



reach
for the future...

2nd vote
GREEN

Scottish Green Party
2003 Scottish Manifesto

Message from Robin Harper



The Scottish Green Party has a vision of what our society could be. This vision is based on five key principles: environmental wisdom, non-violence, radical democracy, equality and social justice. This means that Scottish Greens demand an end to poverty. We think that all people should be treated equally. We want to put decision-making in the hands of as many people as possible. We seek peaceful solutions to conflict. And we

recognise how dependent we humans are on the world's resources for our well-being and, ultimately, our survival.

The Greens are rightly known for the first of these principles, 'environmental wisdom'. But for Greens the word 'environment' means much more than pleasant surroundings. Our environment is what we depend on for our survival: our food, our water, the resources that we use to make the goods that provide our quality of life, and the spaces we live in. For Greens, 'environment' means everything our planet provides us with.

Last year, a leading environmental charity published a report called *Living Planet 2002* which showed that if we continue to waste the world's resources at the current rate, by 2050 we would need two planets for our survival. They are not alone in this assessment. Reports from the United Nations Environment Programme confirm this grim outlook. The Scottish Green Party is alone in insisting that we must face up to this problem. Our policies are designed to address it.

It is not all doom and gloom. I would not have spent the last 17 years campaigning if I believed that there is no future. This manifesto contains a host of ideas for a more sustainable way of life. These are ideas that we share with others. Green policies are being put in place and campaigned for by Green governments and Green Parties in more than 70 countries across the world.

As Scotland's first Green MSP, I have had a very busy first term in Parliament. Among many other things, I have:

- Proposed the Organic Farming Targets (Scotland) Bill to revolutionise food production in Scotland and, as a direct result, forced the Executive to produce a four-year Action Plan to support farmers;
- Helped to bring in a new law to compel Ministers and civil servants to work together to protect Scotland's rivers, lochs and seas;
- Helped secure new legislation to set up 'home zones', which will make streets safer for children;
- Won a vote in Parliament for an investigation into land-value taxation, which should be the next radical step in land reform;
- Secured a commitment from the Executive to bring forward a new law to protect vulnerable social groups against 'hate crimes';
- Put pressure on the First Minister to go to the World Summit on sustainable development, and as a direct result, witnessed the Executive setting ambitious targets for recycling and renewable energy.

Above all, I believe my role has been to act as a 'green conscience' in Parliament. I have tried to steer away from the politics of conflict. I have praised when praise was due. But I have also highlighted the many missed opportunities to make Scotland a greener, cleaner, safer place.

The Scottish Green Party made a historic breakthrough in the last election. Voters understood the potential of using their second vote to elect MSPs with new ideas to bring to Parliament. As a lone MSP I can only do so much. With four or more colleagues with me, the potential to push the Green message would be much greater. And there is a very real chance of a much bigger Green presence in Parliament after 1 May. Remember, 7% in any of the 8 voting regions guarantees a seat! We are within touching distance of this.

I believe that this manifesto contains fresh new ideas that are about a better quality of life in Scotland: a different path, enabling us to care for people without destroying the fragile planet on which we depend. Please consider the policies. Above all, please use your second vote for the Scottish Green Party on 1 May.

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Our priorities

- Promote peaceful alternatives to war and campaign for the scrapping of all weapons of mass destruction, starting with Trident submarines on the Clyde
- Phase out nuclear power in Scotland – support clean, community-owned renewable energy
- End the dangerous experiment with genetically modified crops – secure an organic future for our countryside
- Improve health and slash pollution by giving Scotland the highest home energy-efficient standards in Europe
- Support local jobs and industries – campaign against international agreements that favour only big business
- Develop public transport alternatives to road construction and congestion

Scotland's Place in the World

The Scottish Green Party is part of a global movement of over 70 Green Parties from all over the world.

Green politicians hold Ministerial positions in the Governments of many countries including Belgium, Brazil, Finland, Germany, Kenya, Lithuania, Mexico and Sweden.

Scottish Greens act at local, regional, national and international levels. We believe that Scotland should build on the initiative and abilities of its citizens as well as on its natural resources. We believe that decisions should be taken at the most local level possible, although we recognise that some of the most pressing environmental and social challenges require action by organisations that function on a global scale.

Scotland has a role to play in demonstrating a new model of democracy that aims to give power to our citizens and communities. The setting-up of a Scottish Parliament is of great interest to the new democracies in Eastern Europe. Greens seek to work within international organisations that are democratically accountable, not dominated by the military or economic power of individual states or influenced by multinational companies. Greens also believe that Scotland has the potential to be a leader in sustainable development, demonstrating new ways to live within the planet's means.

Greens all over the world abhor the actions of those countries that ignore their role in the implementation of treaties on climate change, environmental degradation and human rights. Greens welcome the creation of an International Criminal Court. We believe that the Court should be used in advance of and as an alternative to war as well as being used to deal with the aftermath of conflicts.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- We will ensure that the First Minister has official responsibility for sustainable development and chairs the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Sustainable Scotland. The

Sustainable Development Unit will be upgraded by transferring it to the Executive Secretariat, and staffed by high-ranking civil servants. **We will create a dedicated Minister for the Environment** to oversee the introduction of Strategic Environmental Assessment: a tool to assess the environmental impact of policies at the very early stages of development.

