



# SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT MANIFESTO 2011

This is a **crucial election**.

UK Ministers are **cutting our public services**, and all the other **Holyrood parties are debating how to do exactly the same**. Governments of all colours in London and Edinburgh have **neglected our environment**, let **inequality widen**, and **narrowed our politics**.

Only Greens are offering an **alternative** to this failed agenda. We'll **raise revenue from the wealthy and from big business**, and **invest** in the things that matter. We think **the Scottish Parliament was created for this**. We'll protect Scotland's public services, and build the **low-carbon economy** the others only talk about, to cut energy bills, create jobs and tackle climate change.

If you agree, make your  
**2<sup>nd</sup> vote Green on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011.**

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# THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT TIME TO VOTE GREEN

**T**he Scottish Green Party has been a part of Scottish devolution since the beginning. We have consistently brought a fresh approach to politics, and a challenge to the other political parties on the crucial issues which our world faces.

Our society is an increasingly unequal, unhealthy and unjust place. Our economy has for years been based on speculation and debt, and dependent on the exploitation of people and natural resources. Our environment has been impoverished, degraded and polluted. Something has to give.

Greens have argued for years that business-as-usual politics could not last. What's astonishing is that other parties seem unwilling to learn any lesson from their own failure. They are racing to re-float a failed model, and in the process they are willing to wreck public services and put low-carbon investment at risk. The damage they do will be immeasurable.

Scotland has an alternative. Even within existing devolved powers, Greens believe that it's possible to protect public services, build the inclusive good society which people in Scotland want to live in, and invest in the skills and infrastructure we'll need to move away from the short-term unsustainable model that went before.

That's why our manifesto has at its heart three commitments: to education that's free for all, based on the ability to learn not the ability to pay, and funded from general taxation; to investment in cutting household energy bills in every community in Scotland; and the willingness to introduce fair, progressive taxation to pay for these policies and others. By working together, the Scottish Government and local councils can protect vital public spending, while ensuring that we close the gap between rich and poor which so scars our society.

Scotland faces crucial challenges in the next session of Parliament. We need an alternative. **Second Vote Green.**



The Scottish Greens' campaign launch

**Eleanor Scott  
Patrick Harvie  
Co-convenors  
Scottish Green Party**



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## A GREEN ALTERNATIVE TO PUBLIC SERVICE CUTS

**T**he next Scottish Parliament will be faced with the greatest threat to Scottish public services since devolution began, against a backdrop of rising energy prices and a global financial system that remains unstable.

The Tory-led UK Government is taking an axe to public spending, and launching a radical attack on the very principles of the welfare state. All this as they are writing off the tax bills for some of the largest and richest companies in the corporate world.

The generation of politicians who were tasked with rebuilding the country in the aftermath of the second world war faced similar pressures.

The Labour government of 1945 led by Clement Atlee was faced with a larger budget deficit than exists today, but instead of pursuing a short-term market-first agenda they made it their priority to tackle the 'Giant Evils' of their society. Want, squalor, idleness, ignorance and disease were targetted and the foundations of the modern welfare state were laid.

Though our terminology may have changed, these evils still persist and each one will be made worse by the UK Government's cuts.

The size of the deficit is no excuse for this social vandalism. The Scottish Parliament has limited power to defend Scotland against this agenda of cuts. However, Greens believe that this must be our objective in the coming session at Holyrood; that is why many people in Scotland voted to create a Scottish Parliament.

### The alternative

The Scottish Green Party set out almost £400m of revenue and spending changes for the 2011-12 financial year, the most comprehensive package of changes to the Scottish Budget proposed by any opposition party.

The Greens believe the SNP Budget that was passed, with Coalition support, failed to protect Scotland from the Tory cuts, and that an alternative is urgently needed.

We commit to raising revenue as progressively as possible to sustain and improve Scottish public services, as well as investing in a low-carbon economy.

### Fairer taxation

We'll introduce a Land Value Tax at just over 3p in the pound to replace Council Tax, and 8p in the pound to replace business rates. Owners of urban vacant land would also pay their fair share, helping to tackle speculative "land banking".

This would see more than 85% of Scots - those living in average homes in bands A-E - saving money against their current Council Tax bill, with increases only for the most expensive properties. At these rates LVT would raise more than £1bn per year above current revenue, to end the squeeze on local government services and reduce councils' reliance on their grant from the Scottish Government.

This move would also provide additional funds for national priorities such as higher and further education and the low-carbon investment Scotland needs.

We'll support local government to raise more of their own revenue and reduce reliance on the block grant. Bringing disused and untaxed business property into the scope of Business Rates and raising the existing large business supplement from 0.7p to 2p will be adopted as interim measures. New ideas such as a 'hotel tax' will be considered. Savings of almost £2bn can also be achieved by scrapping the AWPR and repairing the Forth Road Bridge.

### The Scottish Variable Rate

The inaction of previous Scottish Governments means the Variable Rate of income tax cannot be used until 2013. If the cuts continue until then we are willing to raise it by 0.5p in the pound from that point. Currently this would cost wealthy people who pay the higher rate of tax approximately £15 per month.

Those on a salary of £20,000 would pay around £4 more per month, while those earning below the income tax threshold (£7,475 in 2011-12) would pay no more. UK law currently prevents Scotland from raising the higher rate of income tax, which would be more progressive. However, combining income tax and LVT will make Scottish tax policy fairer, with richer people paying more and poorer people paying less.

Once the Tory cuts are over, Scotland could either reduce the LVT rate, or reduce income tax back to or below UK

Alison Johnstone, top Green candidate for Lothian region



"The deficit is no excuse for social vandalism. The Scottish Parliament must defend against a cuts agenda"

## A COSTED PLAN TO INVEST IN PUBLIC SERVICES AND A GREEN ECONOMY

levels to begin a shift away from taxing incomes and toward a progressive tax on wealth held as land.

We'll empower local government by promoting prudential borrowing to invest capital in revenue-generating activity like public and community-owned renewables; every council would be able to establish a local Public Energy

Company to reduce reliance on the block grant.

We'll push for UK action to increase corporate transparency and tackle tax avoidance including through the use of criminal sanctions. We will also campaign for the introduction of a 'Robin Hood Tax' on financial transactions that could raise billions of pounds in revenue globally.

Revenue	Per year (m)	Years	Total (m)	Notes
Empty properties (commercial)	£75	1	£75	UBR, 2011-12 only
Vacant land	£50	1	£50	UBR, 2011-12 only
Large business supplement	£69	1	£69	2011-12 only
Land Value Tax	£1,039	4	£4,156	2012 on - see <a href="http://scot.gr/lvt2011">http://scot.gr/lvt2011</a>
Scottish Variable Rate	£200	3	£600	At 0.5p from 2013, most recent Treasury data
<b>Total additional revenue</b>			<b>£4,950</b>	
Capital savings			Total (m)	Notes
New Forth Road Bridge			£1,600	Current Government assumptions
AWPR			£350	Most recent costings - total likely to be higher
<b>Total capital savings</b>			<b>£1,950</b>	
<b>Total revenue and capital</b>			<b>£6,900</b>	<b>Additional revenue and capital savings</b>
Revenue spending			Total (m)	Notes
Support local services	£654	4	£2,616	Table 14.02, 2011-15: <a href="http://scot.gr/m1">http://scot.gr/m1</a>
Fund higher education		4	£770	Table A2, 2011-15: <a href="http://scot.gr/m1">http://scot.gr/m1</a>
Fund further education	£33.5	4	£134	See p140. <a href="http://scot.gr/m2">http://scot.gr/m2</a>
Support for small farmers	£80	5	£400	
Public transport fare cuts	£75	4	£300	
Climate Challenge Fund 2	£15	5	£75	Additional to £10m committed
<b>Total revenue spend</b>			<b>£4,295</b>	
Capital spending			Total (m)	Notes
Affordable housing	£235	4	£940	
Insulation, energy efficiency	£100	5	£500	Average spend, bias to later years
Public transport infrastructure			£650	Rail projects including new stations
Repair Forth Road Bridge			£122	Upper estimate from FETA, February 2008
<b>Total capital spend</b>			<b>£2,212</b>	
<b>Total revenue and capital</b>			<b>£6,507</b>	<b>Additional spending under Green plans</b>
<b>Contingency</b>			<b>£393</b>	And other smaller manifesto commitments

Land Value Tax income figures from 2009 relative to Council Tax and Uniform Business Rates - land value inflation and the Council Tax freeze makes these figures conservative. All other figures at 2011 prices unless stated.





