



GREEN IMPACT

How Scottish Green MSPs Are Transforming Scotland

GREEN IMPACT

In 2016, the people of Scotland elected six green MSPs and since then we have been working tirelessly for a fairer, greener Scotland.

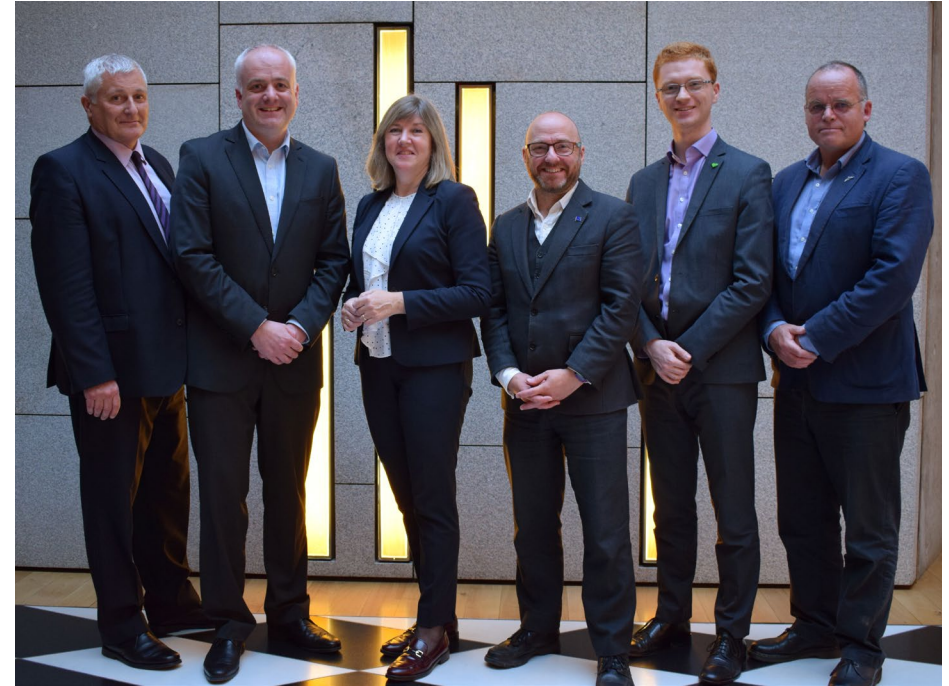
We've used every opportunity and every bit of leverage we've had to deliver real change. And we're proud of what we've achieved. We've fought austerity, securing hundreds of millions for local services and reforming income tax so that it's fairer whilst putting even more funds behind our public services. We've defended our environment, preventing the destruction of kelp forests, increasing investment in low carbon infrastructure, and much more.

Throughout this period, Scotland has been thrown into uncertainty against its will by the Brexit crisis. The Green MSPs have been on the front line, trying to stop Brexit and advocating our belief in Scotland's future as an independent member of the European Union. Our work here has been vital. Without the Greens, there would be no majority for a second referendum on independence in Parliament, and our MSPs led the legal action that confirmed that the UK Government can cancel Brexit at any time.

Green Impact shows how green votes can transform Scotland, the UK and Europe for the better.



Patrick Harvie MSP & Alison Johnstone MSP, Parliamentary Co-leaders of the Scottish Greens



Scottish Green MSPs. Left to right:
John Finnie, Mark Ruskell, Alison
Johnstone, Patrick Harvie, Ross
Greer, Andy Wightman.

GREEN VALUES



Ecological Wisdom

Humans are part of the natural world,
and we respect all forms of life



Non-violence

We strive for peace and cooperation



Social Justice

We believe in the equitable distribution
of resources, locally and globally



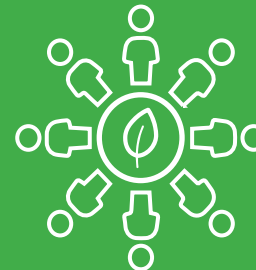
Sustainability

Our goal is to provide for the needs
of present and future generations



Participatory Democracy

We strive for a democracy in which all citizens directly
participate in the decisions that affect their lives



Respect for Diversity

We defend the rights of all people and celebrate
cultural, linguistic, ethnic, sexual, religious and
spiritual diversity

GREEN INCOME TAX

Our tax money funds the public services we rely on in our daily lives, from health care and schools, to local parks and libraries. The Scottish Greens believe we must use our tax system to fight inequality and deliver greater funding for strong public services across Scotland.

Through our budget deals with the Scottish Government, we have secured major reform, making Scotland fairer and putting more cash into public services. Now, the majority of households pay less income tax while those with higher incomes pay more, putting more money into Scottish public services. And we have secured a commitment to replace the unfair, outdated council tax, with new draft legislation to be published by 2021.

"The Green argument has been leading the change in tax policy, showing that we can raise additional revenue while protecting people on low and middle incomes."

Patrick Harvie, Budget Stage 1 debate, 31 January 2018.

55%

Scottish taxpayers pay less income tax than if they were living elsewhere in the UK.

£33k

everyone earning under this threshold pay less thanks to the green income tax changes.

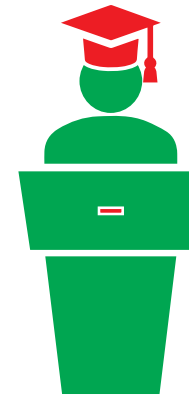
£219m

has been raised for the public purse as a result of this progressive tax system.



A newly qualified nurse earning £17,460 per year will pay £20 less in Scotland than in England.

A CEO on a salary of £73,000 will pay £1,174 more in Scotland than in England.



A university principal on a salary of £342,000 per year will pay £3,694 more in Scotland than in England.

The Scottish Greens' income tax deal has made income tax fairer for all.

LOCAL SERVICES SAVED

Local services are the bedrock of our society. Green budget deals over three years have put an additional £420m into local services across Scotland, compared with the budgets the SNP proposed.

This money has allowed Councils to continue to make facilities available to the public from including swimming pools, museums and keeping many services free of additional charges.

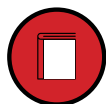
Here are just some of the public services which were facing threat of closure due to cuts, before the Scottish Greens' budget deals.

"The reality of the situation is that the deal puts local government in a better situation than in December and credit to the Scottish Greens for listening to, and acting upon, the case put forward by COSLA."

COSLA, the voice for Local Government in Scotland.



