

The Scottish APSE Energy Summit 2022

Discussion 1 – Priorities and challenges in rural areas



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Rural citizens are worried about environmental issues.. Universal high concern regarding

- The natural environment (92%)
 - Plastic pollution (91%)
 - Deforestation (93%)
 - Air pollution (90%)

% worried about climate change

- Rural conservative supporters 80%
- Rural Labour supporters 95%
- Rural Lib Dem supporters 96%

(Based on survey results from Britain Talks Climate, 2020)

Issues

Transport - 45% of rural citizens are very or somewhat worried that tackling climate change means they won't be able to drive their petrol or diesel car (29% urban)

Housing – off gas; traditional build, dispersed, less energy efficient, more reliant on fossil fuels

Rural fuel poverty – linked to jobs and older population, fuel poverty gap (additional income needed to bring a household to the point of not being fuel poor) is £193 in urban areas, £388 in rural areas and £501 in villages/hamlets/isolated dwellings, getting wider

Agriculture/land use – engagement with landowners/farmers