

Scots carbon emissions could be halved in decades, study suggests

April 12 2011

Cutting Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by a half within 20 years is achievable, a study suggests.

Scientists say greener transport and cleaner [power generation](#) could help deliver big savings on [CO2 emissions](#). The researchers say the use of smart meters for homes and businesses, improved recycling, and greener building designs could make a difference. They also recommend carbon capture and storage to reduce emissions from carbon-intensive industry and coal-fired power plants.

The study, carried out at the University of Edinburgh's School of [GeoSciences](#) and Business School, focused on [greenhouse gas emissions](#) in the US – but researchers say the findings are equally applicable to Scotland.

Scientists studied projected emissions data for the US and worked out how various low-carbon strategies could help reduce CO2 output, up to the year 2030.

The study focused on methods that would be economically, socially and politically acceptable, and that could be implemented using regulatory or economic incentives.

In a separate study, researchers found that some biofuels may not be a sustainable source of power for vehicles. Research shows that the greenhouse gases emitted in producing crops for fuel may outweigh the

benefits brought by a biofuel's low-carbon emissions.

The research was published in *Carbon Management* journal.

Dr David Reay, Director of the University of Edinburgh's MSc in Carbon Management programme, said "While it is encouraging that the US has chosen to try to reduce the emissions produced by the transport industry, the reliance on biofuels as a substitute for petrol may not be a sustainable alternative. These proposed alternative strategies may offer a more realistic, economically and politically acceptable way of reducing carbon emissions."

Provided by University of Edinburgh

Citation: Scots carbon emissions could be halved in decades, study suggests (2011, April 12)
retrieved 24 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2011-04-scots-carbon-emissions-halved-decades.html>

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