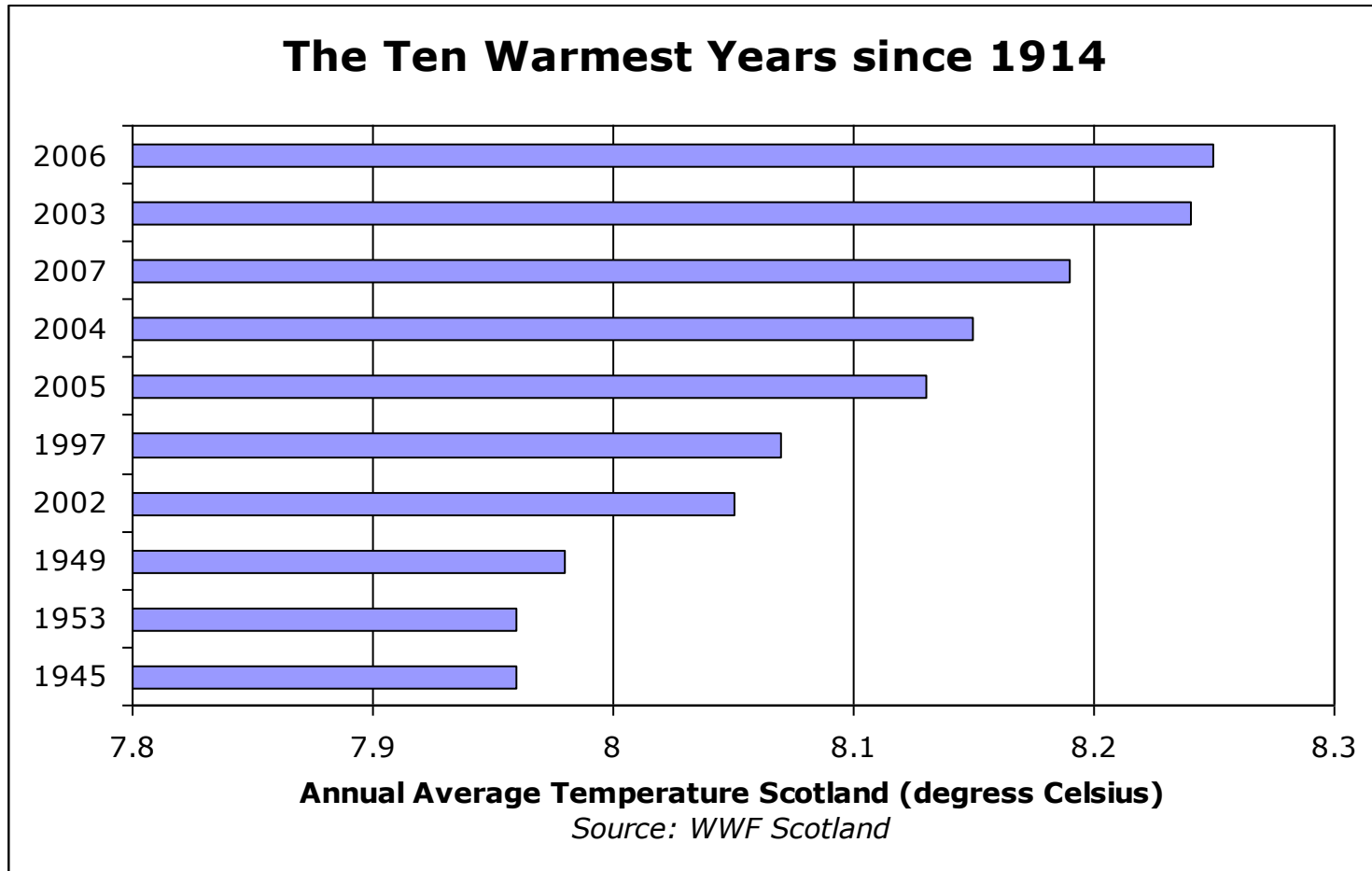


Responding to Climate Change

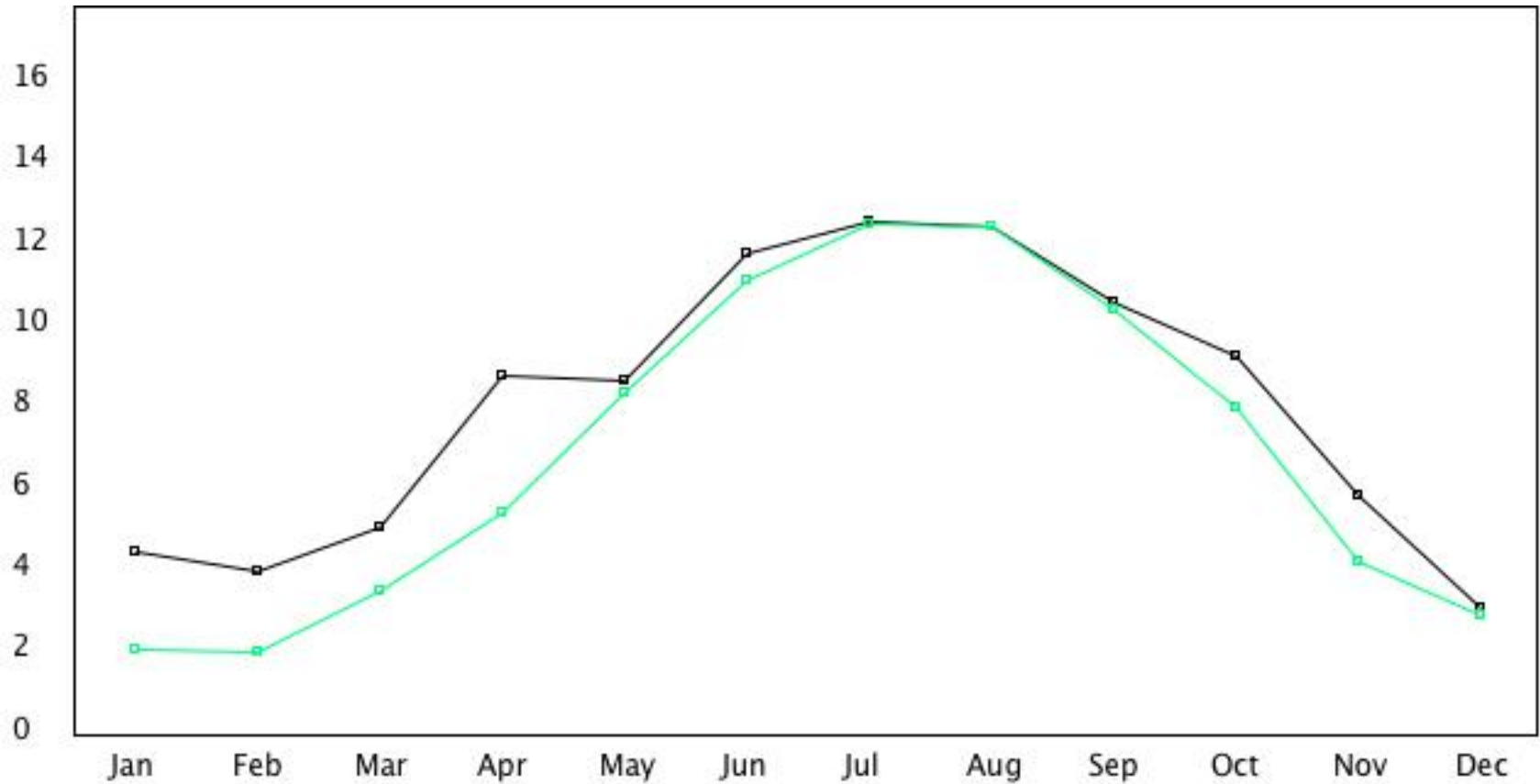


