

OUR COMMON FUTURE

SCOTTISH GREENS MANIFESTO 2021

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FOREWORD

THE CLOCK IS TICKING...

Our climate is already changing, causing raging forest fires, devastating floods, deadly heat waves and mass extinction of species. The world is in trouble, and so is Scotland; cut adrift from Europe and without the powers we need to build a strong, equal and green society. Our economy is suffering as jobs disappear and inequalities grow. Huge challenges face our education system and health services, and the world continues to struggle to begin to recover from the pandemic. This is not the future we want for ourselves, our children, or the wider world.

THE GREENS CHOOSE
A DIFFERENT FUTURE.

OUR COMMON FUTURE is a bold plan to build

a better future for all of us over the next five years and through to 2030. It will mean change. It will mean borrowing more to invest more, and we will ask the richest in our society to pay more. But we make no apologies for this. Because change is essential. Our common future depends on us taking a different path as we emerge from the chaos and shattered lives of the pandemic, coming together to build a better, greener and fairer Scotland.

We don't pretend delivering the ambitions set out in ***OUR COMMON FUTURE*** will be easy. But our MSPs in Holyrood have shown over the last five years that you can trust the Scottish Greens to deliver. They have fought with determination and commitment, and the results speak for themselves. Now imagine what more Green votes, and more Green MSPs could do. We will face up to the common challenges ahead. We will rebuild our economy, tackle the climate emergency, invest in our public services, correct the stark and growing

inequalities that take away the life chances of too many, and restore our natural environment.

ASK YOURSELF THIS:

***DO YOU WANT MORE OF THE SAME, OR
WILL YOU VOTE LIKE YOUR FUTURE
DEPENDS ON IT?***

Lorna Slater & Patrick Harvie

CO-LEADERS OF THE SCOTTISH GREENS

A REAL PLAN TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

In the last Parliament, the Scottish Greens were critical to securing an ambitious Climate Act that commits Scotland to reducing our emissions by 75% by 2030. Meeting this target requires a fundamental transformation of our economy and society. Every industry, every part of our economy and every individual will need to rise to the challenge.

This demands determined and bold action from the Scottish Government, now. To date, this action has been missing. Scotland has missed its climate targets two years in a row, and transport emissions in particular keep on increasing.

The programme set out in **OUR COMMON FUTURE** will put Scotland on track by embedding transformative action throughout our programme for government, and genuinely

placing green industries, infrastructure and
action at the heart of our plans for Scotland's
economic recovery.

OUR ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

A GREEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Fairer income taxes so most pay less while those who can pay more**
- **Passed laws to prevent tax dodgers from being given public support during the pandemic**
- **Protected public sector jobs by securing over £500m for local services**

The fallout of the financial crisis in 2008 and the current economic shock of the pandemic have demonstrated the deep shortcomings of conventional economics and the pursuit of endless economic growth. As we rebuild our economy, we have the opportunity to build a new Scotland, focused on one simple goal: everyone should have what is essential for a good life whilst living in a society that respects planetary boundaries. We will not be able to get all the way to this goal in just five years, but the decisions we make now will reshape our common future for decades to come.

A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN

Investing in green infrastructure will play a key role in a green recovery, creating jobs and building the infrastructure Scotland

needs to tackle the climate emergency. Given the UK and international consensus that we should be pursuing an investment-led recovery, significant additional funding should be made available over the next five years. For as long as Scotland is part of the UK, all infrastructure investment should be devolved. This means the UK's Shared Prosperity Fund in Scotland should be directed by the Scottish Parliament, allowing this funding to focus on delivering a fairer greener recovery.

The Scottish Greens are proposing a detailed green infrastructure programme for the next five years, drawing on at least £7.5bn in public investment to create over 100,000 green jobs.

Over the duration of the next Parliament, we will invest:

- £3.2bn in public transport, including the including the first stage of Rail for All, a 20-year, £22bn programme to renew our railways, supporting at least 16,800 jobs.
- £3bn in warm and zero-carbon homes and buildings, leveraging £7.5bn in private investment and creating over 75,000 jobs.
- £450m in renewables, a new deal for onshore wind and a support programme for the development of a world-leading tidal sector in Scotland, creating 10,000 jobs.
- £895m to restore Scotland's natural environment, creating over 6,000 green rural jobs.

A NEW DEAL FOR WORKERS

As a nation, we are indebted to the supermarket workers, teachers and school staff, carers, nurses and doctors, hauliers, delivery drivers, refuse collectors, and every other worker who

stepped up when the pandemic hit last year and kept this country going. These workers have always been the backbone of our communities, but too many are still on low pay, zero-hour contracts, working in difficult conditions and now with the ever-present risk of contracting Covid at work. Meanwhile, the rich got richer. The top fifth wealthiest in the UK saved an additional £23bn over the first three months of lockdown alone.

Building a green and fair economy starts with a new deal for workers. The Scottish Greens have published detailed proposals setting out how the UK and Scottish Governments can deliver this new deal. At the UK level, this includes raising the minimum wage to establish a real living wage, introducing additional protections against wage theft, expanding the coverage of statutory sick pay (SSP), and increasing it so that it pays at least the real living wage. For as long as we are in the UK, we will seek the devolution of these powers and will issue a formal request to UK Ministers to make this happen.

Using existing powers, we will:

- Use public procurement to require firms to recognise trade unions, ban precarious contracts, and pay at least the real living wage, respecting union negotiated rates for work.
- Make public procurement and receipt of Scottish Government support conditional on compliance with Fair Work standards.
- Facilitate the creation of national collective bargaining structures in areas linked to the public sector which do not currently have high levels of collective bargaining, such as

social care and childcare.

- Ensure enterprise and infrastructure funding is targeted at the low carbon economy and green manufacturing and apply strict conditions to ensure that companies support jobs in Scottish supply chains.
- Support the transition to a four-day week with no loss of pay.

GENDER EQUALITY AND A GREEN RECOVERY

The pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women and set back progress on gender equality. As women are more likely to work in low-paid jobs they are likely to experience greater economic and domestic disruption. Similarly, the gender biases in Scotland have meant women often taking on more unpaid care work, which has in turn been exacerbated by the need for school and childcare closures. A green recovery must have gender equality at its heart, and in the next Parliament we will work to incorporate Engender and Close the Gap's Gender & Economic Recovery Principles.

AN EXPANDED JOBS GUARANTEE

In 2016 we argued for a Scotland Guarantee of an offer of work, education or training for all young people aged 16-25, recognising the importance of investing in the future of our young people. Whilst it took the coronavirus pandemic for the Government to adopt our approach, we believe this will be transformative for many young people in the years ahead. A guarantee of work, education or training opportunities will be core in the just transition to a green economy. Over the course

of the next Parliament, the Scottish Greens will expand the Young Person's Guarantee to all under 30 and to those who work in fossil fuel industries.

AN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY AND RE-ENERGISING SCOTTISH MANUFACTURING

Around 190,000 people are employed in manufacturing in Scotland, producing half of the nation's exports. However, the sector is in historic decline in Scotland and across the UK. Approximately 4,500 of these jobs supply the low carbon industries, particularly renewable energy, where there is enormous potential for growth. This growth will be delivered through our investment plans and underpinned by a green industrial strategy, taking an interventionist approach to building the skills, workforce and demand that will together create a world-leading green industrial sector in Scotland.

We will:

- Establish a Scotland-wide programme of 'people and place centred industrial strategies' which will have the powers, mandate and finance needed to enable regions and localities to set out their own industrial plans which can connect directly to funding from the Scottish National Investment Bank.
- Set conditions for Scottish content in supply chains where possible, including through the renewables leasing processes.
- Directly invest in deployment of innovative renewables and

their supply chains where Scotland can be a world-leader and build an export industry.

- Establish a centre of excellence to deliver a technical skills programme for green manufacturing, providing grant funding for manufacturing firms to retrain and upskill their workforce and provide apprenticeships.

SUPPORT GOOD BUSINESS

Over a million Scots work for small and medium- sized businesses, and we all rely on these businesses for vital goods and services. Rebuilding our economy after the pandemic, tackling the climate emergency and building a fairer Scotland all depend on businesses doing their bit and getting the support they need. The Scottish Greens will ensure businesses are supported and incentivised to behave in an environmentally-sound and socially-just way.

We will:

- Establish a Good Business Council to advise the Scottish Government on the delivery of a green economic recovery.
- Align public procurement, enterprise agencies and other business support and grant schemes, including Business Gateway services, behind supporting good business.
- Encourage greater diversity and representation of workers on company boards, and make worker or union representation mandatory for businesses with a turnover of £5m or more.
- Encourage community ownership through business rate reductions for social enterprises and employee-owned businesses.

- Require businesses with a turnover of £5m or more to publish an environmental, social and corporate report alongside their annual financial reports.
- Support the partial replacement of corporation tax at the UK level with a carbon tax that increases over time in line with our climate targets.

FAIR TAXES

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Reformed income tax so that most pay less whilst the rich pay more, raising hundreds of millions of pounds for public services across Scotland**
- **Secured new tax raising powers for local government**
- **Prevented the SNP Government from slashing air passenger duty, protecting the climate and public services**

Scotland is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, but we've all been let down by an unjust UK and Scottish tax system. The current, failed approach raises inadequate funds for vital public services and to invest in our future, while simultaneously allowing the rich to avoid taxation and take our wealth offshore. The Scottish Greens believe in well-funded public services and are committed to a taxation system that raises revenue fairly and addresses the profound economic inequalities that scar our society.

A CITIZENS ASSEMBLY ON TAXATION

The pandemic has demonstrated more clearly than ever the systemic underfunding of our public services and the failure of our tax system to support a more equal society. At the same time it has starkly illustrated our common need for high quality, well-funded public services. Put simply, our aspirations for services like the NHS and education, and our ambitions to tackle the climate emergency, are not compatible with our existing approach to taxation. Fundamental reform is needed. But this reform must have buy-in from the wider public. In recent years we have seen increasing use of deliberative democracy to address difficult challenges like the climate emergency. The Scottish Greens will establish a Citizens' Assembly to explore the future of taxation and our public services, seeking recommendations for a taxation system that fairly raises sufficient funds and helps deliver a greener economy.

FAIRER INCOME TAX

Now is not the time for increases in income tax for the majority of people in Scotland, many of whom have faced severe financial hardship as a result of the pandemic. However, there is widespread consensus that those who can contribute more, should. In the last Parliament the Scottish Greens delivered our 2016 manifesto pledge of fairer income tax, creating new starter and intermediate tax bands and delivering a system that means most pay less whilst the wealthy pay more. We will continue to support a more progressive approach to income tax at Holyrood.

FAIR TAXES IN AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND

Scotland's ability to create a fair and stable economy is limited by most tax powers still being controlled at Westminster. An independent Scotland would have the power to tax consumption of luxury goods, carbon emissions from corporations and the wealthiest in Scotland. This is just one reason we support Scottish independence and full devolution of tax powers. In the meantime, we will make formal requests to legislate in these areas.

A WINDFALL TAX ON PANDEMIC PROFIT

While many small and medium sized businesses have been hit hard and even shut down by the pandemic, some larger businesses have extracted enormous profits. For example, while many smaller retailers have suffered, supermarkets and larger online retailers have seen record takings.

The Scottish Greens are calling for an urgent one-off windfall tax on the extraordinary profits enjoyed by larger companies as a result of the pandemic, therefore rebalancing the economy and supporting the recovery in those sectors which have suffered most during lockdown.

SCRAP COUNCIL TAX

The council tax is regressive and woefully outdated, and it leaves councils struggling to pay for essential services. We will seek to replace it with a new residential property tax that is related to actual value rather than outdated valuations. Under our proposals most households would pay less while the wealthiest will pay a bit more.

A MILLIONAIRES TAX

With the wealthiest 10% of Scots holding almost half of the total wealth, the Scottish Greens believe that we need to proactively tackle the profound structural economic inequality that holds back the economy. We will therefore seek to introduce a 1% annual wealth tax for millionaires. This will be a tax on all wealth and assets above the £1m threshold, including property, land, pensions, and other assets. Such a tax would only apply to the wealthiest 10% in society, with an average household in Scotland owning approximately £233k in assets.

While the ideal would be a UK or Scotland wide wealth tax, this would require UK government consent. If that is not forthcoming, as might be expected, then we will explore the possibility of empowering and supporting Scottish local authorities to introduce wealth taxes within their own areas.

INTERNATIONAL FREQUENT FLYER LEVY

As demand has grown, emissions from international aviation in Scotland have almost doubled since 1990, largely driven by leisure travel by the wealthy. 70% of all UK flights are made by the top 15%. The Scottish Greens will replace air passenger duty with a frequent flyer levy, as recommended by the Committee on Climate Change, once we emerge from the pandemic. Every passenger in Scotland will pay nothing for their first return flight in a 12-month period, with the levy incrementally rising for each additional flight after that. This would not apply to domestic flights linking the Highlands and Islands to the rest of the country.

ENERGY AND A JUST TRANSITION

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- More funding for green infrastructure like renewable energy
- Joined with community campaigners across Scotland to get fracking banned
- Established legal targets for green heat networks

Delivering green, zero-carbon energy is fundamental to a green recovery and meeting our 2030 climate target. Scotland has enviable renewable energy resources and, despite the missed opportunities of the past, we can still create a globally-significant industry, capable of accelerating the transition to a net-zero economy, creating well-paid green jobs, and laying the foundation for a just and prosperous economy.

A NEW DEAL FOR ONSHORE WIND

Onshore wind is the cheapest and most advanced renewable energy available, but it is stagnating and has not delivered the supply chain jobs that were once promised thanks to neglect by the UK and Scottish Governments.

The Scottish Greens are committed to restoring the role of onshore wind in Scotland. We will support the upgrading of existing wind farms, which will see older turbines replaced with fewer, more powerful models, and the delivery of an additional 8GW of onshore wind by 2030. This means installing 1GW -

about 200 turbines - every year for a decade, doubling the size of the industry.

This additional capacity will be required to help meet the demand generated by the switch of heat and transport to electricity, and to produce green hydrogen where necessary.. Over the 2020s this plan will create 3,200 new jobs in the onshore wind sector, stimulate £6.9bn in investment, and create a further 3,000 jobs indirectly in the supply chain. It will save the typical household £50 a year in the long term and will be achieved without public subsidy, as part of a deal with the sector that includes:

- A commitment to sourcing at least 70% of the onshore wind supply chain domestically.
- Encouraging at least 20% of new windfarms to be owned by the community and requiring discounted energy deals to be offered to local communities.
- Planning reform to make it faster and easier to get consent for onshore wind in suitable areas outwith National Parks and National Scenic Areas, including making the climate emergency a material consideration in planning decisions, and a presumption in favour of repowering.
- Requiring all new onshore wind farms to have a net positive impact on nature, for example through peatland and habitat restoration.

