



**SPRING  
CONFERENCE**

**6-7 April 2019  
Edinburgh**

# LEADING the CHANGE

**#SGPConf**

# Contents

---

3. Welcome to Edinburgh

---

4. Welcome to conference

---

6-8. How conference works

---

9. Child protection

---

10. Saturday timetable

---

11. Saturday events

---

12-13. Sunday timetable

---

14-17. Sunday Events

---

20. Get involved





# Welcome to Edinburgh

**I'm delighted to welcome you all to the Scottish Greens Spring Conference, and to this beautiful venue for our 2019 Spring Conference.**

An especially warm welcome to those who have travelled to Edinburgh to participate. I'm excited. We are at an exciting time in Green politics, the world seems to be suddenly taking notice of the Climate Emergency. I think this is an exciting time for our party as well, as we will be debating and amending a proposed new constitution for our party.

The development of this new constitution has been a long process and a lot of work, but I hope that today we can agree the details of a new structure that can take us into the next election cycle and continue our growth as part of the Green wave that is happening across Europe, as people reject populism and demand action on the climate crisis.

As well as our speakers, EGM, fringes and workshops we are having a social in Akva (129 Fountainbridge) on Saturday evening, and I would like to invite you all to join me. More details are available at the reception desk.

Thank you to all of you for being here today to shape the future of this party and of Green politics in Scotland.

**Lorna Slater, Leith Walk by-election  
candidate and Operations Committee  
Co-convenor**



# Welcome to our 2019 Spring Conference!

**Welcome to Edinburgh, and the Scottish Green Party's Spring Conference 2019. We hope you'll have a great weekend, meeting new friends and helping to shape the direction of our party.**

As we meet the Brexit crisis is continuing to dominate the UK political landscape, threatening to drag Scotland out of the EU and risking the hard won environmental protections and human rights that benefit us all.

We are delighted that Lorna Slater, our candidate for the Leith Walk by-election this Thursday, will be joining us on stage in the opening session.

Our councillor group in Edinburgh, Melanie Main, Gavin Corbett, Steve Burgess, Claire Miller, Chas Booth, Alex Staniforth, Susan Rae and Mary Campbell have done a tremendous job Leading the Change in Edinburgh and it would be wonderful if we can win our first by-election and have another Green Councillor.

We also have important internal business this weekend. We are a growing party with more elected representatives, more supporters, volunteers and members than

before, but also much more to do. To make sure the party is fit to face the challenges of the future we need to change our constitution. Over the past couple of years we have been consulting with members over the future shape and structure of the Scottish Green Party, today is the culmination of the huge amount of work put in by our national committees, our volunteers, members and branches, and we would like to thank everyone for their work.

Over the weekend you will have the chance to hear about the work Greens are doing at local and national level. You'll hear about – and decide about – the way we're facing challenges like Brexit, the Climate Emergency, and the country's future relationship with the wider world including





our continued commitment to a European future.

You'll have the chance to meet and talk with many of the organisations which work with us, developing the new ideas our political system needs, and to share experiences and skills with other Green activists around the country.

We'd particularly like to welcome Holly Gillibrand and Josie Law to Conference.

The climate strikes have inspired us all as they have become a global movement, demanding that governments take

action on the Climate Crisis. We stand with them in solidarity.

Let's make this weekend a chance to connect with each other, to renew our party, and to make clear that the Scottish Greens are the party that has the commitment to change politics and to change society for the better. Now more than ever we are part of an international movement and can help lead the Green surge in Europe.

**Maggie Chapman  
and Patrick Harvie,  
Scottish Greens  
Co-Convenors**



# HOW CONFERENCE WORKS

The Party's Constitution and Policy Reference Document (PRD) have been voted in, and amended, by a succession of Party conferences on the basis of one member, one vote. The Standing Orders Committee (SOC) is responsible for ensuring conference rules are upheld, and for guaranteeing its smooth and democratic running. If you have an issue relating to conference procedures, please raise it with a member of SOC. SOC reports directly to conference, and its annual report – given during the AGM – must be approved by conference. SOC has a table in front of the stage throughout conference should you have any queries.

## MOTIONS

Motions have to be submitted 11 weeks before conference, amendments five weeks before. The intention is that branches can debate them and, if wished, agree proxy votes or branch amendments.