Adrian Shaw
Church of Scotland

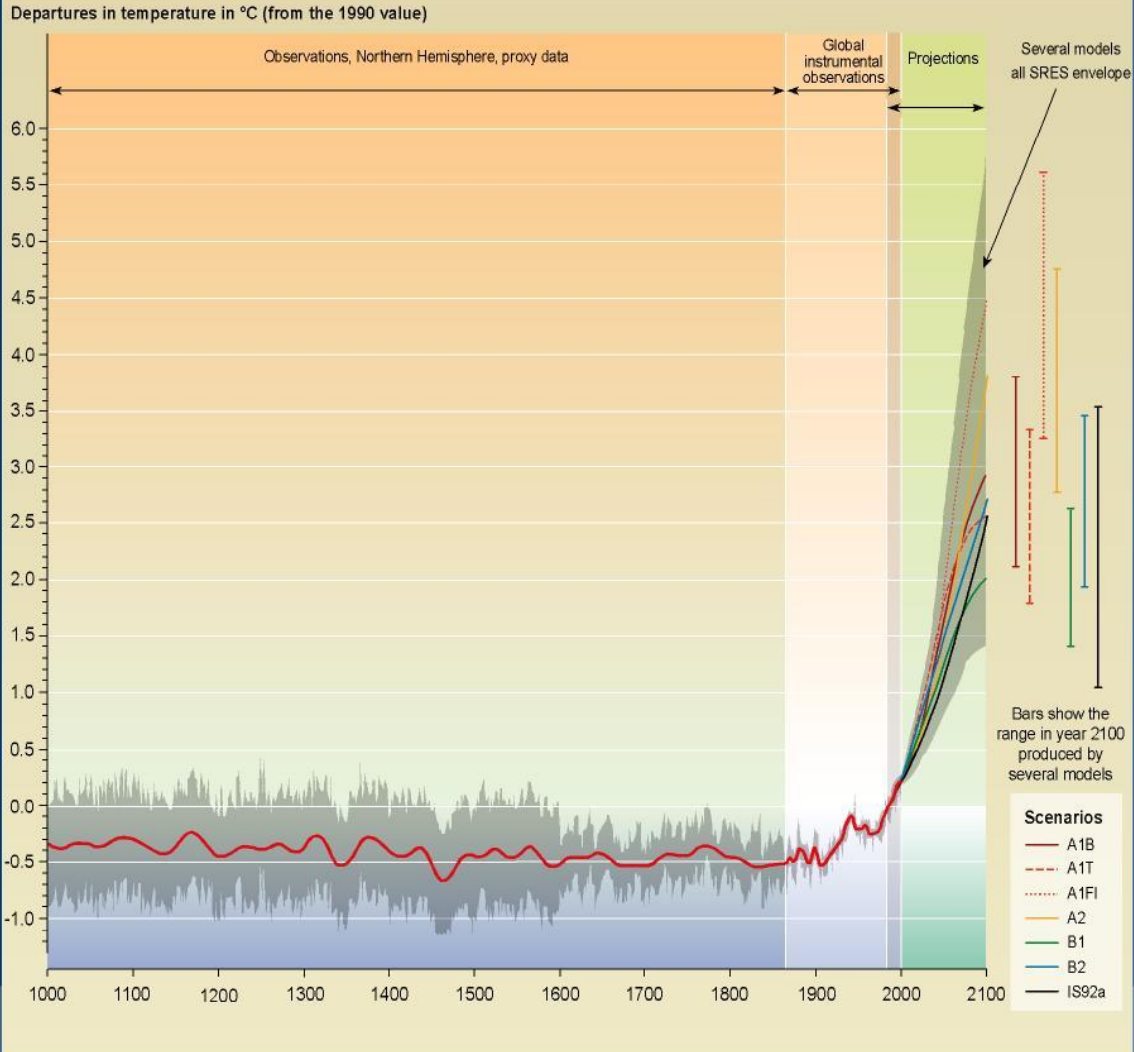
Scotland's Warming Climate



Temperatures in Scotland in 2007 compared to the average temperatures of the years 1961-1990 (degrees Celsius)