- We will push for Scotland and the other nations of the UK to take a lead in further developing their programmes of international debt relief. **Commitment to treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol** need to be strengthened by establishing clear and challenging targets in areas such as the reduction of climate-changing emissions.
- **We will continue our vigorous opposition to war in Iraq** and seek non-violent solutions, where possible, to similar potential conflicts. We believe the Ambassadors to the UN Security Council and General Assembly should be directly elected. We will work to abolish the rights of the permanent five members of the Security Council who represent the most prolific arms-trading nations in the world.
- **We will work for greater independence for Scotland.** Devolution of power is a process. The next stage is for the Scottish Parliament to have greater control over its finances and increased powers in areas such as energy, transport, health and consumer affairs.

Economics and Tax

The Scottish Green Party believes that a sustainable, green job-creation strategy needs to be at the heart of economic policy. This would build on Scotland's proud tradition of innovation in industry. Green MSP Robin Harper introduced the first debate on the creation of a green job strategy in 2002, which was welcomed by all political parties. Economic decisions are not just financial decisions: regulation and taxation of companies must reflect social and environmental impacts in full. A green taxation system would generate more income from taxing harmful activities, such as pollution and over-use of resources, rather than increasing overall taxes on income. It would recognise the fundamental role that land plays in our economic system. Robin Harper MSP also introduced a debate on Land Value Taxation (LVT) in 2003, gaining the support of Parliament to investigate LVT further.

Greens champion locally-owned business and support giving grants to community-based enterprise rather than multinational companies. We also want to encourage environmentally, socially and financially sustainable Scottish companies that address their responsibilities to their employees and local communities. This could be achieved through initiatives such as Corporate Social Responsibility schemes and Good Neighbour Agreements.

Greens recognise that the Euro is the common currency for many businesses in Scotland. However, we oppose the adoption of the Euro as the single and sole currency for internal use by the citizens of this country. Joining the Euro would lock Scotland into a common monetary policy that puts low rates of inflation before protecting jobs and public services. Greens believe that currencies and monetary policy must be controlled by democratically elected governments rather than unelected central bankers.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- **We will develop and implement a green jobs-creation strategy** supported by a revised remit for the enterprise networks.
- **We will introduce a Green Taxation strategy** including a graduated increase in fuel tax to reflect the real cost of transporting goods. We will increase carbon taxes to ensure the polluter pays the actual cost of production, distribution and consumption. We will replace Council Tax and Uniform Business Rates with Land Value Tax, which more accurately reflects the range of activities possible on a site and provides a fairer basis for payment.
- We will return national utilities to public control at the most local level possible. **We will phase out Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Private Finance Initiatives (PFIs).** The environmental, social and ethical performance of companies undertaking public service contracts will be given the same weighting as cost in the tendering process. Local authority funding will be updated to include measures of environmental and social justice in all services.
- We will ensure that economic policies are grounded in democratic control and the interests of communities by promoting small-scale community-based or worker-owned enterprises as building blocks of local economies. **We will launch a new comprehensive, co-ordinated support infrastructure**, including appropriate business advice services, for **Scottish social enterprises** such as co-operatives, community businesses, employee-owned schemes, community trusts, credit unions, social firms, the trading arms of charities, and local exchange trading systems (LETS).

Investing in recycling and composting could create up to 10 times as many jobs as current landfill and incineration schemes. In New York it was found that processing 1 million tonnes of waste could sustain:

Recycling

400 - 590 jobs

Incineration

100 - 290 jobs

Composting

200 - 300 jobs

Landfill

40 - 60 jobs

67% of total Scottish private employment is in small and medium sized enterprises (firms employing less than 250 people).

Education

Government research indicates that 800,000 adults, or 23% of the Scottish adult population, have very low literacy and numeracy skills.

Further education colleges are the largest providers of post-school education and training in Scotland delivering lifelong learning to nearly half a million students each year.

This equates to more than 10% of the working age population of Scotland.

Learning is a process for life, not just for young people. The Scottish Green Party believes that examinations should not be considered the sole criterion of achievement of education. Education should be concerned with social and emotional development as well as academic ability. The education system must meet the needs of learners, teachers and communities as well as employers.

How we teach our young people should reflect our expectations of them as citizens and members of communities as well as employees. We believe that living within the planet's means, often called 'sustainable development', is the top political priority. That means it should also be a top priority for education and training programmes. In the workplace, this would take the form of training in energy efficiency, waste management and the sound use of materials and resources. It would also cover issues such as the relationships between employees and employers. In schools, colleges and universities, there should be specific time set aside for these issues, as well as for wider topics such as our relationship with the developing world.

We believe that by introducing educational programmes dealing with sustainable development issues, understanding of environmental and social justice issues will be raised throughout the community, fostering more responsible attitudes.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- **We will abolish league tables for all educational institutions**, and replace them with an accreditation of excellence reflecting the circumstances of the school, the local community and both academic and non-academic activities. We will ensure that there is enough money in all schools to work with, support and re-integrate disruptive pupils. We will make sure that there is proper provision for pupils with special needs, whether in mainstream or special education.
- **We will continue to oppose top-up fees for universities.** We will abolish all student fees and restore grants through a citizen's income scheme. We oppose the creeping privatisation of education provision. We also reject the use of inflexible contracts within the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) to build schools. Government money provided for school buildings (both new build and maintenance) must actually be spent on school buildings rather than generating excessive profits for private companies.
- We will extend the philosophy of community schools and **make the resources of all schools, colleges and universities more widely available to the communities** in which they are situated. Community participation in schools will be encouraged, including a greater role for learners, education workers and parents/guardians as well as for the wider community and local authority. We will also **provide support for high-quality pre-school education** and for home learning where appropriate.
- **We want to see greater flexibility within all levels of education**, allowing institutions to share areas of specialist knowledge and enjoy the benefits of shared resources. Further education colleges and universities serve different roles and needs, but support should be given to both in the context of an overall tertiary education policy. We will **provide support for lifelong learning agreements** negotiated between learners, centres of learning and employers, and support for communications training in colleges and universities. We will also ensure the introduction of citizenship education and education on sustainable development in all Scottish schools.

