



Roseanna Cunningham MSP  
Cab Sec for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 ISP  
31st January 2020

Dear Ms Cunningham,

**Community response to the climate emergency**

Much has been made of Scotland's collective response to the climate emergency and in many respects, Scottish Government's climate policies have set the benchmark for the rest of the world to follow. There is of course much more to be done and we hope that COP26 later this year will present a springboard for the sort of transformational shifts in our economy, culture and behaviours that will be required if we are to save ourselves from ecological catastrophe. Our reason for contacting you now is to express some widely held concerns from within our respective memberships about the Scottish Government's current approach towards the community sector's specific contribution in the fight against the climate emergency.

Clearly for the past decade or so, one of the principal strategic investments from Scottish Government in this area has been the Climate Challenge Fund. A thorough review of this very significant programme has now been completed - indeed many of us took part in this exercise and offered perspectives on the effectiveness of CCF, the extent to which it has created any lasting change etc. However, in the aftermath of this review (the results of which have not been shared with any of its stakeholders) we are concerned that the Scottish Government has closed down lines of communication with the sector and may be about to present us unilaterally with a new 'strategic approach'. We have heard suggestions that such an approach may consist of regional climate hubs and other initiatives such as 'Climate Towns'.

Our concern is not just whether this is necessarily a better use of increasingly scarce resources, but also that it appears to represent a form of top-down governance that we understood had been eschewed in favour of a more open, collaborative approach based on co-production with the sector and one that is consistent with the principles of localism and subsidiarity.

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To this end a delegation from our number would like to meet with you, both to outline some of our concerns about the future of community based climate action and also to share with you how we believe Scotland's communities might play their full and vital part in the fight against climate change going forward.

Yours sincerely

**Members of Scottish Community Alliance:**

Philip Revell, Scottish Community Climate Action Network  
Nicholas Gubbins, Community Energy Scotland  
Pete Ritchie, Nourish Scotland  
Clare Symonds, Planning Democracy  
Ian Cooke, Development Trusts Association Scotland  
Kerri Whiteside, Coastal Communities Network  
Jon Hollingdale, Community Woodlands Association  
Aidan Pia, Senscot  
Derek Logie, Rural Housing Scotland  
John Cassidy, Scottish Communities for Health and Wellbeing  
David Francis, Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland  
Susan Paxton, CHEX  
Pauline Graham, Social Firms Scotland  
Ian Hepburn, Community Land Scotland  
Lou Evans, Social Farms and Gardens  
Dermot O'Neill, Scottish League of Credit Unions  
Angus Hardie, Director - Scottish Community Alliance