

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee 11th Meeting, 2021 (session 6), Tuesday, 23 November 2021

COP26: Outcomes and implications for Scotland's climate change policies

Note by the Clerk

Introduction

1. The Committee agreed that a focus of its early evidence sessions in this 6th Session of the Parliament should be the 26th UN Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Glasgow ([COP26](#)), and its likely impact on climate change policies in Scotland.
2. On 16 September, the Committee heard from the Right Honourable Alok Sharma MP, then President-Designate of COP26, on the conference's possible outcomes, and their likely impact on net zero policy in Scotland. [The Official report for this meeting can be accessed on the Scottish Parliament's website.](#)
3. COP26 took place in Glasgow from 31 October to 13 November 2021. The Conference had four overall aims:
 - Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach
 - Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats
 - Mobilise finance
 - Work together to deliver
4. On 13 November, COP26 concluded with nearly 200 countries agreeing [the Glasgow Climate Pact](#). The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has produced a series of blog articles on the conference and its outcomes. These are available on the [COP26 – Hub for SPICe material](#).

The following articles provide information on outcomes of the conference:

- [COP26: A fragile win – but for whom? Coal, fossil fuels; loss and damage](#)
- [Emerging from COP26 – the 'fight of our lives'](#)

Articles on the wider role of parliaments are also available:

- [What has COP26 got to do with the Scottish Parliament?](#)

- [The Scottish Parliament at COP26 – The role of Parliaments in tackling the Climate and Ecological emergencies](#)

Outcomes and implications for Scotland’s climate change policies

5. On 26 October, the NZET Committee reviewed its work programme and agreed to hold a short series of “snapshot” evidence sessions, hearing from experts in the immediate aftermath of COP26.
6. On 16 November, the Committee took evidence from Professor Jim Skea, Chair of the, [Just Transition Commission](#), and Malini Mehra, Secretariat CEO and Non-Executive Board Member, India, of [GLOBE International](#). The aim of the session was to explore COP26’s broad outcomes (both positive and negative), discussing the main policy outcomes, how these outcomes might be translated to Scotland in particular, and any important takeaways from the conference that the headlines may have missed. [The Official report for this meeting is available here.](#)

Evidence session

7. On 23 November, the Committee will hear evidence from two panels:
 - Panel 1: Professor Dave Reay, Executive Director, [Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation](#); and Mike Robinson, Chief Executive, [Royal Scottish Geographical Society](#)
 - Panel 2: Teresa Anderson, Climate Policy Coordinator, [ActionAid International](#), and coordinator of the Climate Action Network (CAN) working group on agriculture; Mary Church, Head of campaigns, [Friends of the Earth Scotland](#); and Jess Pepper, founding director of the [Climate Café](#).
8. The purpose of these evidence sessions is to explore COP26 outcomes as they might affect future policy in particular sectors: transport, environment, or energy, and also to discuss what impact COP26 had, and will have, both internationally and on communities in Scotland. Gathering these views will help inform future Committee work, including its forthcoming inquiry into *the role of local government and its cross-sectoral partners in financing and delivering a net-zero Scotland*.