

General Election 2017

10 ways all parties should stand for our environment

1. Commit to halting climate change

Scotland is in the process of developing its national Climate Change Plan, but Scottish greenhouse gas emissions are also affected by action – or lack of it – at UK level. The next UK Government must urgently publish a plan to deliver on existing legally-binding targets under the Climate Change Act, and commit to ambitious new targets under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to honour our Paris Agreement goal of keeping global temperature rise below 1.5°C.

2. Let Scotland fulfil our renewable energy potential

Scotland has exceptional renewable energy resources, as well as unique challenges in fully developing their potential. The next UK Government should devolve power over electricity markets to the Scottish Parliament, so that it can do more to meet Scotland's ambitious but essential renewable energy targets, prioritise reducing grid connection charges for community energy projects, and enable community energy projects to become licensed suppliers.

3. Make our air safe to breathe

Air pollution kills over 2,500 people in Scotland each year, and air pollution levels in the UK, including parts of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Perth, are consistently breaking European law. Brexit must not be used as an excuse to ignore the Government's duty to protect us – the next UK Government must commit to keep our air quality and vehicle emission standards at least as strong as those in the EU, and take emergency action to get air pollution down to safe levels.

4. End barriers to environmental justice

Scotland has made some progress towards fulfilling our Aarhus Convention commitments on access to environmental justice, information and decision-making. But Scottish people also rely on UK rules when they want to file a court case against, or request information from, a UK public body. The next UK Government must ensure people can bring court cases to protect their environmental rights in a timely and affordable way, reversing recent regressive changes to the expense regime that create a 'chilling effect' on public interest legal action. It should also extend Freedom of Information and Environmental Information rights to cover information held by private contractors on behalf of public bodies.

5. Create a banking system for the common good

While necessities like low-carbon industries and social housing cry out for investment, the publicly-owned Royal Bank of Scotland continues to bankroll the fossil fuel industry. The next UK Government should use its RBS assets to create a network of locally-owned, not-for-profit People's Banks to provide high street services and support local development, and National

Investment Banks to fund the innovation and infrastructure we need for a Just Transition to a post-fossil economy. A fair share of those assets should be passed to the Scottish Government, along with any powers it needs to create the Scottish National Investment Bank and the People's Banks in Scotland.

6. Get MPs' pension cash out of Big Oil

The pension fund for MPs invests millions in bankrolling the extraction of oil, gas and coal, including £5.6m in BP and £4.9m in Shell. Friends of the Earth Scotland is campaigning to get pension investments out of the doomed and destructive fossil fuel business and into sustainable investments. We need MPs to lead by example and refuse to profit from suffering: election candidates should commit to joining the 50 MPs from across the parties who have already called for the MPs' pension scheme to divest from the fossil fuel industry.

7. Ban fracking

Fracking is subject to a temporary moratorium in Scotland, and the Scottish Government is consulting on whether to allow it in future. For the sake of the climate and local people's health, Friends of the Earth Scotland is calling on the Scottish Government to permanently ban this destructive, dangerous and unnecessary activity, and the next UK Government must also commit to banning it in England and Wales.

8. Don't let Brexit threaten our environment

The UK's exit from the European Union puts at risk decades of co-operation on environmental protections, citizen's rights and technological development, and has brought uncertainty to the devolution settlement. The next UK Government must commit to maintaining all European Union environmental protections, and to keep up with any improvements to these during their term. In negotiations on the UK's future relationship with the EU, they must seek to maximise continued co-operation on environmental and climate change matters. Any powers in otherwise devolved areas of policy that are repatriated to the UK from the EU must be passed on to the devolved administrations without delay.

9. Quit nuclear power

The last UK Government committed the country to decades of expense and millennia of deadly waste, while diverting resources away from developing renewable energy, by pushing through plans for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point. The next Government must cancel the construction of Hinkley Point C, and rule out any further new nuclear reactors.

10. Scrap nuclear weapons

The UK's weapons of mass destruction on the Clyde do not make us safe. To ever use them would be a crime against humanity and would likely extinguish human civilization. They are swallowing up vast resources in money and engineering expertise that could be turned to defeating climate change – the real biggest threat of our age. The next UK Government must cancel the Trident programme and its replacement, with a comprehensive Just Transition plan to guarantee nuclear workers good jobs that employ their skills in socially-useful work.

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**Scotland's champion
for our environment.**