

2007 Manifesto

A Manifesto for Green Government



**scottish
green party**

Act Now: Choose a Green Future



www.scottishgreens.org.uk

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Scottish Green Party MSPs and candidates launch the First Vote Green campaign.

Foreword

There has never been a more important time to vote Green. If you want action on climate change, not just words, first vote Green. If you want your legacy to be a vibrant Scotland, with pure water, clean air and abundant natural resources, rather than industrial pollution and contaminated land, first vote Green. If you want social justice, civil liberties and equality instead of poverty, surveillance and discontent, first vote Green. If you want our country to be one where quality of life for everyone and thriving local economies mean more than globalised profits for the few, first vote Green. Join us. Act now for a better Scotland.

The Scottish Green Party has a vision for Scotland: a place where everyone enjoys a good quality of life based on a fair share of the world's natural resources, and a society committed to the principles of justice, equality and non-violence. We want to build a genuine democracy, with strong local communities having a real say in the decisions that affect them. We want a Scotland where women, young people and old people and all minorities, regardless of race, sexual orientation, religion or disability are free from discrimination. We champion civil liberties because we believe that allowing everyone's views to be heard will result in a fairer, better governed Scotland.

To take action for a better Scotland, Government must recognise the deep connections between economic, social and environmental issues. For change to be sustainable it must also be socially just – that is why our policies address the profound social inequalities present in Scottish society. Social divisions and ill-health will only worsen as long as people endure poverty, a degraded environment, substandard housing, unhealthy food and pollution. Measures to boost our economy will fail if they cause expensive environmental damage now, or in the future.

Right now Scots live as if we had three planets-worth of resources. Greens are committed to living within our means – to one planet living. We depend on the earth's natural resources for our well-being, our economy, and ultimately, for our survival. If we use resources more equitably and efficiently we can enable people across Scotland to enjoy improved quality of life while leaving the world in a fit state for future generations. This is a step forwards to a richer society in its widest sense.

Crucially, we must face the threat of runaway climate change. Urgent action is needed. The economic costs and social disruption of flooding, storm damage and agricultural failure are immense. If we act now we can make a difference, and take advantage of the opportunities of a low carbon economy. Many positive and practical measures, such as local food markets, renewable energy and home insulation, make financial, social and environmental sense.

Four years ago, Scottish people used Green votes to show they share our values. As a result, seven Green MSPs have injected fresh ideas into debates in the Scottish Parliament about all aspects of economic, social and environmental policy. From our initial presence in 1999 as the 'green conscience' of Parliament, we have emerged as an innovative and effective political force for change.

It is clear that Holyrood needs more powers to make a more effective contribution to a sustainable future. But those who polarise the argument into 'independence or union' are losing sight of what is important: ensuring that the responsibility to govern the country is matched by the political commitment to tackle the causes of problems. Greens will work constructively with the powers at our disposal to ensure government action makes a serious difference, whilst pressing for more action at UK and EU levels.

There is a strong possibility that Greens will hold the balance of power in the next Parliamentary term, and we are clear what we want to achieve with that opportunity: a government that truly places sustainable development at its heart. We will continue to breathe fresh life into the Scottish political scene, taking the lead on the issues that really matter.

Other political parties in Scotland are trying to window-dress their manifestos with environmental policies and claims to be 'green', but we believe Scottish voters recognise the real thing. If you want action on green issues, not just words, then please first vote Green. **Choose a Green future for Scotland.**



*Shiona Baird and Robin Harper,
Co-convenors*

Achievements 2003–2007

The Green Group of MSPs is the only group in the Scottish Parliament to publish an annual report on its work, progress and expenditure. Here are just some of the achievements of the seven Green MSPs: Shiona Baird, Chris Ballance, Mark Ballard, Robin Harper, Patrick Harvie, Mark Ruskell and Eleanor Scott. A full review of our last four years of work at Holyrood is published on our website: www.scottishgreens.org.uk.

- We won an inquiry into climate change and have led political campaigning for more urgent action, including promoting legislation to reduce climate change emissions.
- We built a coalition in the Scottish Parliament to signal Scotland's rejection of ID cards, won a debate opposing dawn raids on asylum-seeking families, and forced a climb-down on plans for police to hold DNA samples of innocent people.
- We were the first party to raise the alarm in the Scottish Parliament over CIA 'rendition flights' using Scottish airports and led the Parliament's first debate on Trident.
- We have worked hard to build support from other political parties on home energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy and we have won increased funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- We have challenged the expansion of airports and major roads, and championed proposals for traffic reduction targets.
- We brought about a Parliamentary inquiry into the power of supermarkets and backed farmers and suppliers campaigning for an investigation into unfair trading.
- We won a promise from the Scottish Executive to develop a Social Enterprise Strategy for Scotland, to ensure that Scotland did not fall behind in this exciting area of economic development.
- We won a vote in Parliament for marine regeneration zones and measures to rebuild fish stocks to healthier levels, and we have led the campaign against ship-to-ship oil transfers in the Forth.
- We have used Parliamentary debates to highlight the funding crisis faced by many community and voluntary groups, especially in the community health area.
- We campaigned to increase funding for the arts and heritage, to which the Executive has now allocated an extra £20m.
- We successfully argued for forest crofts to be included in the Crofting Reform Bill and in the Forestry Commission's work programme.
- We initiated and won the very first appeal under Freedom of Information legislation, seeking statistics on leukaemia cases by council ward area.
- Green support for education and the student campaigns against top-up fees have been led by Robin Harper and Mark Ballard, elected as University Rectors in Aberdeen and Edinburgh respectively.
- Our civil partnership proposal was taken up by the Executive and has become law.

Pledges 2007–2011

We will:

- > **Tackle** climate change, cut pollution every year.
- > **Deliver** world class public transport, not road and airport expansion.
- > **Support** local business and social enterprise, regulate supermarkets.
- > **Keep** the NHS and water public, reverse rail privatisation.
- > **Say No to Trident** and nuclear power, invest in renewable energy.
- > **Tackle** poverty, provide warm, affordable, energy efficient homes.
- > **Stop** demonising young people; defend civil liberties and promote equality.

Section 1: An economy for people and planet

Greens in government will build a stronger, fairer and more sustainable economy, making more efficient use of natural resources and reducing pollution, especially climate change emissions. Developing the low-carbon economy of the future should be a priority for government investment. We support existing moves towards a green jobs strategy, but believe there is much more to be done, by focusing on new opportunities in sustainable industries and greening existing jobs.

Greens will stand up for communities against the vested interests that have dominated development for too long and which have ignored their social and environmental responsibilities. We will support and encourage the development of thriving social enterprise and small business sectors.

Sustainable communities

Scotland's policies for urban regeneration have remained more or less unchanged since the 1980s, without any major reduction in poverty. Greens believe that this is because the Scottish Executive is failing to involve local communities and businesses adequately in the process. A great deal more could be done simply by investing existing budgets wisely. We will ensure that decisions are taken at the most local level possible. Rather than merely being consulted, communities must have real participation in decision-making, especially in the planning system.

- We will redirect Executive subsidies and support for multinational companies into funding to support local business.

- Each new National Planning Framework must have rigorous public scrutiny to allow communities a real say in social and economic development.
- Greens have consistently made the case for a fairer approach to planning and we will evaluate the Planning Act with the aim of giving communities more say. We maintain that communities should have the right to appeal against planning decisions. We will give community groups access to an Environmental Justice Fund of at least £2 million per year to support them in initiating community improvements and responding to threats.

We will introduce a Sustainable Communities Bill to:

- establish planning guidelines that inhibit the growth of 'clone towns' and protect retail diversity.
- replace top-down Regeneration Outcome Agreements with Community Service Agreements to provide local residents with a meaningful say in determining mainstream service priorities.
- introduce a 'best value' framework for public authorities that creates incentives to buy from local suppliers and social enterprises.
- introduce a local business tax regeneration credit for firms operating in community planning areas.
- reform the Scottish Enterprise 'Business Gateway' to support new ways of stimulating business formation and growth (including social enterprise) in disadvantaged communities.
- require that at least 5–10% of land in regeneration areas is kept in some form of community ownership.

Greens are committed to prosperous and sustainable communities.

Image courtesy of Scottish Viewpoint.



Section 1: An economy for people and planet

Supporting local business

Small and medium sized enterprises are the backbone of the Scottish economy, providing 45% of its jobs and over 50% of its output. In a future where the need to reduce the environmental impact of trade will be paramount, such firms will be an even more important part of a low-carbon economy. However, this sector has been largely ignored by the current Executive in favour of an unsustainable emphasis on high growth exports and international tourism. We propose a number of measures to redress the balance.

- We will improve the ability of small businesses to tender for public sector contracts.
- We will revise the business rating system to allow small in-town businesses to compete with out-of-town developments on a fairer basis.
- Scottish Enterprise and the Local Enterprise Companies should focus more attention on small and local business, and their remit should be expanded to cover social and cultural aspects of development in a similar way to Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Businesses for good

Social enterprises put social justice and the environment at the heart of business, rather than solely maximising shareholder profits. Yet they receive less support in Scotland than in England and Wales. We need to catch up with the rest of the UK, and go further.