Health

Health is the state of mental, physical and social well-being and not just the absence of disease. Scotland's abysmal health record will only be improved by tackling the causes of ill health such as poverty, poor diet, poor housing, pollution and an unhealthy environment. Scottish Green Party policies are geared towards making a lasting improvement in the health of Scottish people by tackling causes, not just symptoms. We believe that only by living a healthy lifestyle in a healthy environment will our health improve substantially. We are confident that more effective preventative and complementary measures will free up some of the huge amounts of money currently spent on drugs and other symptom-based treatments.

Greens recognise the continuing need for the availability of a full range of medical treatment free at the point of use. We will, however, also place far more emphasis on preventative medicine and public health education. We believe that an effective health service requires patients to have access to a range of motivated and skilled health workers.

Greens also regard illegal drug use as a health issue. We will campaign to change the emphasis in tackling drug misuse from arrest and prosecution to control, harm reduction and rehabilitation. Our aim is to break the link between drug use and crime.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- **We will improve pay and conditions for health professionals** and include complementary treatments of proven value within the NHS. We will update training for healthcare workers, and include more about nutrition, mental health and complementary therapies. **We will end league tables for hospitals**, phase out PFIs and PPPs for building new hospitals and ensure that mental health services are properly funded.
- **We will improve the food served by the NHS** to both staff and patients. Organic, locally produced food will be used and, when appropriate, healthy, low-salt, low-fat, low-sugar foods will be served. Vegetarian, vegan and religiously appropriate food will also be readily available.
- **We will promote a healthy lifestyle and preventative medicine** and ensure greater community participation in local health policy decision-making. **We will provide more support for local and community hospitals** and reduce centralisation of hospital resources.
- **We will launch a major new 'healthy hospitals' initiative**, with the aim of ending the misery of thousands of patients who contract infections while in hospital.
- **We will establish community-based treatment centres where drugs can be obtained on prescription** and where there will be teams of workers to help those with drug problems. The supply of cannabis will be allowed in specifically licensed premises, and cultivation and possession of cannabis for personal use will no longer be a criminal offence. There will also be greater support for harm-reduction and withdrawal programmes for users of alcohol and tobacco as well as illegal drugs.
- Poor diet is a major cause of ill health. To improve the diet of young people, **Greens will ensure that every child attending a local authority managed school has access to a free, tasty and nutritious lunch**. This would also remove the social stigma attached to the current means-tested free school meals service.

At any one time 1 person in 5 in Scotland is experiencing mental health problems. A high proportion of this is due to depression and stress.

Approximately 1/3 of children and 1/4 of pensioners live in low-income households, which can badly affect their state of health.

Social Justice

19.5% of households in Scotland with working-age residents no-one living there has work. They are consequently much more likely to be reliant on benefits and living in poverty.

29% of Scottish households (621,000) contain one or more people with a disability or long-term illness.

Despite equal pay legislation, women in Scotland earn only the equivalent of 72% of men's average weekly wage.

The Scottish Green Party believes that a green society is a fair society. We only have one planet and that means that it is not possible for people to continue to consume more and more. Living within the bounds of what the planet can provide us means that we have to share things more equitably. This principle of equality extends not only across rich and poor: it also means respect for all social groups, whether characterised by age, ethnicity, cultural background, religion, sexuality or disability.

Scottish Greens are also committed to the principle of environmental justice, which can be understood as no more than a fair share of the planet's resources, no less than a decent environment for all. The 'environment' in this context is considered in its totality to include the ecological (biological), physical (natural and built), social, political, aesthetic and economic environments. Greater respect for the earth's resources cannot co-exist with the oppression of one group by another.

Scottish Greens therefore believe in a future in which not only the planet but also all of its inhabitants are put before the interests of profit or the state. Government initiatives can often be over-complex, centralised and bureaucratic and fail to address the root causes of the problems. Problems such as joblessness and homelessness are all too often made worse by the actions (or inaction) of the state. We value the role of the community and voluntary sectors in addressing many of these issues. However, local government still has a central role as a provider of core services and in co-ordinating the efforts of the voluntary sector.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- **We will introduce a Citizen's Income Scheme (CIS)** to replace many benefits. It will be paid universally to cover the basic needs of life, with supplements paid to pensioners and those with special needs. The rate at

which CIS is paid will be determined through extensive research. Costs incurred will be borne from the increased yield from taxes on resource use and pollution and an increase in rates of income tax for higher earners.

