



THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL

**SCOTTISH BORDERS GREENS MANIFESTO FOR A BETTER BORDERS
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2022**

Scottish Green Party



1



MEET YOUR CANDIDATES



Scottish Green Party



1

MEET THE CANDIDATES



THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL



SCOTTISH BORDERS GREENS – MANIFESTO FOR A BETTER BORDERS

Think Global, Act Local

By considering the climate emergency in every local action and decision we take, Green Councillors will ensure a just transition to a zero-carbon economy and society. We will do this by taking local climate action, investing in services you need, ensuring communities work for everyone and revitalising local democracy.

TAKING LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION

Moving Scottish Borders to Net Zero

We can reduce the impact of high energy bills on the Council budget and help meet climate change targets by producing our own energy; including a Borders biogas plant utilising our food waste, micro renewables fitted to all new building and a retrofit programme for all SBC buildings.

We can increase provision of charging points for electric vehicles at the kerbside throughout the Borders.

We can recommend that Scottish Borders Council publish an annual figure or graph on the Council Tax Bill to show how much closer they are to Net Zero.

Our aim is to create a Council in the Borders that can be promoted nationally as an example of Climate Action excellence.

Farming and Agriculture

We can secure a just transition for farmers and farm workers who are on the frontline of both Brexit and climate breakdown.

We can offer meaningful support to agricultural workers across Scotland through building up local sustainable food networks; supporting climate and wildlife-friendly farming practices; and ensuring small, family-run farms are viable in the long-term.

Our aim is to ensure future food security.



Reducing and Managing Waste

We can reduce waste and save money on landfill by committing to increasing local recycling facilities in our communities and increase support to local community based projects which promote zero waste.

We can promote composting by reintroducing garden waste collections that would create compost for individuals and community gardens.

We can support local deposit/return schemes.

We can advocate a review of the decision to send recycled waste from the Borders to Northern Ireland and invest in local alternatives.

Our aim is to ensure that Scottish Borders Council has a zero-waste plan by 2025.



Archimedes Screw generating power at Philiphaugh, Selkirk



INVESTING IN SERVICES YOU NEED

Schools and Childcare

We can and must recruit more teaching staff to fill all posts within our schools.

We can improve the future health and happiness of our children with a greater emphasis on the teaching of life skills in our schools.

We can ensure that sustainability, resilience and zero carbon are incorporated into the plans for the new High Schools due to be built in Galashiels, Peebles and Hawick.

We can protect small schools from closure.

Our aim is to provide a safe environment and quality education for all young folk in Scottish Borders.

Creating a National Care Service

We can commit to keeping local healthcare services open for all.

We can improve our children's future by investing in preventative health and mental health care programmes within our schools.

We can commit to improving social inclusion and accessibility across the region.

We can promote additional support for a comprehensive Covid recovery programme for both healthcare workers and the public.

Our aim is to provide integrated care across all healthcare services.

Crisis and Anti-Poverty Services

We can campaign to secure funding for those who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual violence.

We can empower tenants at risk of homelessness through better advice and access to legal aid.

We can help people to claim the social security benefits they are entitled to through advice services and the NHS.

We can support social workers to manage workloads and focus on prevention.

We can welcome refugees and asylum seekers into our communities and push to ensure relevant support services are available.

Our aim is to tackle child poverty in Scottish Borders and help people to avoid crisis.



INVESTING IN SERVICES YOU NEED

Better Public Transport

We can improve our public transport by using Community Transport initiatives (like postbuses) to increase accessibility and uptake of public transport across the Borders.

We can provide short-term support for local public transport operators in relation to Covid recovery.

We can introduce 'hopper tickets' that integrate bus and rail services, and allow flexibility of movement throughout the region.

Our aim is to support expansion, connectivity and integration of public transport throughout the Borders and beyond.



Electric bus with bike spaces on X62 bus route from Galashiels through Peebles to Edinburgh



CREATING COMMUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

Local Economy

We can fill our empty high street units by offering incentives to local small businesses and social enterprises with sustainable aims.

We can increase support to small businesses to provide good quality apprenticeships.

We can provide additional, short term, support for sustainable covid recovery in local small businesses and social enterprises.

Our aim is for a thriving local economy based on what's good for people, not just profit.

Social Housing and Warmer Homes

We can reduce fuel poverty across our region by increasing the uptake of funding to create warmer homes and by the creation of district heating schemes.

We can commit to enhanced grants for home insulation and retrofitting of renewable energy sources in older properties.

Our aim is to provide affordable, warm homes for all.

Streets for People and Active Travel

We can deliver the Scottish Government commitment of at least 10% of the transport budget to walking wheeling and cycling infrastructure.

We can refocus the roads budget on repairing existing roads rather than building new, or widening existing, roads.

We can retain 20mph speed limits in residential areas to improve road safety and reduce air pollution.

Our aim is to give the streets back to communities.



CREATING COMMUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

Leisure, Recreation, Arts and Culture

We can work to protect Council services like libraries, community centres and sports facilities and ensure their return to pre-Covid levels of activity and access.

We can ensure continued provision of low cost community use sports facilities at affordable rates.

We can support community led festivals and community events.

We can provide short-term, support to enable the return of international cultural events to the Borders.

We can promote sustainable tourism in the Borders.

Our aim is to raise awareness of the cultural diversity of Scottish Borders and promote recreation facilities for all.



Finger post signage for the Borders Abbey Way linking the towns of Jedburgh, Hawick, Selkirk, Melrose and Kelso



REVITALISING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Planning for a Green Future

We can strive for a planning system that will result in development that is driven by public interest, not economic growth.

We can campaign with our MSPs to balance the rights of communities with those of developers by giving them an equal right of appeal over planning decisions.

We can protect wildlife sites and local greenspaces from development.

We can seek sustainable solutions to managing flooding and public land that benefit people and nature.

Our aim is to enable Scottish Borders Council to deliver their Climate Change Act commitments.

Fair Funding for Public Services

We can use the review secured by Green MSPs to end the regressive Council Tax and replace it with a fairer system of property taxation.

We can give Council employees a say on how their pensions should be invested; including options to divest from fossil fuels, tobacco and weapons, and to invest in local housing and renewable energy.

Our aim is to involve the community in financial-decision making resulting in the revitalising of local democracy.

Empowering Local Communities

We can support more powers for Community Councils, citizens' assemblies, street committees and other community bodies to make decisions on public spending.

We can make it easier to find out and understand what is happening in Scottish Borders Council.

We can remove barriers to elected office for under-represented groups and ensure that Council business is conducted in an accessible and inclusive manner.

Our aim is to engage citizens in the important matters affecting their communities allowing voters to make real choices about the services they want and how to pay for them.



WITH GREEN COUNCILLORS WE CAN CREATE A BETTER BORDERS FOR ALL



Looking towards the Eildon Hills from Peebles

You can follow our campaign and find out more about your candidate on:

Twitter: @BordersGreens

Facebook: Scottish Borders Green Party

Website: <https://scottishbordersgreens.org/>

Instagram: @scottish_borders_greens