- We will ensure at least 10% of public spending goes through social enterprises by 2012.
- We will also ensure that social enterprise is promoted through the Business Gateway network.
- We will make it easier for communities to own assets and develop new enterprise models.
- We will develop an Ethical Financial Services strategy and support initiatives like credit unions that offer vital services to excluded communities.

We welcome the launch of the new Co-operative Development Agency and hope it will lead to a wider understanding of the benefits of mutuality. However, for it to succeed there needs to be a wider recognition that mutuals are a mainstream business model.

Measuring what matters

We reject the idea that progress should be rated solely in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which only measures the flow of money through the economy. Greens will focus on

what matters to people: jobs, the environment, health and education. Government decision making should take account of sustainability and social justice, not GDP alone.

- We will ensure that Scotland's government and agencies work to an alternative indicator of national progress such as the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare, which measures quality of life against economic development.
- We will make sustainable development the top priority for Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.
- We will create a national forum for sustainable economic development jointly with representative organisations like Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Business, the Scottish Family Business Association, Trades Unions and NGOs.

Fair, clear and Green taxation

Greens believe that taxation should be fair and accountable. Pollution taxes have an important role to play, but they should be clear and designed to enable the transition to a sustainable economy, discouraging environmentally or socially undesirable activity and funding alternatives. Such taxes should not be used as a way of increasing general tax revenue, or as a wholesale substitute for other taxes. They must also be designed to avoid penalising people in poverty.

- We will work with local authorities and business to develop workable ways of introducing environmental levies, for example on non-returnable packaging or road congestion.
- We will press for the development of effective pollution tax plans at European and UK level, and for greater powers for the Scottish Parliament over taxation to allow the development of Scottish pollution taxes.
- With more powers for the Parliament we would radically simplify income-based taxation, integrating tax and benefit systems, rolling National Insurance into Income Tax and establish a 50% tax rate for incomes over £100,000. Inheritance Tax will be reformed so that it is calculated on the circumstances of the recipient.
- We will replace council tax and uniform business rates with a Land Value Tax which will provide a fairer basis for local authority funding.

Poverty

Although employment levels in Scotland are relatively high, too many of Scotland's children grow up below the poverty line with parents stuck in low paid work or in the benefit trap. Tackling child poverty is one of our highest priorities and we will invest to tackle it properly, targeting the following measures where deprivation is most concentrated. (*Specific action on poverty, for example in housing and public services, can be found throughout this manifesto*).

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- We will support and expand the Sure Start programme, while restoring community decision-making to Sure Start and seeking to ensure higher take-up rates.
- We will establish additional dedicated support services for parents, available before families reach crisis point. Unlike Labour's proposals, these will not be used primarily as a form of punishment. They will first work to build parenting skills, nutrition, and home support for education. Such services will also look at all of the different stresses on the family – whether financial, health related or otherwise – and take action to reduce them, in partnership with other agencies.
- The quality of childcare and daycare for working parents (not just its availability) should be radically improved, along the lines of the successful Danish model of 'pedagogues'. A key element will be to improve the training and status of childcare staff from its current low level.
- Legislation is needed to increase access to flexible working as part of the work/life balance agenda.
- We will encourage local exchange trading systems (LETS) and time banks.

We seek greater powers for the Scottish Parliament over tax and benefit rates in Scotland, allowing us to introduce higher rates of support for those most in need – parents of pre-school children, pensioners, students and carers. We support a citizens income scheme, which would replace all tax allowances and most welfare benefits. It will be set at a level to provide basic shelter, food, clothing and heating.

Public services in the public interest

The Scottish Green Party believes in the universal provision of services rather than means-testing, because it ensures higher uptake without stigmatising people living in poverty, and ensures no one misses out because they are just over the threshold. The costs of universal benefits should be met through general taxation. We believe the state should take responsibility for natural monopolies such as the postal service, water and the rail network. We will end the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) fiasco which is draining the public purse and is an exercise in public asset stripping.

- Greens oppose moves to privatise Scotland's water industry. We recognise that a mutual model is inappropriate for a capital-intensive industry like water, and that, as in Wales, mutualisation will mean privatisation through the back door.
- We will block the use of PFI in new infrastructure schemes and develop financing alternatives such as municipal bonds to pay for schools, hospitals and public infrastructure.
- Outsourcing of contracts to private companies should only be done for a clear social dividend and as part of the

Scottish Executive strategy to support the social enterprise and community sector.

- We reject proposals to re-organise the fire services and cut staff, proposals that put saving money before saving lives.
- We will establish an independent review to ensure that the national grid meets the needs of Scotland's small-scale and community owned renewables sector and explore how to bring the national grid into effective public control and ownership.
- Ecological footprint reduction plans should be obligatory for public services, including the NHS and local authorities. Procurement strategies for food, construction materials and office materials will be brought in to reduce Scotland's environmental impact and benefit local economies.

A revolution in the food economy

Greens will bring about a food revolution in Scotland, promoting healthy, local and fairly traded food. This will help suppliers and farmers, create stronger links between rural and urban economies and reduce food miles. We will promote fair trade at home as well as abroad, and reduce the power of supermarkets. (See also section 5 – environment).

Greening our food economy will improve Scotland's diet and re-establish traditions of local seasonal produce. We will work to re-establish Scotland's food culture, through education, celebration of food and promotion of fresh food outlets like farmers' markets and local food initiatives. Messages about healthy eating have not had the desired effect and diets have not substantially improved. It is time to concentrate on quality food, and the health benefits of eating fresh seasonal produce.

- We will champion local procurement, especially for school and hospital food, and extend the Food for Life project by legislating to ensure that food procured by the public sector (including all schools and NHS establishments) is at least 70% fresh, 50% local and 30% organic. We will set up a Green Food Procurement unit to advise the public and private sector on obtaining local, organic and fairly traded food, goods and services. We support the UNISON National Health Service (NHS) Food for Good charter.



Greens will take action to reduce food miles.

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- By appointing an independent adjudicator to police the food supply chain we will end unfair trading practices and secure a fair deal for farmers. We need a statutory rather than voluntary code of practice for supermarkets. Planning processes must check that new developments such as supermarkets do not undermine local economies.
- We will promote local food networks to get all players in the sector working together in getting local food from farm to plate, with support for small rural abattoirs and other ways to keep food chains as local as possible. We will require local authorities to provide municipal space for farmers markets to be set up and encourage farm shops (See also section 2 – Public and community health).
- We will ban excessive packaging and require trading standards officers to monitor packaging in supermarkets and large stores. We will develop deposit bottle schemes requiring drinks bottles to be returnable and introduce reverse vending machines. We will explore deposit systems for other kinds of packaging.
- We will aim to cut greenhouse gas emissions from waste management by at least 50% by 2020, and will set interim targets to ensure this is achieved.
- Litter and associated problems will be tackled by providing education through the eco-schools programme; improving enforcement of anti-littering regulations, particularly around fast-food outlets; and promoting community service for offenders to clean up litter.
- We will introduce comprehensive battery recycling for Scotland, while phasing out the sale of single-use batteries to stimulate the market for rechargeable batteries.
- Energy generated from burning of waste is not renewable energy and we will oppose plans to build new incinerators in Scotland, making them ineligible for support under the Strategic Waste Fund or any renewable energy subsidy.

Tackling waste

A Green economy is one where waste has been designed out of the system, where products are made to be easily re-used and recycled, and where resources are used as efficiently as possible. There has been some progress on waste recovery in the last 4 years, but at 25% we still recycle less than most European nations, and the amount of waste being produced continues to rise every year. Over a third of the food grown in the UK is thrown away. We are also exporting increasing volumes of waste because of the lack of processing facilities. To avoid breaking European law on the amount we send to landfill sites, we need solutions that prioritise reduced consumption, reuse and recycling, in that order, not the incinerators currently proposed by Local Authorities.

- We will transfer responsibility for waste management in the Scottish Executive to the Enterprise Department to reflect the value of waste materials as a resource rather than an environmental problem.
- Every household in Scotland will have access to kerbside recycling and every household with a garden will be supplied with compost bins.
- We will introduce a zero waste strategy, focusing on waste minimisation, and set a target of zero waste by 2020 with interim targets in line with countries like New Zealand. We will establish a world-class Centre for Excellence in Eco-Design.
- Offices and industry need incentives to recover and supply high quality sorted waste for reprocessing, together with the use of procurement strategies to grow markets for recycled products such as paper. We will end perverse disincentives for waste reprocessing such as expensive licence fees.
- The National Waste Strategy will be revised to expand community recycling and re-use projects, create jobs in local recycling and refurbishment projects and give communities better access to resources that would be otherwise wasted.
- To harness everyone's talents, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability, we will insist on full implementation of statutory equal pay laws and equality regulations. We will end age discrimination in the minimum wage and support changes in employment law to strengthen workers' contractual, trade union and occupational health status across Scotland.
- We will address the long-standing gender inequality in public sector pay and require local authorities to agree 'single status agreements' quickly, and so ensure that workers have the same pay, terms and conditions for jobs of similar status.
- Greater focus will be placed on skills development, training and retraining. This will be achieved through partnership working between government, business, universities, colleges and trade unions.
- We will introduce grants for small business so their employees can undertake further study.
- We will encourage flexible working and home working through information technology and reform of the tax system, and require local authorities to provide video

Green jobs – fair jobs

The Scottish Green Party is committed to supporting workers' rights and the right to a healthy workplace. We will promote economic democracy and greater worker involvement through promoting trade union participation in decision making, employee ownership and mutual models.