HYDROPOWER

Hydropower drove Scotland's original renewables revolution

and now a new generation of smaller scale projects have the potential to support rural communities and provide stable electricity supply for centuries to come. We will support a subsidy and non-domestic rates regime that realises this growth whilst respecting environmental constraints.

A GLOBAL LEADER IN OFFSHORE RENEWABLES

Scotland has big plans for offshore wind, but the main delivery mechanism is Contracts for Difference, a subsidy reserved to Westminster and allocated by competitive tendering across the UK. This means there is significant risk that we will not be able to deliver for the sector. We also have an enormous tidal power resource, but the support that is needed to develop it into a world leading industry is not in place. We believe that energy should be fully devolved, allowing Scotland to build the energy system of the future we need and want.

The Scottish Greens will set a target of 1GW of installed tidal energy in Scotland by 2030, creating at least 4,000 green jobs and putting us at the leading edge of a global industry. To deliver this, we will request an emergency derogation to allow the Scottish Government to create a long-term support programme for tidal power. This will be based on a feed-in tariff and aligned behind an aim of delivering 1GW by 2030 requiring £130m of public investment per year until 2030. In the absence of a derogation of this power to Scotland, a proportion of Contracts for Difference should be ring-fenced for tidal power and given at a strike price that makes projects viable.

In addition we will:

- Create a £25m p.a. top-up revenue support programme for

early stage tidal turbines, driving forward innovation and reducing costs.

- Invest £50m p.a. into a marine renewables and local economic development fund to invest in local infrastructure and communities, with the aim of maximising the local economic benefits of a growing tidal industry and ensuring its infrastructure needs are met.
- Establish a £10m p.a. tidal innovation programme to drive down the cost of tidal energy to under £100/MWh before 2030, slashing the cost of tidal power by up to two-thirds.
- Make public support conditional on supporting Scottish supply chains and meeting fair work standards.

A JUST TRANSITION

The Scottish Green approach to a green recovery is based on the principle of a just transition - a managed process of economic change that is fair and equitable and that means no one is left behind.

NO FALSE SOLUTIONS

We have the green technologies we need to tackle the climate emergency, and a green recovery should focus on these rather than unproven and environmentally dangerous solutions.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Oppose public investment in carbon capture and storage (CCS) as it is unproven and the vast majority of projects are linked to enhanced oil recovery.
- Oppose reliance on bioenergy carbon capture and storage (BECCS), which involves growing crops and trees to

generate energy and then capturing and storing the CO₂ produced.

- In addition to flaws in CCS, the vast amounts of land needed to employ BECCS makes it unsustainable.
- Withdraw support for hydrogen produced from fossil fuels as it is inefficient and bad for the climate. We will instead support the development of green hydrogen, which could play a limited but important role in sectors where there are no current alternatives.

PHASE OUT NORTH SEA OIL AND GAS IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

There is at least three times more fossil fuel in extractable global reserves than we can burn if we are to keep our climate safe. In the UK, we have 5.7 billion barrels of oil and gas in already-operating fields that alone would push the UK beyond the limits set out in the Paris Climate agreement. We will support the progressive phase out of North Sea oil and gas production based on the principles of a Just Transition. This is essential to protect the livelihoods and economic well-being of workers and communities, preventing a deferred collapse.

We will call on the UK Government to:

- Stop issuing new licenses for oil and gas exploration and development.
- Revoke undeveloped licenses and instigate a review of current permits to assess whether existing facilities should be phased out early through a Just Transition.
- End subsidies and tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

We will also:

- Challenge the Scottish Government's backdoor funding of the oil and gas sector through channels such as the Oil and Gas Technology centre.
- Oppose greenwashing arrangements between Scottish Government and the industry, including the sale of carbon from public forests as offsets to Shell and BP.
- Support safe decommissioning with strict environmental regulations to minimise pollution risks.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Support green jobs and skills development

- Retain and grow the Green Jobs Fund and Green Jobs Workforce Academy.
- Support increased investment in innovation and R&D in green technologies.

Oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure

- Update Scottish planning guidance to make it clear that new oil and gas infrastructure, other than that associated with decommissioning, will not receive planning permission.
- Ban the importation of shale and fracked gas for processing in Scotland.

Ensure the Scottish Government can deliver the transition to net-zero

- Create a new climate, energy and just transition committee that reports to Scottish Ministers and replaces the UK Committee on Climate Change.
- Create a Cabinet Secretary for Net-Zero to oversee the

transition plan and to ensure tackling the climate emergency is given the priority it needs.

Deliver a just transition for Mossmorran and Grangemouth

- Establish worker-led just transition boards for both facilities. This will incorporate local communities, government, and the plant operators to develop a plan for the phasing out of fossil fuels and the delivery of new jobs and industries.
- Deliver workforce retraining programmes to retain the local skilled workforce for the rollout of net-zero projects such as local heat networks and the renewables supply chain.
- Develop an international research hub for zero- carbon biochemicals processing at Grangemouth.

TRANSPORT

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Free bus travel for everyone aged 21 and under across Scotland, starting this summer**
- **Increased funding for cycling, walking and wheeling to £115m a year**
- **£10 million for the Northern Isles' intra-island ferry services**

Emissions from transport are the single biggest source of climate emissions in Scotland. With a long term trend of driving and car ownership increasing while bus patronage, cycling and walking fall, emissions are continuing to rise.

The Scottish Greens will deliver a major shift in priorities from day one of the next Parliament, based on building safer communities, prioritising public transport, cycling, walking, wheeling and supporting the rapid replacement of fossil fuel vehicles. Our plans will create tens of thousands of new jobs building Scotland's public transport infrastructure for the future. We will build a safer, more equal Scotland that leads the world in tackling the climate emergency.

MAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AFFORDABLE

The Scottish Greens want to make public transport the preferred choice over private cars for as many people as possible. This means it must be affordable. Thanks to the Scottish Greens, from the summer, bus travel will be free for everyone under the age of 22. We aim to extend this to include everyone aged 26 and under. We believe in free public transport more generally, and the next step should be similar concessions for rail travel.

To immediately bring down the cost of rail we will:

- Introduce a new Scottish Railcard for everyone who is ineligible for the existing Railcard schemes, modelled on the existing Network Rail card in the South East of England.
- Seek to extend the lifetime of railcards to three years and reduce the initial cost.
- Subsidise fares for longer distance rail travel from Scotland to England; the costs would be covered by a new frequent flyer levy.
- Provide free ferry travel for children and young people.

RAIL FOR ALL – A MODERN, PUBLICLY OWNED, ZERO-CARBON RAIL NETWORK

The Scottish Greens are proposing the Rail for All investment programme: a 20 year, £22bn investment in Scotland's railways to build a modern, zero carbon network that is affordable and accessible to all, making rail a natural choice for commuters and business and leisure travellers. This investment will be a central component of Scotland's green recovery from Covid, creating at least 16,800 jobs while delivering infrastructure that is essential to tackling the climate emergency, supports our long-term economic prosperity, and will be enjoyed by generations to come.

ALIGN TRANSPORT INVESTMENT AND GOVERNANCE BEHIND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Tackling the climate emergency means ending investment in polluting, high carbon infrastructure at the same time as investing in the solutions of the future. We will cease funding road building projects that add capacity to the network and redirect funds toward safety improvements, maintenance of existing infrastructure, public transport, cycling and walking. We will review transport governance, including Transport Scotland, and infrastructure investment programmes, to ensure they are fully aligned behind tackling the climate emergency and are accountable for delivering our climate goals.

INVEST IN CYCLING, WALKING AND FIFTEEN-MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Scottish Greens have, for the first time ever, secured increases in the budget for cycling and walking that take it over

£100m but this is still just 3% of the national transport budget. We will immediately increase the active travel budget to at least £320m. We view this as a minimum level of investment. Over the duration of the next Parliament, we aim to increase the overall budget for cycling, walking, city centre transformation and 15-minute neighbourhoods to 20% of the national transport budget. Further capital could be raised to accelerate the transition through local taxes aimed at the most polluting vehicles and their use. We will underpin this expenditure with reforms that deliver safer, greener and better communities.

We will:

- Make 15-minute neighbourhoods a key principle in Scotland's Planning Policy Framework. Our vision is for everyone in towns and cities to be able to get what they need within a 15-minute walk.
- Create a town and city centre green transformation fund to re-orient these places towards pedestrians, cyclists and vulnerable road users including children, the elderly and disabled people. We will reclaim road space for outdoor leisure and commercial opportunities, and support the use of vacant premises for arts, recreation and other activities that benefit local communities.
- Deliver a reinvigorated national cycling and wheeling network, including active highways through rural areas to link towns and cities, with a rich network of well-planned urban cycling and walking routes.
- Streamline the process for designing and building active travel infrastructure and introduce new design standards that prioritise quality and accessibility to all.
- Support a Safe to School programme to ensure every child

who lives within two miles of school is able to safely walk or wheel there, and that those who live further away have access to a school bus.

- Introduce a 20mph default speed limit in built-up areas, saving lives and making cycling and walking safer and more attractive.
- Close the loopholes in the pavement parking ban.
- Make it easier to take bikes on buses and trains and require all new buses and trains to be designed to carry bikes.
- Support smart ticketing across Scotland for all public transport so that a smart card or phone can be used to pay for a whole journey, including bike hire.
- Establish an online police reporting system enabling anyone to upload camera footage of dangerous driving.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Reduce road traffic

- Encourage and support the use of demand management schemes at the local level, including workplace parking levies, congestion charging and parking charges that disincentivise the use of the most polluting and larger vehicles.

Put public transport in public hands

- Merge ScotRail and Network Rail (Scotland) into one publicly owned company to provide an efficient and fast-moving new rail agency that answers to the people of Scotland.
- Support Local Government to establish locally-owned bus companies similar to Lothian buses.

- Bring ferry routes currently serviced by private operators into public ownership, and end the waste and uncertainty created by repeatedly tendering for the delivery of public ferry services by directly awarding contracts to Calmac.

Electrify transport

- Ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2026. This would make a major contribution to our climate goals and prevent deaths from air pollution. Prior to that date, all public sector bodies will either have to procure zero emissions vehicles or explain why this is not practical on a case-by-case basis.
- Expand the Switched On towns and cities challenge fund to at least 50 towns and cities by 2025.
- Agree a funded strategy with bus manufacturers and operators to electrify the fleet whilst ending public support for new buses that are not fully electric from 2022.

Establish low carbon transport connections with Europe

- Work with Calmac to establish direct, publicly owned services for freight and passengers to continental Europe.
- Campaign for direct train services between Scotland and continental Europe via the channel tunnel.

Expand and green Scotland's ferry service

- Develop a funded long-term green fleet replacement strategy to ensure all services throughout Scotland benefit from reliable, efficient and zero carbon ferries.
- Resolve the ongoing delays and budget shortfalls in vessel completion at the Port Glasgow shipyard, and route resolutions across the Clyde.

- Categorise inter-island ferries as publicly owned Scottish National Infrastructure delivered by Transport Scotland and Calmac, on Local Authorities' request, and ensure these services are adequately funded.
- Ensure Council-owned and operated ferries receive sufficient annual resources to allow Island Councils to operate their internal ferries at no net detriment to their annual revenue settlement.
- Maintain current fixed links that connect island communities such as the Churchill Barriers in Orkney and the Uist and Benbecula Causeways and explore new funding and locations for new lifeline links elsewhere.

HOUSING

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Secured a winter eviction ban during the pandemic**
- **Ensured students were able to give notice to private student accommodation providers during the pandemic**
- **Won a tenant's hardship fund**

Access to adequate housing is a fundamental human right, but dramatic increases in costs and a poor selection of housing tenures coupled with lack of investment has created a housing crisis. Our aim is that everyone has access to affordable, safe, comfortable and energy efficient housing. We want to end homelessness within the next ten years and create a

sustainable, affordable housing sector that Scotland can be proud of. Where public housing is an attractive and attainable choice for all who want it, where the private sector is regulated, well-maintained and affordable, and where all homes are low-carbon and sustainable.

WARM AND GREEN HOMES FOR ALL

Everyone in Scotland should have a warm home that they can afford to heat. As a priority, the Scottish Greens will put in place a home upgrade programme ensuring that all homes reach a minimum Energy Performance Standard C or above by 2030, reducing the average household energy costs by £270 per year. Simultaneously, we aim for heating homes to be zero carbon by 2040. We will support this programme through new legislation that provides absolute clarity and certainty for the sector, including homeowners, landlords, tenants, and those in the supply chain, allowing us to deliver the programme at the lowest possible cost and to maximise the wider economic and social benefits.

At least £500m of public investment will be made every year to deliver this goal for homes and other buildings, creating over 75,000 jobs and leveraging £7.5 billion in private investment.

Underlying this programme will be the principle of a just transition. No home will be left behind, allowing everyone to enjoy the health, financial and wellbeing benefits of upgraded homes, and we guarantee that those in fuel poverty will benefit from the transition.

We will:

- Significantly and urgently scale up existing energy

efficiency and green heat programmes.

- Retain the interest-free loans and cashback incentives currently in place for private homeowners investing in energy efficiency and zero carbon heat.
- Fund an “energy leap” programme to pioneer and then roll-out deep retrofits at scale. This approach upgrades the most inefficient homes to the highest efficiency rating, taking a cost-effective whole street approach and using offsite manufacturing to improve quality and minimise disruption.
- Provide new multi-year funding for skills development, training and apprenticeships to expand and upskill the workforce.
- Establish a Green Rural Homes service, bringing together engagement, enhanced support and advice services for homeowners and landlords in rural areas that are off the gas grid.
- Introduce green heat grants for households to replace fossil fuel boilers with green alternatives, principally heat pumps, with the aim of installing 500,000 by 2030. Grants will be available and will mean that households pay no more than the cost of a gas boiler.
- Support a ban on new fossil fuel boilers from 2025 for buildings off the gas grid, and 2028 for all buildings.
- Establish a £500m heat networks fund to support the expansion of local and district heat networks, connecting 20,000 homes and creating 3,000 jobs.
- Seek agreement with the energy efficiency industry to source a minimum percentage of their products from Scotland.
- Immediately end public subsidies for oil and LPG boilers,

and instead fund renewable and low carbon heating technologies.

- Require all new homes to meet passivhaus or other net-zero standards, be connected to the public transport system and be built in areas that are not in flood-risk zones. This will apply to all homes built from 2022 onwards.
- Require all private sector homes to meet at least EPC C at the point of sale of major refurbishment from 2025.
- Protect consumers by introducing a Scottish Quality Mark in partnership with the energy efficiency and domestic renewables sector, and require projects that benefit from public funding to comply with PAS 2035 standards.

A NEW DEAL FOR TENANTS

Renting in Scotland is expensive and insecure. Too many tenants pay extortionate amounts to live in damp, cold, and overcrowded homes. Landlords currently receive substantial support but lack accountability to their tenants. We will legislate to transform the private rented sector, providing greater security for tenants, regulating rents and improving standards.