Emergency Motions are intended to allow conference to debate issues that have arisen since then, and should be sent to [soc@notices.scottishgreens.org.uk](mailto:soc@notices.scottishgreens.org.uk) seven days before the start of conference, signed by two members.

An Emergency Motion relating to events that have arisen since then can be submitted to SOC any time up until noon on the first day of conference (also signed by two members). Emergency Motions will be rejected if they could have been submitted in time for the first agenda, or are not concise and focused.

## OFFICE BEARER REPORTS

There is a folder containing reference copies of office-bearers' reports and accounts at the registration desk. Digital copies are also available.

## LANYARDS / VOTING CARDS

Please keep close watch over your voting cards. Please also wear your lanyard at all times and remember to hand them back at the end of conference.

## DEBATES AND VOTING

Motions are debated and voted on as follows:

- There is a short debate on the motion itself.
- Each amendment is then debated and voted on in turn. You have the choice of voting for, against or abstain.
- The final stage is a vote on the full motion, as amended (or not amended), and again the choice is between for, against or abstain.

At any point in the debate a member may ask (from the floor) to vote on referring a motion back to the relevant committee. That member would have to explain their reasons and another member would have to second that proposal. The chair may refuse that proposal or may put it to a vote, at their discretion.

Amendments will not be accepted from the floor if more than ten members object, or if the chair refuses to allow them. It is unusual for all other members to agree to hear a

proposed amendment from the floor, as this has not proved to be an effective way of deciding party policy.

**Yes**



As a member you may vote at conference providing that you have the red, green and white voting cards you were given at registration. Please don't lose them! They are colour-coded, like traffic lights.

Any member who can't attend Conference may delegate another member to vote on their behalf. This is called a proxy vote. No member may have more than eight proxy votes.

**No**



## SPEAKING

Any member may speak during a debate. If you think in advance that you'd like to speak, please fill in a speaking slip and hand it in to the SOC table as soon as possible, giving a note of any expertise or special interest you have in the topic. This will allow the chair to

**Abstain**



ensure an equal number of speeches for and against, and to give priority to those with background knowledge of the subject, rather than just those who are better at catching the chair's eye.

If you wish to respond to a point made during the debate, raise your hand and you will be called if there's time. Please do not speak unless called upon and you have the microphone. Because of the size of the auditorium and the number of people attending, there will be very little time for speakers who have not filled in a request-to-speak slip. You may ask a short question of the motion proposer – but this must be just that – a short question. The chair is there to ensure fair and smooth running of the session – please respect their authority.

### **FRINGES AND EXHIBITIONS**

Conference is not just the main sessions organised by the SGP. It is also the fringe meetings and stalls organised by outside groups, where new ideas flourish and where party members listen to the concerns of campaigning and representative groups. Please visit the stalls and take part in the sessions. They are as much a part of conference as the main sessions.

### **VENUE ACCESSIBILITY**

The venue is fully accessible, you can view further details at <https://www.accessable.co.uk/venues/lindsay-stewart-lecture-theatre>

### **FIRST TIME AT CONFERENCE?**

There is a special session for people new to Conference, which will be held at 9.15am in Room 210.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For any further information about conference, please ask at the registration desk.



## **CHILD PROTECTION AT CONFERENCE**

SGP considers all persons under the age of 18 children for the purposes of this policy.

As an organisation that has members as young as 12, we have a duty to inform and support all our members in upholding our child protection policy. The following will help you to know what to look for and what to do if you have any concerns during conference.

### **What constitutes a risk?**

- Witnessing an incident involving a child that causes you concern;
- A child tells you they are being abused or neglected or are at risk of being abused or neglected;
- Someone tells you that a child is at risk of abuse or neglect, even if the child has no connection to the SGP.

### **What do I need to do?**

#### **If a child tells you they are at actual or potential risk:**

- Take them seriously;
- Don't ask unnecessary questions;
- Don't promise to keep the information confidential;
- Make a note using the child's words and make sure you note the date;
- Contact your branch convenor, the Child Rights Volunteer or local social work department;
- Don't contact the child's parents/guardian;
- Don't attempt to investigate the situation;
- If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child, contact the police.