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conferencing facilities. With a urgent need to reduce travel and congestion we will press for grants to employers to encourage home working.

Strengthening rural livelihoods

Greens acknowledge the particular challenge of poverty, housing, transport, health care and community care in rural areas.

Scotland's rural economies and communities are particularly vulnerable and we believe that food production, crofting, forestry, tourism and rural businesses deserve better support.

- We will ensure Scottish Enterprise and HIE both promote sustainable rural development and establish rural business incubators to encourage new enterprise start-ups, training and development.
- Communities will be paid to protect public goods, such as wild places and freshwater, and for tackling climate change by providing revenue funding to community-based resource managers.
- We oppose closure of rural post offices.
- All rural households and businesses will have access to broadband.
- Crofting is a fundamental part of the culture in Highlands and Islands communities, playing an important role in helping young rural people and families to establish homes and livelihoods. We will use powers under the Crofting Reform Act to extend crofting throughout Scotland and work with land owners, including the Forestry Commission, to establish new crofts.



Rural Scotland is one of our strongest economic assets.
Image courtesy of Toni Freitas.

- We will increase native woodland cover to 20% by 2010, 25% by 2020 and 40% by 2050, and ensure the restructuring of monoculture exotic plantations into mixed native woodlands. We will encourage management of woodland to grow quality timber for use by future generations in building and construction and to reduce our impact on other countries' forests. Short-rotation coppicing for biomass will be supported where accredited sustainable management is in place.

A sustainable tourism industry

Tourism is an important part of the Scottish economy and must be developed sustainably. Our focus will be on the vast majority of tourists visiting Scotland who come from the rest of the UK. We will aim to build an all-year tourist industry led by locally-owned enterprises that encourages tourists to spend in Scotland's local economies.

- We will improve training to raise the skills and status of professionals in the tourism industry.
- Visitscotland.com has failed to deliver, particularly in terms of its promises to small businesses, so we will bring it back under public ownership. We will better publicise the Green Tourism Business Scheme to encourage more businesses to join it, and we will strengthen its criteria and seek to grant-fund new green tourism projects.
- We will press for a comprehensive specialist weather forecast service for outdoor users in Scotland, freely available on the internet.

Science and technology

Scotland has a strong record in science and technology, and a well regarded research base. Greens will build on this, believing science and technology should serve all of society, not just big business and the very rich.

- Industry and academia will be supported in boosting Scotland's contribution to the creation of technology for a low carbon economy.
- We support the use of information technology which increases people's freedoms, rather than restrictive proprietary systems. We will encourage the procurement of free and open source software solutions by government bodies.
- We will support the provision of impartial advice to government and politicians and ensure this is provided transparently. All too often the current system allows vested interests to masquerade as impartial.

Section 2: Healthy communities and a good quality of life for all

Our vision is for a Scotland where quality of life is measured in opportunity, justice and contentment, not simply in financial terms. Without social justice and equality we will never have a sustainable Scotland. And there is a long way to go. A quarter of Scotland's children are growing up in poverty, with the child poverty rate reaching over 60% in some areas of Glasgow. Scotland is plagued by chronic ill-health, and those who already bear the brunt of social injustice often have to endure the most degraded environments.

Decent housing for all

Scotland is blighted by some of the poorest quality, least insulated homes in northern Europe. Soaring property prices make home ownership increasingly unaffordable. To provide adequate housing for everyone, we need greater diversity of housing, including expansion of the social rented sector. Recent moves to tackle homelessness are welcome, but much more needs to be done. (See also section 3 – energy efficient, warm homes).

- More government focus is needed to achieve the current target of ensuring that by 2012 everyone who is homeless shall have a home. In the interim we will protect funding for organisations providing services to homeless people.
- We will increase the availability of mixed tenure affordable housing by ensuring that local authorities set quotas for affordable housing in new developments and ensure that they are delivered.
- Decisions on stock transfers should be for tenants, without the artificial inducement of debt-write-off only if transfer goes ahead. We will develop investment plans for areas where tenants choose local authority ownership; promises made on second stage transfer must be delivered on a clear timetable and must ensure genuine community ownership of housing stock.

- The right to buy council houses will be made more flexible to take account of housing market circumstances. We see no need to extend 'right to buy' to housing association properties. We will increase provision of social housing through investment in new-build and, if necessary, encourage social landlords to buy on the open market. We back calls for 30,000 new social rented homes in the next three years.
- Additional funding for the development of small scale, locally accountable housing associations and co-operatives will be provided. These organisations provide an ideal anchor for other forms of community development, such as credit unions and social enterprise, and we will extend the current 'Wider Role' initiative for housing associations. We will amend planning regulations to encourage co-housing developments.
- We will consult on extending the Homestake scheme, allowing more first time buyers to share the burden with a local housing association, buying 60% of the property initially and the rest when they can afford it.
- The introduction of Land Value Taxation and new legislation will encourage the use of empty buildings for housing or other community benefit purposes.
- We will ensure safe housing for men, women and children experiencing abuse including provision for those with disabilities, drug and alcohol problems.

Education

Education can transform lives and communities, but the current Executive seems only interested in learning as a prelude to work. Greens will put more emphasis on nurturing talents and encouraging creative, analytical thinking, investing in an education system that is accessible to all, celebrates diversity and nurtures talent. *Tha sinn a' cur taic ris a' mheudachadh ann am Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus ann an Craoladh Gàidhlig.*

Image courtesy of Scottish Viewpoint.



Section 2: Healthy communities and a good quality of life for all

Schools

We believe that Scotland's school curriculum is too heavily focused on exam success as the only measure of a child's future potential. Many children feel excluded, and others are simply bored, by a system that values memorising facts over aptitudes such as problem solving, team working and interpersonal social skills. We must respect children and give them the freedom to express themselves.

- We support comprehensive education, ensuring that all Scotland's children have access to good-quality education. We will support and develop rural schools, resisting downgrading or closure. We oppose exam league tables in favour of a more balanced set of measures reflecting the social circumstances of each school's catchment area.
- We will ensure no primary school classes have more than 20 pupils.
- We propose a fundamental updating of the Scottish curriculum, drawing on the work of the Curriculum Review Group. We will aim to place an emphasis on the personal development of each individual child and to introduce entitlements to a wide range of formative social experiences, including creative arts, sports and outdoor education.
- We reject the current model of skills academies. We will develop formal links between schools and the further education sector, to allow children wishing to pursue vocational training options to do so in an adult setting. Fourteen year olds who have achieved good literacy and numeric standards will be able to join apprenticeship training schemes and count success in apprenticeship as entrance to university access courses.
- We will set aside time in the curriculum for several extended periods of work experience.
- We will provide for advanced training and qualifications and decent pay for nursery nurses, classroom assistants and learning assistants, with new bonuses for teachers who are successful in raising educational attainment in disadvantaged areas.
- We recognise the leadership role of principal and head teachers and will ensure that they have adequate time to carry out management functions as well as teaching. We will invest in the Chartered Teacher scheme.
- We will encourage health promoting schools, ban advertising in schools, and introduce free, healthy and nutritious school meals.
- We will move towards the integration of state-funded religious schools into nondenominational education.

- We will make sustainable development, peace and non-violence, and citizenship education essential in the school curriculum. We will encourage all schools to establish school councils as part of pupil participation and active citizenship programmes.
- We will extend support for anti-bullying policies in schools, including homophobic bullying. We will ensure that education about equality is mainstreamed through the curriculum, especially focusing on equality within relationships.
- We support the rights of parents to choose to educate their children at home and oppose means testing of support for home tuition. We will aim to improve support for home learning.

Further and higher education

Further and higher education have important roles in strengthening the economy and building equality in a green Scotland. Our outstanding universities and colleges will be crucial partners in developing a socially just country with a strong knowledge economy.

- Student debt has reached unacceptable levels. We will scrap the current graduate endowment and bring back student grants. This would form part of moves towards a national citizen's income scheme, guaranteeing a minimum income for students. Further education students also need greater financial support while studying at college.
- We will scrap the top-up fees currently in place for medical students from other parts of the UK. We reject top-up fees as a method of funding higher education.
- We will cut the cost of international student visas and bring forward the date at which Fresh Talent applications can be made, allowing better access to Scottish universities for international students. We will help institutions increase support for international students.
- We recognise the role of adult education as an agent of progressive social and political change and will create a strategy for widening access to, and improving retention in, further and higher education, including greater support for part-time and informal study.
- We support strong and campaigning student unions in universities and further education colleges. They are vital in ensuring that students can participate in decision making. We will ensure that university courts have popularly elected independent chairs along the lines of university rectors.

Section 2: Healthy communities and a good quality of life for all

Outdoor education and eco-schools

Outdoor education develops skills and qualities such as risk awareness, working with others, self-confidence, appreciation of nature, and co-ordination. The reduction in opportunities to experience outdoor education is unacceptable.