## LOCAL ROOTS FOR A LOCAL ECONOMY

The Scottish Green Party believes that our economies and our politics work best on a more local scale. The public service reform agenda does offer opportunities to improve services and save costs, but it also poses significant risks.

We would not stand in the way of Councils which wish to share some functions or even merge, but we will urge caution on any wider-ranging reorganisation. Similarly the current economic climate should not be used as a pretext for radical centralisation of services such as Scotland's police forces and fire & rescue services.

### Empower local communities

The Scottish Green Party has a strong positive vision for how Holyrood, local authorities and local communities can come together to share resources and strengthen our services and society.

We will put the case for the decentralisation of power from Holyrood to local authorities and from local

authorities to communities where it is appropriate to do so. Crucially however there is no need to wait for the new Scotland Act, or to wait for independence to be delivered. Decentralisation and local economic empowerment can and should be progressed now using the existing powers of the Scottish Parliament.

Local community empowerment is an agenda which Holyrood must embrace instead of seeing it as a threat. Our support for Common Good Trusts and the democratic control of local assets offers new ways to devolve control to the most local level.

By empowering local authorities to raise revenue and by supporting them to borrow for investment, we will enable them to avoid putting the long-term future of public services at risk because of short-term cuts.

### The Common Good legacy

The legacy of Scotland's former burgh system, in the form of land such as parks, were left to the people of those burghs for their common benefit.

Knowledge of exactly what these assets are became patchy following local authority reorganisation. There are hundreds of millions of pounds worth of common good assets, some previously unaccounted for, undervalued or merely underused.

This wealth belongs to the local community and not to the Council and, as land rights campaigner Andy Wightman notes, "can be used to begin a process of civic renewal and physical regeneration, to deliver wealth and prosperity, and to give back to towns across Scotland some self respect, belief and power to better the welfare of their community."

We will introduce a new Common Good Act to introduce democratic Common Good Trusts, with the scope to manage the transfer of assets to community control, and to hold at least 10% of land in regeneration areas. They would have a duty to develop their business plans to use Common Good assets to support investment in community-owned revenue generating activity such as renewable energy, recycling and community work hubs.

### A vision of renewal

Devolve power from Holyrood to local authorities and oppose centralisation

Empower local communities using the wealth of Scotland held in Common Good Trusts

Protect vital postal services and reinvigorate town centres with a new generation of small businesses, markets and an infrastructure of community work hubs

Andy Wightman  
Image credit - SGP



“Common Good Trusts can be used to begin a process of civic renewal and physical regeneration across Scotland”

### Protect postal services

The Royal Mail and Post Office network is vital for Scottish communities and we believe these organisations should either continue to be publicly-owned as in the case of the Royal Mail or that the existing franchise system, with most individual Post Offices run by small businesses, should be protected.

The UK Government agenda threatens the universal affordable provision of postal services across Scotland. We'll work in partnership with social enterprises to take over Scottish Post Offices which are threatened with closure, turning them into viable businesses with 'one-stop' access to a wider range of public services and agencies. We'll open negotiations with the UK Government regarding their sell-off of Royal Mail, with a view to using Scottish contingency funds to ensure continued public ownership of the Scottish assets of the organisation.

### Backing local business

Too many of Scotland's town centres have become ghost towns with boarded up shops and unused offices and workspaces attracting vandalism and undermining the spirit of the community. The Scottish Green Party believes that there is an opportunity to re-energise these once vital community spaces, creating new jobs and strengthening our communities.

We believe there is an opportunity to work with local authorities and commercial property owners to bring local markets selling locally grown produce to our town centres once again.

There is a wealth of entrepreneurialism in our communities and with support this energy can be harnessed to bring life to a new generation of small businesses. Our town centres will need more than just new retail operations to bring about this renaissance, and we must ensure that businesses from many different sectors can find homes.

By working with local authorities and businesses large and small, and by harnessing communication technologies, empty office space in our town centres can be transformed into the seeds of a nationwide network of community work

Image credit  
scot.gr/on



The Scottish Green Party has joined with local campaigners across Scotland to fight the closure of local post offices, and to oppose privatisation.

There are hundreds of Scottish post offices at risk, in both urban and rural areas. These are relied upon by many thousands of Scots, particularly the elderly, people with disabilities, and those with young children.

This vital social service is one which should be within easy reach of those who use them. That is why the plans to close local post offices and replace them with larger units serving much wider areas are not acceptable.

Post offices are more than just corner shops. For many people their post office is the only institution that offers access to banking services, an amenity they cannot do without.

Greens are committed to fighting for greater investment in a modernised network of post offices which would be the heart of thriving local economies and diverse communities.

hubs. Having more people working locally would relieve pressures on our transport infrastructure, have a positive impact on carbon emissions and bring life back to our local communities.

The emphasis for tourism promotion should be on domestic visitors and sustainable travel rather than international promotion.



Image credit  
scot:gr/cp - scot:gr/co - scot:gr/cq

## BUILDING A FAIRER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a narrow and unhelpful measure of economic progress: it tells us little about how the distribution of wealth is impacting on our communities. The Scottish Green Party will adopt alternative economic indicators which value health, wellbeing, social equality and other factors. This must include full recognition of the value to the economy of unpaid as well as paid work.

In the past Government support for enterprise and the economy has been based on the short-term whims of international investment. For years, the Scottish Government has been handing over huge subsidies to big business, with little to show for it in terms of long-term jobs.

The Scottish Green Party will review schemes such as Regional Selective Assistance to ensure that long-term social, environmental and ethical objectives are met. We'll carry out comprehensive reform of Scottish Enterprise and other support for business to prioritise economic activity which serves the public good, including social enterprises,

local food networks, and manufacturing of renewable energy infrastructure. Using and reforming the banks already in public ownership would be a better basis for investment than a new Green Investment Bank.

### Impact of a Land Value Tax

The Scottish Green Party's plans to replace Council Tax and Business Rates with a Land Value Tax has a key role to play in creating a sustainable economy. At present development is characterised by a cycle of boom and bust as property speculators play the market to maximise profits.

A tax on land values would reduce the speculative holding of land. The owners of disused land and properties would face a levy giving incentives to the productive economic use of land, where local communities require it and where it's consistent with planning rules.

A Land Value Tax would help to reduce the cost of housing and business premises, and would also recoup a share of land value increases which arise from public investment. Land Value Tax would be fairer, more environmentally friendly, and would benefit the economy. Many small businesses in particular would benefit.

### A more equal society

Develop a truer picture of wealth and end property speculation

Tackle poverty and gender inequality, and kickstart the green economy

Promote community banks and credit unions, and support social enterprise

Set a living wage of at least £7.15 per hour

### Skills for a new era

We also recognise the fundamental importance of a skilled workforce in the transformation to a sustainable economy. Employers and our educational institutions must work closer together to ensure Scotland's workforce can meet its potential as we move to a post carbon economy and the employment opportunities it will bring.

We'll ensure that skills agencies prioritise areas like renewable energy, low carbon industries, creative and cultural industries, waste management, manufacturing and the built environment so that we have the skilled workforce needed to deliver on the potential of these sectors.

The expansion of apprenticeships has had wide support in Scotland, but we'll build on that record to enable young people to continue flexible study alongside work if they wish, and to access support to put their own small business ideas into practice.



Patrick Harvie, co-convenor of  
the Scottish Greens



"A Land Value Tax  
would bring an  
end to the cycle  
of boom and bust  
in the property  
market"

### A fairer society

The Scottish Green Party recognises that cuts in public spending have a disproportionate impact on women.

The UK Government's budget will see an estimated 72% of the £8.1bn cuts being borne by women. We plan to make Gender Budget Analysis a standard part of the Scottish and local government budget process.