The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum
Stirling



Public libraries in Cullin and Tomintoul
Moray



School crossing patrollers in Oban
Argyll and Bute



Active Sports initiatives for school children in Elgin
Moray



Big Noise Raploch, a community youth orchestra
Stirling



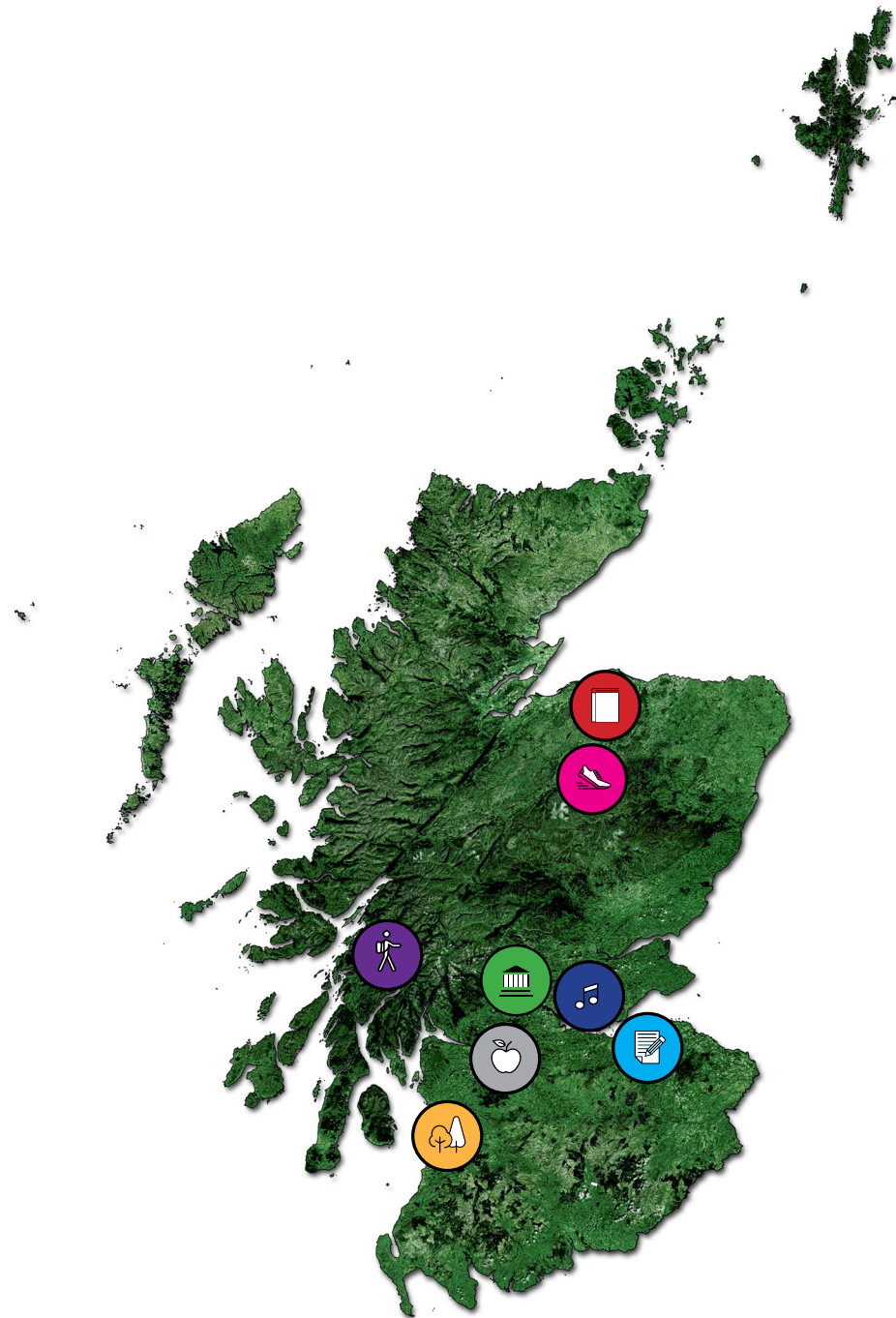
Funding for Club 365, a project reducing child hunger during the school holidays
Bellshill



A new public park created by South Ayrshire Council
Ayr



Qualified teachers kept in nursery schools
Edinburgh



SCOTLAND IN EUROPE

The Scottish Greens have led the fight to stop Brexit and keep Scotland in Europe. We recognise that the majority in Scotland voted to Remain, and we celebrate the diversity and opportunity that the EU has to offer. That's why Andy Wightman MSP and Ross Greer MSP led a successful legal challenge in the high courts that means the UK can now revoke the Article 50 notification and cancel Brexit.

The Greens have been instrumental in ensuring Scotland's environmental standards and animal welfare regulations will not be weakened if we leave the EU.

"It is now highly likely that, if the people of the UK were to change their minds and decide to remain in the EU, there is now a route to doing so. This would involve the extension of the Article 50 notification period and a second referendum. This is the only option that ends the current chaos and provides a considered and sincere means by which the citizens of the UK can have the final say in this process."

Andy Wightman

62%

in Scotland voted to Remain.

6

cross-Party politicians, led by Green MSP Andy Wightman, took a case to the European Court that ruled the UK could stop Brexit unilaterally.

89

MSPs voted for the Green motion calling for Article 50 to be revoked, versus just 29 Tory votes.



A HOME FOR EVERYONE

Scotland faces an acute housing crisis with over 162,000 applicants on housing waiting lists, escalating costs for young people, pressure from short-term lets and little accessible housing available for older or disabled people. Green MSPs have exposed this crisis and worked hard to challenge the root causes of this inequality.

Our research has shown that vacant and derelict land now takes up a space larger than 20,000 football pitches across Scotland, offering a vast opportunity to meet demand for affordable homes, and that there are over 83,000 homes lying empty in Scotland. The Greens are calling for radical action to put unused land and empty homes back into use and to regulate short-term lets.

"At the current rate of tackling empty homes it would take 173 years to bring all of Scotland's empty homes back into use."

Original research for Alison Johnstone, discussed in the Scottish Parliament on 26 June 2019.

51%

increase in the number of empty homes over the last decade (2008-2018).

83,000

empty homes in Scotland.