- We will fund basic training and refresher courses in outdoor skills for teachers. We will provide a ring-fenced fund to which local authorities can apply for subsidy for refurbishment and development of outdoor centres.
- We encourage all schools to achieve eco-school status and believe schools inspectors should appraise and report access to green space and education for sustainability.
- We will encourage all schools to produce travel plans including walking and cycling.
- We will ensure that every school child has the opportunity to experience Scotland's outdoors and learn about our nature and landscapes.

Health

Since its establishment in 1947 the NHS has provided free and accessible health care to all, and Greens believe that the health service must remain public. We reject the short-termist and financially irresponsible PFI programme, which delivers substandard buildings and poor quality employment at great expense: this is a policy based on the ideology of the market, not patient care or effective use of public money.

A long-term health strategy can be effective only if there is a co-ordinated approach across all government departments since decisions taken in other policy areas have significant bearing on public health. Greens will ensure that all policies are 'health-proofed'.

Prevention better than cure

A health service shaped by 20th century concerns with contagion and acute disease now has to cope with a very different type of epidemic. As much as 80% of the NHS budget now goes on tackling chronic diseases such as depression, asthma and diabetes. The Wanless report forecasts that meeting these costs will require a doubling of health spending by 2020 if the causes of these problems are not addressed. This means that much of the current health policy debate, with its focus on building ever bigger hospitals, more choices of treatment and expensive technology, is really missing the point.

While the Executive does seem to understand that more needs to be done to address the fundamental causes of ill health, in practice there have been few changes to NHS spending priorities. The Scottish Green Party believes that

if the NHS is not simply to collapse, there must be a series of radical changes in the way healthcare is organised.

- Preventative medicine will be expanded, as will support for better diet and exercise to enable Scots to live healthier lifestyles.
- We will invest in proven models for health, where responsibility and knowledge is shared between health professionals and the patient, such as the Expert Patient scheme. Numerous studies have shown that providing counselling, education and other support to chronically ill patients can dramatically improve their conditions.
- We will invest in innovative projects, such as time banks, which create supportive social networks and allow as many vulnerable long-term patients as possible to be cared for in their own home. We will also fund additional respite facilities for older and disabled people.
- A network of Community Health Navigators will be developed, to guide patients through the maze of health and social care choices, following the example set by cancer charities such as Macmillan Cancer Support.

Public and community health

Health boards and local authorities should be required to produce a clear statement, including strategies and targets, on how they support community-led and voluntary sector health initiatives. This should also demonstrate how much financial support is given to these groups.

- We will develop a national strategy for supporting community health projects.
- We will require health boards, local authorities and other publicly funded agencies to commit to national standards for community engagement and agree voluntary sector compacts.
- The Scottish Diet Action Plan has failed to improve either our diets or our levels of obesity. We will replace the Diet Action Plan with a Food Policy for Scotland while focusing on reviving Scotland's food culture and encouraging people to cook using fresh local produce.
- We will rule out fluoridation of our water supply and focus instead on tooth-brushing schemes in schools. We will aim for everyone to have regular full oral health assessments.
- Hearing loss affects around 1 in 7 of the population and can have a huge impact on people's lives. We will bring the audiology waiting time target into line with targets for other services, ensure that the figures are published, and work to ensure that audiology clinics can meet or improve upon the target before 2011.

Section 2: Healthy communities and a good quality of life for all

NHS reform

We believe communities should be involved in the decision-making process about their health services, from the earliest stages, and not just 'consulted' after decisions have been taken. We recognise the need for services to be updated and redesigned at times, but oppose hospital closures that are financially driven. We support the concept of Rural General Hospitals and Community Hospitals, and believe that only the most highly specialised services should be centralised.

- We will undertake proper workforce planning within the NHS. Our aim is to provide enough healthcare professionals to meet our needs without plundering other countries of their doctors, nurses and others, and ensure those professionals we train can find employment in the NHS. We will work with all the relevant professional bodies to achieve this.
- The role of Allied Health Professionals will be developed and extended, enabling them to practise independently where appropriate.
- We will address the high drop-out rate of student nurses by increasing the student nurse bursary to £10,000.

Carers and caring

We are committed to supporting frail elderly people in their own homes where possible, or in residential accommodation within their own communities if required, and oppose the closure of care homes.

- We will provide appropriate care and support for those with dementia and their carers.
- The needs of both carers and disabled people will be supported by providing more respite care, as well as improving benefit provision, financial and social support and education and training for carers.
- We will address the financial problems that people with terminal illness often face by providing palliative care grants.
- We strongly support improved pay and conditions for care workers.

Mental health

Mental health service users must be meaningfully involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of policy and services. This will require support for service users and monitoring of new policies and legislation to ensure that they safeguard the rights of those who use these services.

- We will make a long term commitment to the promotion and funding of mental health and well-being services.
- We will promote and resource the development of accessible alternative care and treatment approaches across both the public and voluntary mental health sectors.

Sexual health

We recognise that sexual health is not just the absence of disease, but includes a wide range of emotional and social factors which lead to a happy and healthy sex life. Scotland's record is poor, and political attention is failing to get results.

- We will turn the existing short-term funding into long-term commitments, to give the NHS the confidence to invest in new services.
- We will learn from the best examples of education on sex and relationships, and ensure that all young people in Scotland have the information and services they need, and the motivation to look after their sexual health.

Complementary and alternative medicine

Greens support better understanding, support and regulation of complementary and alternative medicines.

- We will emulate Northern Irish plans to offer patients access to complementary and alternative medicines of proven value through GPs and local health boards.
- We support the work of the Glasgow Homeopathic Hospital as part of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Scotland's problems with drugs, both legal and illegal, remain severe. Drug misuse is a public health crisis, and the current focus on punishment is failing. Though the public smoking ban is a big step forward, huge challenges remain. Many Executive departments have a role: health, education, communities and justice, although many powers remain at Westminster. We propose giving the Communities Minister the lead on co-ordinating Executive action on drug misuse, bringing together all relevant departments and agencies.

- We will increase flexibility in treatment for victims of addiction, including formal duties to provide quick access to rehabilitation services, widening the prescribing options where appropriate, and investigating the effectiveness of other treatments.
- We will build upon the successes of the tobacco advertising ban and the ban on smoking in public places. We will raise the minimum age for buying tobacco to 18 and reduce availability of tobacco products to young children, including penalties for selling to them. We want more assistance to help pregnant women stop smoking and limits on the availability of tobacco products.
- While we support responsible drinking, we will promote a more meaningful debate about alcohol in Scotland. We will use the licensing system to restrict the growth of megapubs.

Section 2: Healthy communities and a good quality of life for all

Children, young people and families

We support the full implementation of the UN Charter on the rights of the child. Our children deserve all the help they can be given, and we value the roles played by parents, grandparents and extended families in our society. We recognise that many children are themselves carers. Children and their families need support from the earliest occasion, with early intervention to help young and single parents and their children.

- We will integrate, and where possible, co-locate children's services and develop a ten year strategy of improvement for children's early years.
- We will ensure that young people are meaningfully consulted on all decisions that will affect them, including areas such as local planning, health and the environment.
- We will make child health, including diet, exercise and mental health, a national priority and develop a national play and children's spaces strategy.
- We will restore the balance between provision of childcare and home parenting, and ensure the provision of high quality childcare meets the needs of children and parents.
- We will aim to support families through the extension of maternity and paternity leave, and build on universal services that parents receive such as child benefit, rather than means-testing.

Pensioners

Many thousands of older Scots are living in poverty because the basic state pension is so low. While more than half of our pensioners are entitled to extra help, the benefits system is exceptionally complex and confusing. There are 23 separate benefits, each with different criteria, so inevitably millions of pounds go unclaimed. Greens believe that older people have the right to a good quality of life, not merely to survive.

- We will campaign for the introduction of a simplified tax and benefits system based on a Citizens Income, incorporating a significant rise in the value of pensioners income. In the interim, we will campaign to raise awareness and improve take up of pensioners' existing entitlements.
- Older people are the biggest users of health and social care services, but too often receive a poor service or one which doesn't meet their needs. The Scottish Green Party will support a fundamental review of NHS and social services for the elderly, to end discrimination and ensure that they do not receive substandard treatment.
- Many elderly people require only a modest amount of day to day help to enable them to stay healthy and active in their own homes, but mainstream social services are often not able to provide this. We will fund a pilot programme of time banks for the elderly, where participants give and

receive time as and when they need it. This can include help with shopping, or simply a friendly phone call to check on a neighbour. Similar programmes in the USA and England have been highly successful in reducing isolation and ill health.

Sport and green spaces

Sport and physical activity make important contributions to health and happiness. However there are barriers to access and participation. Greens will work for a Scotland where people can participate equally at whatever level of sport and physical activity they choose, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, disability, religion, race or income. We will continue to fight the erosion of Scotland's recreational spaces, especially green spaces and playing fields, which provide a vital resource for spontaneous and informal sporting activities.