We will:

- Establish a Private Rented Sector Regulator to oversee the sector, investigate tenants' complaints and recommend future reforms.
- Ensure that landlords and letting agents are providing greater transparency through national registers and a strengthened registration process.
- Review the effectiveness of the First Tier Tribunal system.
- Ban winter evictions, and end unfair evictions by making all

grounds for eviction discretionary.

- Ensure local authority private rented sector teams are adequately funded, allowing them to spend more time supporting tenants and landlords as well as enforcing standards.
- Strengthen Houses in Multiple Occupation licensing investigation and enforcement.
- Raise awareness of welfare entitlement, tenant rights and tenants unions.
- Give tenants the right to keep pets and redecorate.
- Introduce a points-based system of rent controls.

REVITALISE PUBLIC HOUSING

A century ago, Scotland's councils built public housing in response to a severe housing crisis.

Now we need to do this again. There is still a severe lack of public housing, with an estimated 70,000 children on the waiting list for a socially rented home. We want to raise the status and availability of public housing. Anyone who wants a good quality home at an affordable rent should be given this opportunity.

We will:

- Build 84,000 homes for social rent by 2032 and buy land at its existing use value.
- Increase the role of councils in assembling land for housing and enhance their ability to buy properties on the open market.
- Review the Scottish Housing Quality Standard to ensure it is fit for purpose.
- Invest in innovative public housing for older people,

embedded in local communities, with an emphasis on co-housing and multigenerational developments.

- For properties acquired under right-to-buy, give local Registered Social Landlords first right of refusal on purchase when they come on to the market.
- Ensure a fair share of investment in accessible housing for those with different housing needs.
- Give the Scottish Government responsibility for all housing debt owed by local authorities to the Public Works Loan Board, freeing up rental income to tackle much needed repairs.
- Strengthen the role of tenants and local authorities in the governance of Registered Social Landlords.
- Develop the role of housing associations so they can act as anchor institutions for their local communities, supporting initiatives like community finance, community gardening, crèches, laundries, toy libraries and tool sharing.
- End homelessness by updating the legislative framework and rolling-out the Housing First approach. Where people who do not have access to a safe, secure and permanent home they should be offered permanent tenancies and tailored wrap-around support services.

GENUINELY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing costs, including fuel and maintenance, are driving many people into poverty. The Scottish Greens will introduce a cross-cutting goal of ensuring that housing costs represent no more than 25% of a household's income.

To increase the supply of housing, we will:

- Support the building of 70,000 homes by 2026 and a further 50,000 homes between 2027 and 2032, 70% of which should be for social rent.
- Ensure that short-term holiday lets are regulated and require planning consent for second homes.
- Tackle empty homes by granting local authorities the power to issue Empty Property Use Orders to bring vacant properties back into use.
- Review the taxation of vacant and derelict land to ensure landowners are incentivised to bring it back into use.
- Require private mass housebuilders to provide a proportion of affordable housing built to the same standards as the rest of each development.
- Support housing co-operatives through providing financing options and targeted relief from Land and Buildings Transaction Tax.

In addition to our new deal for renters, to tackle excessive rents we will:

- Require social tenants to be given rent consultations as standard upon entering their tenancy.
- Support initiatives to allow tenants across housing tenures to have a say in setting rent levels.
- Reform affordable renting options such as Mid Market Rent, which is currently unfit for purpose.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Raise the quality and status of rural housing

- Increase funding for Rural and Islands Housing Fund, Rural Housing Scotland and other facilitators of volunteer-led community housing initiatives.
- Secure a fair share of housing investment, ensuring that 11,000 homes are built in rural areas between 2021 and 2026.
- Ensure that rural communities are not damaged by tourism through reserving certain rural areas/ properties exclusively for permanent residencies.

Revitalise Scotland's tenements

- Introduce a five yearly property condition survey for all tenement buildings.
- Require owners associations for all tenement buildings to handle repairs and maintenance.
- Make it easier to trace absent owners for discussions about repairs by opening up the landlord and
- land registers.
- Establish a loan fund for owners' associations to carry out essential works.

Make the planning system deliver quality homes

- Set a universal statutory standard for habitable housing across all tenures.
- Encourage planning authorities to earmark a wide range of different types and sizes of housing on sites for development.
- Engage communities in all stages of local development planning.

Deliver a better deal for student renters

- Deliver a student accommodation strategy beginning with a review of the Purpose Built Student Accommodation sector.
- Ensure that all students, regardless of housing provider, have the same protections as those with Private Rented Tenancies.
- Ensure that rent controls apply to student accommodation.
- Support student housing co-operatives.

OUR LAND, SEAS & ENVIRONMENT

RESTORING SCOTLAND'S ENVIRONMENT

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Created a £10m nature restoration fund** **Made mountain hares a protected species**
- **Stopped plans for a destructive development that threatened Loch Lomond**

We face the twin emergencies of climate breakdown and a collapse in biodiversity, with 1 in 9 species threatened with

extinction in Scotland. We must take a step back from the brink and restore our natural environment, building a green, zero-carbon Scotland. This goal is embedded throughout the Scottish Greens' work in the Scottish Parliament and councils across the country. We are committed to delivering the system change needed to tackle the climate and nature emergencies, as well as the bold and urgent measures we need to protect and enhance our environment now and for future generations.

INVEST IN NATURE AND RURAL JOBS

As part of our plans for a green economic recovery, the Scottish Greens will invest in the restoration and protection of Scotland's parks, green spaces and natural environment. This will create green jobs across Scotland, particularly in rural areas.

We will invest at least £895m over the next five years in restoring nature whilst investing in rural communities, creating over 6,000 green jobs.

This will include, over the next five years:

- £150m for the nature restoration fund to restore key habitats, such as wetlands, rivers and our coastlines, creating 428 jobs directly and indirectly.
- £250m for more and better National and Regional Parks, creating 650 jobs directly and a further 455 jobs indirectly.
- £250m for public and community native woodland planting and regeneration, creating 715 jobs directly and a further 500 jobs indirectly.
- £100m per year for local authorities to invest in rangering and biodiversity protection, creating 1300 jobs directly and a further 910 jobs indirectly.

- £145m more to restore peatlands, Scotland's most important carbon store, putting us on target to restore all peatland by 2030, creating 414 jobs and the same again indirectly.

RESTORE SCOTLAND'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND HALT THE DECLINES IN NATURE

Currently 18% of Scotland's land has protected status, but many sites are in poor condition and often designation means little in practice. Similarly, species protection is too often weak. This lack of meaningful protection and investment in protecting vital species and ecosystems has allowed the continued and catastrophic decline in nature.

We will:

- Expand protected areas so that a third of our land and seas are properly protected by 2025.
- Enhance species protections including the removal of loopholes and ending the use of General Licenses for protected species.
- Create a Nature Network for Scotland, connecting habitats across the country to ensure they are robust, coherent and proofed against climate change. The Nature Network will be given statutory weight in national planning documents and government policy, and will include areas for rewilding.
- Improve protected areas by introducing "highly protected areas", where nature protection and restoration is the top priority, covering at least 10% of Scotland's land and sea. On land this would not exclude commercial activities that

are compatible with this goal.

- Introduce legally binding nature recovery targets.
- Establish Regional land use partnerships in every part of Scotland by 2023 to help deliver nature networks and restore our environment.

A key part of our vision for restoring nature is rewilding, which means restoring our damaged ecosystems to the point where nature can regenerate itself, while helping to rebuild rural communities and allowing people to reconnect to the natural world. Our glens and uplands - many of which have been destroyed by over-grazing and intensive management to support bloodsports - will be allowed to regenerate into the diverse habitats they were prior to deforestation, including temperate rainforests, while also creating wild areas within our towns and cities, giving everyone access to nature. Rewilding will create new economic opportunities and jobs in rural Scotland, helping repopulate rural areas.

We will:

- Require 30% of all publicly owned land to be used for rewilding, including land owned by Forestry and Land Scotland, Crown Estate Scotland, and Scottish Water.
- Support community-led rewilding areas that are easily accessible via the Communities Greenspace Fund.
- Support the gradual reintroduction of species native to Scotland where appropriate and in cooperation with local communities, including a lynx reintroduction trial.
- Ensure that farmers, crofters and land managers are financially rewarded for delivering public goods, including rewilding and species reintroduction projects.

MORE AND BETTER GREEN SPACE FOR ALL

The Scottish Greens will deliver an ambitious programme of reform and expansion of our National and Regional Park network. We will create at least two new National Parks and one new Regional Park. We will invest in our new and existing parks so that they have an adequate ranger service and more powers to deliver its goals. We will deliver a programme of public and community land acquisition so that more of our Parks are publicly owned and managed in the public interest.

As in the last Parliament, we will also oppose developments which exploit and degrade our National Parks for profit. As a matter of urgency, we will support a community buyout of the land currently under threat from a renewed Flamingo Land development at Loch Lomond.

The Scottish Greens also support increasing investment in parks and green spaces in both rural and urban locations, to improve access and restore and protect nature so that more people can enjoy nature close to where they live. We will create a Community Greenspace Fund to help communities acquire and manage land in order to provide quality recreational greenspace, including parks, land managed for nature, and community orchards and growing projects.

The Scottish Greens will continue to fight to ensure green space is protected from unsuitable development and will use the planning system to ensure that all new development results in a

positive benefit for wildlife and the natural environment. Changes to local taxation will also encourage redevelopment of brownfield land as a priority ahead of greenfield land.

BUILD A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

To meet our climate targets and protect the natural environment, we need to urgently transform the way we consume and manage resources in Scotland.

Our material consumption accounts for up to three-quarters of our entire carbon footprint, and addressing this by moving away from a take-make-waste economic model could reduce Scotland's carbon footprint by 11million tonnes of CO₂ by 2050.

We will:

- Introduce a Circular Economy Bill with targets to reduce our overall consumption of raw materials, our carbon footprint, and a duty to produce Resource Reduction Plans.
- Use public procurement to support the transition to a circular economy, in accordance with the EU Green Public Procurement Guidelines.
- Replace landfill tax with a local waste disposal tax to disincentivise incineration and waste exports.
- Oppose the construction of new incinerators as they alleviate the pressure to reduce waste, cause air pollution and are bad for the climate.
- Keep pace with Europe and fully implement the Circular Economy Plan.
- Ensure products are built to last by working with the EU and UK governments to secure mandatory, robust and

longer warranties for electrical and white goods.

TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION

The Scottish Greens are committed to tackling plastic pollution and delivering a dramatic reduction in the use of single-use plastics within the next decade.

We will:

- Phase out pointless plastics, including single-use, non-essential plastics that that can easily be replaced by 2025 while ensuring disabled people have non stigmatising access to plastic straws until suitable alternatives are developed.
- Move towards a circular economy whereby all packaging and products sold in Scotland must be readily able to be reused, repaired, or recycled, with producers responsible for the costs of managing their products throughout their lifecycle.

A WOODLAND NATION

Woodland creation could play a major role in tackling the climate and nature emergencies whilst creating rural jobs, giving everyone more opportunities to enjoy quality green space, and boosting rural tourism. Just 18% of Scotland is currently forested, but our vision is to increase this to 40%, and for at least 60% of this to be native woodland. The Scottish Greens will focus on building the public forest estate and supporting communities, small-scale foresters and crofters to create and manage more woodland.

We will:

- Target the Scottish Forestry Grant programme at native woodland creation, including productive mixed and broadleaf woodland as well as woodland where nature and recreation is prioritised.
- Support local government to take an active role in identifying land for and then delivering reforestation.
- Commit £10m p.a. more to the Scottish Land Fund, earmarked for reforestation schemes
- Give Forestry Land Scotland (FLS) a duty to grow Scotland's National Forests. An additional £200m will be made available for this purpose, enough to grow the public forest by approximately 50,000 hectares.
- Support community ownership by encouraging the transfer of ownership from Forestry and Land Scotland and Local Authorities to communities via a simplified Community Asset Transfer Scheme.
- Use existing rural development schemes to support the development of businesses linked to forestry.
- Address grazing pressure in the uplands by increasing the deer management grant, implementing the recommendations of the Deer Management Working Group, and encouraging a reduction in sheep numbers via existing agricultural support schemes.
- Ensure that compensatory planning to plant new trees is enforced when trees are felled for development, and require developments over a certain size to pay towards public forest planting.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Work with Nature to tackle the climate emergency

- Ban peat extraction and sale for horticultural use.
- Ban the burning of peatlands and license any other proposed burning.
- Establish Land Management Contracts to reward farmers and land managers financially for delivering natural flood management solutions.

Put in place strong environmental governance

- Take forward a review to strengthen Scotland's environmental governance measures, including the establishment of an environmental court.
- Review the role of SEPA, NatureScot, Marine Scotland and Environmental Standards Scotland to ensure they are empowered and fully aligned behind tackling the climate and nature emergencies.
- Appoint an independent Future Generations Commissioner and turn the Just Transition Commission into a statutory body to protect the rights of future generations and oversee the transition to net zero.
- Introduce a Human Rights (Scotland) Act to enshrine fundamental rights, including the right to a healthy and safe environment.

Protect our water resources

- Retain Scottish Water in public ownership.
- Deliver a Scottish Water investment programme that protects and enhances the environmental status of rivers

and beaches, upgrading Victorian sewage infrastructure so it can adapt to the growing pressures of the climate emergency.

- Ensure Scottish Water invests in renewable energy solutions, water use efficiency, climate adaptation, flood mitigation, reforestation and re-wilding across all its assets.

FOOD AND FARMING

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Secured agreement on reducing emissions from farming in the Climate Change Bill**
- **Won recognition for the role of agroecology in tackling the climate and nature emergencies**

Farming is the third biggest source of climate emissions in Scotland, yet the Scottish Government has done little to tackle the problem. The Scottish Greens will deliver a revised agriculture and food policy, helping tackle the climate and nature emergencies, protecting our natural resources, and supporting rural communities and green job creation.

REFORM FARMING SUBSIDIES

On average, £775m of public money is spent every year on farming subsidies, but Scotland is lagging behind Europe and

the rest of the UK in ensuring this funding tackles the climate and nature emergencies.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Deliver a new Agriculture Bill that enshrines the principles of climate and nature recovery into a new agricultural support scheme.
- Make emission reductions and climate mitigation measures a compulsory requirement for all subsidies, delivering significant change at no extra cost.
- Replace current grants with Land Management Contracts, which will support farmers to deliver a range of public benefits including organic farmland conversion, agroforestry, agroecology, soil conservation and peatland restoration, flood management, wetland creation, landscape restoration and public access, renewable energy, rewilding and species reintroductions.

