

# Energy and Climate Change Committee

Committee Office House of Commons 14 Tothill Street London SW1H 9NB

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To: The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Transport

8 December 2015

Dear Patrick,

I am writing on behalf of the Energy and Climate Change Committee to seek information on your department's approach to decarbonisation of the transport sector. As you are aware, the UK is bound by the EU's 2020 renewable targets to deliver 15% of the UK's final energy consumption across electricity, heat and transport from renewable sources by 2020, including a sub-target of 10% for transport fuels.

In light of this, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP, gave my Committee cause for concern about progress towards the transport target in evidence to us on 10 November, when she said:

*I am concerned about the work that is being done on transport and on heat to make the additional targets...it is going to be challenging to make the rest of the target.*

...

*Currently, there is insufficient evidence that we are going to make the target for 2020 unless we take certain action.*

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) states that in 2014 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport actually increased by 1%, and their contribution to total UK emissions rose from 25% to 28%. The CCC has also categorised the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation as 'at risk' of failing to deliver on its 2020 objectives. Overall, renewables supplied 4.8% of total transport energy in 2014: the EU targets mandate that this double over the next six years.

Meeting the 2020 renewable targets is critical, not only because of their contribution to slowing the pace of climate change, but because they are legally binding and failing to do so would jeopardise the UK's position as a leader on climate change. The oral evidence from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, together with the work of the CCC, indicates that insufficient progress in transport is a primary threat to this goal.

I would be grateful if you would provide us with a response to the following questions:

- What steps are you currently taking to decarbonise the transport sector?
- Are you on track to meet the 10% sub-target for renewable fuels in transport by 2020?
- What specific challenges do you face in meeting the 2020 target and what further steps do you plan to take to ensure you meet the target?

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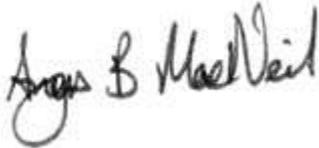
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My colleagues and I are grateful for your co-operation in this matter. We would appreciate a response by Tuesday 15 December, and may wish to publish your reply.

I am copying this letter to Louise Ellman MP, Chair of the Transport Committee, and to Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus B MacNeil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

**Angus Brendan MacNeil**  
**Chair, Energy and Climate Change Committee**