- We will require councils to audit green play space and identify a minimum level that will be accessible to all children and young people. We will strengthen protection for playing fields and other green spaces.
- We will support community owned and managed sports clubs of all types, and in particular supporters' trusts seeking to take clubs into community control.
- We support the Active Schools programme, the retention of University sports clubs and grounds and protection of school sports fields.
- Sports stadia need adequate public transport links and therefore we will seek to ensure that stadia should be built and maintained within communities, rather than built on greenfield sites outside population centres.

The arts

Art and culture empowers people and strengthens communities, so it is important that we cherish our culture in Scotland. Under the UN Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to take part in cultural life.

- The principle of arms-length arts funding will be preserved. Experts in the arts, not politicians, should determine the distribution of funding and set artistic priorities.
- Workshop, studio and rehearsal space is vital for artistic development, and we will use the planning system to encourage the provision of such spaces. We will also increase access to training and continuing professional development for artists.
- We will require Scottish Enterprise to include a social and cultural remit, to bring it into line with Highlands and Islands Enterprise.
- The switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting should be an opportunity for local community broadcasting, not

Section 2: Healthy communities and a good quality of life for all

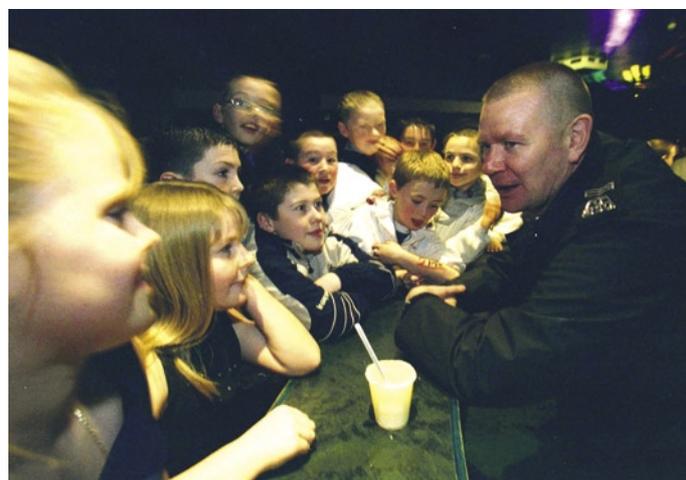
just ever-increasing numbers of commercial channels. We will continue to press Westminster for more powers over broadcasting.

- We will ensure that grant-receiving bodies adhere to national standards that protect the rights of artists.
- We will conduct an audit of libraries to assess the provision of fit-for-purpose buildings.
- We will support measures to enhance the status and use of Gaelic and Scots.

Crime

Current policy at Holyrood and Westminster has failed to address the causes of crime. Instead of continuing with the failed policies of the past, Greens support restorative justice to address re-offending and aim to reduce crime and the prison population by meaningful community-based sentences, including reparation. Prison is necessary to protect the public from dangerous offenders, but our prisons are more stretched and overburdened now than they have ever been. Locking up more people for longer terms does not make society any safer. A new approach is needed.

- The use of victim-offender mediation will be increased and stronger links created between the judiciary, community and rehabilitation services.
- We will insist that the reasons for sentencing are recorded and only use prison for offenders who pose genuine risk of harm to the public. Very short sentences are expensive, provide no real protection and no real punishment, and should be replaced by community sentencing.
- Our policy will be to avoid further growth in prison numbers, rather than simply build more prisons. The priority for new prison spaces should be specialist secure rehabilitation facilities for prisoners who want to end their drug use.



Greens will tackle anti-social behaviour without demonising young people. Image courtesy of Scottish Viewpoint.

- We will ensure that the 13,500 prisoners' children do not suffer needlessly, by providing more regular contact and supportive environments for family visiting.
- We will continue to raise awareness of domestic abuse and increase funding for victim support services. We will ensure safe contact arrangements for children where domestic abuse is an issue.
- More emphasis will be placed on visible community policing and improving integration between policing and social services. We will ensure that communities' voices are heard at all levels, to help create public spaces which are less vulnerable to crime and which feel safe for young and old alike.
- Corporate homicide legislation will be introduced that places duties on individual directors.
- We will address the low conviction rates for rape, sexual violence and sexual abuse.
- We will address the needs of vulnerable witnesses through development of advocacy and strict safety measures.
- Environmental crimes will be tackled by ensuring all enforcement agencies are adequately resourced, and empower the courts to order those convicted to pay for restoration of environmental damage.

Justice for young people

Greens will challenge the demonisation of young people. Authoritarian gimmicks on youth offending have failed to tackle the causes of the problem. Greens take the issue of anti-social behaviour very seriously, and believe it stems from frustration, alienation, boredom, poverty and, in some cases, poor parenting. Recent work by the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People demonstrated the need and desire for safe, affordable and accessible activities for young people to take part in. Along with responsive and visible community policing, Greens believe this approach can tackle anti-social behaviour effectively without demonising young people.

- The children's hearing system will be properly resourced and extended to help 16–18 year olds. We will fund secure and community based projects working to reduce offending behaviour in young people.
- We will invest in social spaces for young people, and require local authorities and other community groups receiving funding to involve local young people in the design of services and facilities.
- We will begin a revival of youth work in Scotland, with a particular role for creative projects that bring together generations in communities to develop mutual understanding.

Section 2: Healthy communities and a good quality of life for all

- Scotland's police forces will be encouraged to move additional officers into community working to cover areas with higher levels of anti-social behaviour.
- We will end the obsession with ASBOs and other mechanistic solutions, and reinforce the 'no order' principle of the Children's Hearing system. Making orders is necessary in some cases, but should be the last resort. A child at risk of offending is often a child in need of protection, and focusing on prevention, early intervention and diversion is far more likely to be successful.

Liberty

The erosion of civil liberties must be resisted. We aim to build a Scotland without fear where people feel part of an inclusive community.

- We will continue to campaign against the UK Identity Card and National Database scheme, the routine retention by police of DNA of innocent people and identity and surveillance systems such as fingerprinting in schools.
- Anti-terror legislation will be limited to what is fair and effective.
- We will make sure Scotland has a strong independent Human Rights Commission to protect and uphold the European Convention on Human Rights.



Green MSP Patrick Harvie demonstrates the Green Party position on the UK ID card database scheme.

Equality and diversity

Scotland can be proud of the progress made in enhancing equality and protecting diversity. However we have not yet succeeded in creating a country where all can participate fully in society, regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief. Not only would maximising participation in society benefit the individuals concerned, it would also benefit wider society. We believe equality is an important measure of Scotland's progress. We want everyone to be able to practice their religion and maintain their cultural identity whilst playing a full and active part in a democratic Scotland.

- One in five Scots has a disability. Greens will make disability more central to the legislative and policy agenda, working with people with disabilities and representative organisations to remove barriers to playing a full part in society.
- We will provide additional support to people with learning disabilities, such as opportunities for creative activities and for developing skills for work, and make community spaces available for these purposes.
- We will ensure that Race Equality Impact Assessments and Gender Duty and Gender Impact Assessments are rigorously implemented.
- We will extend age discrimination legislation to apply to goods and services, not just in the workplace.
- We will be bold in challenging homophobia and protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual (LGBT) people by legislating against hate crimes. We will work with LGBT communities to ensure that equality advances throughout the education system and the public sector.
- We will ensure an adequate number of local authority sites with appropriate security, rents and amenities tariffs available for gypsy and traveller communities.
- We recognise the benefits and importance of supporting Scotland's many languages, including Scots, Gaelic, ethnic minority languages and British Sign Language through their inclusion in education and multilingual public information.

Section 3: Stopping the Supertanker: Energy and Climate Change

Climate change, primarily caused by pollution of the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels, is a grave threat to humanity. Scotland must play its part in addressing it. Calculations show that we must reduce our emissions of CO₂ by 90% by 2050. This is a major challenge, but it is achievable. Indeed, if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change, urgent action is needed in the next four years. The recent report by Sir Nicholas Stern spelled out in no uncertain terms that failure to act to reduce carbon emissions will cost 20 times more than acting now.

The good news is that by reducing our dependency on oil, and creating an economy driven by clean, safe sources of energy, we can improve our quality of life and generate jobs using Scotland's strong engineering and technology skills base. A low-carbon society will have many benefits: less air pollution, less congested traffic and energy prices not subject to international uncertainties.

Tackling climate change will also require a global solution that is just and equitable as well as achieving the necessary emissions reductions. We will therefore introduce medium and long-term carbon budgets aiming to make Scotland a carbon-neutral country and ensure that Scotland's per capita emissions are reduced to an equitable level.

Energy policy

Greens promise innovation and determination to power Scotland's economy sustainably using our abundant renewable energy sources. We will legislate to deliver carbon emission reductions and energy efficiency increases year on year.

- The Scottish Executive will be required to produce a sustainable energy plan for Scotland and appoint a cabinet-level Minister for Sustainable Development and Climate Change.
- We will introduce a law requiring the Scottish Executive to produce an action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 4.5% year-on-year in order to achieve targets of a 30% reduction on 1990 levels by 2010, a 70% reduction by 2030 and a 90% reduction by 2050, and allocate an investment fund adequate to deliver them.
- We will seek powers for the Scottish Parliament over all energy matters, not just renewables and energy efficiency.
- Local authorities will be required to assess their carbon emissions and set reduction targets.
- We will establish a Climate Challenge Fund worth £100 million over the next four year term to support community initiatives to reduce carbon emissions.

