

## Climate Change Adaptation Policy in Scotland

Climate change policy in Scotland responds to both a UK and a Scottish framework. There are two key pieces of legislation: the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The UK Act requires a **Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)** every five years. The CCRA provides the basis for adaptation policy making in Scotland and the UK.

### Scottish policy

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 requires a **Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP)**, to address the risks identified for Scotland in the CCRA. The first CCRA was published in 2012 and the second was released in 2017. The first statutory Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) was published in May 2014, and the second SCCAP will be published in 2019. The SCCAP sets out Scottish Ministers' objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, and their proposals and policies for meeting those objectives.

### Assessing progress

The Committee on Climate Change's Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) was asked by Scottish Ministers to deliver the first **independent assessment** of the Scottish Government's progress towards achieving its SCCAP objectives, with the [assessment report](#) being produced in 2016. This biennial assessment is required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The independent assessment drew upon evidence presented as a suite of indicators used to understand adaptation trends in Scotland. The second independent assessment is due in early 2019.

**Scottish Ministers report annually** to the Scottish Parliament on progress in implementing the policies and proposals contained in the SCCAP. [Annual reports](#) are publicly available, with the [Fourth Annual Report 2018](#) being the most current.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act creates a duty on public bodies to act "in the way best calculated to help deliver" the SCCAP. [Public Sector Climate Change Reporting Duties](#) set out in the Act requires relevant public bodies to prepare reports on compliance with their climate change duties. Mandatory reporting on compliance with the Public Bodies Duties was introduced in 2015 and is required to be completed annually. Information provided through this reporting process is used to inform Scottish Ministers' annual progress report and the biennial independent assessment report. Annual reports are available on the [Sustainable Scotland Network \(SSN\) website](#).

### Assessing risk

The most recent [CCRA \(CCRA2\) was published in 2017](#) assessing "the risks for the United Kingdom from the current and predicted impacts of climate change". The Adaptation Sub-Committee also provides supporting documents including a [synthesis evidence report](#) detailing the latest evidence on risk and opportunities to the UK as a result of a changing climate, [technical chapters](#) on key adaptation areas and a [Summary for Scotland report](#). The findings have been used to guide development of the [UK National Adaptation Programme](#) released July 2018.