- **We will ensure that employers provide greater support for parents**, including greater childcare provision, more flexible working practices and the right to work from home where possible. We will replace the compulsory retirement age with provisions to allow older people to reduce their working hours to fit their individual needs.
- We will work towards ensuring that married and unmarried couples – including same-sex couples – are awarded the same **partnership rights** in terms of pensions, inheritance, parenting, adoption, asylum, legal protection, etc. We will also recognise the civil registration of partnerships.
- We recognise the rights of travelling people, and will ensure that their needs and views are taken into account within education and planning systems. **We will enable all schools to offer languages reflecting Scotland's cultural and ethnic diversity**, including Gaelic, British Sign Language, Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, Punjabi, and Chinese languages. 'S e cùis mhòr glèidhteachas cultair a tha ann an adhartachadh na Gàidhlig.
- We will improve access to additional forms of support for social economy organisations, including training, management consultancy, legal and financial services, and social and environmental auditing services. **We will ensure that public funding to the voluntary sector comes with allocations for core running costs, not just project costs.**

Community Development

Inclusive and dynamic local communities have too long been ignored as the basic building blocks of society. Communities have to be involved in the decisions that affect them, particularly those concerning long-term development, service planning or regeneration. This involvement should not be limited to consultation but should include members of the community as active participants. Decisions affecting communities should always be taken at the most local level practical.

The Scottish Green Party believes that reinvigorating communities is the surest solution to addressing social problems such as crime, the alienation of the elderly and vandalism. Although local and community councils have a key role to play, they are not the only part of this process. We also believe that crime can be managed more effectively and fairly by increasing the use of community sentences. Once the public is better informed about how these programmes operate, we believe they will command huge support.

Local councils have either been undermined or undervalued in the past, despite their far greater impact on day-to-day life than the national government. A renewal of local democracy, greater economic and social interdependence within communities and a reduction in unnecessary transportation and commuting will enhance both the quality of life and the environment.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- We will introduce the **Single Transferable Vote** version of proportional representation, using multi-member wards, in order to begin the process of reinvigorating local democracy. Where available, local authority contracts will be offered to companies with sound environmental, social and ethical performance based within that local area. We will resist proposals, often stemming from

international economic treaties, which attempt to limit the rights of local authorities to make these types of decisions.

- **We will introduce a Third Party Right of Appeal** for developments which require an environmental impact assessment, developments in which the planning authority has an interest, developments which are contrary to the local development plan or approved developments which were subject to planning officers' recommendation for refusal. Strengthened planning regulations on house building will also ensure that environmental impact and community development are given a higher priority than the profits of developers.
- **We will fully involve communities at the very beginning of the process of developing local development plans.** We will ensure that these plans do not just set purely economic targets, but also tackle issues such as leisure time, children's play space and pollution reduction. Community councils will be given greater support, most notably financial support, and local councillors will be paid salaries and face the same restrictions on gifts as MSPs do.
- **We will work towards the reformation of the prison system** to reduce prison population by using community sentences and bail services. This will include the expansion of rehabilitation and therapy facilities in local communities and the **provision of adequate funding for agencies working for restorative justice and local mediation and dispute-resolution centres.** We will also strive for special provision for offenders who are mentally ill and for women who are pregnant or who have babies or young children.

In the predominantly 'first past the post' voting system it is very common for the winner to be elected with the support of less than half of those who voted.

At the 2001 UK General Election 36 out of 72 MPs were elected with less than half the vote, and 3 were elected with less than one third of the vote.

A prison place costs £28,000 a year compared with a place in supported accommodation linked to a programme to reduce offending which costs £20,000 – a saving of £8,000 per place and with more chance of success.

Homes and Housing

The domestic sector accounts for about 32% of total UK electricity consumption and mostly uses equipment that doesn't meet current standards of energy efficiency. Scope exists, therefore, for significant savings.

738,000 Scottish households are estimated to live in fuel poverty, according to the last house condition survey.

Fuel accounts for about twice as much of total household expenditure for the poorest 20% of the population as it does in middle-income households.

Scotland has the worst housing conditions in northern Europe, yet our homes are the basis of our communities. The Scottish Green Party therefore believes that Scotland must have high quality privately and publicly owned housing. When people cannot heat their homes, it damages their health, education, life-chances and relationships. The lack of appropriate energy systems, coupled with poor insulation, continues to have a detrimental impact on our environment as well as a damaging effect on society.

Robin Harper MSP introduced the first ever members' debate in the Scottish Parliament on the subject of fuel poverty and home energy efficiency. He went on to propose an amendment to the 2001 Housing Act to set a target to end fuel poverty.

Green housing and planning policies are both practical and visionary. The practical can be seen in the priority we give to tackling cold, damp housing – the single most widespread housing problem Scotland faces. The visionary can be seen in our determination to put some soul back into some of the most desolate public and private estates. Only by making our neighbourhoods places that mix work, leisure and home life will we reverse some of the social isolation and fragmentation of recent decades.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- We will introduce a major programme to bring Scottish homes up to the standard of our Scandinavian counterparts, with **all homes having an energy rating of no less than 7 out of 10 by 2011**. Half a million homes will be powered wholly or in part by

renewable power sources within ten years and, where possible, the power sources will be owned by a community organisation or the householder.

- We will introduce further **traffic calming measures**, which encourage the area around housing to be used for recreation both for adults and young people.
- We will continue to **resist the development of green field sites**, including school playing fields, and ensure that new housing developments are built as part of mixed-use communities rather than as commuter dormitories.
- We will end transfers of council housing, unless to genuinely community-managed housing associations or co-operatives. We will **develop the role of housing associations in investing in community facilities within deprived areas** in order to address both social exclusion and economic disparity between different areas.
- We will introduce a **national housing and homelessness strategy** that assesses the need for additional money so that councils can respond to new housing and homelessness duties given to them in the first term of the Scottish Parliament. We will also phase out all large-scale hostels for homeless people, replacing them with shared accommodation where service users can participate in service planning and implementation.