It will take more than a phone call to tackle climate change.

Image courtesy of The Scotsman Publications Ltd.



Section 3: Stopping the Supertanker: Energy and Climate Change

Energy efficient, warm homes

Poor standards of energy efficiency in much of Scotland's housing stock are the cause of considerable fuel poverty as well as high carbon emissions: more than half of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions come from the built environment. Home energy efficiency measures in new and existing housing will address both issues, and help to provide greater energy security.

- We will set binding targets to improve the overall energy efficiency of housing by 40% by 2020. We will enhance building standards for improved energy efficiency and will apply the 'passive house' standard to ensure that new buildings are zero carbon in use from 2011.
- To ensure that the 2016 fuel poverty target is achieved, we will increase investment in the energy efficiency of our housing stock to ensure that no Scottish home falls below NHER 7 (a national home energy rating of good) by 2016.
- We will work to ensure that all buildings sold or rented from Spring 2008 have an accurate Home Energy Certificate issued by an independent assessor.
- Smart meters will be installed in all new homes from 2009, and a programme of retrofitting will be rolled out so residents can monitor their energy use and to enable more accurate billing.
- We will ensure that by 2010, 65,000 homes are built or renovated each year with levels of insulation, passive solar gain and micropower that will achieve zero carbon emissions.
- We will phase out the use of incandescent light-bulbs (technology invented at the time of the telegraph and the steam locomotive) and encourage greater use of compact fluorescent tubes, light-emitting diodes and other technologies that may emerge as replacements.

Serious about renewables

Scotland has the biggest renewable energy resource in Europe, but progress in achieving this potential has been slow and frustrating for the industry. Scottish companies have had to go to countries like Portugal to get government support for full-scale commercial development. This must change.

- Our target is for Scotland to generate 70% of its electricity needs from renewable energy by 2020 and 100% by 2050. To achieve this, a coherent national strategy for renewables and guidance for on-shore and off-shore wind energy development is needed.
- We will give priority to community-owned renewable energy generation schemes, encourage communities across Scotland to develop renewables projects and involve local people more meaningfully in decisions on corporate renewables schemes.

- We will double financial support for 'wet' renewables (wave, tidal and offshore wind) while maintaining support for the development of onshore wind power, without compromising wild places.
- Local authorities will be obliged to prepare Local Renewable Energy Strategies to include audits of potential capacity for wind energy developments, and locational guidance for wind, biomass and hydro schemes. We will bring in planning regulations to allow proposals for wind farms to compete against each other based on identified capacity, need and location.
- Heating accounts for over half of our energy use, but little has been done to support the development of renewable heat fuels and insulation. We will meet 15% of our heating needs from renewable and microgeneration sources by 2020 by introducing a renewable heat obligation for heat energy suppliers to obtain a percentage of their fuel from renewable sources such as biomass.
- We will ensure that every local authority has an Energy Advice Centre employing Green Energy Officers to provide people with independent advice about installing renewables and energy efficiency measures in their homes.
- We will enable local authorities to offer council tax or other local taxation rebates to households and enterprises that take specific actions to reduce their environmental impact, such as through installing micro-renewables and energy efficiency measures, or choosing not to own a car.

Decentralised energy

Decentralising our power network is an essential part of a sustainable energy plan and also a huge opportunity. Generating electricity closer to where it is used reduces losses in transmission and allows waste heat to be used, providing energy savings and reducing emissions. There is an urgent need to overhaul the national grid to allow it to support decentralised energy networks.

- We will require local authorities to set out how they would move towards a Decentralised Energy Strategy. We will require all new residential, commercial and public sector developments to incorporate on-site zero and low carbon technology contributing at least an extra 25% reduction in CO₂ emissions beyond building regulations standards.
- We will provide permitted development rights for installation of micro-power systems.
- Electricity suppliers will be required to install meters in all new houses by 2009 that enable householders to sell excess electricity back into the national grid.
- We will triple funding for the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative to provide grants

Section 3: Stopping the Supertanker: Energy and Climate Change

for householders and communities to install renewable energy devices, and guarantee it on a 3-year rolling basis. We will extend the maximum grant to 50%, extend the Central Energy Efficiency Fund and introduce a loan and borrowing fund to support installation of renewable energy in public buildings.

- New thermal power stations will be required to use waste heat and we will place limits on size of new thermal power stations to encourage decentralisation.

Nuclear power? Still no thanks!

Nuclear power is dangerous, dirty and expensive, and is not a low carbon technology: the energy involved in mining, fuel fabrication, construction, transport and waste makes nuclear comparable in carbon dioxide production to an efficient gas-powered station. It leaves toxic waste, which will remain a threat to humans for hundreds of years. The costs of cleaning up this waste, already nearly £100bn and rising, will fall to future generations.

- We refuse to be part of a governmental agreement with any party that takes any steps towards new nuclear power stations in Scotland during the next session of parliament.
- We will oppose any attempts to extend the operating licences of existing stations and will shut them down as soon as possible.
- We will require nuclear waste to be stored on site in secure, monitorable and retrievable storage.
- By working in partnership with management and unions we will ensure that employees in the nuclear industry are employed in decommissioning work or retrained and redeployed, for example in renewables.

Adapting to climate change

Even if all global emissions of greenhouse gases stopped immediately, we would still face considerable challenges from the climate change caused by historic emissions. As well as not making things worse, we must also prepare the country for increased rainfall, storms and flooding.

- We will protect against climate change damage by installing a national system of flood defences and developing an early warning system for tidal surges and coastal flooding.
- New building on flood plains will be prohibited and building standards improved to ensure new buildings can withstand climate change impacts.
- We will fast-track the introduction of river catchment management plans for conservation and flood management, promoting 'soft' catchment management in preference to 'hard' engineering approaches to flood prevention – and managed re-alignment on coasts, especially in areas of high wildlife value.

Innovative measures

The only long term solution to the challenge of climate change is dramatic reduction in use of fossil fuels but, in the short to medium term, there is a role for capturing carbon in natural and man-made sinks. It is vital to ensure that land use change, like damage to peatland, does not add to the problem.

Greens favour a form of carbon quotas whereby all individuals have equal pollution rights and those who need more carbon-based energy would buy it from those who use less. There would be a fixed cap on national emissions set at current levels of use. Individual quotas would be reduced year-on-year in line with overall targets to reduce fossil fuel use.

- We will aim to introduce of individual domestic tradable carbon quotas.
- We will set a target for all fossil fuel power generation to include carbon capture and storage by 2015.
- An adequately resourced peatland management unit will be established to deliver a Scottish action plan for peatland restoration.
- We will roll out pilot projects to provide hydrogen from renewable energy as a transport fuel along the lines of the PURE project on Unst, Shetland.



Mark Ballard MSP confronts roads hauliers demonstrating over fuel prices.

Section 4: Transport: moving Scotland in the right direction

Traffic congestion and pollution are having an ever increasing impact on our economy, health and society. Transport is the fastest growing contributor to Scotland's climate change emissions. Poor air quality continues to affect public health and exacerbate conditions like asthma. The only long-term solution is for an efficient, integrated public transport system to become the default choice for most people's travel needs. It must become easier to use, with timetables integrated across all modes of public transport, nationwide through-ticketing and an equitable concessionary fare scheme.

Many transport issues arise due to non-strategic, non-integrated planning of homes, schools, public services and workplaces. Greens will support local jobs and services to reduce travel needs, and ensure the planning system prioritises transport reduction. Walking and cycling must be promoted as they are the healthiest and most sustainable modes of transport. We will aim to give people more control over transport decisions through local transport partnerships. We will assess all major transport projects on the basis of their contribution to Scottish climate change emissions, scrapping those which would lead to a net increase.

Road safety and social exclusion

Our transport system must meet the requirements of people with particular needs, such as those in full time education, the elderly and people with disabilities. Women, especially those with young children, often have to rely on inadequate public transport provision. We will ensure that more services are accessible by those with mobility difficulties, sensory impairment and prams. We will end the confusion between

the UK and Scottish Parliament over responsibility for access to railway stations and trains. We will widen the extension of concessionary fares not just to pensioners and under-18-year-olds, but also all those in full-time education and low-income single parents, and ensure they apply to ferries and subways as well as buses. We will pilot free bus travel for under-16s.

- Instead of the onus of road safety policy being placed on walkers and cyclists, we need to encourage safer driving. Crime on the roads is still treated too leniently, and the victims of driving offences should be treated the same way as victims of other crimes.
- Communities need more power to demand speed limits, traffic calming and prioritisation of road space. Local authorities should work with communities to develop comprehensive speed management plans for all of our cities, towns and villages.
- We will give local authorities effective powers against pavement parking and anti-social parking.

Walking

Walking accounts for a quarter of all trips made in Scotland, and as many people walk to work as take the bus. Despite this, and the many benefits of walking, it tends to be under-recognised as a transport mode. We will develop a national policy framework for walking in Scotland, and ensure that there is a major role for walking in national, regional and local transport policy.