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE FOOD FOR ALL

The Scottish Greens will bring forward a Good Food Nation Bill that establishes an integrated food policy, tackling the health, social and environmental impacts of food. It will enshrine the Right to Food in Scots law, oblige the Scottish Government to deliver a statutory National Food Plan, and reform procurement law to oblige public kitchens to source food from more small local businesses and organic producers. It will also oblige the Government

to fund local emergency food and food resilience networks, ensuring everyone can access good food in times of crisis. This will be overseen by a statutory Food Commission, charged with

a duty to ensure the right to food is maintained and that decisions in areas such as health, planning, and education contribute towards a positive food environment.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Support high farming standards

- Maintain EU bans on bee-harming pesticides, and phase out the use of neonicotinoids in the forestry sector.
- Make environmental measures compulsory for basic farm payments, such as the roll out of whole-farm carbon audits and soil testing.
- Deliver a National Nitrogen Strategy to cut down excessive use of inorganic fertiliser, prevent air and water pollution, improve soil health, and slash greenhouse gases.
- Develop a carbon food labelling scheme.
- Maintain the ban on Genetically Modified foods and production in Scotland.

Build thriving rural communities and support sustainable food and farming businesses

- Deliver a £20m per year Land Advisory Service, supporting the roll out of climate-friendly farming practices and diversification of farm businesses to maximise public benefits including carbon sequestration, soil health, and biodiversity.
- Increase direct support for horticulture and market gardening businesses, including community and social

enterprises.

- Establish a National Farm Land Trust to support generational change in farming and provide new entrants with access to land.
- Provide funding to establish community and crofter led wool processing and manufacturing businesses.
- Roll out a network of mobile abattoirs for rural and island communities, to support crofters whilst minimising live animal transportation.
- Establish local crofter and producer food co-ops to sell direct to the public and the hospitality and tourist trade.

Support education and research into climate friendly and restorative agriculture

- Restore funding to Scotland's renowned agricultural research institutes, with a focus on developing farming techniques, plant breeds and soil science that tackles the climate and nature emergencies.
- Make agroecological and regenerative agriculture techniques the standard curriculum in rural education institutions.
- Offer qualifications in crofting and sustainable farming in Scotland's rural schools, with partnership programmes with colleges available in urban areas.

Prioritise building resilient local food economies over export driven markets

- Establish a local food development fund, building distribution networks between rural and urban areas, and establishing direct to consumer markets such as veg box schemes.

- Support the development of a domestic seafood market in Scotland, through schemes such as Edinburgh Fish City.
- Make prime sites available in towns and cities for farmers markets, local food hubs, and other innovative ways to build short supply chains.
- Use public procurement contracts to support local sustainable food producers, building on the Food for Life model developed by the Soil Association

Ensure food policy delivers our national health goals

- Bring back the Food Promotions Bill to restrict the marketing, promotion and advertising of unhealthy foods including alcohol.
- Make access to sustainable, affordable and healthy food a key indicator for the National Performance Framework.
- Use the planning system to break the dominance of unhealthy takeaways, including banning the opening of fast food outlets near schools.
- Support consumer trends towards reduction in meat and dairy consumption in line with national health guidelines by ensuring greater choice in schools and other public canteens.

Ensure fair work and fair pay in the entire food chain

- End the use of zero-hours contracts and monitor the implementation of workers' rights through existing licensing schemes, such as local authority food hygiene inspections.
- Make living wage accreditation or other union negotiated rates of pay a requirement for public kitchens and public food tenders.
- Ensure decent working and living conditions for migrant

and seasonal workers in the agricultural sector, removing agricultural subsidies and financial support for those found in breach of standards.

OUR SEAS AND COASTS

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Prevented the dredging and destruction of Scotland's kelp forests**
- **Secured funding for the creation of new Marine Protected Areas, protecting species including basking sharks, minke whales, dolphins and puffins**
- **Stopped ship-to-ship oil transfers in the Cromarty Firth and the Firth of Forth**

Our seas, coasts and estuaries are important culturally, environmentally, and economically, supporting coastal communities by providing jobs in sectors from fishing and marine renewables to tourism. As valuable carbon sinks and homes to a wealth of internationally important wildlife, our seas are an important part of our response to the climate and nature emergencies. We want to see coastal communities thrive, and

will take the bold action needed to protect, restore and manage our seas and coasts, and stop unsustainable activities.

PROTECT OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The Scottish Greens will ensure at least 30% of our seas are protected, and a third of this area will be highly protected, which means fishing and other industries would be excluded. This will protect Scotland's unique marine environment and wildlife, and support our economy and that of coastal communities in particular as it will deliver net benefits to fish stocks and support the growth of sustainable fishing and seafood businesses, creating more green jobs.

In addition, we will:

- Ensure all Marine Protected Areas have a management plan that prevents damaging activities and encourages positive action.
- Designate Blue Carbon Marine Protected Areas to help tackle the climate emergency.
- Support the marine protected area network through regional marine and coastal plans that are developed with local communities, sectoral interests and other stakeholders and are led by the twin aims of delivering our nature recovery targets and supporting sustainable economic activity.
- Introduce a Marine Environment Levy on profit-making enterprises that benefit from a seabed lease, including oil and gas operations, minerals, gravel and sand extraction, aquaculture and offshore wind farms, raising over £17 million a year that will be invested in marine protection and

enhancement.

A SEA OF OPPORTUNITY

The Scottish Greens will introduce new legislation to protect our inshore marine environment, support a diverse and thriving low impact inshore fleet, and help our coastal communities thrive.

We will:

- Ensure the stalled network of Regional Marine Plans is completed, and that they are focused on delivering nature targets.
- Introduce controls on the type of fishing gear and harvesting levels allowed, including restricting the area where dredging and seabed trawling is permitted.
- Redress the historical consolidation of quotas in the hands of a few by redistributing them, so that the wealth generated from the industry is more equally shared and small businesses are the key beneficiaries.
- Make all public support to fisheries businesses, including licences and quotas, conditional on operating in an environmentally and socially responsible way.
- Invest in better enforcement, including more compliance vessels and the introduction of mandatory on-board cameras and remote electronic tracking and monitoring systems on all commercial vessels.

A TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE SALMON FARMING

Salmon farming is a major industry in coastal Scotland, and the

Scottish Government has set a goal of doubling production by 2030. Yet repeated investigations, including an inquiry by the Scottish Parliament, have highlighted the severe environmental impact of the sector and have linked intensive aquaculture with the decline of Scotland's native wild salmon population. Mortality rates as high as 25% clearly show an industry in crisis, and a growing animal welfare disaster.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Introduce a moratorium on the licensing of new salmon farms and the expansion of existing ones until environmental and animal welfare concerns are addressed.
- Insist on stricter monitoring regimes for environmental impacts and fish health and welfare.
- Give regulators the power to close down failing farms.
- Ban the use of acoustic deterrent devices, which cause pain and distress to marine mammals.
- Phase out open cage farming.
- Support levies on the industry to invest in innovation with the aim of delivering high welfare systems that prevent pollution, livestock escapes and parasite outbreaks.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Champion a sustainable marine economy

- Introduce a Scottish Fisheries Bill to establish a new system of fisheries support that is based on observing mandatory catch limits and incentivises environmentally and socially responsible operations.
- Exclude dredging and trawling from much of our inshore waters, with specific areas identified in line with local

ecology, but with the default being within 3 miles of Scotland's shore.

- Support research into sustainable mariculture of seaweed and other products including shellfish, and support restoration of oyster reefs to create diverse habitats and sustainable fisheries.

Tackle marine pollution

- Prohibit new oil and gas developments and enforce the safe decommissioning of existing oil and gas installations.
- Address marine litter by bringing in new controls to ensure no loose items are stored onboard open decks, and all items are marked with the vessel number.
- Maintain our opposition to ship to ship oil transfers outside of harbour facilities where the risks to the marine environment of a spillage could be catastrophic.

Protect marine mammals

- End the use of damaging submarine sonar and other acoustic devices, including those used by the military, which are known to have negative and potentially fatal impacts on cetaceans.

LAND REFORM

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Delivered a 13,000 strong petition calling for the termination of Flamingo Land's exclusive right to buy land at Balloch against the wishes of the local**

community

- **Enshrined support of community land and asset ownership in the aims of the newly established South of Scotland Enterprise**

The way we use, own and inhabit Scotland's land is pivotal to our climate action and economic recovery plans. The pandemic has revealed how much we rely on the bonds that tie communities together, and as we emerge from this crisis, we need to reshape our economy to focus on wellbeing rather than profit. Land and how it is used is fundamental to this. Nearly twenty years on from the 2003 Land Reform Act, it is time to continue on the path to truly radical land reform.

RECLAIM SCOTLAND'S LAND FOR SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE

We will tackle the concentrated pattern of land ownership in Scotland and enhance the rights of people over the land around them. As well as bringing forward reforms that benefit all of Scotland's people, we must recognise those groups in society whose voices are rarely heard. We will embrace the concept of restorative and reparative land justice, enabling marginalised communities to access the social and economic benefits of land.

We will:

- Bring forward a Land Reform Act to tackle monopolies, promote fairer management of land and regulate the sale of land.
- Commission a review of taxation and subsidies relating to land ownership.

- Regulate the sale of land of national or community significance.
- Require significant landholdings to produce a transparent land management plan and be subject to a public interest test.
- Introduce restrictions on overseas ownership of land.
- Give Scotland's Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement a statutory footing, requiring large landowners - private, public and third sector - to act responsibly.

We will carry out a review of succession law to ensure the inheritance of landholdings does not contribute further to Scotland's land problem. The Scottish Law Commission's 2003 Report on the Law of the Foreshore and Seabed, designed to modernise public law rights, will be enacted, and we will call for a review of Ministry of Defence landholdings in Scotland and how that land is managed.

We will bring together the divergent land responsibilities across government by setting up a Land Directorate to assess and help meet demand for land to support housing development and local livelihoods. Land held by Scottish Ministers, public bodies, the Ministry of Defence, the Crown and large charities will be subject to a public interest test and greater public oversight.

Information about the ownership and use of Scotland's land is often difficult to obtain. We will transform the land registers into a free and transparent national land information service, covering the ownership, use, and designations of land.

REFORM COMMUNITY LAND OWNERSHIP

The Scottish Greens believe that everyone should benefit from the land around them and have a say in how it is used. The need for this is clear. Fragile rural communities can be revitalised by new inhabitants and fairer land practices, but owners of large estates have the power to control the supply of rural housing, while urban communities still have too little support to have a say in how the land around them is used and managed. We will:

- Review take-up of existing Community Rights to Buy and the Community Asset Transfer scheme to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- Review the valuation of land so communities are not forced to pay market rates for land to already wealthy landowners.
- Increase support and reduce costs for communities wishing to take charge of land through existing community empowerment legislation.
- Increase the Scottish Land Fund.

UNLOCK ACCESS TO SCOTLAND'S LAND

During the pandemic, access to local and well-maintained outdoor spaces has become central to many people's lives, yet there is a disparity between outdoor spaces in Scotland. Some are wildly popular and well serviced, while others are badly neglected.

In addition to our plans to restore Scotland's landscape, we will do more to make outdoor recreation inexpensive, sustainable and accessible to all.

Reaching outdoor spaces by foot, wheelchair or bike should be made as hassle free as possible. We will establish a network of Slow Ways - walking paths between towns and cities - to open up Scotland for many more people, and extend statutory public access rights to the foreshore, inland water and seabed. We recognise that much more needs to be done to provide equal access to land, including supporting access for disabled and BAME people, and will ensure that all those involved in the management of recreational outdoor space consider how to make spaces accessible to all.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Open up crofting for a new generation of rural Scots

- Reinvigorate crofting by introducing greater incentives, enabling local authorities to identify land for crofting, and encouraging the establishment of new crofting townships on estates or farms.
- Establish a community right to buy for the purpose of new croft holdings and crofting townships with common resources.
- Grant coastal crofting communities the authority to responsibly manage their inshore waters.

Restore the status of common lands

- Modernise and extend common good law, and ensure that

common good funds are properly managed for the benefit of all.

- Reactivate common good law to allow local authorities to designate common land.
- Establish a national common good register based on local authority data.

Bring abandoned land back into use

- Reform the national register of vacant and derelict land to increase its usefulness.
- Ensure land that has been derelict for a long time is a top priority for development.
- Increase funding to local authorities to tackle vacant and derelict land.
- Ensure public bodies that own vacant or derelict land have plans to bring sites back into use, and put plans in place to prevent sites from falling into disuse.
- Introduce Compulsory Sale Orders so local authorities can bring chronically disused sites back into public use.

Address rural depopulation

- Bring forward a 21st century version of the Land Settlement Act 1919 to promote repopulation and resettlement in rural areas of Scotland.
- Place a duty on local authorities with a rural development remit to introduce measures to further sustainable rural repopulation.

Continue to improve the rights of tenant farmers

- Extend the powers and role of the tenant farming commissioner, including the power to impose penalties for breaches of the code of practice.

- Introduce a new rent test for agricultural holdings to ensure a fair rent is paid.
- Ensure tenant farmers are able to participate in tree planting and natural regeneration and receive fair benefit from such schemes.

PROTECTING SCOTLAND'S ANIMALS

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Stopped the slaughter of mountain hares**
- **Got P&O Ferries to end the transport of live calves from Scotland to Europe**
- **Ensured Scotland's beavers received protected status, and championed an end to their killing**

The Scottish Greens recognise that animals are sentient beings that experience feelings, including contentment, joy, pain and suffering, and we believe this key principle should be enshrined in law. We are committed to ending animal suffering at the hands of people, and to promoting a new relationship with all animals that is based on respect and compassion. We will work towards ending all bloodsports, and to rooting out and ending animal cruelty in any aspect of our society, including in farming, sport and medical research.

A REAL FOX HUNTING BAN

In 2002 the Scottish Parliament attempted to ban this cruel practice, but the law is riddled with loopholes. Almost twenty

years later, fox hunting continues much as it used to. There are still ten mounted fox hunts and a number of footpacks in operation, and the use of terriers in fox 'control' is widespread. In the last Parliament Green MSP Alison Johnstone published detailed proposals that would deliver the watertight ban we need. We will deliver this legislation in the next Parliament.

END DRIVEN GROUSE SHOOTING

The Scottish Greens oppose bloodsports. We see no justification for animals suffering and being killed for pleasure, and therefore support a ban on driven grouse shooting. This practice dominates the Scottish uplands, with between 12 and 18% of land in Scotland managed primarily to produce grouse for shooting. Management of intensive grouse moors itself causes many wider animal welfare and environmental concerns as it involves the routine killing of other wildlife species like foxes, stoats, weasels, and crows. The Scottish Government has pledged to introduce licensing for grouse moors in the next Parliament.

The Scottish Greens will ensure licensing of grouse moors:

- Is properly resourced and well enforced, including extending the powers of the SSPCA to allow them to investigate and prosecute wildlife crime.
- Ends the killing of other animals to maximise grouse numbers.
- Bans the use of spring traps, snares, stink pits, decoy birds as bait, and cage traps.
- Prohibits the use of toxic lead ammunition and medicated grit.