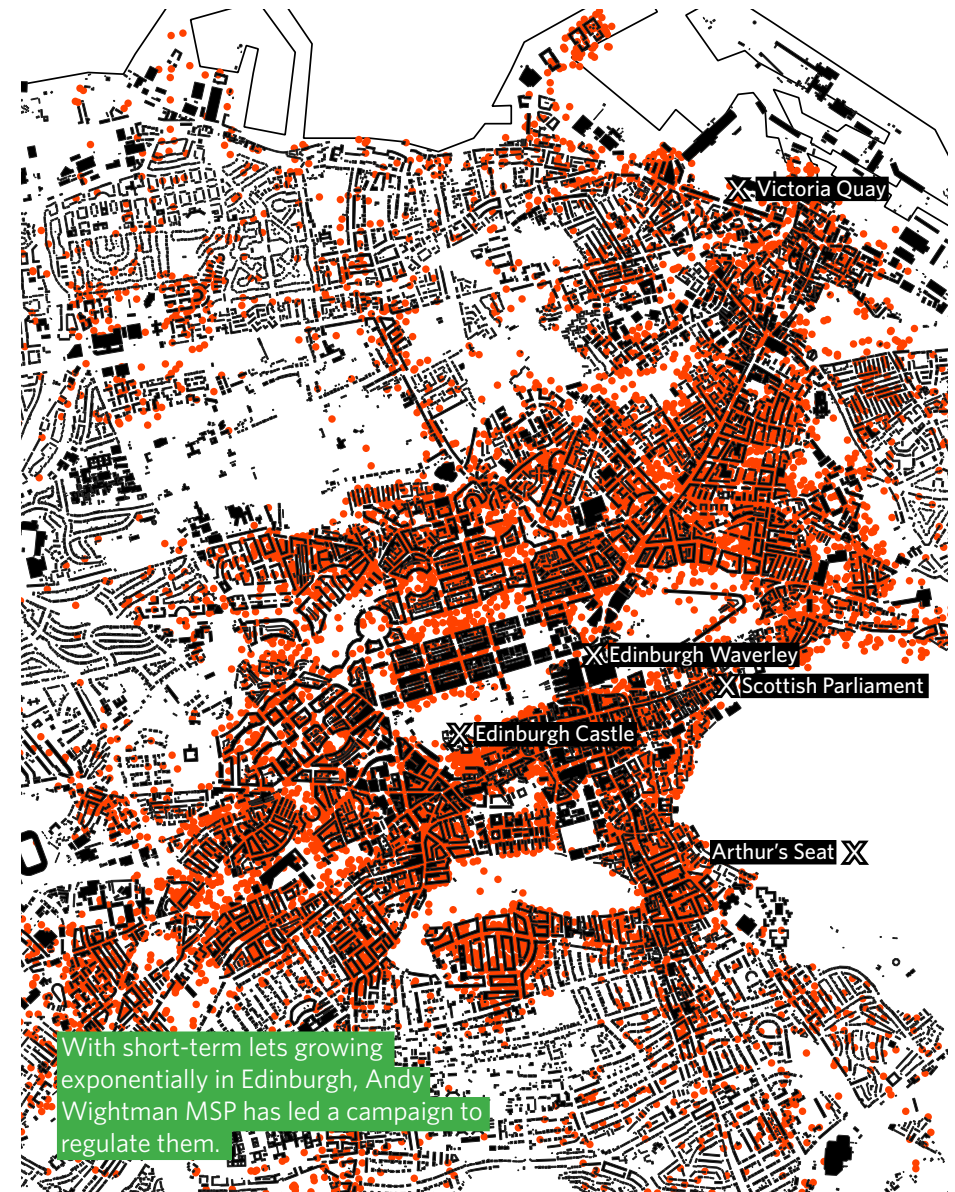
25,000

used for part of the year for second homes.

KEY



Location of Airbnb properties within Edinburgh City Centre.



EMPOWERING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Normal European countries have local governments that are empowered to provide their residents with the services they need, and to respond to challenges as they emerge.

The Scottish Greens believe in localism and are committed to getting power devolved to communities and local government. We have secured commitments from the Scottish Government to introduce legislation by 2021 that will allow local authorities to introduce workplace parking levies and tourist taxes where appropriate.

Workplace parking levies can already be introduced in England and Wales, and it successfully cut congestion and raised funds for public transport in Nottingham. Tourist taxes are the norm in popular destinations across Europe as they boost investment in mitigating the impact of high tourist numbers.

“It is time for Scotland to become a normal European country with normal local government instead of the hugely centralised and minimalist system we have which is at odds with the situation in virtually every other European country.” Andy Wightman

11%

of local government revenue is raised locally in Scotland compared to 42% across the EU.

£10m

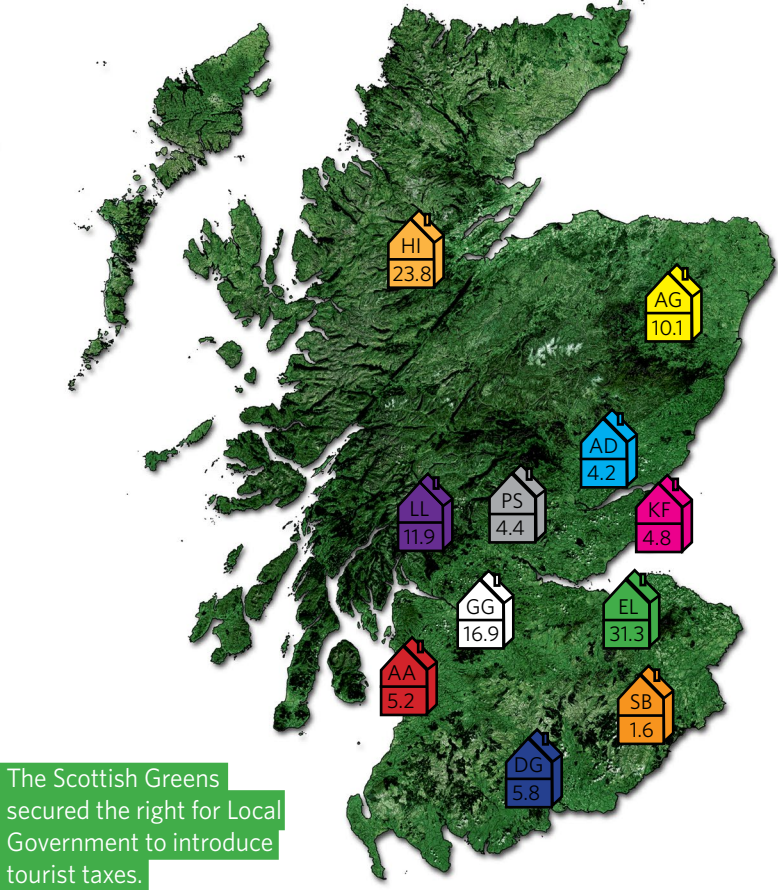
invested annually into Nottingham’s public transport through the workplace parking levy leading to a reduction in congestion and air pollution.

£120.2m

could be raised for public services through the tourist tax.

Source: information on tourist bed nights sourced from 2016 tourism data collected by Visit Scotland. A tourist tax of £2/night was based on proposals put forward by City of Edinburgh Council.

KEY	
	Potential money raised annually from a Tourist Tax of £2/night (Millions)
	AG Aberdeen and Grampian
	AD Angus and Dundee
	LL Argyll, Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling + Trossachs
	AA Ayrshire and Arran
	DG Dumfries and Galloway
	EL Edinburgh and Lothians
	GG Greater Glasgow and Clyde Valley
	HI Highlands and Islands
	KF Kingdom of Fife
	PS Perthshire
	SB Scottish Borders



The Scottish Greens secured the right for Local Government to introduce tourist taxes.

EDUCATION

Every young person deserves the best education possible, including the life skills they need to thrive.

Our education spokesperson, Ross Greer MSP, secured a major overhaul of Personal & Social Education, including a commitment that all young people will learn about consent as part of Sex & Relationships Education.

We have also secured tens of millions in extra funding for children & young people with additional support needs and triggered a review into the decline of Coordinated Support Plans for those with the most complex needs.

“We are pleased that the Scottish Greens have adopted our aims and committed to a clear strategy for tackling LGBT-phobia in schools”

The Time for Inclusive Education (TIE) campaign

90% of LGBTI+ people experience discrimination at school.

3/4 of young people don't know what mental health information, support and services are available.

75% of young people in the UK have not learned about consent in schools.



LOW-CARBON INFRASTRUCTURE

One of the simplest actions that can be taken by governments in the face of the climate emergency is to take public funding out of climate destroying infrastructure and put it into low carbon infrastructure instead. This includes buses, trains, renewable energy and cycle paths, as well as insulation and energy upgrades for our homes.

The Greens secured a commitment from the Scottish Government to increase the proportion of Scotland’s infrastructure spending on low-carbon projects every year, and less on projects which would increase Scotland’s greenhouse gas emissions, such as airport expansion and new motorways.