Energy and Fuel Poverty

Our dependence on burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) to provide energy pollutes our environment, contributes to climate change and wastes valuable raw materials. The continued dependence on nuclear power saves little in emissions, costs the nation millions every year in subsidies and leaves future generations with a legacy of nuclear waste. Only about 2% of Scotland's total energy use comes from clean, almost limitless, renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, hydro and biofuels – whereas Scotland actually has the potential to supply 75% of the UK's electricity demand from renewable energy. The Scottish Green Party believes we can only balance energy production with energy use if we tackle the ever-increasing demand for energy by achieving the 20 – 50% potential energy savings in our homes, work places and transport systems. That is why energy efficiency is a core tenet of our energy policy.

Greens believe that Scotland has the capacity to become a world-leader in renewable energy provision. For the first time in our history, we have the opportunity to use our relationship with the elements to our advantage. Greens also believe that it would be a tragedy if this opportunity were to be used only by the few for their personal profit. We would ensure that the greatest possible benefits are passed on to the communities that host renewable energy generation schemes, and ensure that these developments are accountable, transparent and democratically managed.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- **We support the recent introduction of UK Climate Change reduction targets** of 60% by 2050. We view this as the minimum requirement and want to see distinct targets for Scotland and an intermediate target of 20% by 2010. These will include individual targets for domestic, commercial, transport and agricultural sector and will be met partly

through tough new targets for energy efficiency of 20% by 2010 and an additional 20% by 2020.

- **We will establish a Sustainable Energy Agency (SEA)** to co-ordinate the different sectors of Government involved in Scottish energy issues, such as planning, industry, housing and transport. The SEA will evaluate the opportunities for reducing polluting emissions across domestic, industrial and commercial sectors. We will work to ensure that improvements are made to the energy infrastructure to enable more communities to capture energy from their local environment, and we will stimulate research and development into all forms of renewable energy production.
- We will ensure that **ambitious renewable energy production targets** are set for Scotland based on the findings of the SEA. These targets will assume that Scotland will continue to export excess electricity to the rest of the UK and will include heating and transport. We will work to ensure the development of, and support for, renewable energy schemes. These will include offshore wind farms among other renewable schemes as well as community-owned schemes.
- **We are fully committed to ensuring that no further nuclear energy schemes are built and that current nuclear power stations are phased out within the shortest practicable timescale.** We will call for an end to the use of Scottish ports by ships carrying nuclear waste for reconditioning, and to single-hulled oil tankers. We will end the use of domestic waste in waste-to-energy schemes as a means of providing heat and power. We will call for a moratorium on all new opencast coal developments and on the further expansion of existing developments.

Electricity accounts for only 20% of our energy demand, with transport and heating making up the remaining 80%.

The average organisation can save 20% of its energy bill by installing cost-effective energy-efficient technology.

British Energy (the nuclear power company that owns two out of Scotland's three nuclear power stations) was recently bailed out of its latest crisis by a £650-million loan from the UK Government. This money could have been used to build enough on-shore wind turbines to supply 15% of the UK energy demand.

Transport

Over one third (35 – 36%) of Scots do not have access to a car.

Without action, traffic levels in Scotland will grow by 27% over the next 20 years.

Cheap flights, using untaxed fuel, are the fastest growing source of greenhouse gases and are set to account for 10% of man-made greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Current transport policy in Scotland is failing. As our roads become more congested, the travelling public find themselves with few reliable travel alternatives to using their cars. Little has been done in recent years to address the legacy of decades of under-investment in public transport infrastructure and services. With no solution in sight and very little money being made available, our country is grinding to a halt. Our environment is being damaged, people are being excluded, public health is suffering, and the Scottish economy is being stifled. Too often attempts to introduce greener transport policies are blocked by the powerful car lobby.

The Scottish Green Party envisages a transport system for Scotland that minimises environmental impact, meets the basic transport needs of every member of society, protects public health and serves a sustainable Scottish economy. We believe that the solution lies in increased investment in public transport infrastructure and services, controlled wherever possible by the communities and customers that use them. This would produce a transport system geared towards the needs of passengers rather than the profits of shareholders – one that would provide convenient, reliable and affordable travel alternatives to the car, allowing the car to be used in a more responsible manner.

Greens also propose measures to bring about an overall reduction in demand for transport by supporting local jobs and services. We want to see the real costs of transport distributed more fairly and an increase in the amount of money available for improving and providing travel alternatives to the car. This will lead to sharp reductions in traffic levels, congestion, social exclusion, pollution and accidents, and to a transport system that actually supports the Scottish economy.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

General

- We will work to have those transport matters currently still the responsibility of Westminster devolved to the Scottish Parliament. **We will reduce road traffic levels by 10% by 2010.** We will ensure further decentralisation of control over transport through the creation of regional transport commissions, accountable to local authorities, local communities and passengers. We will establish a dedicated Scottish Transport Minister. We will support the local development of community-owned and organised transport projects and/or initiatives. Local authorities will be placed under a greater obligation to integrate their transport and land-use planning.

Walking and Cycling

- We will increase support and investment for walking and cycling, including increased space and priority for pedestrians, more segregated cycle facilities and cycle priority routes. **We will develop a comprehensive national network of walking and cycle tracks and facilities, including secure storage facilities at public transport interchanges.** We will ensure further development of home zones (residential areas with reduced speed limits and traffic calming) and safer routes to school initiatives, to encourage walking, cycling, road safety and recreation in residential areas.