- Includes strong and workable sanctions that mean licences are removed if Police Scotland are satisfied that wildlife crimes are occurring on a landholding.

PROTECT FARM ANIMALS

Intensive farming continues to be a challenge to animal welfare standards in Scotland, particularly in the poultry and pork sectors. In 2020, there were 14.4m chickens and 337,000 pigs in Scotland, a high proportion of which spend their entire lives indoors, in conditions barely better than those banned by the EU.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Push for an end to the use of farrowing crates for pigs and 'enriched' cages for hens.
- Ban the culling of male chicks in the egg industry, as Germany has done.
- Fight to maintain standards, including the ban on the use of antibiotics and hormones to stimulate unnaturally fast growth in farm animals.
- Press for trade deals to include restrictions on the importation of animal products from countries with poor animal welfare standards.
- Fight for a legal ban on live animal exports for slaughter and fattening from Scotland to the continent and beyond, including via Ireland and England.
- Provide greater support for calf-at-foot dairies that keep young calves with their mothers and prevent the

exportation of young animals.

- Press for a significant reduction in the stocking densities on Scotland's salmon farms and an end to risky practices such as thermolizer treatments, which can have a high mortality rate.

IMPROVE COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE

In 2021 new requirements come into force for the licensing of pet vending, animal rehoming, animal shelters and sanctuaries, and the breeding of dogs, cats and rabbits. The Scottish Greens worked to ensure these requirements were fit for purpose, and in the next session we will focus on their robust implementation. We will also introduce a complete ban on the use of shock collars and other pain based animal training aids, and reverse the SNP Government's decision in the last Parliament to re-introduce the docking of puppy tails for hunting and other 'working' dogs.

The Scottish Greens will ban the breeding, import and export of dogs for racing, ending greyhound racing in Scotland. Racing dogs typically experience a life of neglect in isolated confinement, many are drugged with Class A substances to race, and all are at high risk of lethal injury due to intensive racing. Most don't receive adequate health care and often suffer from malnutrition and untreated illness and injury. At least 10,000 dogs are deemed surplus to requirement by the UK industry every year and while charities re-home some, many are abandoned, killed or sold for dissection.

BAN CRUEL TRAPS

Wildlife trapping continues to be widespread across Scotland, and the use of traps is poorly regulated, causing unnecessary suffering at a very large scale. The Scottish Greens will ban glue traps, snares and Larson traps.

OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

INDEPENDENCE AND SCOTLAND'S FUTURE

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Voted in support of a second independence referendum after Brexit**
- **Secured Parliamentary support for giving EU nationals and 16-17 year olds a vote in a second independence referendum**
- **Green MSP Ross Greer led a successful legal challenge in the high courts that meant the UK Government could have unilaterally revoked Article 50 and cancelled Brexit**

The Scottish Greens believe that independence in Europe would allow us to build a fair and green Scotland. We want to

build a truly democratic nation state where everyone is empowered and where all elected representatives are truly answerable to the public. Independence is now our route back to EU membership, delivering Scotland our own seat at the European table and giving us back the right to work, travel and study across Europe. As an independent nation, Scotland would have the powers and potential to be a leader in the transition to a zero-carbon economy, working with the EU, the UN and our partners across the world to lead the change.

AN INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM SHOULD BE HELD DURING THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

The legislation covering all aspects of the referendum, including the question and the timing, should be decided by a simple majority of the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Greens will campaign and vote for a referendum within the next Parliamentary term and under the terms of the Referendums Act (2020). We believe that the UK Government's refusal to respect a pro-independence majority in the Scottish Parliament would not be politically sustainable and could be subject to legal challenge.

BUILD THE CASE FOR INDEPENDENCE

The Scottish Greens played a key role in the 2014 referendum, making the progressive case for independence. We relaunched our Green Yes campaign on the day that Scotland was forced out of the EU without our consent. We will continue to build the Green Yes campaign, reaching and inspiring more people with the Green vision for independence. We consider this to be

critical both to winning the next referendum, and to laying the groundwork for an independent nation which is genuinely progressive, compassionate and built on the principles of radical democracy, equality and respect for the planet.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS ARE COMMITTED TO EU MEMBERSHIP FOR SCOTLAND

EU membership has enriched Scotland culturally, socially and economically and given us all invaluable opportunities to travel, work, live and love across the continent. There is no democratic mandate for Brexit in Scotland given we overwhelmingly voted to Remain in the 2016 referendum. The Scottish Greens believe Scotland's future is best served as a full member of the European Union, collaborating with our European neighbours to build a green, prosperous and fair Europe. We will therefore campaign, with the support of the European Green Party and its many elected representatives, to re-join the EU as an independent nation as soon as possible.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Forced the Scottish Qualifications Authority to undertake a review of its international activities, resulting in the withdrawal from six countries with serious human rights concerns, including Saudi Arabia**

- **Coordinated a letter signed by 50 European politicians stating an independent Scotland would be welcome in the EU**
- **Secured new requirements for Scottish public bodies to conduct human rights checks on companies, including arms companies, prior to funding them**

With international relations largely reserved to Westminster, the Scottish Parliament has limited opportunities to make Scotland's voice heard on the world stage. But that does not mean we do not have a role to play, now as a devolved power or in the future as an independent country. The Scottish Greens will support the Scottish Government to establish and develop institutions and to engage with the global community to promote sustainable solutions, human rights, and peace, and enhance our advocacy for oppressed peoples and for peace and justice.

BUILD SCOTLAND'S REPRESENTATION IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD

The Scottish Greens want to see Scotland's interests and its mission to support peace and the transition to a net-zero economy better represented around the world. This is all the more urgent with Brexit reducing our influence, and the UK government's continued prioritisation of narrow economic aims that are of limited value to Scotland. The Scottish Government has established an existing network of offices in Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Dublin, London, Ottawa, Paris and Washington DC. The Scottish Greens will expand these hubs to include Warsaw, Oslo, San Francisco, Atlanta, Delhi, São Paulo, Nairobi and Tokyo.

PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

We oppose the UK Government's abandonment of its commitment on international development funding, and will urgently make the case for restoring this. Even without being a fully independent state, as a nation with devolved powers Scotland can take a more active role in the international community. To build our influence, contribute to global efforts to address the pandemic, and forward the transition to a net-zero economy, the Scottish Greens will seek for Scotland:

- Associated Member Status of the World Health Organisation.
- Associate membership of the Nordic Council.
- Observer status of the Arctic Council.

SUPPORT GLOBAL EFFORTS TO ROLL OUT THE COVID VACCINE TO ALL

There will be no end to the Covid-19 pandemic until the spread is under control or eliminated everywhere. Wealthier countries like the UK and Scotland should support equitable international access to vaccines by increasing their financial contribution to the COVAX initiative and sharing excess stockpiled vaccines with less wealthy countries. The UK Government should ensure vaccine manufacturers allocate vaccine supply equitably; share safety, efficacy and manufacturing data with the WHO for review; and transfer technology to international manufacturers to assist a scale up in global supply. Scotland should step up and assist global efforts to roll-out the vaccine by working with

partner countries and international organisations such as the World Health Organisation, and support and contribute to the costs of vaccination in Malawi, given our historic partnership.

BE A FORCE FOR PEACE

The Scottish Greens believe in a world free of nuclear weapons.

We will:

- Oppose the housing of nuclear submarines and weapons in Faslane.
- Amend the Marine Scotland Act to ban the movement of nuclear weapons through Scottish waters.
- End government support for businesses involved in the nuclear weapons supply chain.
- Issue prosecution guidance against the enforcement of charges against non-violent activists involved in protests against Faslane base and transport of nuclear weapons on Scottish roads.
- Seek observer status in the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.
- Campaign for the establishment of nuclear free zones in Europe and the Middle East.
- Contribute to global efforts to build peace and resolve conflict by committing to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and establish a Scottish Centre for Peace tasked with researching non-violent conflict resolution and hosting international summits, talks & negotiations.

END SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE ARMS INDUSTRY

Over the last 15 years, the Scottish Government has given over £31 million in enterprise funding to companies involved with the arms trade, as well as free business advice and account management services. The corporations supported in this way include major international arms dealers like Raytheon, Leonardo, Thales, and BAE Systems, all of which have made billions in arms sales every year and are amongst the 10 largest arms companies in the world. Products made by Leonardo and Raytheon have been linked to alleged war crimes committed by Turkey and Saudi Arabia, respectively, having been used in bombing campaigns that have killed civilians.

The Scottish Greens believe public funding and support to companies involved in the arms trade is morally wrong and economically unjustified. We will end all Scottish Government support for arms dealers.

STAND UP FOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE

In areas where the Scottish Government already engages in international affairs, such as participation in international organisations or the network of trade offices, we can play our part to stand up for the rights of oppressed people.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Recognise the State of Palestine and support efforts towards a just and peaceful end to the occupation. This will include supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction

campaign against the state of Israel and companies complicit in its illegal occupation.

- Use Scotland's trade links, including the Government's office in Beijing, to hold China to account over the persecution of Uighurs, Tibetans, democracy activists in Hong Kong and others.
- Provide direct financial support to the Central Tibetan Administration, recognising their role as legitimate representatives of the Tibetan people.
- Work with our international allies to support a peaceful and just solution to the Syrian conflict which maintains the free, feminist and democratic society established by the Autonomous Administration of North & East Syria.

OUR PUBLIC SERVICES

EDUCATION

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Restored 124,565 grades that had been unfairly moderated down by the SQA following exam cancellations during the coronavirus pandemic**
- **Negotiated an additional £150m with the Scottish Government to give teachers a fair pay rise in 2019**
- **£45 million for the recruitment of 2,000 additional teachers or other key staff during the pandemic and**

regular voluntary Covid testing introduced for both school staff and senior pupils

- **Major changes to Personal and Social Education, so all young people receive consent-based sex education and content is co-designed by pupils**

Everyone has the right to a good education, and the provision of education is one of the fundamental duties of the Scottish Government. The Scottish Greens have championed an education system that respects the rights of children, embraces diversity and equality, recognises the role of play, and is well-funded and adequately staffed. Teachers play a crucial role in our communities and in the lives of young people; the Greens are committed to ensuring this role is recognised and that all teachers are given fair pay and conditions in line with their responsibilities.

TEACH RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

Teaching responsible citizenship is more important now than ever before.

We will:

- Teach the future. This generation of young people will live their adult lives in an era defined by the climate emergency. The Scottish Greens will integrate climate education throughout both phases of the Curriculum for Excellence, ensure that teachers are properly supported through both Initial Teacher Education and Continuing Professional Development to deliver this, and give learning for sustainability greater prominence in inspections.

- Teach the past. It is important that young people learn about the reality of British and Scottish history, including the empire and slavery, so that we can engage with it in a meaningful way and do what we can to right past wrongs.
- Ensure young people know their rights at work, the role of trade unions, and how to self-organise.
- Ensure high quality Personal and Social Education. The Scottish Greens will build on our success in winning key improvements to Personal and Social Education, guaranteeing every pupil a PSE curriculum which covers topics such as consent-based sex education, LGBT+ inclusivity, and mental health.

TACKLE INEQUALITIES IN EDUCATION

The attainment gap remains stubbornly high in Scotland, with young people from lower-income backgrounds receiving far fewer opportunities than those from the most affluent communities.

We will:

- Expand in-school income maximisation programmes, ensuring that every school has an assigned family income advisor.
- Deliver free school meals all year round for all pupils. The Scottish Greens have already secured funding for free school meals for low income children during the holidays and the expansion of free school meals for all primary children. We will further expand this to secondary pupils.
- Introduce universal breakfast clubs. All schools will be supported to provide a free breakfast to those who want or

need it.

- Tackle unnecessary school uniform costs.
- We will introduce statutory guidance on school uniforms which prioritises cost reduction, ensures overall spending limits and prohibits exclusivity agreements with suppliers.

SUPPORT TEACHERS TO TEACH

The proliferation of indicators and measures in our education system has had a negative impact on teachers' freedom to teach in a manner responsive to the needs of their pupils and in keeping with the ethos of Curriculum for Excellence. This has led to a significant and unnecessary increase in teacher workload.

We will:

- Recruit more teachers. We will recruit 5,500 additional permanent teachers, an increase of 10%.
- Reduce class sizes to a maximum of 20 pupils. Excessive class sizes mean less time spent with each pupil, undermining the quality of education they receive.
- Lower teachers' class contact time to 20 hours per week to ensure that they have the time to prepare high quality lessons.
- Review the role of indicators and measures within CfE, with a view towards removing those which do not contribute to the delivery of quality education.
- End P1-S3 Scottish National Standardised Assessments, which result in unnecessary stress and pressure for pupils and staff. In their place, we will bring back the Scottish

Survey of Literacy and Numeracy to monitor national performance

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

We believe that the focus during the first years of education should be on pupil health, happiness, and the development of social skills, rather than increasingly high homework burdens and frequent testing.

We will:

- Raise the school starting age to seven and introduce a kindergarten stage for three to six year olds. Scotland has an unusually early starting age for primary school, often pushing young children into a formal learning environment before they are ready. Raising the school starting age to seven will bring Scotland in line with countries like Finland, where attainment and wellbeing are higher. A play-based Kindergarten stage will prioritise physical activity, outdoor experiences, and building social skills. This will be led by qualified kindergarten teachers.
- End the routine use of homework in primary schools. There is a wealth of evidence indicating that homework does not lead to greater academic achievement and instead that many children simply develop a negative association with school work as a result of its use.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Scottish Greens will work to ensure that secondary pupils are empowered to represent their own interests, that they are

treated fairly, able to attain qualifications that accurately reflect their abilities, are equipped with the skills and attributes which will allow them to thrive in adult life, and are supported through the challenges they may face in these formative years.

We will:

- Give all pupils equal access to Highers through investing in teachers and targeted interventions to support schools to introduce Higher courses they did not previously offer.
- Restructure National 5s to ensure adequate teaching time. We will review the structure of National 5 courses and qualifications to resolve the timetabling impossibility inherent in the existence of both a 160 hour course requirement and the availability of up to nine concurrent National 5 courses.
- Introduce a National 5 on Natural History, drawing on the recently developed Natural History GCSE course.
- Expand continuous assessment of coursework and reduce the role of exams. There is a growing recognition that high stakes, all-or-nothing exams are not the best way to measure how much a pupil knows or their ability to apply the skills they have developed. The Scottish Greens support moves towards using coursework and continuous assessment to contribute towards pupils' grades to ensure that qualifications better reflect learning and ability. We would use such an assessment model to replace end of term exams.
- Ensure that schools have resources available to support the creation of independent Pupil Unions so that young people can have their voices heard in education.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS & MENTAL HEALTH

As we have developed a better understanding of additional support needs among young people, the number of pupils who are identified as in need of extra support has increased dramatically. Over a quarter of pupils in Scotland are identified as having an additional support need, with these needs varying dramatically in type and complexity. The vast majority of pupils with additional needs can be supported within mainstream schools with the right resources and the presumption to mainstream supports schools to do that. For young people with very high levels of additional needs, special schools will continue to provide the most appropriate education environment.