It is also vital to ensure that budgets are "poverty-proofed" so that financial decisions do not unfairly affect people living on low incomes. Public bodies will be required to make reducing the gap between rich and poor a core aim of their policy and financial decision making.

We'll establish a unit to monitor delivery of a living wage policy and gender inequality in public sector pay, and to up-rate the living wage for all public sector employees annually, using the Joseph Rowntree Foundation minimum income standard - set at £7.15 per hour from April 2011.

We will also actively encourage living wage agreements in the private and voluntary sector, including through government procurement guidelines.

This ability to make society fairer with procurement guidelines can be extended to many other areas, including through preferences for local, organic and fairly traded food. We'll introduce a Green Procurement Bill to support localisation, small businesses and social enterprises, and to make Community Benefit clauses the norm in major public sector contracts. At least 10% of public spending should go through social enterprises. In this way it is also possible to ensure Scotland is properly placed to become a Fair Trade Nation by including Fair Trade criteria in public procurement.

### Reform financial services

The collapse of the financial services sector has also been the collapse of an idea which held the other political parties captive for decades, that big is always better and that a deregulated, buccaneer model of capitalism would offer everlasting growth. Greens believe that recovery can only come from finding new and better ways (or even old and better ways) of building banking and other financial institutions in Scotland, approaches that are not dependent

Muhammad Yunus  
Image credit - scot.gr/cr



The Scottish Green Party recently received cross-party support for the establishment of a £1m small loans scheme designed to help 16- to 19-year olds set up their own businesses.

The scheme is inspired by the model set by the Nobel prize winner Professor Muhammad Yunus, who founded the Grameen Bank to provide micro-finance for people living in poverty in Bangladesh, and which is now growing in America too.

The scheme would offer loans for small business ventures to young people and support investment in money for stock, tools or the basic equipment required for small business ventures.

on the failed financial model of the past.

We'll shift government support toward smaller scale, sustainable finance like co-operatives and credit unions.

This will include working with social entrepreneurs toward the creation of a Scottish Grameen Bank to offer micro-finance programmes, enabling people living in poverty to access affordable finance for starting small businesses. In particular we will target support toward young people who need additional help to see their creative ideas for small businesses turned into reality.

We'll also promote no-cost basic banking, which is available from mainstream banks but rarely publicised, and legislate for a universal right to a bank account.



## SECURE, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

**R**ight across society, the recognition has grown that we need urgent action on climate change. People increasingly see the opportunities as well as the challenges, but there is no room for delay - already Scotland has lost four years since the SNP's original commitment to 3% annual emission cuts. And another great energy challenge is already upon us: peak oil, or the ending of the era of cheap and easy oil. Our supplies today come from ever harsher environments while demand for oil from emerging nations such as India and China increases sharply. Oil in the future will be both more expensive and in shorter supply. Economies which can break their dependence on oil and other fossil fuels will thrive.

### Demand reduction

One of the Scottish Greens' major achievements during the 2007-2011 Parliament was in securing an expansion of home energy efficiency. We will seek to build on this success with a renewed programme with a budget of at

### A positive approach to coming energy challenges

Boost energy efficiency to cut energy demand

Establish community energy companies to put control of energy generation in community hands

Plan for transition to a carbon free economy, helping small businesses and community participation

Taking the Climate Challenge Fund up to £25m per annum

least £100m per year to pay for a retrofit programme as part of the existing Energy Assistance Package. This scheme will be free, universal and will roll out on an area-by-area, street-by-street basis. For those in private rented housing we'll introduce minimum energy standards to ensure tenants are not stuck in fuel poverty.

### Embrace the energy challenge

Some of the major choices made by Scottish and UK Governments over recent years risk locking in high-carbon behaviour as well as oil dependence, and the urgent task facing a new Scottish Government will be to reverse this trend and build not only an energy system which can meet people's needs, but a society and economy which doesn't generate insatiable demand.

We'll move beyond simply setting fixed percentage targets for renewable energy. Scotland's renewables can more than meet our domestic electricity demand, and we can export clean energy to our neighbours. We believe this can be done by 2020, and thereafter we'll continue to support increased renewable capacity for export, including through a commission to develop plans for a North Sea High Voltage Direct Current 'supergrid'.

A lot can also be achieved by developing new ownership structures for renewable schemes, including offshore marine energy. At national level this means expanding the remit of Scottish Water to become a publicly-owned renewable energy company. We would also back Public Energy Companies at local authority level, and a range of social enterprises that would put control of energy generation into community hands.

The decentralised energy generation model will result in revenue to help meet social and environmental goals and local authorities can assist such schemes by producing heat maps for their area, and by setting targets for heat load to be delivered from renewables by 2020.

Grant schemes to provide incentives for the installation of micro-renewables will further boost this sector and such schemes could operate as part of the Energy Assistance Package, and be complemented by equity release schemes.

Kirsten Robb, top Green  
candidate for Central Scotland



“At least £100m a year to pay for an energy efficiency scheme to cut fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions”

We oppose the proposed new coal-fired power station at Hunterston, and would use the planning system to prevent further nuclear and coal expansion. Existing nuclear power stations would be closed at or before the end of their normal working lives, and will require nuclear waste to be stored on site in secure, monitored and retrievable conditions. We will also work in partnership with management and unions to ensure employees in the industry can find opportunities in decommissioning work or be re-trained and redeployed, for example in renewables.

Carbon Capture and Storage technology remains unproven and, while research continues into its viability, the possibility of success must not be used as an excuse for new unabated coal generation. CCS must be shown to be a realistic, efficient long-term option before its deployment, and it will only offer overall emission reduction if used at existing fossil fuel plants.

### Climate change

We are committed to meeting Scotland's emissions targets through domestic effort, without the use of carbon credits, and we'll ensure public sector emission cuts are in line with the targets in the Climate Change Act. Existing annual targets are too weak, and we back 4.5% annual reductions.

We'd build on the success of the Climate Challenge Fund by continuing to support community projects, with additional tiers of support including a small grants scheme with minimal bureaucracy, and a 'partnering' system so successful projects can help build capacity in other communities. The fund would be expanded to £25m a year.

There is also a need to begin to develop a consumption-based approach to calculating Scotland's real contribution to climate change, taking proper account of the emissions associated with the goods and services this country imports. This is complex work and would take several years to complete. We'll build on the limited carbon assessment of Scotland's budget to enable transparent scrutiny of budget documents in relation to carbon costs. We will also conduct individual carbon assessments across public sector spending and policies.

Image credit  
<http://scot.grdk>



Insulating every home in Scotland is the most effective way to beat climate change, cut bills, and boost jobs at the same time. Far too many Scottish homes are poorly insulated and inefficiently heated, which means high fuel bills, especially for those on low incomes. Scottish Greens will work for a ten year programme to insulate every home in Scotland, costing at £100m a year, boosting jobs in construction, and cutting Scotland's carbon emissions by more than 6%. The average household would save £340 a year.

### Planning for transition

With the challenges of peak oil fast approaching there is a clear need for a national contingency plan. This would include a business transition service designed to gain competitive advantage in new markets, for example in durable goods, engage with the agriculture sector to move from oil-based production to organic, and create a network of community based work hubs to reduce overhead costs faced by small businesses.

We'll also establish a Scottish Forum for a Just Transition, to ensure that the opportunities and costs of responding to climate change and peak oil are fairly shared across society. Voluntary organisations are often best placed to engage at community level about the public understanding of these issues, so we'd make a fund available for them to bid into to undertake this work.





## A PUBLIC TRANSPORT RENAISSANCE

Only the Scottish Green Party has the vision to break with transport policies that have barely changed since the 1960s, policies that are no longer serving the public good. There's a clear need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport and to end our dependence on dwindling oil supplies. But there's also an opportunity for transport policy to deliver social, environmental and economic improvements.

### A step change in transport policy

We will begin a long-term shift in investment away from building extra capacity in the trunk road network while protecting maintenance of the existing road network, which has suffered so badly over recent winters. Instead, we'll invest those resources in demand management strategies.

