

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

12th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday, 24 November

Climate and nature emergencies evidence session 2

Background

1. At its meeting on 27 October, the Committee agreed to undertake a number of evidence sessions around the impact of the climate and nature emergencies on the Committee's remit over November and December 2021. This would coincide with the COP26 (climate change) and COP15 (biodiversity) international conferences being held this year.
2. The purpose of these sessions was to—
 - explore how these significant 'drivers of policy change' may impact on sectors in the Committee's remit and the rural (and potentially islands) economy generally; and
 - inform subsequent scrutiny which may benefit from having undertaken initial evidence-gathering on this topic; for example, in relation to the development of future land use policy, the blue economy, and upcoming environmental strategies which will engage the Committee's remit, such as the Biodiversity Strategy and the next Climate Change Plan.
3. In the second of these sessions, the Committee will hear from people who are researching and adopting solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss for and within rural sectors. The Committee will take evidence from two panels. The first will focus on the terrestrial environment and the second will focus on the marine environment.
4. This session will take a slightly different approach to other evidence sessions. Witnesses will be invited to make opening remarks in order to present their project, group or initiative to members. There will then be an opportunity to discuss specific questions with each project before a more general discussion with all the witnesses to discuss common experiences, challenges or issues.

**Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee clerks
November 2021**