- Too many of Scotland's pavements are in poor condition. Local authorities must properly fund upgrading footpaths and public space and be given stronger control over works by utility companies, with powers of enforcement.

Walking accounts for a quarter of all trips made in Scotland, and as many people walk to work as take the bus.

Image courtesy of Lawrence Winram.



Section 4: Transport: moving Scotland in the right direction

- Local authorities will be required to assess new development proposals for walkability at the planning application stage.
- Communities will be encouraged to carry out Street Audits of key walking routes to schools, community facilities and public transport.

Cycling

Cycling is good for people's physical and mental well-being, saves money and the environment, yet cycling currently only merits 1% of the transport budget. We want cycling funding to quadruple by 2014 to at least 4%.

- We will link all schools and public centres by networks of green cycling and walking routes by 2017, incorporating parks and nature-rich places, and will continue to support and develop home zones and safer routes to school. We will ensure that all school pupils have cycle training.
- We will help cyclists to link to public transport by ensuring secure storage facilities.
- We will ensure environments where walkers and cyclists feel safe, including a high-visibility strategy to promote the safety of vulnerable groups.

Buses and trams

The deregulation of bus companies is stifling the development of an integrated country-wide coach and bus network. We will re-regulate bus companies in order to support marginal services and ensure that missing transport links are identified and provided.

- We will work with bus companies to improve services, develop integrated bus and coach networks for longer journeys. We will encourage integration of rural buses with other public transport and with business transportation such as couriers, regular shop deliveries, etc.
- We will carry out an inquiry into rural bus services and pricing.
- We will encourage the use of out-of-town coach interchanges that reduce congestion and journey times.
- We will fund Tram Line 3 in Edinburgh.

Affordable, reliable rail services

The rail network has become less reliable and more expensive since it was privatised. It has been put to work for shareholders, not the travelling public. We will return rail to public ownership to ensure it works in the public interest. The first step to reversing rail privatisation would be to ensure that the next holder of the Scotrail franchise is a not-for-profit provider. We will target funding towards relieving 'pinch points' in the rail network that are restricting services, with longer-term funding of major projects to enhance the network.

- We will invest in higher speed rail links to make north-south rail travel preferable to flying.
- We will invest in regional rail infrastructure including re-opening rural stations and supporting development around those routes.
- We will dual the railways between Perth, Inverness and Aberdeen and invest in a Dornoch rail crossing, rather than dualling the entire A9 and A96.
- We will support crossrail schemes in Glasgow and Aberdeen.
- We will enhance suburban rail in and around Edinburgh and upgrade Waverley Station by diverting funds from the unjustifiable £610m Edinburgh Airport Rail Link. A much cheaper option would be to build a new station on the Fife line and link the tram scheme with the Glasgow and Stirling lines.
- We will ensure the new Borders Railway goes to Hawick and ultimately links up with England.

Freight and ferries

Shifting freight off the roads reduces congestion and cuts pollution. It also reduces the cost of road repairs because goods vehicles cause disproportionate impact. For example, 50% of the wear and tear on the Forth road bridge is from heavy goods vehicles, although they constitute only 6% of the traffic on the bridge.

Recent European legislation has meant that new goods vehicles have significantly lower emissions of some key pollutants. That is very welcome, but much of the existing fleet does not meet even the Euro III standard. Westminster must do more to encourage the industry to invest in upgrading vehicles to reduce emissions. Front-loading the savings in Vehicle Excise Duty for vehicles with a Reduced Pollution Certificate is one way to achieve this

- We will prohibit any further increase in lorry size and seek to reduce existing lorry sizes.
- We will build on the success of the Freight Facilities Grants through marketing and planning and the introduction of a national strategy for rail and water freight.
- We will seek to reduce the volume of freight by reducing food and other commodity miles and cutting unnecessary packaging.
- We will develop shipping and harbours, and support the re-opening of rail and rail-freight access to Cairnryan.
- We will take the question of ferry tendering rules to the highest authority in the EU, with a view to keeping ferry services publicly owned.
- We will allow Young Scot cards and senior citizens' bus passes to be used on ferries.

Section 4: Transport: moving Scotland in the right direction

Roads

Despite increases in spending, our roads remain congested, with road traffic levels at their highest ever. Traffic levels are predicted to rise another 27% by 2020. This will gridlock the country and cost even more than the £20bn of damage to the economy already caused by congestion every year. The contribution from transport to climate change pollution is 8% higher now than in 1990, and rising. The answer is to reduce traffic levels and vehicle speeds, not to build more motorways. Greens will ensure that all existing and future transport plans will reduce rather than increase climate change emissions. The best way to reduce road accidents, stop congestion and cut transport pollution, is to persuade people to leave the car at home.

- We will legislate for statutory road traffic reduction targets to 2021, beginning by stabilising traffic at 2001 levels by 2014, with interim progress reporting and targets.
- We will oppose unnecessary additions to the major road network, including scrapping the M74 extension and the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route.
- We will introduce more home zones and traffic calming schemes, and low emission zones where polluting vehicles are barred.
- We will introduce 'smart' bridge tolls to reduce the burden on multiple occupancy vehicles and public transport.

- We oppose an additional Forth Road Bridge, while accepting that a replacement for the existing bridge may eventually become necessary due to wear and tear.
- We will support the introduction of congestion and road-user charging at both local and national levels.

Air travel

Eighty percent of flights from Prestwick, seventy percent from Glasgow and sixty percent from Edinburgh are to London airports. Better high speed rail links would cut these figures significantly as passengers would opt for sustainable transport. Using public funds to boost domestic tourism would be better for our economy than subsidising cheap flights abroad. Our wider policies on personal carbon accounts and rail travel alternatives will reduce reliance on aviation, and cut unnecessary flights significantly. We seek to reduce aviation to 1990 levels, encouraging better alternatives to unnecessary short haul flights.

- We will halt all further airport expansion in Scotland.
- We will end the Air Route Development Fund. Instead we will create a new Sustainable Access Fund and transfer the funds to support for ferry, lifeline air and other public transport links to the more remote parts of Scotland.
- We will press the UK government and EU to seek the international introduction of tax on aviation fuel.



Eleanor Scott MSP with the first road-licensed hydrogen fuel cell car in the UK powered by renewable energy.

Section 5: A healthy and productive natural environment

A healthy society and economy depends on a healthy and productive environment. Conversely, a profligate, wasteful society depletes the natural resources upon which it depends and undermines the economic potential of the country. It also threatens our ability to adapt to the future impacts of global climate change. Greens want to build a society that respects the environment, increases our quality of life and sustains and builds livelihoods. Sensitive stewardship of natural resources enhances our own lives and leaves our children, and our children's children a legacy of clean air, pure water, fertile farmland, abundant forests, vibrant urban green spaces and plentiful wildlife.

Reconnecting people with the land

Scotland's land reform agenda has begun to address some of the historical inequalities of land distribution. Using the modest land reform legislation of recent years, some rural communities, particularly in the Highlands and Islands, have bought their land and set inspiring examples of regeneration. We want to keep up this momentum and extend land reform legislation to create opportunities for urban and rural communities.

- We will review land reform legislation and update the 'community right to buy' to close loopholes that prevent communities from buying their land.
- We will extend the community right to buy to urban communities as well as rural communities.

- We will commission an audit of common good land in every local authority area to help protect it for community use.
- We will promote greater community use of and access to green spaces and woodlands, particularly in urban areas. Preserving these spaces brings health benefits and has a vital role in providing children with places to play and to understand natural history.

Farming

Greens want a better relationship between farmers and society, one that rewards them for managing our environment and growing healthy food (see also section 1 – A Food Economy). Our food should be produced without pesticides and chemicals that harm people and biodiversity. We will continue to support farmers who apply sustainable environmental practice at home and abroad.

- We will encourage food and farming co-operatives and improve the ability of farmers to act co-operatively by pressing for modernisation of legal and financial regulations that currently stifle the development of co-operatives.
- We oppose genetically modified (GM) crops and will declare Scotland a GM-free zone. We will introduce a new law to make genetic engineering companies strictly liable for social and economic damage caused by genetically-modified organisms.
- We will revive the organic action plan and ensure it is implemented, and set ambitious targets for organic conversion.



Section 5: A healthy and productive natural environment

- We will strengthen land management contracts, and ensure environmental benefits, organic production and support beyond the farm gate are funded through a simplified subsidy scheme, paid according to social and environmental objectives. We will continue to transfer subsidies from production to sustainable management and stewardship of our rural heritage, embracing modulation at the maximum rate permitted by the EU.
- We will protect farmers' and producers' livelihoods against outbreaks of avian flu and foot and mouth disease by stocking animal vaccines as an alternative to mass slaughter.

Treating nature and wildlife with respect

We need to take steps to conserve the natural heritage of Scotland and where possible restore habitats and ecosystems that have been damaged or degraded by past activities.

- We will halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 by ensuring the Biodiversity Action Plan is implemented with increased funding, and will introduce biodiversity indicators to assess progress towards these goals. We will review the

2004 Nature Conservation Act to ensure biodiversity is conserved and the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland is protected and enhanced.