Comprehensive access to broadband would allow the development of home-working, which has the potential to ease the pressure on our transportation networks. Travel planning services are one of the best value ways of reducing

demand for road travel, and can save people money when they find public transport options which work for them. Eventually road pricing will have a role to play, but such schemes have to be affordable especially in rural areas.

With better use of the planning system the distance people need to travel to work and to access services can be reduced. A 'Living Streets' approach will build neighbourhoods that are safer, healthier and happier.

The capital investment needed for walking and cycling is minimal, but the economic benefit is huge, especially given the improvement to public health. We'll ensure that by the end of the next Parliament active travel will receive at least 10% of the transport budget; walking and cycling must be a particular priority for school transport.

Public transport has become less and less affordable, and we will allocate £75m a year in revenue support to bring fares down. A further £650m over the next Parliament will be allocated to a fund for extra public transport infrastructure, including park & ride facilities, active travel, further rail electrification and opening railway stations.

Workplaces have a role to play in supporting these changes, with showers and space for bike parking, and workplace parking charges to help pay for cut-price public transport deals and bike-to-work schemes. In cities, public bike-hire schemes as well as car clubs have a big role to play in cutting the number of cars on the roads.

We'll review Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance to ensure environmental, social and economic costs and benefits are fully reflected in Government investment.

Many local projects have remained unfunded because of the focus on roads - Glasgow & Aberdeen Crossrail projects, completion of the Edinburgh tram network, renewal and expansion of the Glasgow Subway, alternative ways of linking Glasgow airport with the rail network, completion of the Borders Railway through to Carlisle, and construction of passing loops on single track lines.

We will also open old and new local stations across Scotland such as Newburgh, Blackford, Bonnybridge, Grangemouth, Newtonhill and Kintore, and improvements to rural services such as a Dornoch Firth crossing.

### A joined-up transport policy

Promote High Speed Rail and develop plans for a non-profit body to bid for the Scotrail franchise

Cancel the second Forth crossing and the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route

Commit at least 10% of the transport budget to active travel and help bring down public transport fares



Eleanor Scott, co-convenor of  
the Scottish Greens



“Public transport needs support if fares are to come down without damaging services”

### Maintaining our roads

The backlog of road repairs is enormous - over £2bn according to Audit Scotland - and yet the SNP administration plans to spend at least £1.6bn on an extra Forth Road Bridge.

We won't proceed with this plan, but will instead support the £122m repair of the existing bridge should the dehumidification approach not prove successful.

We will also halt plans for the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route. This road would increase both pollution and car-dependency, as well as diverting money from other key local services such as schools.

Other major road projects will be reviewed but a continual expansion in trunk road capacity will not be supported.

We will cut the national speed limit to 50mph on single carriageways to make roads safer and to help cut the costs of driving.

We'll support the development of electric transport, by working with Scottish companies which are creating jobs here developing and manufacturing vehicles, batteries and rapid-charging technology.

### Positive on public transport development

The Scottish Green Party will work with the rail industry and trades unions to develop a non-profit body capable of bidding for the Scotrail franchise in 2014. We'll provide more flexible support for rail freight, recognising that many companies want to transfer to rail but face a barrier given the capital investment needed.

We'll develop detailed preparation for High Speed Rail in Scotland, with a view to taking specific proposals to UK Government building the case for a commitment to extend the network to Glasgow and Edinburgh, with options to go further north from there.

We'll consult on proposals for greater regulation of bus services, including a wider role for the Traffic Commissioner. Public transport is a public service, and the market alone will never protect many of the routes people depend upon.

Accessible transport also needs action from Government; some big operators have made improvements but there

Image credit  
scot.gr/ox



The Scottish Green Party has been the only party in the Scottish Parliament that has opposed the proposed second Forth Crossing. At a cost of at least £1.6 billion this monumental folly will consume scarce resources at a time when vital public services are being cut. The bridge will also increase the volume of road traffic entering Edinburgh which is already struggling to cope with major road congestion.

are still services running which people with disabilities find simply unusable.

We'll support reductions in public transport fares over the course of the four year term, through a shift from road-building to public transport spending, and we will oppose any attempt to end the concessionary travel scheme for older people and people with disabilities.

### And an end to airport expansion

We'll oppose the return of any form of aviation subsidy, and use the planning system to prevent further capacity expansion in Scottish airports.

We'll end the use of internal UK mainland flights by the Scottish Government except in emergencies, and push for the same policy throughout the public sector; flights to any destination within reach of Eurostar should become the exception rather than the norm. 'Lifeline' flights to Scotland's islands are an essential service, and will be supported.



## CARING FOR OUR MOST VALUABLE NATURAL ASSETS

**T**he Scottish Green Party is committed to large-scale ecosystem restoration projects, including the provision of dedicated funds for peatland restoration. The land is our most precious resource and we will maintain our longstanding opposition to the commercial use of GM crops. Multinational biotech businesses see the prospect of huge profits from GM technology, but at present the environment and the world's smallholders bear the risks.

Organic production of food is ever more important as oil prices rise, and locally grown, organic and non-intensive food production will help to keep people's food bills low.

Grow-your-own schemes also have a much greater role to play, and provide exercise, education and community spirit as well as healthy food. Sadly there are long waiting lists for allotments in many areas, and some local authorities have none at all. There's also a huge amount of publicly owned land which could be brought back into productive use.

An urgent review of the Allotments Act is needed, designed to meet the needs of modern communities for

local growing space, not only through allotments but also community gardens, city farms, 'Landshare' schemes and the transfer of unused public land into the Common Good.

Such initiatives can be supported with the adoption of 'Food for Life' targets in the public sector, e.g. 70% fresh ingredients, 50% local and 30% organics.

### Sustainable development of the land

We want to see more people living and making their livelihoods in rural parts of Scotland. Sustainable development will be encouraged in all sectors of the rural economy including agriculture and food production, forestry, light industry, renewable energy, tourism, environmental management, services and infrastructure.

Subject to careful environmental impact assessments, we will encourage rural teleworking and decentralisation of government and businesses to rural areas. We will also encourage distance learning, improvements to rural public transport and other measures to make it easier for people to work in rural areas. We support measures to keep money in rural economies, such as local food networks, business partnerships, and sustainable industrial activity.

Rural support and subsidy remains focused on large farms and landowners, and Greens will bring in a new £80m a year fund for small farmers and crofters. We'll also support small rural abattoirs, a key part of our local food networks.

We will develop a Scottish action plan for organic farming, in parallel with moves at an EU level. The proposed action plan would analyse bottlenecks and include concrete, measurable targets for the expansion of organic farming.

We will redirect research programmes in Scotland toward sustainable food production with a focus on organic and biodynamic systems. We support an increase in native woodland cover to 40% by 2050, back community orchards, and reject the privatisation of the Forestry Commission.

### The value of waste

The idea of a Zero Waste Scotland has been welcome, though it needs greater focus on waste reduction and the reuse of materials. We see no place for large-scale

### Land for all

Stop the spread of large-scale incinerator projects

Oppose the commercial use of GM crops and back the expansion of organic production

Commit to large-scale ecosystem support projects, including peatland restoration

Establish a new £80m a year fund to support small farmers and crofters

Alis Ballance, the Greens' top candidate for South of Scotland



"Energy generated from the burning of waste is not renewable energy and should not be given subsidy"

incineration, and we would revise the current Zero Waste Strategy to reflect that approach.

Many communities oppose the expansion of large-scale incineration, and the planning system must protect their interests. Energy generated from burning waste is not renewable, and such developments would not be given public subsidy, nor do we back large-scale biomass plants.

Recycling services remain patchy throughout the country, and we'll ensure that local authority Single Outcome Agreements include target dates for the provision of household recycling and composting services to all homes in Scotland. Recycling rates should also be boosted with packaging deposit schemes, and these would include levies for non-reusable and non-recyclable packaging.

Organic waste is a precious resource and we will aim to have this taken out of the waste stream and composted.

Waste destined for recycling or composting will be separated at the kerbside and collected there. The community recycling sector has to be fully engaged in the process, in recognition of the social inclusion, jobs and other benefits which it brings to the local economy.

