

# Notes from Climate Change Workshop

SRA Conference  
20/09/2017

Paul quickly gives an overview of the Scottish Government efforts for combatting Climate change emphasizing the ambitious targets set by the 2009 Climate Change Act, for which Scotland has been worldily renowned. Currently the Government is revisiting the targets in order to keep up with the new global targets agreed in Paris in December 2015.

The purpose of the workshop is to tackle how people think of climate change. A video was played in addition to that: "*Stop Climate Chaos Scotland*"

First question for the participants was to think of two ways in which Climate Change affects them?

Contributions:

- Climate change and food securities are closely related and the latter strongly affects our everyday life. However, that one was met with some opposition from one of the participant who argued that in Scotland this cannot be really an issue - although the food prices might rise people will always be able to buy chocolate from the local store.
- Lack of snow prevents people from skiing in Glencoe, Scotland. The extinction of animal species.
- Fears that severe climate changes can affect the means of long distance/overseas travels and prevent family members living abroad to visit each other.
- Climate change issues can cause greater influx of people to rural areas and cause disturbance to rural habitants who are used to more peaceful and quite surroundings.
- Deforestation and species extinctions and changes in the habitats.
- Extreme weather conditions and changes distort the balance of ecosystems and prevent the natural control. Infections and bacterial deceases are moving across continents and the natural control provided by forests, for example, is seriously impacted.
- Natural disasters' impacts on infrastructure for example could be seriously felt by population, especially those in coastal areas. However, it should be recognized that the Government might not be always able to afford to assist in the recovery and it is often the case that nothing can be physically done to prevent the damages.
- Health conditions are worsening and people tend to prefer colder climates which increases the mobility of people across countries and regions

Paul: What can be done by rural communities to help the government's initiatives in combatting Climate Change? What rural communities think of policies in place that are likely to affect them - like removing the petrol and diesel cars from the roads, the use of plastic bottles, etc.

## Contributions:

- Lack of public transport causes long distance travel with personal cars. Therefore, it is crucial for communities to build schemes for the use of electric cars with journeys organized through social media platforms. That way people can first of all get rid of their second cars. Shared cars schemes will work, however, only to certain extent serving the need mostly of people from villages. On the other side, people that live outside of villages where is no public transport will still rely on personal transport or taxis. That might continue to affect the choice of people where they live.
- The use of plastics was strongly condemned by everyone. There is willingness to support initiatives in that regard such as bring your own bottle, container and bag when shopping in supermarkets. In addition, “produce local and buy local” was also recognized in decreasing the mileage of food travel causing great percentage of the carbon emissions.
- Participants ask the government to think of new ways in which big supermarkets chains would be inclined to support these movements in order to change the consumer culture which currently prevails. Maximizing profits and the business as usual should be reconsidered when it comes to creating sustainable small scale communities.
- Changing the food diet, what is grown- more vegies, less meat.
- Using the sea for transport wherever possible has proved to be more convenient and environmentally friendly in some cases.
- Consistency and continuation in the funding for research and businesses developing the use of bio fuels and biomass. Cross-border provisions regulating the production of these needs greater synergy.
- Local energy economies

Paul’s concluding notes on the role of SRA in gathering further information and public opinions to feedback and shape government future policy and initiatives in fighting Climate Change