Percentage of Scottish Government infrastructure spend that is low carbon

10%

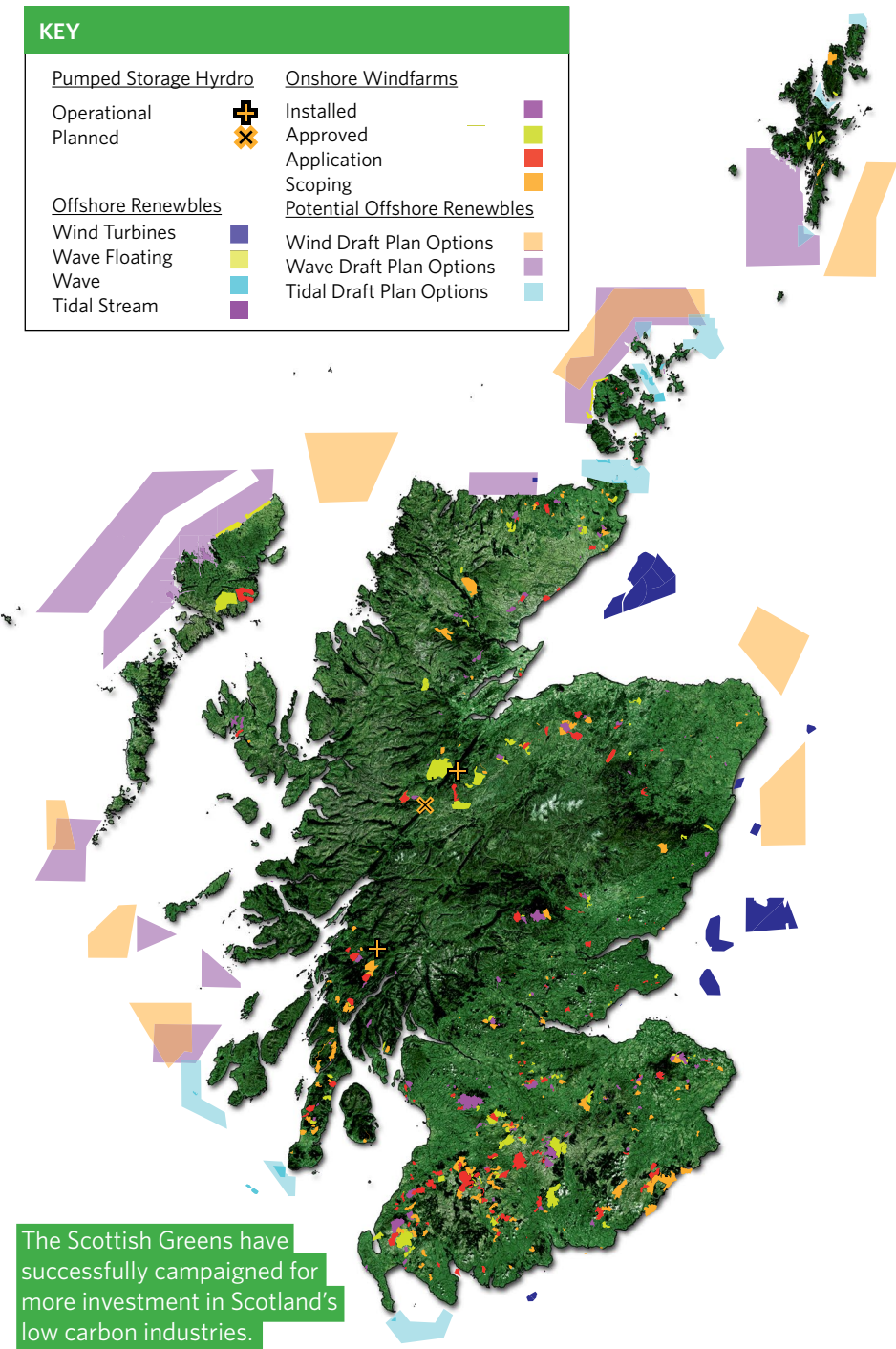
of the transport budget should go to cycling and walking; compared to 3% now.

70%

of infrastructure should be spent on low carbon projects, according to international research.

£240m

increase in low carbon infrastructure spend by Scottish Government following the commitment made to the Scottish Greens.



FIGHTING FRACKING

The Scottish Greens have opposed fracking from the beginning, with Alison Johnstone MSP leading the first parliamentary debate on a fracking ban back in 2014.

Since then, our MSPs have worked jointly with community campaigners across the country to call on the Scottish Government to prevent this toxic fossil fuel technology operating in Scotland. In 2017, the Government updated their policy to prohibit fracking taking place in Scotland. Greens will continue to push the Scottish Government to put this ban into primary legislation.

"If we are to shield ourselves from runaway climate change, we must leave four fifths of known fossil fuel reserves in the ground. Of course, fracking goes beyond even the known reserves by exploiting fossil fuels that are not yet on the carbon balance sheet. Therefore, to frack would not merely put the brake on climate progress—it would stick us in reverse." Mark Ruskell, Scottish Parliament 24 October 2017

99%

of respondents to the Scottish Government's consultation on fracking supported a ban.

84

Fracking wells can leak methane, a greenhouse gas that is 84 times more potent than CO₂.

0.1%

Fracking's contribution to Scotland's GDP, according to Scottish Government research.

Pressure from the Scottish Greens helped stop fracking in Scotland.



TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION

The Green MSPs have also taken a stand against plastic pollution, gaining a commitment from Government to bring forward plans for a charge on disposable cups and to increase the plastic bag charge to 10p. We have also published comprehensive proposals for an ambitious plan to tackle the scourge of plastic pollution that we are calling on the Scottish Government to take forward.

"The thing that is so galling about plastic pollution in particular is that it is so utterly unnecessary. The plastic in our oceans ought never to have got there in the first place – much of it perhaps ought not to have even been manufactured at all. And yet it is there, in unbelievable quantities, causing untold harm to marine wildlife." David Attenborough

3.7

MILLION tonnes of plastic waste produced in the UK each year.

200-800

MILLION single-use cups consumed in Scotland each year.

25p

levy on single use cups called for by the Greens which would reduce their use dramatically.

As well as leading calls for action on plastic pollution in Parliament, the Green MSPs are regular volunteers at community beach cleans.



SAVING OUR SEAS

Scotland's coasts and seas are home to a rich array of wildlife and habitats, including huge reefs of cold-water corals, great kelp forests, and hugely diverse species of sea mammals and fish.

The Scottish Greens have championed the protection and restoration of our marine environment, successfully securing the funding for four new Marine Protected Areas, stopping proposals to dredge and destroy kelp beds from going ahead, and getting a commitment from the Scottish Government to require that all Scottish fishing vessels are remote monitored to deter illegal fishing.

"This is an important announcement for some of Scotland's most special wild animals, putting us on the path to creating the world's first protected areas for basking sharks, minke whales and Risso's dolphin. Full credit to Mark Ruskell MSP."

Dr Sam Gardner, WWF Scotland



Plans to dredge kelp forests were stopped in their tracks when Green MSPs got the practice banned.



The Greens secured funding for the North-East Lewis MPA, protecting Risso's dolphins and puffins



The Greens secured funding for the Sea of the Hebrides MPA, protecting basking sharks and minke whales.