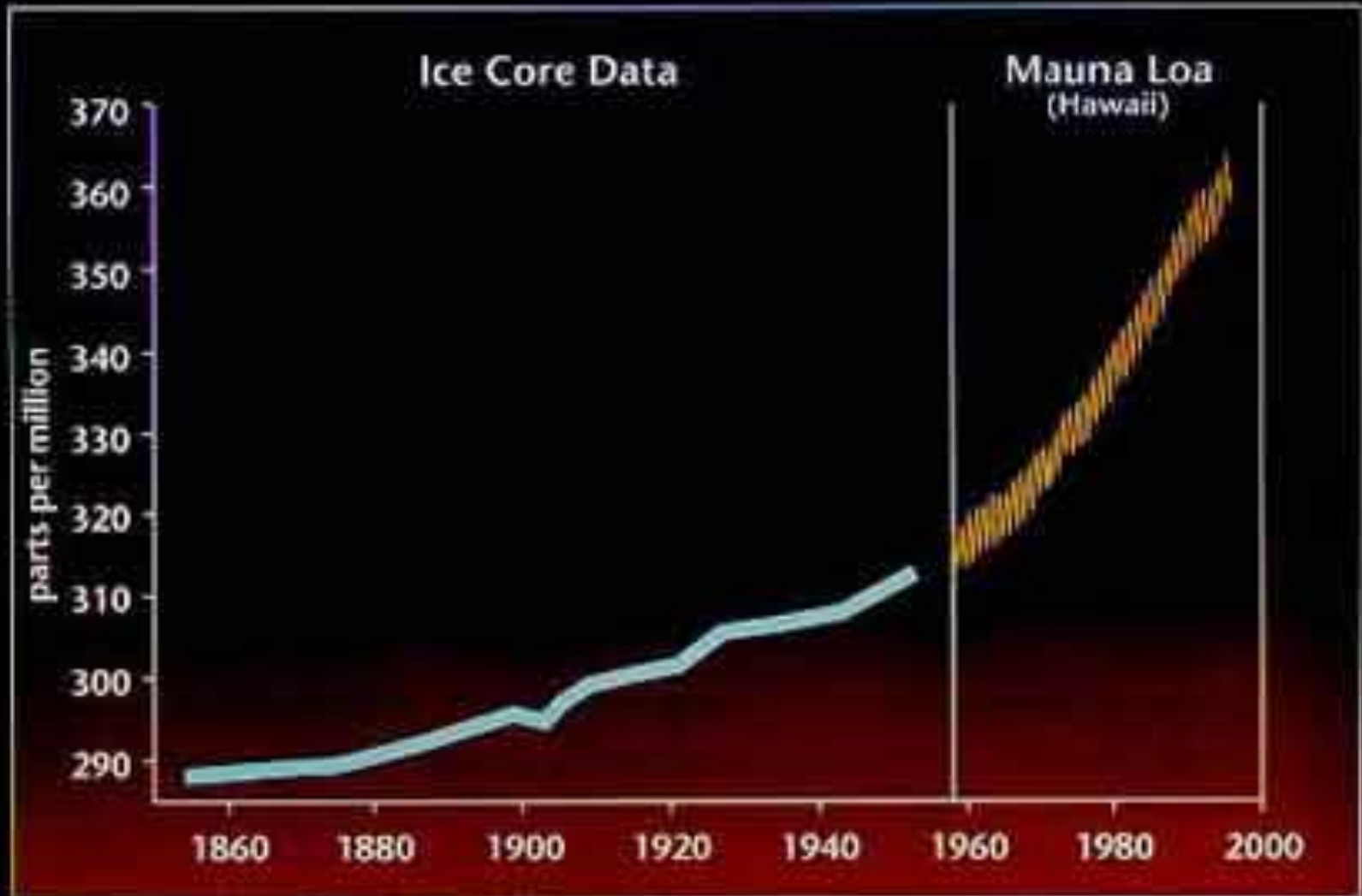


Variations of the Earth's surface temperature: year 1000 to year 2100

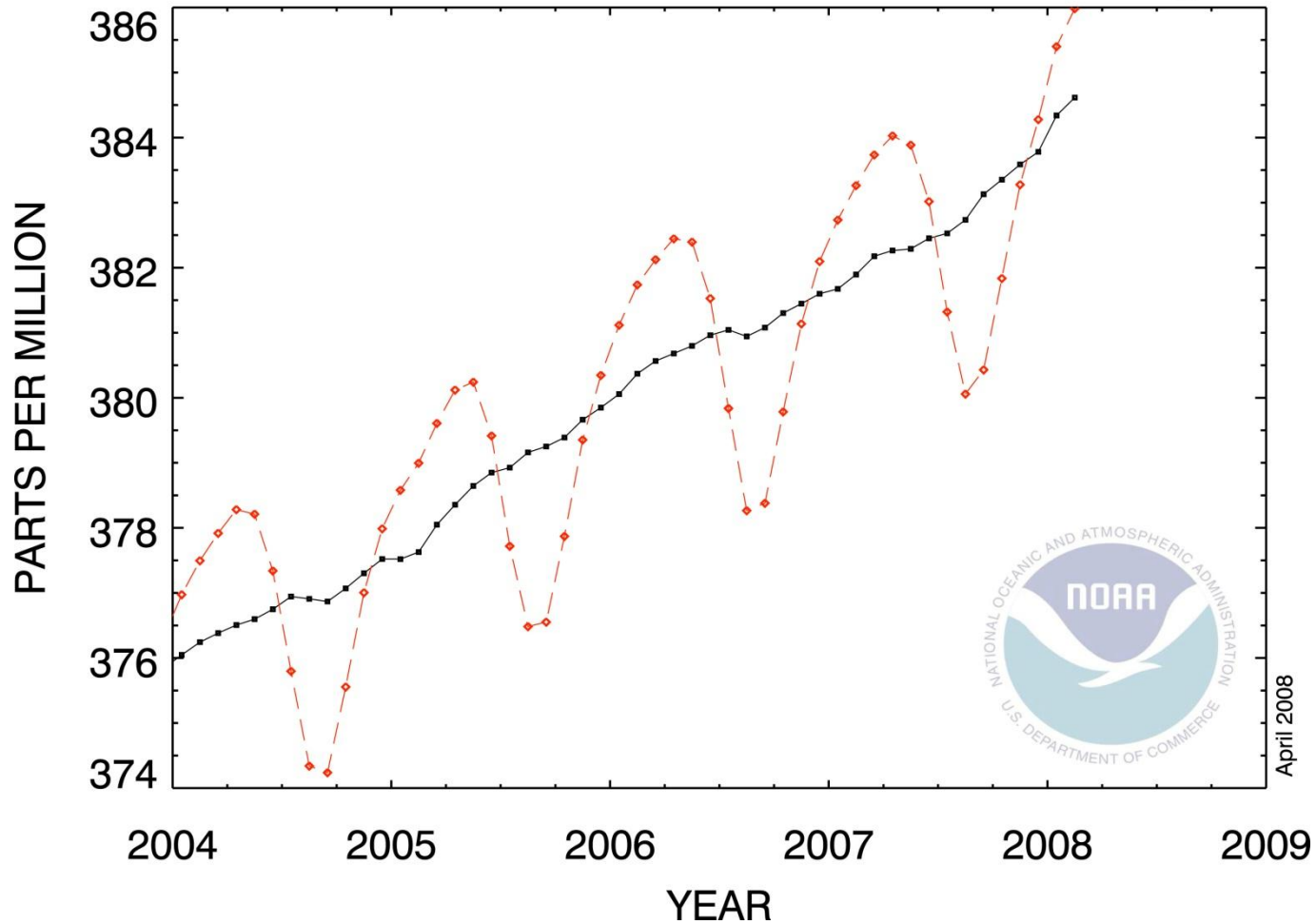


SYR - FIGURE 9-1b

Carbon Dioxide Concentrations



RECENT GLOBAL MONTHLY MEAN CO₂



The growth rate of CO₂ has averaged about 1.94 ppm per year in the period 1996-2007.

