

Religious Leaders 'Statement on Action to tackle Climate Change in Scotland.

We believe that addressing the climate crisis is a moral necessity, and Scotland must do all it can to play its part.

We are alarmed by the conclusion of the Climate Change Committee, which recently described Scotland's 2030 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions as "no longer credible".

This must be a wake-up call to us all. If we collectively fail to act there will be grave implications for the planet - our common home – and for our sisters and brothers across the world who have contributed the least to this crisis and who are already bearing its worst effects.

We are calling for unity from all political parties, from business leaders, communities and everyone in society to recognise the risks of inaction. We must regather and redouble our efforts and seek ways to work together to deliver the action we all know we need to see.

It is our shared belief and hope that action is possible, and that together we may yet still limit global heating to what science informs us is necessary and possible. We stand united in our wish to protect the dignity of human life and creation. We urge all citizens to remain hopeful, and for those with influence and power to be bold. The road is not easy but our collective energy and prayers will be with all those working for a successful outcome. We commit to work together to encourage our own faith communities to participate through prayer and action to live more sustainably and to use our voices to call for action from those in positions of authority.

- Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.
- Colonel Sylvia Hinton, Salvation Army Secretary for Scotland
- Michael Hutchinson, Clerk, Quakers in Scotland
- Ravinder Kaur Nijjar, Advisor Sikhs in Scotland, Sikh Representative, Scottish Religious Leaders Forum
- Archbishop William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow, The Catholic Church
- Lama Yeshe Losal Rinpoche, Abbot of Kagyu Samye Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre
- Rabbi David Rose, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation
- Revd. Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator, National Synod of Scotland, The United Reformed Church.
- Dr Maureen Sier, Director, Interfaith Scotland
- Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church
- Linsay Taylor, Muslim Council of Scotland
- Dr Srihari Vallabhajousula, Hindu temple of Scotland
- Ameen Versace, Director of Resilient Earth, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society

Faith & Science - Science Climate Action Statement.

The science of climate change forced by fossil fuel use has been known since the mid 1800's. Linked to climate since the 1930's, measured since the 1950's and computer modelled since the 1970's. All these say the same thing – **climate is in trouble and humans are the cause.**

Climate heating effects can be seen everywhere no models are needed - in oceans, atmosphere, glaciers, rainfall and heatwaves and fires. **We know** climate changes are

happening as predicted, but **faster** than predicted we know that humans can't change the weather, but **humans have changed climate**

Hundreds of global conferences have been held, and thousands of scientific articles written. Have all these failed? **No, the science is clear.** Governments do too little

The UK and Scotland have taken action, with legally binding Climate Plans. Emissions of greenhouse gases have halved since 1990 – a great success, and have shown that economic growth can continue at the same time as climate action.

All this is increasingly difficult. It reaches across all aspects of our lives, and into our homes. It will cost money – from individuals and the country. And change behaviour

And climate action cannot be taken for granted. The UK government has been successfully prosecuted in 2022, and on 3 May 2024 for the second time in the High Court for insufficient action on climate. In April 2024 the Scottish Government conceded that it also had made insufficient progress.

There is a large and widening gap between promises and practical action.

There are easier votes to gain than climate action

This is a journey of many decades

A primary duty of Government is to protect its citizens

Today Scottish citizens can act with Government business and society to bridge that gap between talking and doing.

- Prof Stuart Haszeldine Co Director at Edinburgh Climate Change Institute
- Professor Sarah Skerratt RSE Chief Executive
- Prof Dame Anne Glover, President RSGS
- Prof Peter Nienow, Edinburgh University Glaciology
- Dr Leslie Mabon, Open University lecturer in Environmental Systems
- Prof Mark Sutton, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
- Prof Kate Symons Edinburgh University
- Dr Glen Counquer, Edinburgh University
- Dr Jennifer Roberts, Strathclyde University
- Prof Jo Sharp, St Andrews University

Scottish Civil Society Climate Action Statement.

Scottish civil society is united in our determination to see more action to tackle the climate and nature crises and build a fairer, greener, healthier society for everyone. People in Scotland care deeply about the need for change and climate justice, and we believe that all those with the power to act must now prioritise action to tackle and respond to climate change, both here and internationally. Doing so isn't optional, and the sooner we act the better and more affordable it will be; the longer we wait, or delay, the more it will cost in both human and economic terms.

We need sustained and deep political leadership in and from Scotland, with a commitment to action to reduce emissions at speed and to helping other countries to deal with the climate impacts that we have and continue to fuel. We must deliver the urgent transition needed whilst doing so fairly, securing sustainable jobs, improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities.

Throughout 2019, the year of the school climate strikes, when our Scottish Parliament unanimously set its legal 2045 target to achieve net zero, with an interim target of reducing emissions by at least 75% by 2030, there was a determination amongst most people in society, a recognition of our collective responsibility to do better, and a commitment to step up. Governments, including in Scotland, declared climate emergencies. Businesses set net zero targets. People demanded change. But over the past few years, this energy and focus has slipped, targets have been missed and now face being removed. But climate change doesn't stop just because we don't want to deal with it or other issues demand our simultaneous attention. This is not the time to step back or be distracted from our climate commitments.

It's time to regain that collective focus. Politicians of every creed, businesses in every sector, public servants, communities, and civic leaders in every part of Scotland, need to come together to solve this crisis. We need to see beyond our differences and to work openly and collaboratively together to deliver the accelerated investment we all need to drive faster progress.

We have an opportunity to get back on track, but we all need to step up. This is the moment to reset, reenergise and redouble our efforts. In working together and addressing the climate emergency with the urgency it demands, we can build solutions that work for everyone. But it will need all of us to recapture the determination we had only five years ago. And we need every one of our leaders to step up and act on climate.

On behalf of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland - a diverse coalition of over 70 civil society organisations campaigning together on climate change in Scotland

- *Ellie Kirkland Young Geographer/Climate Activist*
- *Dylan Hamilton Climate Activist*
- *Mike Robinson Chair SCCS/CEO RSGS*
- *Jamie Livingstone Head of Oxfam Scotland*
- *Laura Young, Climate activist and Young Influencer of the year 2024*
- *Colin lee, Chief Executive CEMVO*
- *Lang Banks, Director WWF Scotland*
- *Peter Kelly Director Policy Alliance*
- *Claire Larkin Parents for Futre Scotland*