The Greens secured funding for the Southern Trench MPA, protecting minke whales

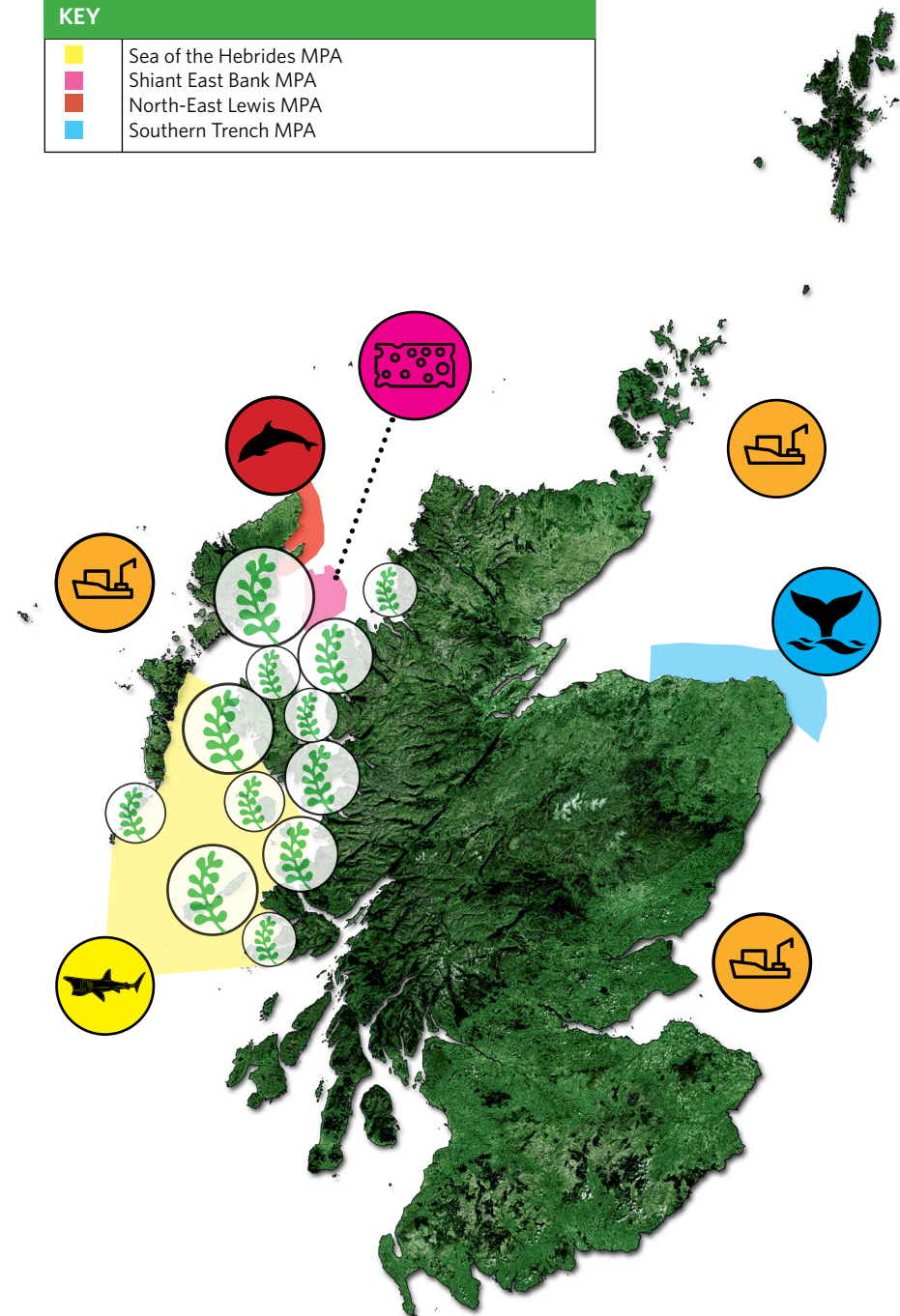


The Greens secured funding for the Shiant East Bank MPA, protecting sponges and geological features.



The Greens got Government to commit to remote monitoring of all Scottish fishing vessels to deter illegal fishing.

KEY	
	Sea of the Hebrides MPA
	Shiant East Bank MPA
	North-East Lewis MPA
	Southern Trench MPA



ENDING BLOODSPORTS

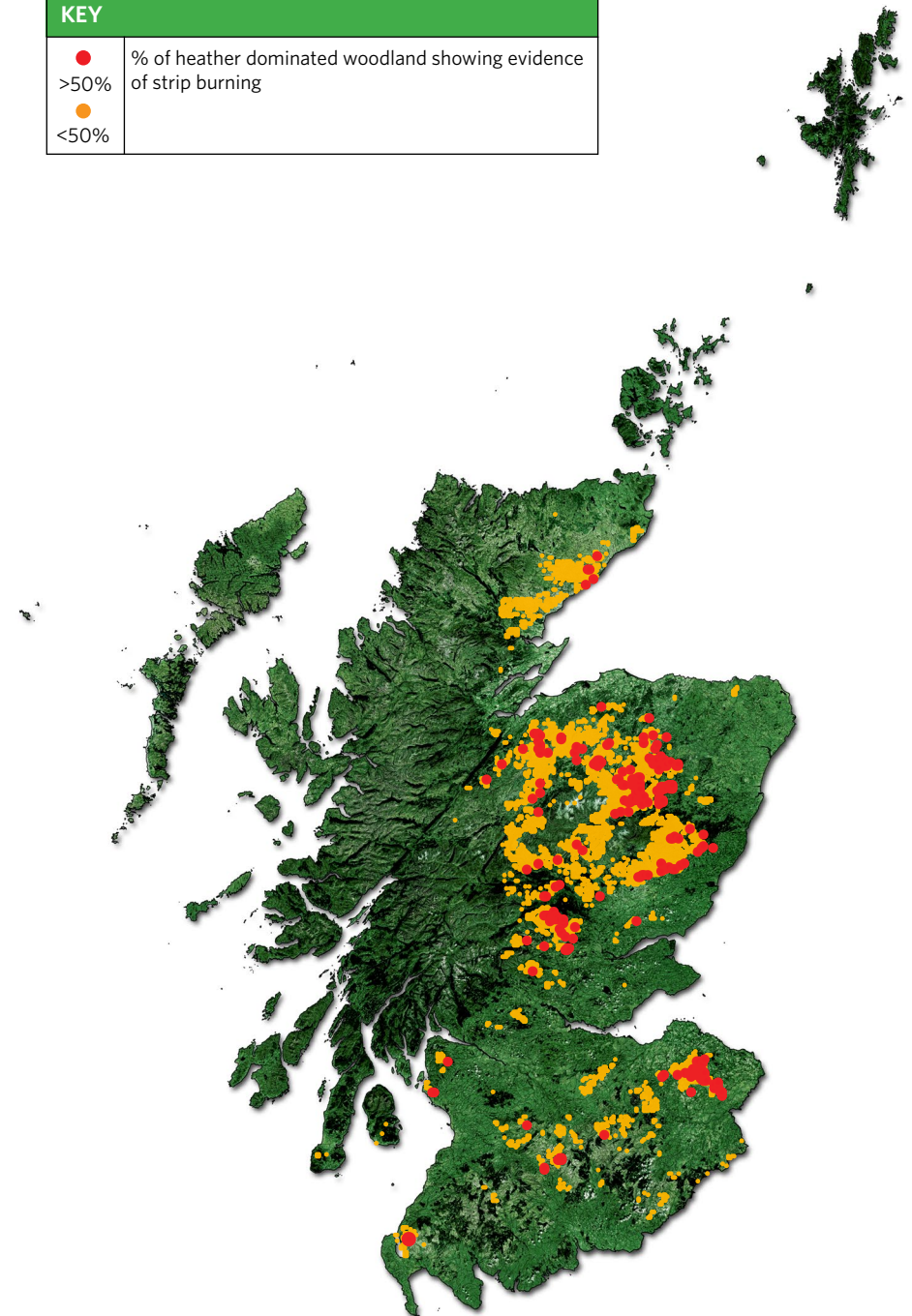
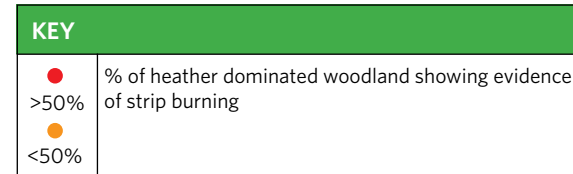
Grouse moors dominate Scotland's hills and make up almost a fifth of Scotland's rural land. They are intensively managed to produce as much grouse as possible for bloodsports, to the detriment of other wildlife and the landscape. The Greens have led calls in Parliament for change, backing Revive, the campaign for grouse moor reform, and exposing the destructive and unethical practices that have become routine on Scotland's moors. One such practice is the widespread killing of mountain hares, an iconic species that is native to the Highlands. Alison Johnstone MSP has published proposals for a Bill that would end the killing of mountain hares.