We will:

- Ensure counselling is available to all pupils by establishing a right to access school-based counselling provided by qualified practitioners.
- Recruit 2,500 more additional needs teachers over the next Parliament, halving the ASN teacher to pupil ratio.
- Make additional support needs teaching a promoted post to attract more teachers into the profession. To be registered as an additional support needs teacher, practitioners will need to undertake appropriate training and study.
- Ensure additional needs are covered in Initial Teacher Education and in Continuous
- Professional Learning opportunities, equipping all teachers with the core skills required to support pupils with additional needs.

- Establish formal recognition of further education qualifications for additional needs assistants and establish an accreditation and registration system through the General Teaching Council Scotland.
- Ensure access for statutory support plans. The Scottish Greens secured a review of Coordinated Support Plans (CSPs) in the last Parliament, in response to their significant decline. Following publication of the review's findings we will take action to expand access to CSPs and revise the relevant statutory guidance.
- As we implement a peer-review inspection system, ensure additional support needs provision is appropriately prioritised and assessed.
- Support legislation to ensure all young people with additional needs have access to adequate support as they transition from school to adulthood.
- Ensure special schools are properly supported and receive the resources they need.

EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

Scotland's national education agencies, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and Education Scotland, are not fit for purpose. Both bodies require urgent reform if they are to rebuild the trust they have lost and deliver the quality of support which is required of them but has been sorely lacking for many years.

We will:

- Replace inspections with peer review and self-evaluation.

Following the successful example of Finland and others, we will end the routine use of national inspections and develop a new model of peer review and self-evaluation for teachers, overseen by Regional Improvement Collaboratives. National inspections will be restricted to cases of complaints or areas of concern.

- Establish an independent inspectorate. While peer review and self-evaluation are our goal for ensuring high standards in Scottish education, we will immediately end the conflict of interest inherent in Education Scotland, separating its curriculum development and inspection roles, and re-establishing an independent inspectorate.
- Establish a process for curricular review. We will consult with teachers, pupils, and other stakeholders to establish an appropriate cycle of regular curricular review, in line with international best practice.
- Replace the SQA board of management. The current SQA board includes just one teacher, compared to three 'management consultants'. We will replace it with a new model which places emphasis on professional qualifications and relevant experience in education. At least half of board members will be GTCS-registered teachers or lecturers and spaces will be reserved for union representatives, the Association of Headteachers and Deputies Scotland, Colleges Scotland, a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament, and a representative of parents and carers.

UNIVERSITIES

The Scottish Greens believe that higher education should be

free and accessible to all, regardless of income and background. Education at all levels is a social good and thriving, diverse universities are of benefit to society at large.

We will:

- Suspend interest payments on student loans during maternity and paternity leave to tackle the additional costs which overwhelmingly fall on women.
- Make additional university funding through the Scottish Funding Council contingent on commitments to eliminate casual and insecure contracts and to raise the wages of the lowest paid staff.
- Support students during the summer through a national hardship fund and the opportunity to rebalance bursaries and extend loan payments to stretch over the summer months.
- Widen access to higher education. Our student support proposals are designed to remove financial barriers to education and act on the findings and recommendations of the Commission on Widening Access.
- Resist marketisation. Scottish Greens support measures that will allow Scotland's universities to oppose the marketisation of Higher Education and to distance themselves from mechanisms such as the
- Research Excellence Framework, Teaching Excellence Framework and other artificially competitive funding mechanisms.
- Support international students by continuing to place pressure on the UK government to enhance and expand the post-study work visa programme, providing graduates with more opportunities to stay in Scotland and contribute

to their chosen field.

- Make an extra year of SAAS funding available for those who need it. The pandemic means some students, particularly those with childcare or other care commitments, may have to repeat a year. Any student who needs it will be entitled to the SAAS funding and support required to do so without cost.

COLLEGES & APPRENTICESHIPS

Colleges in Scotland provide vital access to further and higher education and are a major driver of our economy, particularly in the sectors critical to a green recovery from the pandemic. The Scottish Greens will continue to support moves to recognise the high professional standard of college lecturers and improve working conditions in the sector.

We will:

- Ensure funding parity for college and university students. We support a national entitlement to locally-delivered bursaries for all students in further education and will expand eligibility to 16 and 17 year olds.
- We will also introduce a special support payment to ensure students on low income claiming welfare support are not penalised.
- Increase funding parity for delivering further education. Despite the important role colleges play in Scottish education, they receive roughly £1,400 less than universities in teaching grants per student.

- We will increase funding to colleges and re-introduce part time courses.
- Support the NUS Scotland Shaping Scotland's Future campaign, including calls for financial support to increase with inflation, a benefits system that does not claw back student support payments, and improved services for students experiencing mental ill-health.
- Support measures to expand access to colleges and address the under-representation of people of colour in further education.
- Call for institutions to adequately fund college student associations and unions.
- Increase support for apprenticeships and ensure they pay at least the living wage regardless of age, work to break gender stereotypes, and increase opportunities for disabled people and people from minority ethnic groups. Government funding of apprenticeships should be contingent on these measures.
- Defend the role of college lecturers. A trend is emerging of colleges cutting lecturing posts and replacing them with instructor posts, expected to fulfil similar responsibilities but with poorer pay and conditions. We will make SFC funding of colleges conditional on an end to this practice and agreement on an appropriate minimum number of lecturing posts.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Expand and improve early years provision

- Ensure equal access to early years and childcare. We

support the expansion of early learning and childcare to 1,140 hours and will work to implement as soon as possible, and will deliver equitable funding to all relevant childcare providers.

- **Give Them Time:** Fully fund deferrals for younger children. We will bring forward to 2022 the guaranteed funding of an extra year of nursery provision for eligible four year olds whose parents/ carers choose to defer their Primary One start date.
- **Expand access to nursery teachers.** While all children have a right to access nursery teachers, this is often not the case in reality. We will introduce new statutory guidance, which, in combination with increased early years funding, will finally see this right realised.

Ensure a rounded school experience for all

- **Guarantee every primary and secondary pupil at least one one-week residential outdoor experience.**
- **Remove financial barriers from residential trips.** We will establish a fund to assist families with the costs of going on primary school residential trips to ensure that no child is excluded due to their family income.
- **Expand outdoor play and learning provision.** The outdoor environment helps child development, particularly problem-solving skills and assessing risk. We will ensure that all children and young people have regular access to outdoor learning.
- **Remove charges for instrumental music tuition.** We will adequately fund local councils to ensure that there is no need to charge fees for instrumental music tuition.

Support appropriate international links

- Rejoin Erasmus+. We will negotiate directly with the European Commission to secure the greatest possible level of participation in the Erasmus+ scheme. In the event that the UK Government obstructs efforts to participate, we would challenge their right to do so through the courts.
- Remove Chinese regime influence from classrooms. The Confucius Programme is a propaganda tool of a state responsible for widespread and grievous human rights abuse. We will terminate 'Confucius Classroom' partnerships with Scottish schools, end cooperation with the programme by public bodies including colleges and initiate a review of the programme's impact on academic freedom in the university sector.
- Support Rojava University. As a practical demonstration of support for the people of North & East Syria and the democratic, secular and feminist society established under their Autonomous Administration, we will encourage Scottish universities to establish links with the University of Rojava by funding RU students and staff who wish to work or study at a Scottish university.

Value youth work

- Support a right for all young people to access youth work opportunities.
- Integrate youth work into local and national mental health support and referral systems, including CAMHS and NHS Health Boards.
- Ensure all youth workers and volunteers are offered mental health and wellbeing training.

HEALTH

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Secured regular Covid testing for frontline NHS and social care staff**
- **Created a legal duty on Scottish Government to ensure appropriate NHS staffing levels**
- **Ensured that all nurses have the legal right to funded Continuous Professional Development**

The pandemic has shone a light on under-investment in Scotland's health and social care systems and the huge and growing inequalities in public health and life expectancy. The Scottish Greens believe everyone has a right to the highest standard of physical and mental health, and we recognise that this means investing in care and pursuing an ambitious preventative agenda, getting to the root cause of poor physical and mental health.

A PROPERLY FUNDED AND PUBLICLY OWNED NHS SCOTLAND

Our health service must always be in public hands, and must be given the resources it needs. The funding pressure on the NHS will be all the more acute as we emerge from the pandemic and have to deal with the impact the last year has had on the workforce and the backlog of cases that has inevitably been created. We must properly fund our health

services so that they can meet this challenge.

SUPPORTING THE HEALTH WORKFORCE

Our health and care workers need time to heal from the pandemic, and they must be supported to do so. We will prioritise the wellbeing of those who have worked so hard to keep us safe and well. For too long the contribution of nurses in particular has been undervalued. We support an increase in salaries for nurses of 12.5%.

We will:

- Ensure all health and social care workers have access to dedicated mental health support and counselling.
- Increase the number of funded university places for nursing students.
- Ensure access to healthy food and hydration in the workplace.
- Improve working conditions through a focus on wellbeing in the workplace, including enforceable breaks or pay when breaks are not possible.
- Support more flexible hours for healthcare staff.
- Create a bursary for student paramedics, equivalent to the Nursing and Midwifery Student Bursary.

PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY CARE

Primary care, including GP practices and community pharmacies, represents 90% of patient contact with the NHS and plays a central role in the health of the nation. We support the integration

of health and social care, moving care out of acute services and into the community, and recognise that this makes investing in primary and community care even more important now than ever before.

We will:

- Commit at least 11% of health spending to general practice by the end of the next Parliament.
- Build the general practice workforce to ensure that GPs and the wider practice team can offer a minimum of 15-minute appointments as standard with an appropriate mix of face-to-face, phone and virtual consultations.
- Expand practice teams to include welfare rights officers and increase the number of mental health clinicians working in general practice.
- Ensure every GP practice has a community links worker, with prioritisation given to practices in deprived areas.
- Ensure there are adequate pharmacists and they are recognised as key workers.

HEALTHY WORKPLACES

Everyone has the right to a safe workplace, and the pandemic has highlighted how far we have to go to realise this. The Scottish Greens believe health and safety should be fully devolved for as long as we are part of the UK, allowing us to build a proactive health and safety system that is appropriately enforced. We support the creation of a National Occupational Health Body within NHS Scotland that delivers a preventative agenda and supports workers, employers and Unions to

address issues and ensure workplaces are safe.

CANCER AND HEART DISEASE

Cancer services must have the workforce needed to address the backlog of cases exacerbated by the pandemic. Scotland also faces considerable challenges in improving care for those with heart diseases, which has been made worse by Covid.

We will:

- Ensure a cancer workforce plan is agreed so that services can meet patient demand.
- Support research institutions to restart clinical trials.
- Increase awareness of cancer symptoms via dedicated public information campaigns.
- Achieve a smoke free generation by 2034 through increasing investment in targeted smoking cessation programmes, communication campaigns, and a ban on smoking around schools, playgrounds and other locations used by children.
- Develop a heart disease plan focused on improving detection and diagnosis and ensuring that everyone with suspected heart disease has equitable access to timely treatment.
- Introduce a community-based detection and diagnosis programme for high blood pressure and high cholesterol

PALLIATIVE CARE

We will work to ensure dignity in death, with those in need of palliative care and their carers properly supported throughout

the process.

We will:

- Introduce safe and compassionate laws that allow terminally ill adults the right to an assisted death when the time is right for them.
- Develop a national plan for palliative care, including specific measures to ensure the needs of children are met and children's hospice care is supported.
- Introduce mandatory palliative care training for frontline health and care professionals.

DENTISTRY

The Scottish Greens will ensure equal access to dental service.

We will:

- Work with the profession to ensure the funding and workforce are available to address the backlog of cases that have been generated by the pandemic.
- Preserve the Public Dental Service, which provides oral care to groups with complex needs, such as homeless people, care home residents and disabled children.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Scottish Greens believe that everyone who needs mental health support should have quick and easy access to it. We will place mental health at the heart of our healthcare system and ensure it has parity with physical health.

We will:

- Allocate 10% of frontline health spend to mental health by 2026, providing an additional £235m funding a year.
- Prioritise providing children and young people with the dedicated mental health support they need, investing an additional £161m into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services by 2026, and doubling the budget for community mental wellbeing service for children and young people to £30 million.
- Ensure everyone can access mental health support at their local GP practice.
- Establish a triage system in every community in Scotland so people can be quickly assessed by a mental health team and connected to the right support.
- Expand access to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Social Prescribing, Exercise Referral Schemes and Peer Support.
- Develop a long-term mental health workforce plan to ensure services can meet demand.

A NATIONAL CARE SERVICE BUILT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Our care system is in crisis and requires a radical overhaul. The Scottish Greens will work with others in the Scottish Parliament to build a publicly owned national care service, and deliver immediate reforms to better reward and support carers.

We will:

- End competitive tendering as a first step in building a care system which is centred on people not price. We believe there is no place for profit in our care system and will look in the long term to remove the private sector from the

provision of care.

- Protect local decision making and accountability in line with our principle of subsidiarity.
- Ensure that the pay and conditions of carers reflect their expertise. We support calls for social care workers to be paid at least £15 an hour.
- Recognise the value of unpaid carers and ensure they have access to the training, equipment and respite breaks they need.
- Introduce health checks and access to flexible healthcare appointments for unpaid carers

PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE PREVENTATIVE AGENDA

The Scottish Greens believe that people should be supported to live the healthiest lives possible and that prevention and early intervention is key to achieving this. We will tackle the root causes of poor health, such as poverty, smoking, drug and alcohol misuse and air pollution.

Sport and physical activity

Keeping active and participating in sport can make a positive contribution to physical and mental health. The Scottish Greens will continue to support investment in grassroots sport and address the barriers to participation.

We will:

- Deliver adequate provision of indoor sports facilities across Scotland in partnership with clubs, communities and governing bodies, including a 200 metre indoor track.

- Provide free access to sport and physical activity for children and young people.
- Ensure all public bodies offer protected time to their staff to engage in physical activity during the working day.
- Appoint a Minister for Sport.
- Provide free access to school and community hubs to children and young people.
- Develop a national strategy to encourage and support older people to participate in sport.

Drugs

Scotland has the highest rate of overdose deaths per head of population in Europe and there have been record high numbers of drug overdose deaths in each of the last 6 years. The Scottish Greens believe that this is a public health, not a criminal justice, issue. We will ensure that everyone can access the treatment they need, when they need it.

We will:

- Support the introduction of safe consumption facilities.
- Adopt a person-centred approach with a focus on drop-in services and crisis centres which are accessible and provide holistic support.
- Support alcohol and drug partnerships to develop a well-planned rehabilitation service that is integrated with other treatment services and increase the provision of residential rehabilitation.
- End unplanned discharges and ensure that drug users who leave treatment or statutory services, whether planned or unplanned, receive follow-up support.