The Consequences

- the disappearance of Arctic sea ice and contraction of snow cover elsewhere
- increase in frequency of heat waves and heavy rainfall
- *likely increase in tropical cyclone intensity*
- likely decrease in rainfall in subtropical areas such as the Mediterranean or southern Africa.

Source: IPCC Report to the UN Conference on Climate Change, Bali 2007



The Church of Scotland:
Responding to Climate Change

The Response of the Kirk

The Church of Scotland is concerned that climate change poses a serious and immediate threat to people everywhere, particularly to the poor of the earth; and that climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God's creation. We accept the need to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases urgently to avoid dangerous and irreversible climate change; and to promote a more equitable and sustainable use of energy.



The Church of Scotland:
Responding to Climate Change

Therefore we are :

- learning from partners in Bangladesh and elsewhere
- engaging in the national debate in Scotland
- developing the project *Responding to Climate Change*



The Church of Scotland:
Responding to Climate Change

Responding to Climate Change Project:

Aims

- To support congregations and help them respond to climate change
- To work with the Councils of the Church and help them identify how to respond
- To ensure the voice of the Church is heard in the national debate



The Church of Scotland:
Responding to climate Change

Eco Congregation Programme

- 190 congregations and growing
- covers all of Scotland
- includes nine denominations
- review 2008 has identified climate change as a priority
- a huge resource



Councils of the Church

- Church and Society
- Mission and Discipleship
- World Mission

also

- Facilities Management
- General Trustees



In 2007, 121 George Street was responsible for emitting about 350 tons of CO₂.



General Assembly 2008

Climate change issues have been raised in:

- Church and Society Council report on transport *Moving Forward*
- World Mission report *The Scandal of Poverty*
- General Trustees report on assistance for renewable energy projects
- Iona Community report on a commitment to 5% year on year reduction in energy use
- *WM20* magazine climate change edition

Ensuring the voice of the Church is heard...



Engaging in the Wider Debate



**STOP CLIMATE CHAOS
SCOTLAND**

The Church is :

- working with Stop Climate Chaos coalition
- responding to the Scottish Climate Change Bill
- lobbying the Government to recognise our role and future contribution



The Scottish Climate Change Bill

- We welcome the Scottish Climate Change Bill and the proposal to cut of greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050.

but:

- public awareness and public acceptance of the issue will be critical to the success of the legislation
- the Church has a role to play here, especially through the Eco Congregation Scotland network
- all public spending decisions must take account of and contribute to action to meet emissions targets

The Future

- Climate Change is a critical issue for the coming decade
- An 80% cut in Scotland's greenhouse gases will change the lives of everybody in Scotland
- We have no choice but to respond, as individuals, congregations and as the Church.
- We should welcome and embrace this challenge as our responsibility to the people of Bangladesh and other countries of the world.



The Church of Scotland:
Responding to climate Change

Climate Change, the Kirk and community planning

Issues for discussion:

- *Can churches play a part in responding to climate change locally?*
- *Can congregations become local leaders in responding to climate change?*
- *Can the council engage with local congregations to help raise awareness and promote action?*



The Church of Scotland:
Responding to climate Change

The Mail

ON SUNDAY

“Why the Kirk says gas-guzzling 4x4 drivers could be on the road to Hell”

By Mark Howarth
3 August 2008



“IT’S A SIN: The Church of Scotland says driving gas-guzzling cars should be outlawed to save the planet”



The Church of Scotland:
Responding to climate Change