Public Transport

- We will expand free and subsidised public transport travel passes to ensure that all of those on low incomes have their transport needs met. We will establish and promote a national ticketing scheme, which will allow the use of a 'through-ticket' for journeys involving different forms of public transport. We will invest in light rail or tram schemes for Scotland's cities and urban areas, and establish a network of one-stop-shop information points providing the public with timetable, route and fare details for the whole transport network.

Rail

- We will return the rail network to public ownership through a not-for-profit, community-owned enterprise. We will re-open important railway lines and links which have been lost in the past, and create new rail links, particularly to rural and less well served areas. We will invest in a system of Scottish high speed trains to replace flights to the south of England and mainland Europe.

Air

- We will resist any attempts to build new airports in Scotland or the expansion of existing facilities, and will put an end to late-night flights. Aviation fuel tax will be imposed at a national level as well as locally (with the exception of island flights) to reflect the full environmental costs of air transport. We will support a European Aviation emissions charge. We will also support the maintenance of air links to remote island communities where ferries are clearly less feasible and/or seasonal due to weather conditions.

Roads and Car Travel

- We will completely halt all major trunk-road building in Scotland, freeing up money for other schemes. New bypasses will be allowed only in the case of small towns or villages which are severed by a major traffic artery that is causing major social, environmental and safety problems. We will ensure greater use of vehicle-related charges and taxes (such as congestion charges, emissions charges and parking charges). We support the development of, and conversion to, alternative fuel vehicles. We will set targets for actual reduction in national and local traffic levels rather than merely a reduction in growth. We will abolish Vehicle Excise Duty, which will be compensated for by an increase in fuel tax, accompanied by grants to help those with a special need to use their car (including many living in rural areas). This will be tied to a requirement that the cars used represent the most sustainable travel choice available. We will introduce a national third-party insurance scheme to compensate the victims of uninsured drivers.

Freight

- We will encourage freight back onto rail and water through investment in new infrastructure and support grants. We will maximise the benefit of Scotland's good area to coastline ratio and canals by working towards transferring the transport of bulky, non-urgent freight onto ships. We will progressively decrease the maximum permissible size and weight of lorries allowed on certain roads.

The Confederation of British Industry has estimated that traffic congestion costs the British economy £15 billion each year.

Pedestrians and cyclists are twice as likely to be killed on the road in the UK than in Sweden or the Netherlands.

A Green and Productive Land

Each year
£136 million is
spent removing
pesticides and
nitrates from UK
drinking water.

In one year the
UK imported
240,000 tonnes
of pork and
125,000 tonnes
of lamb while
exporting
195,000 tonnes
of pork and
102,000 tonnes
of lamb.

68% of people
in Scotland
believe there
should be an
increase in
organic farming
in Scotland.

The Scottish Green Party believes firmly in a countryside which is managed to enhance the environment, not degrade it. We support all forms of agriculture that can achieve this and view organic production as a major part of sustainable land use in Scotland. We reject the technology of Genetic Modification (GM), which has created new species of organisms in isolation from millions of years of evolution. We believe GM poses incalculable risks to the environment and the sustainability of our agriculture.

We also recognise that rural poverty is a reality and that appropriate support structures must be put in place to alleviate disadvantage through community-led development and management of rural resources. Greens recognise that ecological restoration through reforestation has the potential to restore Scotland's damaged environment and also to help revitalise the economy. Over 100 community owned and managed woodlands already exist in Scotland, helping to improve the economic, social and ecological wellbeing of their communities.

We believe that the inequitable power of the supermarkets in their relationship with farmers is an injustice that needs to be creatively challenged by the Scottish Executive through dialogue and the development of farmers' collective bargaining power. Connecting consumers with healthy fresh local produce 'from the field to the plate' is important to the building of a food culture in Scotland that can make our diet the 'primary health service'. Equally, the future of the environment and the rights of animals should not be prejudiced by the way we feed ourselves.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- We will treble the funding available to 'agri-environment schemes' in the next four years of the Parliament to aid the maintenance of wildlife habitats on farms. We will work for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy to move away

from subsidising food production, which benefits large farms, towards paying for the environmental and social benefits small farms often deliver. We will develop a flagship **Organic Farming Action Plan** to increase development of organic food and farming, including ongoing subsidy payments to organic farmers that equal the highest payment rates offered in Europe.

- We will develop a **Scottish public procurement strategy to encourage the purchase of locally produced food** by schools, hospitals and other institutions. We will place a total ban on **Scottish farm-scale GM crop trials and a block on GM commercialisation in Scotland.**
- We will ensure that local people have a **central role in creating plans for rural development and nature conservation.** This will allow rural areas to develop in ways that are both environmentally sensitive and recognise the aspirations of communities.
- We will properly fund and improve the **existing system of nature conservation designation, such as sites of special scientific interest, and extend funding and safeguards for good management to the wider countryside and marine areas.** National Parks must become beacons of good practice and models of community participation and sustainable land use, and in the longer term these models should be rolled out across the whole of Scotland.
- We will introduce a new strategy in readiness for the next outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Scotland to be based on a policy of containment using vaccination with limited culling used only as a last resort.

Biodiversity and Animal Protection

The protection of our planet's environment, ecosystems, natural resources, wildlife habitats and biodiversity is of paramount importance. Given our capacity to destroy, we have a responsibility to protect and conserve those other species with which we share the planet, and to leave a planet for future generations that is no less diverse than the one that we inhabit today. The Scottish Green Party recognises that all living things are interconnected; yet we still have a limited understanding of these connections and their importance. For this reason we should use the precautionary principle: before embarking on something new, we must consider very carefully whether it is safe or not and should not go ahead until convinced that it is. The burden of proof of harmlessness of a new technology, process, activity, or chemical therefore lies with those proposing it, rather than with the general public to prove its harmfulness.