"It is now beyond any question that the management of land for intensive driven grouse shooting is unsustainable and has profound negative impacts on the environment. It is time for a fundamental shift away from this damaging land use to more sustainable alternatives." Andy Wightman MSP

26,000 mountain hares are killed a year on average, mostly on grouse moors.

1/3 of all satellite-tagged golden eagles have disappeared on or next to a driven grouse moor, including Adam, an eagle named by Andy Wightman MSP.

19th Century landholdings and sporting estates still form the vast majority of grouse moors today.



Up to one fifth of Scotland's land is a grouse moor.

BOOSTING FAMILY INCOMES

We want all children in Scotland to receive the best start in life. That's why Scottish Green MSPs have been fighting for projects that maximise family incomes. Central to this has been the Healthier, Wealthier Children project initially trialled by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, which has helped 11,000 hard-pressed families to the tune of £12m.

The project supports midwives and other health professionals to make sure new parents were able to access all the social security benefits they were entitled to, boosting family incomes and helping tackle child poverty. Alison Johnstone MSP got the Scottish Government to roll-out the Healthier, Wealthier Children approach nationwide.

“The figures that we have seen from successful income maximisation initiatives such as the Healthier, Wealthier Children project suggest that significant amounts of additional income would go into household pockets.”

John Dickie, Director of Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland

1/4

of children were living in poverty in 2015-18.

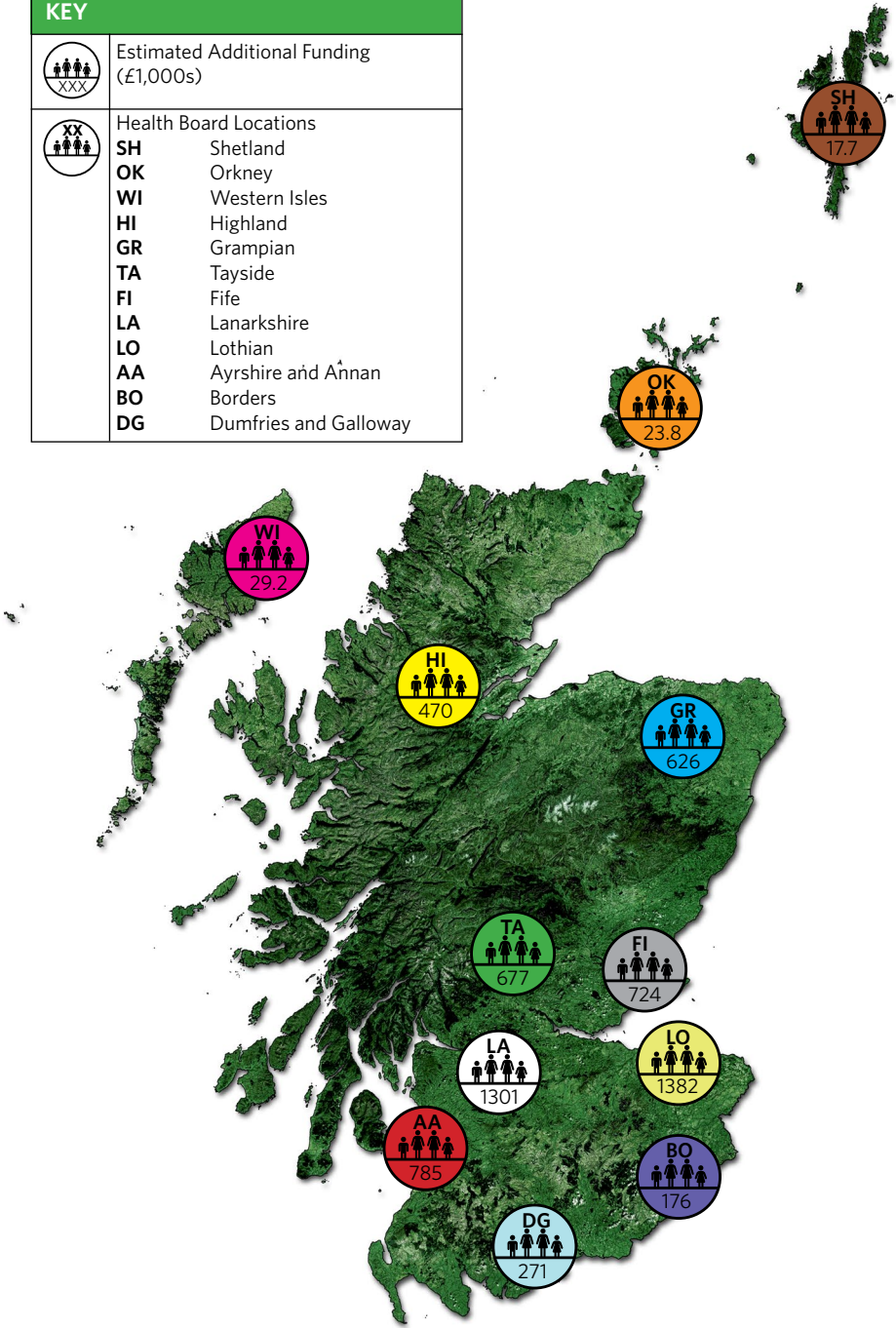
38%

of children estimated to be living in poverty by 2030 due to Westminster reforms.

£3,404

extra went to families in the Healthier, Wealthier Children programme on average.

KEY	
	Estimated Additional Funding (£1,000s)
	Health Board Locations
SH	Shetland
OK	Orkney
WI	Western Isles
HI	Highland
GR	Grampian
TA	Tayside
FI	Fife
LA	Lanarkshire
LO	Lothian
AA	Ayrshire and Annan
BO	Borders
DG	Dumfries and Galloway



A CARING SCOTLAND

Scotland's new social security system has presented an opportunity to reverse decades of welfare reforms from Westminster which have pushed families across Scotland into poverty. The Scottish Greens have been at the forefront of work to ensure that people claiming benefits in Scotland are treated with dignity and respect.

The work of Scottish Green Social Security spokesperson Alison Johnstone MSP has meant that no benefit sanctions will be imposed on people who take part in devolved employment programmes. Thousands of young carers will receive the new Young Carer Grant, and the unnecessary disability benefits assessments that currently take place will now be banned.