### Marine Act

Our seas are vital to biodiversity, not just to our economy, and we support the full implementation of the Marine Act with appropriate resources to achieve this.

We'll designate Scottish waters as a whale and dolphin sanctuary to support Scotland's ecotourism industry, end the legal shooting of seals, block ship-to-ship oil transfers, and work internationally to end whaling globally.

We will also work towards 100% of Scotland's fisheries being certified sustainable with the Marine Stewardship Council blue tick. The long-term future of the fishing industry depends on conservation and better regulation of aquaculture and industrial fisheries. We will also end the dumping of waste at sea.

### Focus on Animal Welfare

An Animal Welfare Unit is long overdue. The Scottish Green Party will establish an agency with responsibility for all

Patrick Harvie at the Woodlands project



On the south side of Glasgow, Urban Roots help people without much garden space to find innovative ways to grow food locally

The scheme secured £27,291 in support from the Climate Challenge Fund, which was proposed by Green MSPs in 2007. This £37 million fund for community projects has helped many community groups develop organic food growing projects.

Schemes such as these across Scotland will become much more common as communities strive to produce more of their own food.

animal-related issues and with the authority to coordinate policy and ensure implementation and enforcement across all Scottish Government departments.

We'll require all local authorities to develop animal welfare charters, and employ Animal Welfare Officers to liaise with Government and local police forces, and will push for Scottish representation on international bodies dealing with biodiversity and animal welfare, such as CITES and the IWC.

We'll establish an immediate moratorium on the cloning and genetic engineering of all animals pending a wide-ranging investigation into their ethical, moral, scientific and animal welfare impacts.

We will also support a complete ban on the continuing cruel practice of snaring, and are committed to seeing this introduced in the next session of Parliament.





Image credit  
scot:gr/d2 - Martin Ford - scot:gr/d3

## EDUCATION AS A SOCIAL GOOD TO BE FUNDED COLLECTIVELY

**T**he Scottish Green Party will stand up for the social value of education, paid for collectively because of its benefit to the whole of society. Sadly there has been too much emphasis over the years on the purely economic value of education. This narrow and selfish idea of education would be even more dominant if Scotland followed the UK Government's agenda, and turned education into a market commodity.

Greens believe that education is about more than providing skills for jobs. It should be a life-enhancing experience where knowledge about the world around us, as well as self-knowledge, are ends in themselves.

It is essential that we offer young people an education that prepares them for all aspects of life, with an emphasis on arts, creativity, health, environmental and ethical responsibility, and an understanding of scientific inquiry.

### No tuition fees

Universities and colleges are part of what makes for a good society; they work best when education is free at the point of use and paid for collectively through taxation. Access to higher and further education, whether part-time or full-

time, should be based on an individual's ability to learn rather than their ability to pay.

Greens will oppose the UK Government's decision to shift the cost of higher and further education away from general taxation and onto the individual. Education is not simply a personal investment in a higher income, and while graduates do on average earn higher salaries, the only way to ensure that they pay a fair contribution is through progressive income tax. We'll commit to keeping education free at the point of use, and we'll oppose tuition fees and additional graduate taxes. The Westminster cuts will mean a funding gap - Greens will raise revenue to fill it.

We'll reverse the revenue cuts to further and higher education budgets, including the SNP's cut to the funding council. Instead, we will place a priority on funding education and research, ending student poverty, and keeping student debt down - all these are principles which need to be defended, and should not be played off against one another. We'll aim to ensure that students who move between institutions do not lose council tax discounts.

We'll ensure part-time study is recognised as an essential tool in creating pathways between school, community groups, college and university, particularly for people from non-traditional backgrounds and those with caring responsibilities.

### The true value of learning

Keep education free, making sure it is based on ability to learn, not pay

Help to protect schools and nurseries from closure and from unnecessary budget cuts

Provide children with a healthy start to life, investing in early intervention and protecting their right to play

### Protecting opportunities for our young learners

Local nurseries and schools are vital for the sustainability of communities. Local authorities and local communities are best placed to decide the right level of nursery and school provision. Schools and nurseries are, however, currently coming under intense pressure, especially as a result of the impact of unnecessary cuts in public expenditure.

The Scottish Green Party will ensure that priority is given to providing councils with the resources they need to keep local nurseries and schools open and class sizes down. Our schools are assets for children and communities, and before any school is closed we will require a thorough review of potential complementary and mixed uses, including partnership with pre-school providers.





“Students need free education with proper support, so no-one is deterred by their ability to pay”

Each local authority will be asked to produce a comprehensive school estate improvement programme to deliver future savings by investing in proper maintenance and energy efficiency, and we will introduce a new School Grounds Enhancement Fund. We'll also commit to providing free nursery education for children from age 3 upwards.

Greens recognise the value of those who work with our young learners, and we will aim to secure brighter prospects for our probationary teachers who face significant challenges to find work after their probationary year.

We'll increase support for the Eco-Schools programme, setting challenging new targets for energy and resource management, local food procurement and local biodiversity. We believe that Global Citizenship Education and Sustainability should have an enhanced status within the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). The CfE itself, while offering opportunities for improvement in many areas, must be adequately resourced. We will work with teachers and education authorities to ensure that reforms take place over a manageable timetable, and for teachers to be well supported through these changes.

We'll deliver an entitlement for preschool and primary pupils to have at least 2 hours of outdoor education at least once a week and a commitment to developing opportunities for education in the outdoors and out of school, equivalent to at least one half day a week based on the Norwegian model.

We'll continue to support the Active Schools Programme to increase the opportunities for young people to try a variety of physical activities.

We'll encourage health-promoting schools and improve the quality of food provided in schools, based on the 'Food for Life' targets on fresh, local and organic food where possible. We remain committed to universal free school meals, and would restrict the sale of junk food brands in schools, as well as ensure advertising has no place in schools.

We support the rights of parents to choose to educate their children at home, with appropriate safeguards, and aim to improve support and guidance for home learning.



We can protect our children's learning spaces, whether preventing nurseries from closure or their green play spaces being built over. This is a rich country that should be able to give children and young people the best start in life.

### Supporting our children and young people

Greens believe children and young people deserve the best start in life. We'll have no hesitation in committing to the full implementation in Scotland of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The right to play and recreation is undermined when play spaces and playing fields are reduced or sold off by authorities to housing developers. It is vital for children to have access to play, and Greens will protect that right through the planning system. We'll ensure that playing fields and important play spaces are not sold off and lost forever.

Early intervention is crucial to preventing a range of problems setting in for children as they grow older. We'll ensure that the work started under 'Getting it Right for Every Child' is developed further. We'll ensure that innovation and preventive spending to improve the lives of children and young people are prioritised.

We'll review the current Scottish guidelines on child sexual exploitation, and commission research on the nature and extent of this problem in Scotland. We'll increase support for victims of child-trafficking.



Image credit  
scot.gr/d5 - scot.gr/d6 - scot.gr/d7

## SUPPORTING SCOTLAND'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

**A** Green society is a fairer society, and we believe it is possible for Scotland to be a more equal and socially just place to live.

Greens recognise that there huge challenges to overcome in order to achieve this. Scotland faces unprecedented and unjustified budget cuts that are an act of social vandalism, led by the UK Coalition Government and simply being implemented by the SNP.

Scotland's housing and regeneration budget has taken the biggest hit in public spending cuts, with a substantial reduction in real terms. This is indefensible, especially at a time when homelessness and poverty affect far too many communities across Scotland.

Greens believe we can overcome these problems and build healthier, more tolerant and creative communities for everyone in Scotland to enjoy.

### Delivering the housing that Scotland needs

Scotland desperately needs more affordable homes. Greens cannot stand back and watch people languishing on housing waiting lists, and see homelessness get worse, when upwards of £1.6bn is wasted on a second road bridge across the Firth of Forth. We'll reverse the cut to the housing budget and invest in social housing. We'll keep those homes affordable and warm through our £100m a year universal

national programme of home energy efficiency to cut household bills.

Scotland has an internationally acclaimed 2012 homelessness commitment that will soon be disgraced if we do not commit the resources and support required to honour this ambition. We'll implement all parts of the 2003 Homelessness Act, and protect housing and homelessness services from unnecessary cuts.