#### **If you suspect an adult or child is posing a risk to child protection.**

Contact your branch convenor or the Child Rights Volunteer; If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child, contact the police.

# Saturday Timetable

	Main Auditorium	Room 210
8.00am onwards	Registration in entrance hall	
9.15am-10.15am	Main Hall Set-up (CLOSED)	First time at conference?
10.30am-11.15pm	<b>Welcome to Edinburgh &amp; Conference</b> Lorna Slater, Leith Walk by-election candidate Maggie Chapman, Scottish Green Party Co-convenor Patrick Harvie MSP, Scottish Green Party Co-convenor	
11.15pm-1.30pm	EGM Session 1	
1.30pm-2.30pm Lunch and External fringes	WWF & RSPB Lunch Fringe	RNIB Lunch Fringe
2.45pm-4.45pm	EGM Session 2	
4.45pm-5.00pm	Break	
5.00pm-6.30pm	EGM Session3	

# Fringe events & workshops

## Saturday

9.15am-10.15am

### First Time at conference?

Room 210

If this is your first time at conference then it can be a bit bewildering! Come along, get a crash course in how conference works and meet other first-timers.

1.30pm-2.30pm

### AFTER 2020 – MEETING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING SCOTLAND'S NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

WWF Scotland  
& RSPB Scotland

Main Hall

"Nature on Red Alert" – Climate change and biodiversity loss in Scotland – *Daphne Vlastari, Scottish Environment LINK*

• "Managing Scotland's land for nature and the public good" – *Bruce Wilson, Scottish Wildlife Trust*

• "Standing up for Scotland's nature if Scotland leaves the EU." – *Isobel Mercer, RSPB Scotland*

### ACTIVE TRAVEL FOR ALL RNIB

Room 210

• How active travel can be made accessible for everyone. From including physical delineation between cycle paths, pavements and roads, to removing barriers that tandem bikes struggle to manoeuvre around, there are many small changes to street infrastructure that can be made to improve the experience of active travel.

• *Speakers:*

• *Patrick Harvie MSP.*

• *Sandra Wilson, chair of RNIB Scotland.*

• *Suzanne Forup, Head of Development, Scotland - Cycling UK.*

• *Catriona Burness, Policy and Parliamentary Manager - RNIB Scotland.*



## Sunday Timetable

	Main Auditorium	Room 210	
8.00am onwards	Registration		
9.15am-10.15am	Talking Politics	Democracy for Sale	10.15am-11.15am
10.20am-11.10am	After 2020 – Meeting the Challenges and Scotland's Nature and Biodiversity with RSPB and WWF		
11.10am-Noon	European election hustings		
Noon-1.00pm Lunch	<b>Give Me Five Campaign</b> Peter Kelly of Poverty Alliance; Dr Sharon Wright Senior Lecturer of Public Policy Sally Ann Kelly of Aberlour; Alison Johnstone MSP		
1.00pm-2.00pm	Accessible campaigning	Target-to-Win in Rural Areas	2.00pm-2.15pm
2.15pm-3.15pm	Young Greens Drop-in	Women's Network	3.15pm-4.30pm
3.30pm-4.30pm	SGP-CND	Welfare and Conduct officers	4.30pm-5.00pm
4.30pm-5.00pm	<b>Closing Plenary</b> Alison Johnstone MSP, Vice-convenor Scottish Greens		

	Room 205	Room 206	Room 207
Registration in entrance hall			
	Internal elections drop-in	ASGC meeting	Canadian-style carbon fee and dividend
Challenges and Opportunities Facing			
Climate Policy, University of Glasgow;			
	Building a Public Media Profile	International Committee	Treasurers' Drop-in Session
	Target-to-Win Drop-in	Green Isles Alliance	Marine Policy
	Rainbow Greens AGM	Data Protection	
Scottish Green Party & Co-Leader of the Parliamentary Group			

# Sunday

9.15am-10.15am

## TALKING POLITICS

Main Hall

We're all interested in politics but it's not always easy to find your words. Practice your pitch in a fun setting while getting to know SGP policy on a range of issues. You'll even get some useful feedback if you want!