"With new powers over social security, Scotland has a huge opportunity to chart a different course to the one that it has had charted for it by an increasingly cruel UK Government. I'm proud that the Greens have helped take Scotland in this direction, towards a fairer society that supports everyone."

Alison Johnstone MSP

13,000

Average number of sanctions previously applied through employment programmes in Scotland.

2,400

young carers in Scotland will be supported by a Young Carers Grant.

72%

of Personal Independence Payment appeals are successful













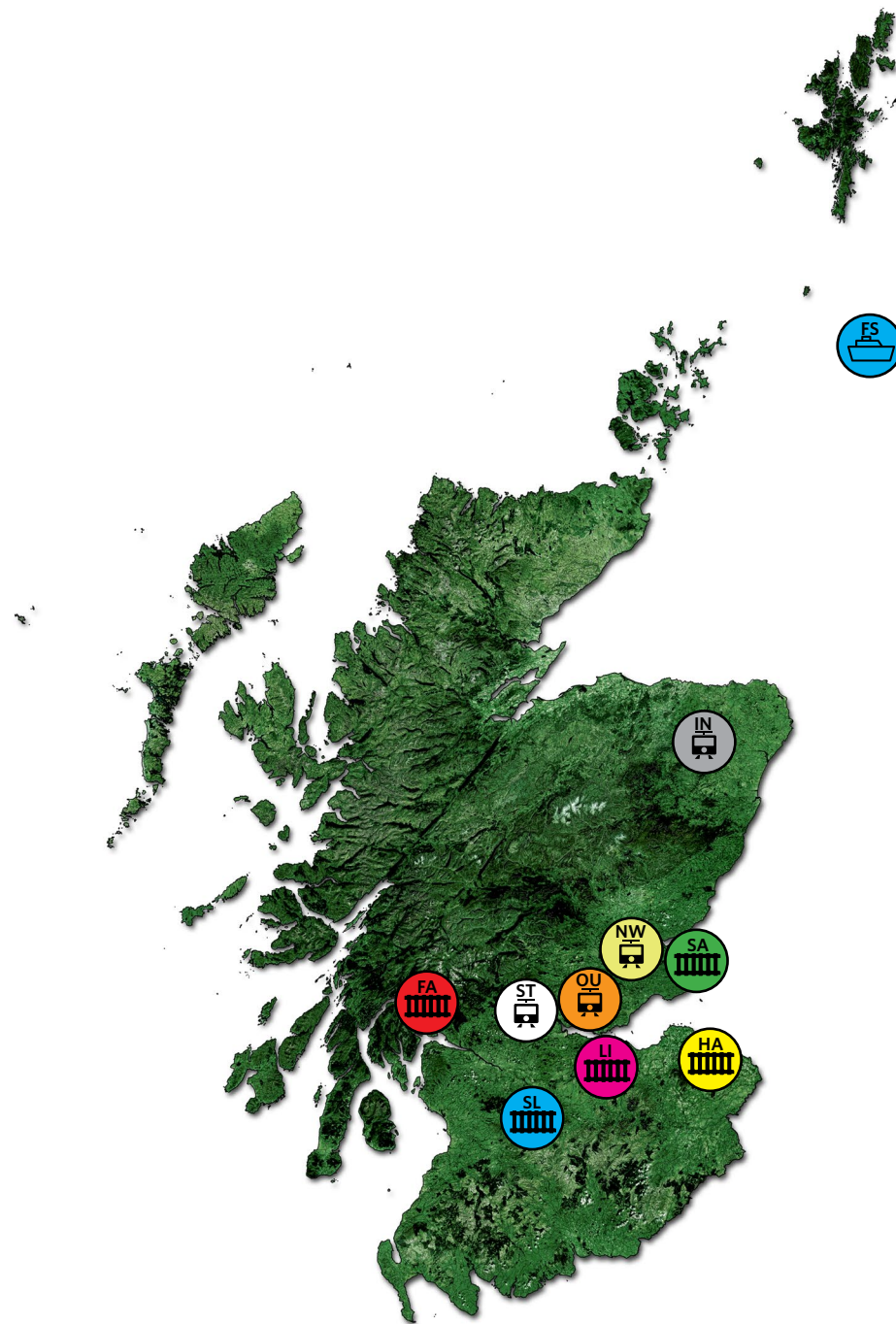
The amount of money going to young carers in the next five years as a result of the Young Carer Grant secured by the Greens.

INVESTING IN GREEN TRANSPORT

Greenhouse gas emissions from transport are increasing and are now the single biggest source of emissions in Scotland. The Scottish Greens want to see a radical change in direction, prioritising public transport, walking and cycling and ensuring low-carbon travel options are affordable and accessible for all. Scotland needs better buses, reliable rail and good connections for rural communities. Green MSPs got the Scottish Government to set up a £2 million Local Rail Development Fund to allow local community groups and local authorities to put together bids to reopen disused railway stations and lines in their local area. We also secured an additional £10 million to fund the Northern Isles' intra-island ferry services.

The Greens have secured funds for ferries and for scoping projects across Scotland to improve and expand our railways which have included:

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Reopening the line to Haddington
East Lothian |  Restoring the railway to St Andrews
Fife |
|  Providing a rail link to HMNB Clyde
Faslane |  Opening new rail lines to connect rural areas
South Lanarkshire |
|  Improving access to Linlithgow station
West Lothian |  Opening a new station at the new village of Oudenarde
Perthshire |
|  Improving access to Insch Station
Aberdeenshire |  Improving Stirling Park and Ride
Stirling |
|  Reopening Newburgh station
Fife |  £10 million for the intra-isles ferry service
Northern Isles |



RESPONSIBLE AVIATION

Air travel is undertaxed, a major contributor to climate breakdown, and it has a serious impact on the quality of life for those who live near airports and under flightpaths. While Greens recognise the need for lifeline aviation services for those living in the most remote communities, our use of aviation overall must fall.

The Scottish Greens have consistently stood with local communities across Fife, Lothian and Central Scotland, who have campaigned against new flight paths for Edinburgh airport that would expose them to unacceptable noise and air pollution.

This pressure led the Civil Aviation Authority to refuse the airport permission to open the new routes. Green MSPs also published critical research that showed that the SNP Government's planned cut in Air Departure Tax would benefit the richest most, adding to pressure that ultimately forced this proposal to be scrapped.

50%

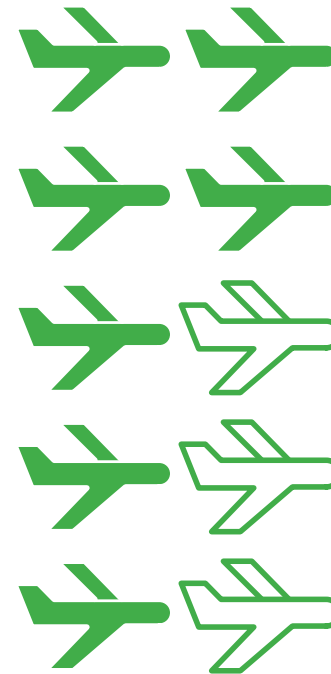
planned cut in Air Passenger Duty scrapped in response to pressure from the Greens.

10%

The richest 10% would have been the main benefactors of this cut.



Air traffic and emissions from aviation in Scotland continue to grow.