Scotland has its own role to play in establishing high standards for the relationship between humans and other species. Animals are capable of experiencing pain and suffering and Scotland should be an example to the world of a society based on moral and ethical values of care and compassion for all living things. No individual animal should suffer unnecessarily, nor should the future survival of any species be threatened at our whim.

Greens MSPs will work for the following:

- **We will ensure the completion and delivery of an adequately resourced Scottish Biodiversity Strategy** to help integrate and co-ordinate Government activity across all sectors impacting on our natural heritage.
- **We will create a dedicated Animal Welfare Unit within the Scottish Executive** and ensure the employment of a co-ordinated network of Animal Welfare Officers by local authorities. We will **increase the number of, and powers of, police wildlife liaison officers**, and specialists in wildlife crime will be appointed to the Procurator Fiscal's office to handle relevant cases. **We will also increase the penalties for those found guilty of criminal offences against animals.**
- We will establish and fund a Scottish scientific centre for the development of alternatives to animal experimentation. **We will establish a moratorium on the cloning and genetic engineering of animals** pending a wide-ranging investigation into their ethical, moral and scientific impacts. We will immediately abolish all battery and enriched egg production systems and replace them with free-range systems, and **end the live export of animals from Scotland** for slaughter or fattening abroad.
- **We will end the use of animals in circuses** and the practice of giving live animals as prizes at fairgrounds. We will review regulations controlling zoos to ensure that they provide an adequate standard of accommodation for their captive animals and benefit wild populations. We will also ensure that the ban on hunting with hounds is continued and defended. **A compulsory licensing scheme for pet shops will be introduced** making it an offence to sell pets to those under the age of 16. We will also introduce a two-tier system of licensing and registration (breeding and non-breeding) for all dog owners, and a low-cost spaying and neutering scheme throughout the country.
- **We will designate Scottish waters as a whale and dolphin sanctuary** to support Scotland's burgeoning eco-tourism industry, and we will work co-operatively to achieve an end to commercial whaling worldwide.

There is no longer any statutory protection for Scotland's most outstanding landscapes – its 40 National Scenic Areas.

There were over 2,600,000 'scientific procedures' carried out on animals in the UK in 2001.

Over 700 million chickens are reared in welfare poor, intensive systems in the UK each year.

Rivers, Lochs and Seas

Nearly 1 in 12 homes in Scotland are at risk from flooding. Many homeowners may find it impossible to insure their property against the damage caused by storms and floods.

Government research shows that the North Sea, west of Scotland and Irish Sea cod stocks are at their lowest ever recorded level and are in danger of complete collapse.

Water is one of Scotland's most important natural resources. But the state of Scotland's water is often ignored, despite its role in both our history and current economy. While fishing has become a major political issue, the debate has all too often been at a superficial level, focusing on short-term problems rather than ensuring the long-term health of our waters.

It is vital that we recognise the role played by our marine environment in Scotland's economy, tourism and quality of life. It provides one of the most obvious examples of our duty to maintain our environment for future generations. Through long-term planning, the Scottish Green Party is committed to a sustainable future for all Scotland's waters. Greens also acknowledge the increasing impact that climate change will have in Scotland, with increases of up to 40% predicted for levels of rainfall in winter. We are committed to addressing the issue of increased risk of flooding brought about by climate change, while at the same time working to prevent climate change.

One of the Greens' priorities is to have a pure, clean water supply, to safeguard both human health and the diversity of marine life in Scotland. We therefore oppose any privatisation of our water industry. Greens reject plans to add fluoride to the water supply. Rather than mass unavoidable medication for all, the best way to promote good dental health in children is to increase the availability of free toothbrushes and toothpaste, together with effective education and a better diet.

Green MSPs will work for the following:

- We will create a **Deputy Minister for the Marine Environment**, rather than a Deputy Fisheries Minister, to develop a long-term and sustainable policy for Scotland's marine environment. Biodiversity conservation in wetlands and sustainable flood

management will be a key objective of river basic management plans. We will ensure there is a **nationwide flood action plan**, which ensures that potential increased risk of flooding is taken into account when planning decisions are taken.

- We will oversee the **upgrading or replacement of water treatment plants** throughout Scotland to ensure a healthy and reliable system. This must go together with promotion of the financial benefits of domestic recycling of water and measures to reduce overall levels of water consumption.
- We will ensure that the **Scottish Executive takes a lead role in the redirection of EU subsidies to support investment in recovery and management of marine resources**. We will reduce boat numbers, while supporting those crews who use the most selective gear, doing the least damage to the marine environment and giving the greatest ratio of used to discarded catch. We will also ensure that there is tighter regulation of, or an end to, unsustainable industrial fishing practices.
- We will produce a **long-term fisheries management policy focused on reviving stocks and securing the future of Scottish fishing communities**, and we will address the need for economic diversification for coastal communities. We will seek to ensure that new regulation of fisheries will involve the communities and other users of the marine environment as a matter of course. Another key priority will be a moratorium on the licensing of any new fish farms and an independent inquiry into the impact of fish farming on the marine environment, public health and biodiversity.