- Work with addiction services to address the multiple stigmas which drug users often experience, and destigmatise medication assisted treatment.
- Provide same day access to opioid substitution treatment when people present for help.
- Roll out heroin-assisted treatment.
- Support efforts to achieve the World Health Organization's target to eliminate hepatitis C as a public health concern by 2030.

Alcohol

The Scottish Greens believe that individuals have a right to be fully informed about the risks posed to their health by alcohol.

We will:

- Introduce mandatory unit, calorie and ingredient labelling and prominent health warnings on all alcohol products.
- Work to make the licensing system more transparent and accessible to local communities.
- Introduce a social responsibility levy on alcohol retailers.
- Ban outdoor alcohol advertising and advertising in public spaces and end alcohol sponsorship of sports events.

Air pollution

Air pollution causes over 2,500 early deaths in Scotland every year. It is a public health crisis and a massive strain on our NHS.

We will:

- Introduce increased monitoring of air pollution that can be communicated as health alerts to people with lung conditions.
- Launch a public health awareness campaign to help the public make positive choices.
- Introduce Low Emission Zones with immediate effect in all areas that breach air quality limits and for heavy vehicles in city centres, progressively including all motor vehicles and expanding these regulations in area and scope.

LEARN FROM THE PANDEMIC

The Scottish Government's response to Covid has been hampered by poor planning, evidenced by a failure to quickly implement routine testing in health and care settings and problems with PPE distribution. Experts advise that pandemics will recur with increasing frequency. We will ensure that scientists have the funding, capacity and resources to tackle future threats.

We will:

- Launch a public inquiry into the Scottish Government's response to the Covid pandemic.
- Review pandemic plans to ensure learning from the Covid outbreak is incorporated.
- Develop robust PPE procurement processes, put in place long-term support for a domestic manufacturing industry, and ensure stockpiles are adequate.

- Ensure provision of optimal personal protective equipment and prioritisation in testing and vaccination programmes for all health and social care staff.
- Raise awareness of the problems caused by Long Covid, ensure that there is equitable access to treatment and rehabilitation, and publish a Long Covid strategy that sets out how those affected will be supported and cared for.
- Recognise the importance of visits to those living in care homes and ensure that care homes are properly supported to enable such visits safely.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Promote good sexual health

- Decriminalise abortion, remove the ‘two doctor rule’, and retain the provision for early medical abortions at home introduced during the pandemic.
- Ensure adequate provision of free contraception, access to sexual health clinics, family planning and advice services.
- Support HIV Scotland’s Generation Zero campaign to eliminate HIV transmission in Scotland by 2030.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNITIES

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Won over £500 million additional investment in local**

services, from swimming pools to schools

- **Introduced new powers for councils to raise local levies on tourism and workplace car parking**
- **Championed participatory democracy, including Scotland's first citizens assemblies**

A green recovery must invest in the building blocks of organised, inclusive, and capable communities. Our ambition is for a Scotland that has a decentralised, democratic system of local governance, that people trust and actively engage with. A network of municipalities based in people's local villages, towns and cities.

A NEW ERA FOR SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We believe in Local Government. It plays a critical role in all of our lives, which is why we have focused on empowering and properly funding it over the last Parliament. We believe that rebuilding local democracy and empowering local government to meet the needs of the public should be at the heart of a green recovery.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Deliver empowered, genuinely local councils. We will reverse the 50-year decline in the status of local government by backing widespread decentralisation of powers to local government and addressing the massive disparity between Scotland and other European countries, with Scottish councils ten times bigger than the European average.

- Oppose Ministerial vetoes over local decisions. Local councils are best placed to determine what's needed in their areas, but across a huge range of policies, the Scottish Government has legislated to give Ministers a veto. We will always presume that such provisions should be removed from laws unless it can be demonstrated they are absolutely necessary and proportionate.
- Promote more diverse local representation. Women, people of colour, disabled people, trans people, and others with protected characteristics remain under-represented in local government. We will work to remove barriers to their full participation. We will increase the annual allowance for councillors, so it enables everyone to make it a full-time role. We will clarify ambiguity around maternity and parental leave, and extend access to public office funding across all protected characteristics.
- Put local, democratic ownership at the heart of a Green Recovery. We will back Councils to be able to own vital green infrastructure including public transport and local energy companies.
- Stimulate participatory democracy at local level. Greens pioneered participatory decision-making in Scotland, both locally and nationally. We will work to formalise citizens assemblies on an ongoing basis, locally and nationally, and introduce statutory duties on Councils and the wider public sector to support and enable new levels of local governance.

FAIR FUNDING FOR LOCAL SERVICES

The Scottish Greens will put Councils and the services they provide on a solid, long-term foundation so that they can be there for all of us.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Commit to real terms increases in council funding. The Scottish Greens have reversed the trend in declining local government funding in recent years but more needs to be done. We commit to above-inflation increases in the share of the local government budget which is available to fund local priorities for the lifetime of the next Parliament.
- Empower councils by reducing ringfencing and increasing funding certainty. We will ensure multi-year settlements for councils, introduce a fiscal framework between national and local government, reduce the share of council funding which is ring-fenced, and we will never dictate the levels at which councils can set local taxes from Holyrood. We will also ensure multi-year funding for third sector partners.
- Devolve taxes. We are committed to radical reform of local taxation and will devolve powers to set, collect, and offer reliefs for non-domestic rates locally. We will ensure the implementation of tourism and workplace parking levies where appropriate and commit to a wider review of locally-determined environmental levies, including waste disposal taxes and carbon taxes.

GREAT PLACES, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

The Scottish Greens are committed to investing in communities and building great places. We will work with communities and use the tools we have available, including the planning system,

to deliver better, stronger communities for all.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Fund communities to lead plans for their local areas. Local Place Plans are a new tier of community-led development planning that need actioned. We will equip communities and councils with the tools and power to investigate their own development needs and plan their futures.
- Deliver 15-minute neighbourhoods. We will ensure that the new national planning framework and alignment of community, spatial and transport planning bring about vibrant 15 minute neighbourhoods.
- Ensure meaningful public engagement in planning. We continue to support communities having appeal rights, but until that happens we will demand improvements to public engagement at every stage.

BUILDING AND HARNESSING COMMUNITY WEALTH

Over the last year the value of community organising and working together to look out for each other and improve our communities has never been so important. We will build on this and put community organising and wealth building at the heart of our plans for a green recovery.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Increase community organising capacity, investing in dedicated community organisers across Scotland to assist citizens to come together to identify shared priorities, engage with democratic processes, develop skills and

capacity, and work together to take collective action. We will in particular ensure this resource is available in communities with the greatest barriers to organising.

- Increase support for community ownership. We will continue to support Community Land Scotland to scale-up support for communities looking to own or manage local assets.
- Move away from competition for funding. We will ensure community sector funding encourages partnership and provides for longer term financial security and core funding for community anchor organisations.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Introduced the Young Carer Grant to support young people with caring responsibilities**
- **Secured a guarantee of no benefit sanctions through devolved employment programmes**
- **Secured commitment to a national roll out of the Healthier, Wealthier Children approach to ensuring low income households receive all financial entitlement**

The approach to social security in Scotland has made some important steps towards a fairer system than the approach of the UK Government. But change has been incremental, and the system is at risk of failing to live up the hopes that it would be

radically fairer. We know that a well-designed, properly-funded social security system can tackle poverty and reduce economic, health and education inequalities. It is time for a radical reinvestment into Scotland's social security system.

TACKLE CHILD POVERTY FOR GOOD

There are currently 230,000 children living in poverty in Scotland, and this number is growing. This is unacceptable. The Scottish Greens are committed to meeting the legal 2030 target of reducing Relative Child Poverty to 10%, on the road to eradicating child poverty.

We will:

- Accelerate the roll-out of the new Scottish Child Payment so that families in need don't have to wait longer for vital support.
- Double the Scottish Child Payment to at least £20, lifting 50,000 children out of poverty.
- Increase all Best Start Grants and the School Clothing Grant by £100, worth an extra £400 to some of our poorest families.
- Ensure all devolved social security payments increase annually, at least in-line with rising costs. Payments aimed at children will be double-locked to rise annually with the higher of inflation or increases in average incomes.
- Scrap the Benefit Cap, which costs some of our poorest families up to £2,200 a year, by providing Local Authorities with sufficient funds to provide grants to fully mitigate it, in the same way as is done for the Bedroom Tax.
- End the Two Child Limit and Rape Clause. The Two Child

Limit fundamentally distorts our social security system by breaking the link with need. We will request the UK Government end the Two Child Limit in Scotland, with the costs of doing so being funded by the Scottish Government.

AN ADEQUATE INCOME FOR ALL

Everyone has the right to an adequate income to live on, regardless of individual circumstances. Since our foundation more than thirty years ago, the Scottish Greens have been consistent advocates of a Universal Basic Income.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Negotiate with the UK Government to secure the powers to introduce a comprehensive Universal Basic Income pilot based on the model proposed by the Scottish Government-funded feasibility study.
- Should those powers be refused, fund smaller-scale, more limited pilots that do not require powers from the UK Government.
- Ahead of the introduction of a UBI, examine the feasibility of a Scottish Minimum Income, which would establish a minimum income standard and use social security top-up powers to increase the incomes of anyone living below this.

GET THE RIGHT SUPPORT WHERE IT NEEDS TO GO

Too often, social security doesn't get to those who need it

because they are not aware of their entitlements, applications are too complex or because they are not supported to apply. The successful expansion of the Healthier, Wealthier Children approach shows how transformative good money advice can be, with some studies showing households benefiting by as much as £20 for each £1 invested.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Create a Benefit Take-Up Fund to ensure every school and GP surgery has access to a money advisor and provide stable, longer-term funding to Local Authorities and the third sector to offer high quality advice on claiming benefits, reducing bills and other financial issues.
- Introduce legally-binding targets for the take-up of social security benefits for which it is possible to accurately estimate take-up.
- Launch an independent review of the Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments to establish an adequate level of funding that can also respond to increased demand, and consistency of decision-making.
- Introduce a universal Isolation Grant, to properly support everyone asked to isolate due to Covid-19 or any other infectious disease requiring self-isolation.
- Examine the feasibility of automatic payments, whereby social security payments are made without the need for an application, using information already held by public authorities to determine eligibility.
- Reject the principle of 'no recourse to public funds' and ensure that local authorities are enabled to provide assistance to all vulnerable individuals who require it, regardless of immigration status.

FAIRER DISABILITY AND CARER BENEFITS

Over 500,000 Scots claim one of the disability benefits for which the Scottish Government is now responsible. The Scottish Greens will work to ensure these benefits support disabled people and carers fairly, allowing them to realise their human rights and participate equally in society.

We will:

- Institute a review of Disability Assistance and Carer's Assistance. This will examine what changes are needed to ensure that the payments meet six conditions established by the Scottish Campaign for Rights to Social Security and consider a lower caring hours threshold and more flexible earnings limit.
- Immediately increase the Carer's Allowance top-up to £105 a week.
- Examine the feasibility of providing an extra payment to those caring for more than one person and of introducing a Carer Recognition Payment for those not able to claim Carer's Assistance due to the 'overlapping benefits' rule.
- Double the Young Carer Grant to £600 a year and expand eligibility, by, for example, ensuring that sibling carers and other young people who care together can both receive the payment.

OUR SOCIETY

EQUALITIES

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Secured cross party support to establish a museum of slavery, colonialism, migration and empire in Scotland**
- **Campaigned for an end to private companies making profit from housing asylum seekers**
- **Won voting rights for refugees**

Equality has always been a core value for the Scottish Greens, as it is for the whole Green movement. Over many decades we have made progress toward a more equal society, and many barriers have been lowered. There remains far more work to do. Progress toward a more equal society did not come about by magic. It did not come about because of the generosity of governments. It was hard won by people working together, marginalised groups fighting each others' corners in a spirit of solidarity. That is how we will continue to make progress.

GENDER

The Scottish Greens stand firmly for inclusive, intersectional feminism which recognises not only that gender inequality runs deep in our society, but also that it is affected by other kinds of inequality like wealth, disability, racial injustice, LGBT+ discrimination and more. Scotland still has much work to do if

we're to make progress toward a more equal society for women, and to ensure an inclusive approach for people of all genders and none.

The impact of COVID has worsened pre-existing gender inequalities, from the uneven burden of both paid and unpaid care work, to the impact of gender based violence and the barriers to accessing support under the pandemic restrictions. However there have also been positive developments. Many employers have been forced to recognise not only that flexible and remote working is possible, but also how gender inequality affects the way people's home lives impact on their working lives. Learning from the experience of COVID could result in real improvements to equal, accessible and flexible working arrangements.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Fully integrate gender budgeting into all public budgeting processes.
- Place closing the gender pay gap at the heart of our plans for a green recovery.
- Support the work of the expert group established to examine how the criminal justice system deals with misogyny.

DISABILITY

Our society, our economy and our public services create the barriers disabled people face to full participation, and removing those barriers must be a priority for every level of government.

We will:

- Support incorporation of the UN Convention on Rights of Disabled People into Scots
- Law to fully promote, protect and realise disabled people's human rights. We recognise the case being made for a Commissioner or independent body to uphold these rights and will consult with disabled people on this proposal.
- Ensure the Scottish Government is an exemplar of good practice in removing the barriers disabled people face in employment, working with employers to remove barriers to employment, and encourage working arrangements that respond to the individual needs of disabled people. Engaging with this will be a condition of publicly funded business support.
- Ensure disabled people benefit from the Young Person's Guarantee and have a role in designing employability support schemes.
- Deliver an inclusive education system so that disabled children and young people receive appropriate care and support before, and during, the transition to adulthood.
- Make inclusive communication the norm for the Scottish Government to ensure that everyone, including disabled people, can access the information they need in the right formats.
- We will increase the provision of BSL training places in Scotland's education institutions and workplaces.

The delivery of all public services must benefit from the lived experience of disabled people if those services are to fulfil their purpose and remove barriers to disabled people's full participation in society. This will be particularly important in the development of a National Care Service, and in the growing role

of the devolved social security systems.

LGBT+

The Scottish Greens have always taken a strong and proactive stance on LGBT+ equality, working for a progressive and inclusive Scotland where the LGBT+ community and intersex people can live and thrive freely. We were the first political party to back marriage equality, we pioneered legislation to tackle transphobic and homophobic hate crime, and unlike most political parties we have never treated LGBT+ people's human rights as an optional matter. Green candidates are committed to progress, and will not hide behind special "votes of conscience" to stand in the way of equality.