We'll further restrict the Right to Buy, ensuring that social housing remains available as social housing.

We'll bring more empty homes back into use, using a mixture of grants, loans and strengthened legal powers for councils and social landlords to take over management of properties owned by irresponsible landlords. We'll enhance the regulation of private sector landlords by introducing management standards.

We'll support local authorities who use prudential borrowing for housing investment, with new building to be delivered by a range of social landlords including housing associations and co-operatives.

We'll begin a programme of investment in flats and tenements, funded by small grants and equity release loans, with a view to supporting energy efficiency, micro-renewables, community heating systems, improved waste & recycling facilities, and conversion of back-court spaces for social use and food production.

### Communities first

Tackle the housing crisis by reversing the cuts to housing

Invest in communities, protecting local services and amenities

Develop a more tolerant Scotland, introducing equal marriage

### Investing in communities

Our green spaces are a valuable community resource, which contribute to the health of our communities, especially by providing for informal sporting activities and play spaces for children.

We'll oppose the sale of green spaces, such as open spaces and playing fields, which often takes place against the wishes of the communities who use them. We'll use the current audit of green space across Scotland to inform communities about what has been lost over recent years, and empower them to protect what remains.

Greens want communities to have the facilities they need to support healthy lifestyles and the community spaces

Mark Ruskell, top Green candidate  
for Mid Scotland and Fife



"Scottish Greens cannot watch homelessness get worse ... we will reverse the cut to the housing budget and invest in social housing"

they want for local places to flourish. Unfortunately, local communities throughout Scotland are facing a reduction and loss of those spaces, services and amenities.

We'll oppose the closure of community sports and leisure facilities, recognising their value in providing health and social benefits. We'll also ensure our library services are protected from unnecessary cuts appreciating their value for community-based learning and social activities.

We'll review the operation of the 2006 Planning Act with a view to restoring planning's original purpose of achieving development which is in the public good, instead of placing economic growth above other priorities. The rights of developers and communities must also be revisited, and we'll consult on a workable balance of appeal rights. We'll ensure that urban communities can assert a right to buy land and community facilities.

We'll empower community councils to take on a legal role in decision making through planning and local urban design policy, including working towards greater localisation through democratic Common Good Trusts.

### **Diversity, tolerance and creativity**

Greens believe we can create a country where all can participate fully in society regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief. We'll work towards eliminating the barriers that prevent equality from progressing in Scotland.

We'll introduce legislation for equal partnership – opening marriage and civil partnership up to mixed-sex and same-sex couples, and allowing religious celebrants to conduct civil partnership. We'll begin a dialogue with the UK Government about the need for cross-border recognition of relationships on the basis of equality.

We'll support campaigns to challenge sectarianism and bigotry, especially in football as a sport that can bring change to many communities and young people.

Greens believe that creative artistic expression and cultural experience are fundamental aspects of social wellbeing. We'll ensure that access to diverse, innovative artistic and cultural experiences should be protected and promoted.

Image credit  
scot.gr/d8



Our national sport is in difficulty. The people who really matter, the people who pay the bills – football fans – are excluded from the big decisions. Current proposals for restructuring of the game are opposed by 88% of fans. Community ownership of clubs on the land reform model offers an exciting way to give clubs a stable platform to invest in their communities.

We support the work of fans' trusts and organisations, and we believe there should be incentives for fans to invest via supporter co-operatives. We will also examine legal options to allow clubs to be better structured to reflect their importance to their communities, underpinned by the real involvement of fans.

We'll encourage the growth of local arts associations made up of practising artists, and ensure there is provision of spaces such as workshops and studios so vital for artistic development. We'll ensure that grant-receiving bodies adhere to national standards that protect the rights of artists.

We'll improve opportunities for local community broadcasting, and continue to press the UK Government for greater powers over broadcasting.

We recognise the cultural benefits of supporting Scotland's many languages, including British Sign Language, Scots, Gaelic and minority community languages, through their inclusion in education and multilingual public information.





## A HEALTHY SOCIETY, NOT JUST ONE THAT PICKS UP THE PIECES

**G**reens believe in a fully inclusive health service, with no barriers set by low income, prejudice or disability. We believe it is fundamental that Scotland has a National Health Service which is free at the point of use. The NHS currently is under greater threat than ever, as the UK Government's attempts to privatise the NHS in England are showing. We'll oppose that market-driven agenda and we believe that most Scots oppose it too.

And whilst there have been some important steps towards health improvement in Scotland, Greens recognise that there is no room for complacency on preventive health, health promotion and public health. Policies on everything from education and housing, to transport and agriculture can all influence our health. Greens offer a unique blend of healthy policies across all of these areas, because we are the only political party to make those important links between the economy, society and the environment.

### A free and locally based public health service

The Scottish Green Party recognises that we must provide health services that are close to our communities and have

a caring ethos at their core. Serial reorganisation of the NHS can end up doing more harm than good, both to the cost of running services and to staff morale.

We'll commit to keeping the NHS in public hands. But more than that, we'll ensure our local health services are protected against the current trends of centralisation.

We'll place an emphasis on primary and community care, provided as locally as possible. A well-organised local health service, based on smaller hospitals and services, also provides sustainable local jobs and training. This localised structure of health care would provide better support for paid and unpaid carers.

We'll support local cottage and community hospitals, which provide high quality services with a personal touch, support the wellbeing of a whole community and benefit local health economies by taking pressure off the larger acute hospitals.

We'll also address the current lack of ongoing support for patients with long-term illnesses and conditions, who need information, practical and emotional support and benefits advice as well as day care and specialist care.

Greens see benefits in the integration of health and social care services, but as with other proposals to reform public services, we'll only support change if it benefits the quality of the service. We'll consult on a range of options for delivering integrated health and social care services, with an emphasis on the need to maintain quality, and to protect staff terms and conditions.

We'll provide funding for day-care services for older people at the overlap of health and social care, which will become ever more important given the increasing number of older people in our society.

We'll close the gaps in the provision of advocacy services, which need proper funding so that every vulnerable person in Scotland can have their need for an independent advocate met.

We'll improve the quality of food provided in hospitals and care settings, based on the 'Food for Life' targets on fresh, local and organic food where possible. The standard of hospital food must be improved, for nutritious, healthy

### Our health in safe hands

Protect local health services against current trends of centralisation

Keep the NHS free, publicly-owned and publicly-delivered

Ensure prevention is prioritised for improving Scotland's health

A minimum price for alcohol and a strategic plan to reduce smoking



Councillor Steve Burgess, second  
on the Green list for Lothian



"Scotland needs an NHS that is free, and places prevention and community-based services at its core"

food is vital to restoring any patient to full health. We'll encourage further democracy within the structure of our health services, and involve members of the public and communities as much as possible.

### Improving Scotland's health

Prevention is central to the improvements Greens would make to Scotland's health, especially given the continuing shift from acute to chronic conditions. Whether it is dealing with childhood obesity or Scotland's relationship with alcohol, Greens believe we must tackle these issues early before they become even greater problems in the future.

We'll review Health Visitor services, with the aim of ensuring adequate routine child health checks and general levels of contact between families and health visitors. If vulnerable children are not identified, they can miss out on interventions in early years.

We'll take action to prevent obesity by increasing awareness of the problem, promoting health in schools, and ensuring affordable access to physical fitness and recreation, as well as provision for active travel.

We'll develop a national tobacco control strategy, aimed at preventing young people taking up the habit, supporting people to quit smoking, and reducing the exposure of babies, children and young people to cigarette smoke.

We'll continue to support a minimum pricing alcohol policy, which must go beyond the UK Government's "duty + VAT" approach. In addition to this, we'll develop a comprehensive strategic approach to tackling the harm caused by alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

The structure of the alcohol industry has changed for the worse over recent decades, with ever greater control in the hands of big businesses which have no connection to the communities they operate in.

Politicians have talked about changing Scotland's alcohol culture, but have supported economic policies that allowed this to happen. We'll shift support to independent pubs and retailers, small local producers which make a profit from quality instead of volume, and the positive celebration of a healthier approach to alcohol.