## DEMOCRACY FOR SALE

Room 210

Policy Committee-led discussion on election law after Cambridge Analytica, GDPR and the EU referendum. What lessons are there for future Scottish elections?

## INTERNAL ELECTIONS DROP-IN

Room 205

Find out what's involved in standing for internal elections, understand what each role entails and learn how you can get involved in helping the SGP develop, shape strategy and support members.

## ASGC MEETING

Room 206

Meeting of the Association of Scottish Green Councillors

## CANADIAN-STYLE CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND

Room 207

A session with Dr Sam L J Page looking at whether a Canadian-style "carbon fee and dividend" could cut greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland.



**1.00pm-2.00pm**

### **ACCESSIBLE CAMPAIGNING**

**Main Hall**

Join Ellen Murray the Executive Director of TransgenderNI who will deliver a session on accessible campaigning

### **TARGET-TO-WIN IN RURAL AREAS**

**Room 210**

Laura Moodie talks through the targeting process and how TTW helped Dumfries & Galloway Branch grow their vote share from 2 per cent to more than 9 per cent in less than three years.

### **BUILDING A PUBLIC MEDIA PROFILE**

**Room 205**

Are you based in an area that does not have a Green MSP or councillor? This session will give you practical advice to building a media and public profile to raise awareness of the

Greens ahead of the next election cycle.

### **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

**Room 206**

The SGP International Committee supports the party with international connections, contributes international perspectives to policy-making and aims to help win votes. Come and meet members of the committee, hear how we operate now, in Europe and Globally, and join the discussion on our future international priorities.

### **TREASURERS' DROP-IN SESSION**

**Room 207**

A session for branch treasurers to meet and discuss recent campaigns.

**2.15am-3.15pm**

**YOUNG GREENS DROP-IN**

**Main Hall**

A session for Young Greens to meet one another and compare notes on recent campaigns.

**WOMEN'S NETWORK**

**Room 210**

A relaxed opportunity to meet and connect with other Green women, build our internal support network and plan for the year ahead.

**TARGET-TO-WIN DROP-IN**

**Room 205**

Target To Win has helped elect Greens across the country and as we aim to win even more seats in the next electoral cycle, members of the Elections and Campaigns Committee will be available to offer help with any questions about electoral strategy. Come along for a chat whether you want an introduction to Target To Win or whether you have

been doing it for a long time and want to bounce around a few ideas.

**GREEN ISLES ALLIANCE**

**Room 206**

The Green Isles Alliance is a network that enables the Green Parties in all of the UK and the Republic of Ireland to stand together. Join this panel session to meet colleagues from our alliance partners and explore how we can work together across borders – aims, outcomes, and methods.

**MARINE POLICY**

**Room 207**

Our SGP marine policy is being reviewed this year - this workshop is your opportunity to help shape a new green vision for how our seas should be managed.

**3.30pm-4.30pm**

**SGP-CND**

**Main Hall**

The Scottish Green Party and the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament ([www.banthebomb.org/](http://www.banthebomb.org/)) recently agreed to a formal alliance. Come to this workshop to join the discussion on how we can work together to remove nuclear warheads from Scotland as a step towards the global elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

**WELFARE AND  
CONDUCT OFFICERS**

**Room 210**

Meet & Greet for all branch WCOs as well as anyone else interested in party welfare. Exchanging ideas, best practices and more.

**RAINBOW GREENS AGM**

**Room 205**

With the rise of the far-right, the scourge of transphobia in our public discourse and the persecution of LGBTI+ peoples across the world it is more important than ever that you get involved. We'll be electing a new team and discussing what issues we should be focusing on to help our community.

**DATA PROTECTION**

**Room 206**

Everything you wanted to know about GDPR but were too sensible to ask. The use of members, supporters and campaign data after GDPR. Presentation on GDPR followed by questions and discussion.