Waste and Recycling

Scotland is continuing to use resources at a faster rate than they can be replaced. This undermines the ability of future generations of Scots to enjoy these resources and also reduces our current quality of life. The Scottish Green Party believes that, as a society, we need to reduce the quantity of the earth's resources we consume. However, much of our current resource use is wasteful and unduly destructive. Therefore we must seek to increase re-use and recycling as part of a comprehensive strategy of using natural resources in a sensitive and responsible manner. Our record so far in Scotland is very poor and this must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

To achieve this, there must be a fundamental change in how we understand resources and their use. This will require the Scottish Executive to reward good practice as well as providing the opportunities for individuals and businesses to put into action the desire for greater opportunities to recycle and re-use that is frequently expressed by many Scots. Disposal of waste through landfills and incineration causes serious health and pollution problems as well as being very wasteful. Greens also reject the 'quick fix' approach of using incineration in any form to dispose of household waste.

Green MSPs will work for the following:

- **We will develop a national resource use strategy for Scotland, with a 'zero waste' approach at its core.** The zero waste approach is currently being pioneered in New Zealand and various US states, and would involve reducing the amount of waste that is dumped in landfill sites or incinerated in Scotland by half every 5 years. By 2008 landfill and incineration would decrease by 50%, by 75% by 2013, and so on. With this signalling to industry of the direction of future resource use, organisations will have time to adapt their current manufacturing to avoid the generation of unrecyclable or

unre-usable products. What we call waste today will in future be regarded as a valuable resource.

- **We will introduce financial penalties, such as a plastic bag tax, to discourage wasteful use of resources.** Such resource taxes could help to pay for recycling schemes without government subsidy. This would be coupled with a Scottish-specific waste-disposal tax, over and above the existing landfill tax.
- **We will support the development of community recycling trusts, owned and managed by local people,** supported by local authorities and the Scottish Executive. These trusts would develop locally appropriate methods of recycling, re-using and composting local waste. They would be paid for the material they collect from the revenue generated by the waste disposal tax and the financial penalties mentioned above. Any profit would be ploughed back into community facilities and events.
- **We will launch a major offensive on litter.** Our policies on packaging will reduce problems at source. Within each council we will appoint a dedicated officer whose sole responsibility will be to put together prosecution cases for flytipping. We will double the number of street bins and collection rates. We will complement fines for littering with community service programmes, involving street, river and canal clean-ups.
- **We will introduce a national programme of kerbside recycling.** This is needed if Scotland is to remove itself from the bottom of Europe's recycling league. Until such a scheme is in place, the Scottish Green Party will work for easy access, with or without a car, to local recycling sites.

52% of household waste in Switzerland is recycled, compared with 8% in Scotland. The average tonne of household waste contains materials worth about £400 – incinerating a tonne of waste generates only £15 worth of electricity.

10 billion plastic bags are given away in the UK each year. They take on average 10 years to degrade.

There has been a 90% reduction in plastic bag purchase since the introduction in Ireland of a plastic bag tax.

International Justice

Figures published by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees show that the number of asylum seekers arriving in the EU in 2001 (384,530) is only a little over half the level it was in 1992 (675,460). This contrasts strikingly with the alarmist debate currently taking place across some European countries.

The environment is the ultimate global issue and requires global as well as local solutions. The Scottish Green Party believes that only a just world can produce a sustainable planet. We reject the current model of international operation in which a tiny minority consume the bulk of the world's resources, leaving both the planet and the vast majority of its inhabitants impoverished. We further reject the notion that aid should be tied to Western profit or that the first solution to international problems is a military one.

The Scottish Parliament's powers over international affairs are extremely limited but it should use those powers it has within Scotland to ensure that we minimise any impact we have on international injustice. The world could currently produce all the resources necessary to sustain the world's population, if excessive demands of some were constrained. We believe in a Scotland that can be proud of its role in the world and confident of its part in reversing injustice. Someone who cannot feed their family is never going to be convinced of the importance of issues such as biodiversity: an unjust world will never be a sustainable one.

Green MSPs will work for the following:

- We will press for Scotland to accept and welcome its fair share of asylum seekers and to house them as guests rather than prisoners. We wish to see those seeking asylum to be housed throughout the UK, reducing the pressure on the south-east of England, and placed in areas with existing communities of their national origin. We will also work to see that asylum seekers have access to appropriate legal, translation and medical facilities, and the same rights to work, housing, social security and liberty as any other Scottish resident.
- We will work towards the removal of all nuclear weapons from Scotland and a

reduction and eventual abolition of all arms sales either originating in or passing through Scotland. We reject violence as a solution to international and other problems, supporting instead diplomatic and legal solutions, and wish to see Scotland use its influence with UK authorities to move away from needless conflict as well as ensuring that it is not producing the tools of war.

- We will ensure that Scottish universities are funded to offer a set percentage of places to students from developing nations, and will end the practice of recruiting only the best and brightest from the countries that can least afford to lose them. We will encourage schemes which enable people, particularly young people, to study and work with others from around the world to exchange skills, beliefs and values which may be of use here and in other countries.
- We will work towards the creation of an **Ethical Trade Commission** to regulate a scheme of accreditation recognising fairly traded products on sale in Scottish shops. Those which can demonstrate ethical practices in both their investment and the treatment of staff in other countries should receive tax credits for both new and existing schemes which encourage fair trade.
- We will campaign against international economic treaties and agreements, such as the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which put the interests of rich countries and multinational companies before the interests of communities and the environment and which further extends free trade rules into the delivery of services, such as water, health and education.

£2.50

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