We will:

- Ensure that health and social care services throughout Scotland, including mental health services, are fully inclusive of LGBT+ people and designed to remove barriers and tackle health inequalities.
- Implement the Time for Inclusion Education (TIE) campaign recommendations, including the delayed delivery of promised funding to assist this important work.
- Deliver long overdue reforms to the Gender Recognition Act, including statutory self-declaration, recognising non-binary identities and all genders, and providing access to health care for trans minors with parental or guardian consent.
- Introduce an informed consent model of trans healthcare, and in the meantime continue to push for access to Gender Identity Clinics within 18 weeks, in line with NHS standards

for other services.

- Ban so-called “conversion therapy”, which refers to unethical and unnecessary interventions that seek to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBT+ people or alter a person’s sex characteristics without their consent.
- Ensure LGBT+ inclusion in Scottish Government international development policies, and enshrining the Yogyakarta human rights principles into Scots law.

Our LGBT+ network, the Rainbow Greens, have produced a detailed manifesto available on our website.

RACE

While Scotland has often perceived itself to be a welcoming and inclusive society, there is much work we have not yet done to examine the extent of racism and white supremacy in Scotland, and the legacy of empire and colonialism. Greens continue to call for the devolution of immigration in order to combat the racist consequences of UK Home Office hostile environment policies, for adequate support and an end to destitution in the asylum process, and for asylum seeker accommodation to be in local hands. Within the scope of powers already devolved there are clear priorities for action.

We will:

- Improve the collection of data about issues such as black and minority ethnic communities’ economic participation, health status, and access to public services.
- Work to ensure that Scotland’s institutions and workforces

are as representative of our society as possible. We particularly recognise the fact that Scotland's race pay gap is far too high and will take action to address this.

- Work nationally and locally to re-evaluate existing public monuments and references to figures involved in colonialism and the slave trade, and dedicate new public art to people, including people of colour, whose place in our history has been ignored.
- Review racial awareness in policing and the criminal justice system, and the ways in which black and minority ethnic communities are impacted. As much as possible this process must be led by the affected communities.
- Introduce mandatory recording of racist incidents and prejudice-based bullying in Scotland's schools, and work with third sector partners to build anti-racist competence in schools.

FAITH AND BELIEF

The Scottish Greens respect all communities and their rights to practise their religion free from persecution and discrimination. We believe in an inclusive and secular society, including within the education system, and we recognise that religious freedom includes not only freedom of religion, but also freedom from religion.

The Scottish Greens will

- Regularly engage with Scotland's representative faith and belief bodies, and be guided by their proposals on how best to represent and advocate for their communities within

Parliament.

- Defend the right to wear religious and other dress and symbols of Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Catholic and others, and protect the faith practices which are important to our religious communities, including the production of halal and kosher meat, in line with high animal welfare standards.
- Work with our diverse religious communities to campaign against prejudice and discrimination on grounds of religion and belief, and are committed to tackling the unacceptable levels of religious hate crime.

A NEW DEAL FOR TRAVELLERS

The Scottish Greens want to ensure that Gypsy/ Travellers are provided the same respect and rights as those in the settled community, and will take measures, including where necessary legislative action, to ensure that their lifestyle and heritage is protected.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Work with Local Government to introduce new permanent stopping places which will be allocated in consultation with members of the Travelling community.
- Protect existing stopping places from development and ensure they are equipped with provisions for waste disposal, personal hygiene, and food storage.
- Develop a common rights framework for Gypsy/ Traveller communities using council-owned stopping places.
- Support further protection for the Gypsy/ Traveller

community within the Equality Act, ensuring their status is understood as a race and not a lifestyle choice.

- Push for an apology for past treatment of Gypsy/Traveller communities in Scotland, including the displacement of over 3,000 children.

SCOTLAND WELCOMES REFUGEES

The Scottish Greens stand for the rights of refugees, and believe Scotland should do everything in its power to welcome them. Asylum seekers have often fled war, famine, and discrimination. Many have embarked on perilous journeys to reach safety. Scotland must play its role as a welcoming and supportive country, but is often held back by the UK Government.

The Scottish Greens will campaign for all asylum seeker support to be devolved to Scotland, and in the meantime will:

- Call on the UK Government to accept more asylum seekers, particularly unaccompanied children, and to ensure there are safe routes to the UK.
- Fight to close Dungavel Immigration Detention Centre and work with local councils and third sector partners to ensure asylum seekers and refugees are properly supported.
- Extend voting rights to all asylum seekers, building on the extension of the franchise to refugees with leave to remain in Scotland that we helped secure in the last Parliament.
- Submit a public & third sector bid to the Home Office tendering process for asylum seeker housing and support services, with the intention of ending private sector

involvement and profiteering in the process

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Support children in care and estranged young people

- Commit to keep The Promise, so that our care system ensures that all children in Scotland grow up in an environment where they are loved, respected and safe, and enables them to fulfil their potential.
- Put in place educational and financial support services for those estranged from their parents and guardians.
- Ensure estranged students have access to guarantor schemes so that they can get the housing they need.

JUSTICE

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Delivered the Equal Protection Act, ending the physical punishment of children, giving young people the same protection from assault as adults**
- **Prevented the use of facial recognition technology by Police Scotland, protecting basic human rights**
- **Successfully campaigned against routine deployment of armed officers**

An effective police service must be community-based, enjoy public support and reflect the people it is responsible for keeping safe. The Scottish Greens are committed to understanding and addressing the root causes of crime. We recognise that this means tackling the enormous inequalities

that scar our society. We support policies that genuinely reduce crime, including locally-accountable policing, effective crime prevention, well-resourced diversions from prosecution and robust community-based alternatives to short prison sentences which are overwhelmingly shown to be much less effective at reducing re-offending and delivering rehabilitation.

MAKE POLICE SCOTLAND FULLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND

Every police officer in Scotland should be subject to democratically elected oversight and Scotland's single police service must be locally accountable.

The Scottish Greens will:

- Support full integration of British Transport Police with Police Scotland to ensure they are subject to democratically elected scrutiny.
- Ensure local authorities are able to robustly scrutinise Local Police Commanders.
- Ensure every citizen can easily access an efficient complaints procedure. We support Dame Elish Angiolini's proposal for an improved police complaints system, and welcome a much enhanced role in complaints for the independent Police Investigations and Review Commissioner.

ABOLISH THE 'NOT PROVEN' VERDICT

Scotland is one of the few jurisdictions in the world with a three-

verdict system in criminal trials, i.e. guilty, not guilty and not proven. In practice there is no legal difference between a not guilty and not proven verdict and this raises the question of the merits of retaining both verdicts. The not proven verdict is disproportionately applied in crimes of a sexual nature - 35% in trials for rape or attempted rape compared with 17% in other cases. In line with our rights-based approach to policy making, the Scottish Greens will support the abolition of the 'not proven' verdict and a thorough review of jury numbers and the majority required to secure a conviction.

MINIMUM USE OF FORCE

The Scottish Greens believe any use of force should be proportionate and used as the last resort in any situation. We are extremely concerned at the use of so-called 'spit hoods' - mesh hoods used on suspects in incidents of assault by spitting - which have been used on children and individuals with suspected mental health problems. Their use risks restricting breathing and can cause extreme distress, and evidence suggests that they do not protect Officers from disease transmission; their principle justification. The Scottish Greens support Amnesty International's call to stop issuing spit hoods to police officers.

MAKE LEGAL AID AVAILABLE TO ALL DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS

Far too many women and children experiencing domestic abuse in Scotland lack access to justice because they are not eligible for Civil Legal Aid. Currently, victims of domestic abuse are

given 'additional measures of support' in criminal cases but this is not routinely replicated in civil cases, nor is there adequate provision of civil legal aid. The Scottish Greens will work to ensure all those who need Legal Aid and related support will receive it, including in civil proceedings.

The Scottish Greens will enshrine the right to lifelong anonymity for victims of sexual crimes in law.

DECRIMINALISE SEX WORK

We will fight for the decriminalisation of sex work to ensure sex workers are legally protected from exploitation, trafficking and violence and have improved access to support and healthcare.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Scottish Greens believe we need to do much more to tackle endemic sexual harassment and violence against women in Scotland. We will develop a strategy that effectively prevents and responds to violence, and that centres the needs and concerns of survivors. At its heart will be a focus on education, through ensuring the delivery of high quality consent based relationship and sex education, training and information campaigns, and on ensuring public services better respond to survivors of abuse.

We support reform of the criminal justice system so that it better works for survivors, and will create a Victims Commissioner for Scotland to represent the interests of victims and to drive improvements and innovation in the justice system.

TACKLE WILDLIFE CRIME

The ongoing failure, by police and prosecutors, to address the shameful illegal wildlife persecution in Scotland requires much stronger enforcement. The widespread illegal killing of birds of prey, for example, continues with impunity, and the Scottish Government's own research has found large numbers of golden eagles disappearing in suspicious circumstances. Yet detection of these crimes is rare and prosecutions even rarer. The Scottish Greens believe Police Scotland could do much more.

We will:

- Deliver a fully resourced a Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit to investigate wildlife persecution and enforce protection, and ensure there are adequate wildlife crime officers in all regions.
- Push for greater use of existing sanctions, including the removal of General Licences.
- Make specific provision to allow consideration of video evidence by the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service in cases relating to wildlife crime.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Support victims

- Increase funding for victims' groups, specifically Scottish Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland, along with other groups providing women and girls support and advice services.
- Ensure funding is available to TARA-the Trafficking

Awareness Raising Alliance who provide assistance to the increasing numbers of trafficked persons.

Support prison reform

- Support a presumption against short sentences, and increase funding for the rehabilitative alternatives to custody.
- Withdraw Crown immunity from prisons to ensure accountability.
- Introduce special provision for offenders who are mentally ill and for women who are pregnant or have young children, so that imprisonment is a last resort and specialist support is in place.
- Improve living conditions for prisoners by bringing forward a framework of rights.

CULTURE

Scottish Green achievements in the last 5 years include:

- **Secured funding for local culture services, saving projects like the community youth orchestra Big Noise Raploch**
- **Secured changes to BBC editorial guidelines on the platforming of dark-money think tanks and corporate front groups**
- **Supported the fossil free culture movement**

The Scottish Greens believe that the cultural sector and creative industries can be the backbone of a wellbeing economy, as we

recover from the pandemic and build towards a zero carbon future. For this to become a reality we must stabilise our cultural sector and support its creative thinkers, makers, artists and practitioners. Investment now will lead to long-term benefits for our communities, our economy and our climate.

PROPER INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT MAKE CULTURE

Cultural stimulation increases wellbeing and enriches lives, yet the sector is constantly underfunded and underappreciated. Brexit, the loss of EU funding, and the lack of jobs due to the pandemic has put tremendous pressure on the sector. The Scottish Greens will invest in Scotland's culture.

We will:

- Increase investment in culture, and ensure all regions benefit from this by supporting local authorities to develop resourced Cultural Plans in collaboration with local residents, artists and industries.
- Prioritise the protection of libraries and cultural hubs to promote digital inclusion and skills development.
- Contribute to the revival of our town centres by supporting the repurposing of commercial properties into low carbon artists' spaces such as studios, venues, cinemas, workshops and production facilities.
- Amend the Scottish Government Sustainable Procurement Strategy to allow artists, creative freelancers and microbusinesses equal access to procurement opportunities.

PUT CULTURE AT THE HEART OF A GREEN RECOVERY

Artists and the wider cultural sector have a key role to play in our transition to a zero-carbon wellbeing economy.

We will:

- Extend the Scottish Government's Culture Collective scheme, which supports creative practitioners and communities to work together in adapting to the impacts of the pandemic, while providing vital employment for freelance artists.
- Develop an 'embedded artists' scheme that places artists and creative thinkers in local and national government, utilising their unique ways of thinking and working to imagine and co-design new spaces and systems for communities, economies and participatory democracy.
- Encourage collaborative working between the health and cultural sectors, involving arts organisations in the delivery of health and wellbeing in all Health and Social Care Partnership areas, and support initiatives such as A Sense of Belonging in Edinburgh, which promotes positive mental health and wellbeing through participation in the arts.
- Require those in receipt of public funding to demonstrate alignment with national carbon reduction targets

SUPPORT A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE CULTURAL SECTOR

The Scottish Greens will support diversity and inclusivity within our cultural sector.

We will:

- Create a cultural leadership scheme to ensure that people from diverse backgrounds are heard at an early stage across Scottish Government cultural policy making.
- Support the introduction of a mandatory quota for recruitment of artists from minority ethnic backgrounds for organisations in receipt of public funding.
- Support calls to remove barriers for people with disabilities to play, learn, compose and perform music, and to create drama training pathways for people with learning disabilities.
- Create an Innovative and Accessible Culture Fund to support artists' upskilling in the use of technologies to produce more accessible work.

NURTURE OUR GROWING SCOTTISH SCREEN SECTOR

The growing Scottish screen sector is a valuable cultural asset that should utilise and benefit talent and communities in Scotland.

We will:

- Mandate studios supported or owned by the Government, such as Kelvin Hall, to insist on an appropriate percentage of their workforce coming from the local area, and to make their studio facilities available for training and skills development for people across Scotland.
- Strengthen Screen Scotland's funding criteria to ensure that larger productions in particular support the sustainability of the Scottish film and television workforce

- through training programmes and apprenticeships.
- Create a standalone Scottish Screen Agency with a Board made up of at least 50% industry professionals, rotating on a 3-year basis similar to equivalent agencies across Europe.
 - Tackle the 'lift and shift' problem by tightening the definition of what makes a Scottish production, including what counts as a 'substantive base'.

THE SCOTTISH GREENS WILL ALSO

Support the mobility of Scottish artists

- Push for a free cultural work permit that gives artists visa-free travel throughout the EU, minimising the harm from Brexit on their livelihoods and artistic development.
- Create an Office for Cultural Exchange to facilitate European and international touring, festivals and residencies.

Tackle disinformation

- Develop a comprehensive strategy for tackling disinformation and raising media literacy, including public information campaigns and integration across the Curriculum for Excellence, particularly in Personal and Social Education.
- Establish an independent office to coordinate efforts to tackle disinformation, either through extending the remit of the Scottish Information Commissioner or creating a separate commissioner's office.

Revive local media

- Establish an interest-free loan fund to assist the buyout of local titles by their workforce or community on a cooperative or Community Interest Company model.
- Develop a match-funding scheme to help small businesses and charities advertise in their local media.

Protect the rights and revenue of artists

- Push for a fairer deal on streaming so that musicians and writers receive a greater share of the royalties from their music than record labels, streaming platforms and big tech companies.

Value arts education

- Give every primary pupil the opportunity to learn and develop through expressive arts such as music, drama, visual art and dance as both a participant and an audience member.
- Ensure that the experiences offered to children and young people are diverse in terms of content as well as artists represented, including diversity of ethnicity, class and disability

Support Scottish language diversity

- Support cultural ventures in all the languages of Scotland.
- Encourage the use of Gaelic, Scots and Doric as well as

the languages of those from minority ethnic backgrounds.

- Improve the provision of Gaelic language at home and in secondary, higher and further education.

**VOTE LIKE
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