 2GW of community and locally owned energy by 2030.
- Ban on developments proposing to manufacture fossil hydrogen. Support instead for hydrogen made from water and electrolysis. This could tie in with excess energy produced from renewables.
- No loopholes or exemptions for fossil fuel generation with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) - this would be completely counter-productive since it would allow the fossil fuel companies to continue with their core business which has already brought about the climate crisis.
- Large biomass plants should not be considered or included as renewable energy generation (Drax biomass power station in Selby is the biggest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub> in the UK)