70% of all flights taken
are by just **15%** of people



"The Greens are leading the change on the climate emergency. We've been the only party consistent in our opposition to the Air Passenger Duty cuts on environmental grounds, and I was delighted when the Scottish Government finally caved in."

Patrick Harvie MSP

PROTECTING CHILDREN

The physical punishment of children is illegal 53 countries. Thanks to Scottish Green MSP John Finnie, Scotland will be number 54. John Finnie’s Equal Protection Bill gives children the same legal protection from assault as adults by removing the defence of ‘justifiable assault’ that those in charge of children could exercise when inflicting physical punishment on a child.

The Bill aims is to bring about a behavioural change in Scottish society, much like the mandatory wearing of seatbelts or the prohibition of smoking in public places. All the evidence shows that physical punishment doesn’t work, fosters aggression and violent behaviour and, most importantly, does do children harm. The Scottish Greens are serious about making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up, and the Equal Protection Bill is a major step forwards towards this goal.

“It is never okay to assault a child for the purposes of punishment. That’s why I commend John Finnie for introducing his Member’s Bill to remove the defence of ‘justifiable assault.’”

The Children & Young People’s
Commissioner Scotland

1st

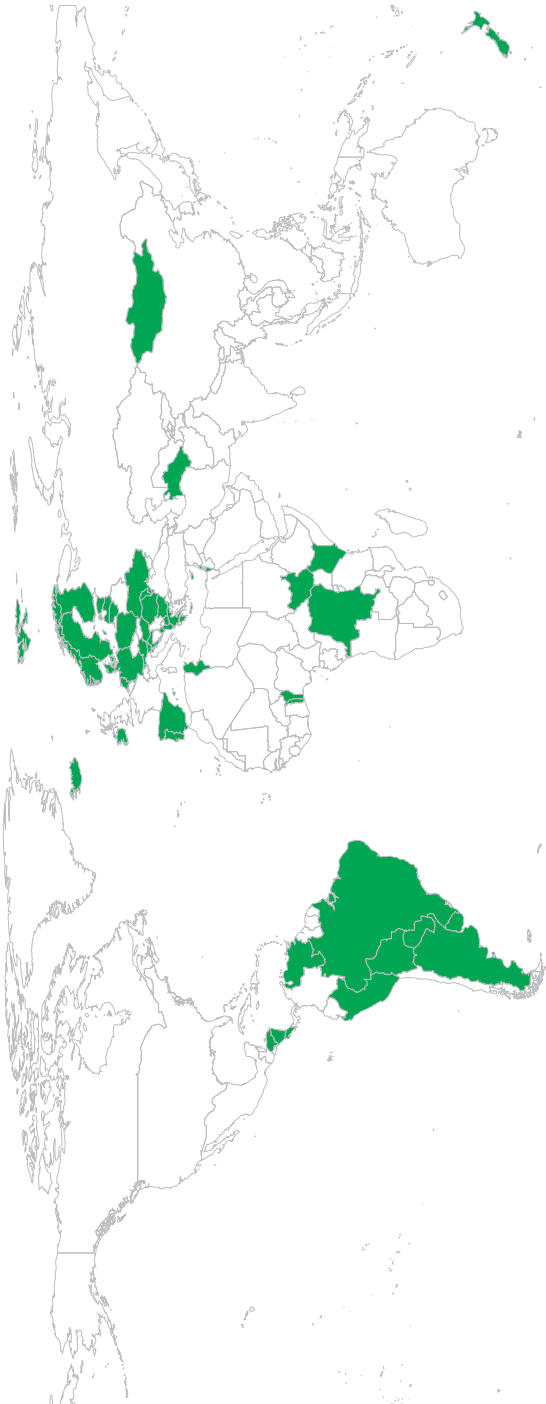
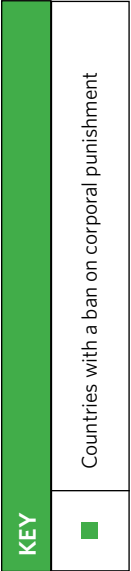
in the UK to protect children from physical punishment

75%

of respondents to the Equal Protection Bill consultation supported the proposal

30

Years since the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child was signed, requiring states to protect children from physical punishment



View map this way up

GREEN LAWS

The Green MSPs have brought forward their own Bills to make Scotland greener and fairer.



John Finnie's **Equal Protection Bill** gives kids the same protection from assault as adults.



Mark Ruskell's **Safer Streets Bill** would have saved lives by reducing the national default speed limit in built-up areas from 30mph to 20mph, but was brought down by the SNP Government.



Andy Wightman's **European Charter of Local Self-Government Bill** will increase the autonomy of Scotland's councils in line with other European countries.



Alison Johnstone's **Fox and Hare Bill** will end fox hunting and mountain hare killing.

EUROPEAN GREENS



The Scottish Greens are part of the European Greens, which brings together national parties who share the same green values across the continent.

Like the Scottish Greens, our sister parties are having a big impact, improving the lives of millions, protecting our planet and transforming Europe.

As the climate emergency deepens and the public recognise the Greens can deliver the solutions, support is growing and more and more Greens are being elected. A green wave is growing.

THE GREEN WAVE

The Greens surged throughout Europe in the 2019 EU elections, coming second in Germany and third in France. The Scottish Greens got their highest ever vote share, and the number of Green MEPs in England and Wales went from 3 to 7.

GROEN LINKS

NETHERLANDS

The 2018 local elections saw a 9% increase in the Green vote. The Greens are now the largest party in 13 Councils, including Amsterdam and Utrecht.

BELGIUM

GROEN ecolo

The Green Parties came second in Brussels in the 2018 regional and local elections.

déi gréng

LUXEMBOURG

The Greens are in Government again with three Ministers after a record result in the 2018 elections



SWEDEN

The Swedish Green Party re-entered Government in 2018 and have 5 Green Ministers.

GERMANY



The Greens are in Government in 9 out of 16 German regions and consistently poll second place nationwide.



In the 2019 EU elections the Greens surged across the continent, coming second in Germany and Finland and third in France. The Green/EFA group is now the fourth largest in the European Parliament.



TRANSFORMING EUROPE

Greens in power are tackling the climate crisis and building a more equal and compassionate Europe.

miljøpartiet
de grønne

NORWAY

Norwegian Greens got Oslo City Council to divest its €6bn pension fund from fossil fuels



THE EU

European Greens secured a cap on banker's bonuses across the continent

dèi gréng

LUXEMBOURG

The first country in the world to make public transport free



miljöpartiet
de gröna

SWEDEN

The Green Education Minister helped tens of thousands of refugees access education in a single year

Vihreät
De Gröna

FINLAND

The Finnish Greens secured world-leading climate legislation, including a target for net-zero emissions by 2035



GERMANY

Public transport made free for schoolchildren



GERMANY

Negotiated a phase out of nuclear power

Atlantic Ocean



YOUR GREEN MSPs



Patrick Harvie MSP

Glasgow

Finance, Economy, Fair Work,
Equalities



John Finnie MSP

Highlands and Islands

Justice, Transport & Tourism,
Rural & Island Communities



Alison Johnstone MSP

Lothian

Health & Sport, Social Security,
Children & Young People



Ross Greer MSP

West of Scotland

External Affairs, Education &
Skills, Culture & Media



Mark Ruskell MSP

Mid Scotland and Fife

Climate, Energy, Environment,
Food & Farming



Andy Wightman MSP

Lothian

Local Government, Communities,
Housing & Land Reform