Image credit  
scot.gr/db



Scottish Greens believe in an NHS that is free at the point of use, and delivered as locally as possible. We also recognise the benefits in having community-based health facilities.

Too many cottage hospitals have been threatened with closure, and we'll ensure that these highly valued, flexible and accessible local services are retained and properly supported.

We'll move responsibility for Scottish Government policy on drugs to the Communities Department, as a means of bridging the gap between the health-led and justice-led approaches. While Scotland cannot amend the Misuse of Drugs Act as we would wish, we do have the chance to ensure that the individual and social harm of drugs use is minimised.

We are committed to improving breastfeeding rates, and providing the support for women when they want it to help them breastfeed.

We'll review the Sexual Health Strategy, and commit to developing high quality sexual health services and appropriate sex education.

We'll introduce health impact assessments into the planning system, and ensure that health is taken into account in all other Government policies. Policies which help tackle climate change in particular, like support for active travel, offer opportunities for a healthier society.



Image credit  
scot:gr/dc - scot:gr/dc - scot:gr/dc

## PROMOTING JUSTICE AND CRIME PREVENTION

**G**reens believe a new approach to justice is required, that prioritises restorative justice and prevention as key to making Scotland's communities safer places to live.

Communities have the right to live in safety, but simply talking tough, as successive governments have, not only fails to change offenders' lives for the better; it also increases the fear of crime out of proportion to the real scale of the problem. There is another way.

The Scottish Green Party recognises that long term measures are needed to reduce crime. Punishment should be used to challenge and change harmful behaviour, not just as retribution.

Our over-stretched prison system is too often unable to spend the time and attention needed to cut reoffending levels. Many women and men in prison have mental health problems; we need a justice system that distinguishes between people who cause problems and people who have problems and respond appropriately to both.

### A broader view on crime

Tackle hate crimes including sectarianism, racism and homophobia

Put restorative justice at the heart of the system to restore communities and overcome re-offending

Secure a rightful place for access to environmental justice, to ensure communities can protect their environment

### Restoring communities, preventing crime

Greens will move our justice system beyond the failed, but fashionable, 'tough on crime' rhetoric that other politicians have been so relentless to pursue.

We'll put mediation and restorative justice at the heart of the system to ensure that offenders give something back to the community and come to see the impact of their crime. By letting prisons focus on the serious offenders who pose a real threat, we'll have more chance of changing criminal behaviour.

We'll focus on crime prevention, instead of pretending that a minimum sentence will solve every problem. We'll respect the independence of the judicial system so that each offender is given a sentence that relates to their actions and their circumstances. We'll continue to support a presumption against very short sentences. Keeping serious criminals inside for a few weeks or months does nothing to reduce the real threat they pose to the public, while minor offenders should be giving something back to their communities, instead of sitting idle in a cell.

We'll oppose the privatisation of Scotland's prison estate. Prisons should be completely focused on protecting the public and turning around the lives of prisoners and their families, not on returning a profit for shareholders.

We'll work to provide high quality victim support services, but we'll also support children and families of prisoners to make sure they don't pay the price for offences they didn't commit.

We'll oppose moves to create a single police force for Scotland. Policing works best at a local level, and we'll prioritise the funding for community policing.

We'll oppose moves to create a more fully armed police force, and we'll ensure that electroshock weapons like Tasers are treated with the same seriousness as firearms.

We'll increase the focus on corporate crime, which is too often seen as less serious than other forms of criminality.

### Build on our record of tackling hate crime

Crimes based on prejudice, like sectarianism, racism, homophobia, and misogyny are all unacceptable.

Steen Parish, top Green candidate for West of Scotland



“Prioritising crime prevention and restorative justice is the only way to ensure Scotland’s communities actually become safer”

Unfortunately, these prejudices still blight many communities throughout Scotland. Green MSPs were proud to pass legislation on Hate Crimes in the last parliamentary session so the law included hatred based on disability, sexual orientation and transgender identity. This was a significant step in the right direction, but more progress must be made to tackle these crimes.

We’ll prioritise tackling these problems and the crimes they give rise to through our restorative approach to justice. Restorative practices have a huge role to play in addressing and challenging prejudiced attitudes that underpin crime.

We believe more support is needed for those affected by these crimes, and to those who are responsible for the harm so that they can move beyond this unacceptable behaviour to the benefit of the whole community.

We’ll monitor the implementation of recent sexual offences legislation, in particular to ensure that historically low levels of rape conviction are improved. However, greater emphasis is still needed on challenging the attitudes that lead to male sexual violence.

### Protect the individual

We’ll adopt clear principles on liberty and privacy. This means we will defend the right to peaceful public protest as a vital part of democratic change, and if necessary will legislate to protect peaceful protesters from heavy handed tactics such as kettling, bribery and intimidation, or undercover surveillance.

The Scottish Green Party recognises that human rights are everyone’s rights. We’ll support the development of an action plan on human rights, and we’ll complement this with more coherent Parliamentary scrutiny of human rights issues.

We believe that costly legal actions for compensation arise when Government ignores basic human rights. We’ll avoid this, for example by giving guidance to courts on the grounds for suspending an offender’s right to vote in specific circumstances. The current blanket ban should be ended, and the right to vote should be seen as a milestone in a prisoner’s rehabilitation.

Martin Ford, top Green candidate for North-East Scotland, with Michael Forbes



Environmental justice demands that people have the power to stand up to domineering and bullying developers. The home owners on the Menie estate who have been faced with the threat of eviction from their homes to make way for a planned private leisure resort deserve the protection of the law, as do many other communities fighting for environmental justice.

### Greening Scotland’s justice system

Scottish Greens believe that Scotland’s justice system can no longer ignore the significance of environmental justice. We’ll fully implement the Aarhus Convention, to ensure access to environmental justice with a funded system of environmental and land courts to complement a more rigorous approach to environmental crime.

We also see the need to modernise environmental regulation and fines, to ensure that the rules are clear, but that breaches are taken seriously, with fines which cover restoration of damage, the costs of environmental policing, as well as punishment for corporate polluters and recovery of the proceeds of environmental crime.

The land reform agenda has stalled. We will give fresh impetus to this area of policy through the new Common Good Act and a Land Rights Law Centre to help communities assert their rights. We’ll consult on proposals to bring the administration and revenues of the Crown Estate under local democratic control.





## A DEEPER DEVOLUTION AND A RESPONSIBLE SCOTLAND

**D**evolution was supposed to be a process, but it seems to have stalled early. What should have been an engaging and participative debate about the next steps quickly became a point-scoring exercise between the SNP and the parties which dominate Westminster politics.

There is no need to wait either until the new Scotland Act powers become available, as the Westminster parties would have us do, or wait for independence as the SNP would have us do. Greens will use the existing powers of the Scottish Parliament as fully as possible to promote social justice and sustainability.

### A decentralising and pluralist Scotland

Greens believe that a renewed convention on Scottish devolution, with public and civic organisations in the driving seat instead of politicians, is needed if devolution is to begin to fulfil the hopes of those who campaigned long and hard for a Parliament.

Swapping a centralised UK Government for a centralised Scottish Government isn't the radical change that many

wanted. Local community empowerment is an agenda Holyrood must embrace instead of seeing it as a threat.

We'll argue for a multi-option referendum with choices including the status quo, a stronger Scottish Parliament with powers defined through a participative process, and full independence based on a written constitution, and we will back this third option. We'll also put the case for the decentralisation of power from Holyrood and local authorities.

Our support for Common Good Trusts and the democratic control of local assets will offer new ways to devolve control to the most local level.

We'll continue to put the case for votes at 16. There is no reason why people old enough to pay taxes, work for a living and start a family should not help choose the Government which passes laws over them.

We'll support the referendum on the Alternative Vote, but only as a step toward true proportional representation, using the Single Transferable Vote for Holyrood and Westminster elections.