## WWF Scotland

With a global network, WWF Scotland is dedicated to finding positive solutions to today's most pressing environmental challenges. Our work focuses on Scotland achieving the full benefits of its world-leading climate-change ambitions, and of protecting our amazing seas. Pop by the stand to find out more.  
[@WWFScotland](#)  
[wwfscotland.org.uk](http://wwfscotland.org.uk)



## RSPB Scotland

RSPB Scotland is the charity that promotes the conservation of birds and other wildlife. We carry out scientific research, education, land management and policy advocacy in areas such as agriculture, marine, flooding, planning, energy, forestry, species and habitats, sustainability and climate change. Come and say hello!  
[www.rspb.org.uk/scotland](http://www.rspb.org.uk/scotland)



giving  
nature  
a home

## RNIB Scotland

The Royal National Institute of Blind People Scotland helps blind and partially sighted people of all ages live as fully and independently as possible. It provides advice, support, training, equipment, and transcribes books and other materials. It also campaigns across Scotland to improve sight loss prevention.  
[www.rnib.org.uk/scotland](http://www.rnib.org.uk/scotland)

**RNIB**  
Scotland

Supporting people  
with sight loss

## League Against Cruel Sports Scotland

League Scotland campaigns against cruelty to animals in the name of "sport", and are the foremost organisation working towards a real ban on fox hunting in Scotland. Stop by our stand to see the most recent footage from our hunt monitors, and to find out more about the [#stillhunted](#) campaign  
[www.league.org.uk/cruel-sports-in-scotland](http://www.league.org.uk/cruel-sports-in-scotland)



**LEAGUE**  
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS



## The Educational Institute Of Scotland



The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) is Scotland's largest teaching trade union, with around 55,000 members employed in nursery, primary, special, secondary, further and higher education. The EIS represents over 80% of all teachers and lecturers in Scotland, campaigning to protect and improve their pay and conditions of service, as well as promoting "sound learning" across all sectors.

[www.eis.org.uk](http://www.eis.org.uk)

## The Poverty Alliance

The Poverty Alliance's vision is of a sustainable Scotland based on social and economic justice, with dignity for all, where poverty and inequalities are not tolerated and are challenged. We now act as the national anti-poverty network in Scotland, working with voluntary organisations, policy makers and politicians at Scottish, UK and European levels.

[www.povertyalliance.org](http://www.povertyalliance.org)



WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT POVERTY

## Friends of the Earth Scotland

We are campaigning for a world where



**Friends of the Earth Scotland**

everyone can enjoy a healthy environment and a fair share of the earth's resources. Climate change is the greatest threat to this aim, that's why we're calling for a just transition to a 100% renewable, nuclear-free, zero-fossil-fuel Scotland.

We work in Scotland for socially just solutions to environmental problems.

[foe.scot](http://foe.scot)

## Revive

Revive is the coalition for grouse moor reform, bringing together concerned organisations to try to tackle issues such as land reform, raptor persecution, public health threats and environmental damage associated with the maintenance and operation of grouse moors in Scotland, which have dominated the landscape for 150 years.

[www.eis.org.uk](http://www.eis.org.uk)

# REVIVE

## Get involved!

After our fantastic wins in Holyrood, and the local authority elections in 2017, we need to continue to lead the change in our communities. Here are a few ways you can get active and make a difference.

### Get involved locally

Local branches are the backbone of our party. For details visit **members.greens.scot** or contact the SGP office (details below). Recruit other members! Invite family, friends or colleagues who might be interested in the Greens to make that next step.

### Make a donation

Unlike big parties we don't get any state funding and our policies tend not to attract huge corporate donors. We rely on individuals like you. It's easy to donate to one of our crowdfunder appeals – see our

newsletters or visit **greens.scot**. You can also help build our national campaign fund by joining the Holyrood Club – forms can be found at the registration desk.

### Make use of your skills

The party is mostly run by volunteers. Everyone has skills that the party values, either at local or national level. Whether you're professionally qualified, or simply have time to stuff envelopes, your help is invaluable!

### Become a social media activist

Like and share on Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram and more – or even write a blog. We'd love you to tell the world about your campaign experiences and connect with other Greens! More details are at **greens.scot/get-involved**. Be sure to tag any campaigning with the hashtag **#ActiveSGP**.

### Contact

- Scottish Green Party,  
17B Graham St, Edinburgh EH6 5QN
- [office@scottishgreens.org.uk](mailto:office@scottishgreens.org.uk)
- 08700 772 207
- Twitter: @scotgp
- [facebook.com/ScottishGreens](https://facebook.com/ScottishGreens)
- [www.greens.scot](http://www.greens.scot)