- We will fulfil our obligations under the European Habitats Directive by establishing an ecological restoration programme.
- We support the use of national parks, both land and coastal or marine parks, to enable communities to maximise the benefits from sustainable management of their local natural resources. We will extend the boundary of Cairngorms National Park and establish Scotland's first marine national park, and continue to promote designation of the Flow Country, the world's biggest blanket bog, as a World Heritage Site.
- Scotland's lochs, rivers and streams are among our national treasures and the quality of our water supplies is crucial to our health and well-being. We will increase penalties for contamination of fresh water from industrial, agricultural or domestic outflows, tighten restrictions in this area and help to tackle pollution problems at source.



Green MSPs led the campaign to stop the ship-to-ship oil transfer scheme for the Firth of Forth and propose legislation to block it.

Section 5: A healthy and productive natural environment

Protecting the marine environment

Scotland's seas have been abused and neglected for far too long. We will bring forward legislation to protect Scotland's marine environment.

- We will consolidate and update the 85 strands of existing legislation on the marine environment in a single coherent Marine Bill.
- We will halt consideration of ship-to-ship oil transfer in the Firth of Forth and shift the powers of accountability from private port authorities back to Ministers. All development projects must comply with robust marine spatial planning.
- We will introduce a network of marine protected areas to ensure conservation of our most precious marine wildlife.
- We will regulate shipping in the Minch.
- We will ensure that an end to dumping of pollution at sea is enforced.
- We will support a global whaling ban, oppose the use of military sonar at frequencies harmful to cetaceans and designate Scottish waters as a whale and dolphin sanctuary.

Supporting sustainable fisheries

Greens support well-regulated, sustainable aquaculture and fisheries. We acknowledge the sacrifices made in recent years by fishermen and their communities and recognise that there are signs of recovery which should not be undermined. We will put in place a fishing community regeneration plan with the health of fish stocks at its heart, redirect fisheries subsidies towards recovery and put in place a long-term fisheries management policy to revive stocks and secure livelihoods for fishing communities.

- We will reform fisheries regulation to tighten controls on industrial fishing and put the emphasis on sustainable fishing, including regeneration zones, quotas for bycatch of non-target species, onboard observers and marine protected areas.
- Reform, full implementation and enforcement of the Common Fisheries Policy are vital to sustainable fisheries in Scottish waters and internationally.
- We will support sustainable fishing accreditation schemes where appropriate.
- We will impose a moratorium on new fin-fish farms pending an enquiry into their environmental impacts and introduce higher standards by improving the existing aquaculture code of practice and making it enforceable.

Ending animal cruelty

Cruelty to animals is unacceptable. We recognise the links between animal cruelty and human violence and believe there should be formal recognition of these links. Greens

will introduce, tighten and enforce regulations on wildlife crime and animal cruelty and on the management of animal sanctuaries, livery yards, zoos, pet shops and the sale of animals over the internet.

- We will ensure that new laws on wildlife crime are fully enforced, and legislate to introduce an environmental court or tribunal, providing at least one Wildlife Crime Officer in each police force, more environmental Procurators Fiscal and making wildlife offences recordable.
- A Scottish Executive Minister with clear responsibility for animal welfare will set up an Animal Welfare Unit to co-ordinate policy and ensure implementation across all departments.
- We will support a protocol for cross-reporting of incidents of human and animal abuse, and the inclusion of animal welfare education in the national curriculum. We will ban the possession of recordings of extreme animal cruelty.
- We will promote alternatives to animal experimentation and we will ensure the Scottish Executive delivers on the promise to ban wild animals in circuses, and licence the participation of domestic animals.
- We will ban live export of animals for slaughter or fattening abroad, and will only allow the export of breeding livestock under licence. We will prohibit the import, export and sale of fur, whether wild caught or factory farmed.
- We will introduce compulsory dog registration with identification through micro-chipping, ban the import of puppies from puppy farms and introduce licensing for greyhound racing tracks and welfare measures for retired racing dogs. We will prohibit the sale or use of electric shock collars.
- We will ban snares. We will defend the ban on hunting with hounds and the ban on tail-docking.



Scottish SPCA Inspector Billy Linton at the Society's Glasgow Dog and Cat Home.
Photo by Peter Devlin

Section 6: Scotland: A Responsible Global Citizen

Despite the limited powers of the Scottish Parliament, many issues that stretch beyond its powers are of direct relevance to Scotland. Greens will further the debate on these issues and on Scotland's role in the world.

Peace and security

The Scottish Green Party is committed to peace and non-violence and will continue to vigorously oppose attempts to involve Scotland in illegal wars. Greens have opposed the Iraq war since before it started, and were involved in mounting protests against it across Scotland. Green MSPs were first to raise the alarm in the Scottish Parliament of the use of Scottish airports for rendition flights.

- Replacing Trident is a major strategic, financial and moral mistake, and contrary to our Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty commitments to take steps to disarm. We will use whatever powers are available to remove weapons of mass destruction from Scotland's soil. We will introduce a Bill to ban the transportation of nuclear warheads from Scotland's public roads and inshore waters.
- We support the UN Decade of a Culture of Peace and Non-violence, will ensure government addresses it, and will stimulate debate on peace issues in the Scottish Parliament.
- We will support efforts towards mutual recognition of the rights to independent statehood and secure borders of Palestinians and Israelis and a rapid end to violence in the region.

- UK soldiers should be withdrawn from Iraq and replaced with UN peace-keeping forces from countries not involved in the original invasion.
- We support a Scottish presence at the United Nations but believe its major bodies need reform, including an end to any permanent membership of the Security Council.

Trade, aid and debt

Despite much fanfare, little progress has been made since the G8 at Gleneagles on the Make Poverty History agenda of trade, aid and debt. Global trade is still biased against the poorest, the UK still has not reached the UN recommended level of 0.7% of national wealth as overseas aid and too little debt has been written off.

- We will argue for increased spending on international development aid and wider debt relief for poor countries.
- We will aim to make Scotland a Fair Trade country.
- We will campaign to end arms sales.
- International financial and trade institutions such as the World Bank and World Trade Organization need democratic reform and should be subject to sustainable development duties.

Independence

The only way to determine Scotland's constitutional future is by referendum, because only a referendum allows a clear choice on a constitutional matter that often crosses party divides. In any referendum the Scottish Green Party will campaign for

Green MSPs join Amnesty International demonstrating at the US Consulate on human rights and 'torture' flights.



Section 6: Scotland: A Responsible Global Citizen

the Scottish Parliament to have the same powers as any other member state in an increasingly interdependent European Union. However, we do not wish to see the replacement of one centralised state with another. Greater power needs to be shifted to communities, to ensure that decisions are taken at the level closest to those affected by them.

- We support calls for Scottish independence, not out of nationalistic fervour, but as a means to create a more locally-based, sustainable, and democratic society. We will work constructively whatever the constitutional framework to make the biggest difference we can with the powers available.
- We believe there is a particularly urgent need for greater fiscal autonomy for Scotland and more devolved powers over taxation, energy and broadcasting.

Governance, parliament and democracy

We are committed to a constructive and consensual approach to government, supporting democratic decisions being made at the most appropriate level, fully accountable to the Scottish people.

- We will strive for a mature style of government at Holyrood favouring co-operation without compromising our principles.
- We will introduce independent scrutiny of the Ministerial Code so that Ministers can be held to account if they break the rules.
- We will champion the right to vote at 16.
- The Scottish Green party believes that community councils have not been encouraged to play their full part in our democracy, and would like to see appropriate devolution of political power extended to community councils. We will give community councils decision-making powers over local responsibilities such as street furniture and

green spaces, and sufficient budgets to enable them to exercise these powers.

- Greens support a written constitution and bill of rights for the Scottish Parliament.
- We will protect the independence and authority of Scotland's commissioners and ombudsmen for an accountable, fair Scotland.
- We will ensure that the Aarhus Convention on public rights to environmental information, participation and justice is fully implemented in Scotland, including establishing an environmental court and to deliver affordable access to justice in environmental matters.

Asylum

Global injustice and war lead to people coming to Scotland as asylum seekers and refugees. Scotland must welcome those fleeing persecution in their own countries, while working to tackle the forces that persecute people. Greens led the political campaign to stop the brutal dawn raids on asylum seeking families, and we will continue to fight for justice for refugees and asylum seekers and support efforts to help them integrate into Scottish society.

- We will provide emergency services for destitute people arriving in Scotland from abroad.
- We will campaign to rule out dawn raids by legislating against forced entry and strengthening child protection, and we will press the Home Office to reduce deportations of families.
- We will call for trafficked people not to be treated as criminals.
- We will support efforts to integrate refugees into local communities, including provision of English and Gaelic language teaching.



Image courtesy of Scottish Viewpoint.



scottish
green party

We will:

- > **Tackle** climate change, cut pollution every year.
- > **Deliver** world class public transport, not road and airport expansion.
- > **Support** local business and social enterprise, regulate supermarkets.
- > **Keep** the NHS and water public, reverse rail privatisation.
- > **Say No to Trident** and nuclear power, invest in renewable energy.
- > **Tackle** poverty, provide warm, affordable, energy efficient homes.
- > **Stop** demonising young people; defend civil liberties and promote equality.

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