### A progressive Scotland

Progress decentralisation, local economic empowerment and constitutional reform

Continue to oppose Trident and the further deployment of nuclear power in Scotland

Develop a truly internationalist Scotland, and achieve Fair Trade nation status

### No to nuclear power and nuclear weapons

Holyrood's confidence in engaging with international issues has grown gradually but steadily since devolution began. Greens will seek to build on that, developing a truly internationalist Scotland that can show its confidence proudly on the world stage, especially as a Nuclear-Free, Fair Trade country with a commitment to international development.

We'll ensure that Scotland rids itself of nuclear once and for all, by closing down existing power stations and blocking new ones, and by ridding Scotland of nuclear weapons.

Greens remain utterly committed to opposing the renewal of Trident. Weapons of mass destruction have no legitimate place either in Scotland or in global politics. As long as the UK Government continues to operate a nuclear weapons system in Scotland we'll make use of every power available, including the criminal law, planning, and environmental controls on sources of radiological risk such as warhead transportation.



Hilary Charles, Green candidate  
for Mid Scotland and Fife



"We must support a humane democracy at home and abroad, fostering compassion and respect for human rights."

### Backing aid and Fair Trade

We'll commit to an increase in Scotland's international development budget, as well as establishing a climate adaptation fund of £9 million per year for communities in developing countries. The promises made at Gleneagles on international debt have proved inadequate, and we continue to support debt relief.

Scotland must act as a responsible global citizen on climate change issues, helping the world's poorest communities to adapt to the increasingly severe weather conditions that are affecting their livelihoods.

The growth of ethical and fair trade has shown that many people want an alternative which places human dignity above profit, and which tackles poverty and injustice. It's time to make all trade fair trade and fully support Scotland's aim for 'Fair Trade nation' status.

### Civil liberties for all

We'll continue to work to ensure civil liberties are taken seriously across Government policy, opposing measures like fingerprinting in schools, the routine retention of DNA from innocent people, and the extension of the surveillance state. We also believe the current Freedom of Information regime does not yet go far enough to provide the open government originally promised.

### An internationalist Scotland

Our Green vision for Europe seeks to replace the economics of unsustainable growth and free trade dominated by capital markets with the ecological alternative of local self reliance and resource conservation, within a context of wider diversity and social inclusion.

The European Union must therefore be based on the principle of mutual co-operation and must serve the needs of people, not multinational corporations. The European Union can also do more to support emerging democracies, including across North Africa and the Middle East, by offering preferential trade deals. We will also work towards the elimination of the arms export industry, starting with an end to export to dictatorships.

Image credit  
scot.gr/di



Scotland must be a country that uses its resources to ensure that fair trade beats free trade, and supports the ever-growing global trade justice movement.

Villages, towns and cities across Scotland can support efforts to make trade fair for everyone, ensuring better prices, decent working conditions and environmental sustainability for farmers and workers around the world. We'll ensure that Fair Trade principles are properly included at all stages of the public procurement process.

Global injustice and war lead to people coming to Scotland as asylum seekers and refugees. Scotland must welcome those fleeing persecution in their own countries, while working to tackle the forces that persecute people. We'll deliver devolved services that take the rights and needs of asylum seekers and refugees seriously, as well as putting pressure on the UK Government to provide a genuinely humane asylum system.

We'll support moves to build a coalition of countries and regions willing to adopt a policy of boycotts, disinvestment and sanctions in relation to the Israeli Government to encourage an end to illegal settlements and negotiations on a final status for a Palestinian state. Some aspects of this can be taken forward immediately in Scotland through public procurement measures which are already under devolved control.



Robin Harper discussing the  
Climate Change Bill

## GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

### A track record to be proud of

Greens have been elected to the Scottish Parliament since the beginning in 1999, when Robin Harper became Britain's first Green Parliamentarian.

From the 2007 election to the dissolution of Parliament in March 2011, Green MSPs held the balance of power on a number of key issues, and we have negotiated honestly and effectively for Green ideas to be turned into positive practical measures like our Climate Challenge Fund or small steps towards our free, universal home insulation scheme.

We have never been afraid to stand up and say no when the larger parties tried to throw their weight around. Constructive when possible - challenging when needed

The next session needs Greens to return in numbers if this work is to continue. The party's list of achievements during this most recent session includes the following:

- First Green legislation passed anywhere in the UK, extending hate crime aggravations to cover offences motivated by hatred based on disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity
- Successfully negotiated for a Climate Challenge Fund worth £20 million for communities across Scotland to undertake creative and innovative community-based projects to reduce carbon emissions
- Secured £10m to establish a new fund to support marine renewables through budget negotiations
- Negotiated over £30m for area-based home insulation schemes designed to offer universal, free or low cost energy efficiency measures to help save money, address fuel poverty and combat climate change
- Secured commitment to early legislation to reduce climate change emissions, which without our negotiation would have been left down the list of legislative priorities. With the legislation now in place, Green MSPs have focused on the real action required
- Secured Scottish Government action on ship-to-ship oil transfers in the Firth of Forth by reaching agreement with the SNP to implement our legislation to give Ministers new powers to tackle this threat
- Secured agreement from Alex Salmond when he first set up the Council of Economic Advisers that it must also involve social and environmental expertise
- Won a review of the M74 extension decision, although unfortunately the SNP Government decided to continue with the project previously described by Friends of the Earth as "probably the worst environmental decision ever taken" by Scottish Ministers
- Won a historic vote in the Scottish Parliament against the renewal of Trident (71 votes for our motion, Tories against, and Labour abstained)
- Increased money for bus services by £4m across Scotland through budget negotiations
- Ensured the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets budget continued to be ring-fenced in local budgets, which campaigners say has been invaluable in light of recent budget cuts that usually target those areas first
- Successfully negotiated an end to the Air Route Development Fund in the budget, as a wasteful, unnecessary subsidy given to the aviation industry
- Strengthened legislation on the marine environment, requiring the views of water users like sailors, divers and surfers to be taken into account in the planning process
- Secured £4m for a boiler-scrappage scheme through budget negotiations to help people bring down their energy bills and reduce their emissions
- Won a landmark vote through a Green amendment in the Scottish Parliament to oppose new unabated coal capacity and reject the SNP's plans to build a new coal-fired power station at Hunterston
- Led the call for the Scottish Parliament's tax varying powers to be reinstated at the earliest opportunity, which the SNP Finance Minister has now agreed to, after the SNP Government let those powers lapse without informing the Scottish Parliament or public
- Won a Parliamentary vote in a Green Party debate to create a micro-finance scheme for 16-19 year olds wishing to start their own business
- Pressed the First Minister to back a moratorium on deep sea oil drilling in Scottish waters

# JOIN US AND BUILD THE GREEN MOVEMENT



## Contact Details

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Join the Scottish Green Party

Our rates are based on gross annual income.  
I wish to join at the following annual rate:

Gross annual income	Rate
Under 18 and full-time students	£5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Under £10,000 income	£12 <input type="checkbox"/>
£10,001 - £20,000	£24 <input type="checkbox"/>
£20,001 - £30,000	£36 <input type="checkbox"/>
£30,001 - £40,000	£48 <input type="checkbox"/>
£40,001 - £50,000	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>
Over £50,000	£72 <input type="checkbox"/>

- ☐ I enclose cash/cheque (delete as appropriate)  
☐ I have completed the standing order form below.

#### Declaration

I accept and will further the aims of the Scottish Green Party, and  
am not a member of any other party except a Green Party abroad.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donate to the Scottish Green Party

You can also make a one off or monthly donation.  
I wish to donate by cheque and enclose a cheque for:

- £10 ☐  
£25 ☐  
£50 ☐  
£100 ☐  
£250 ☐  
£500 ☐

Other £ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I wish to pay a monthly donation by standing order of £ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Please keep me updated with news of campaigns and events.

#### Note

All donations above £500 a year must be from registered UK  
voters, so we need the contact details of all donors and will  
return any donations that do not meet our legal obligations.



## Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit



Please fill in the form and send to:  
20 Graham Street, Edinburgh EH6 5QR

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Branch sort code

Bank/building society account number

Service user number

2 5 0 3 8 1

Reference

#### Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay The Scottish Green Party Direct Debits from the account detailed in this  
Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

I understand that this Instruction may remain with The Scottish Green party and,  
if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

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**Other formats of this manifesto available on request.**

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