



Friends of the Earth Scotland

## Eleven for 11

An alternative manifesto for the 2011 Holyrood elections

July 2010

### Introduction

Since our inception Friends of the Earth Scotland has fought for environmental justice – the right to a healthy and safe environment and a fair share of the world's resources. This document sets out our vision and priorities for the future and our hopes for parties manifestos ahead of the 2011 Holyrood elections. In line with Friends of the Earth's core beliefs it deals with green governance, economic justice and sustainable solutions.

### Green Governance

Integrating rhetorical concern for the environment into policy, practice and delivery is a key challenge for all Governments and political parties. We are calling for:

#### 1) Green procurement

Scotland's public sector employs a quarter of Scotland's workforce and holds importance beyond its operational emissions. A *green procurement bill*, requiring the purchase of low carbon food, locally sourced sustainable building materials, energy efficient buildings and appliances, low carbon vehicles, and appropriate advice and rules for staff is needed. This would have a transformational effect in reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions. It would simultaneously benefit local businesses and build confidence that Government and the wider public sector is 'walking the talk' when it comes to sustainable development and climate change.

#### 2) A new 'greener' relationship with local authorities

The duties on public bodies in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act require local authorities to contribute to Scotland's 42% emissions reductions target by 2020. Meeting this challenge will require greater effort from both local and central government. While a strong public body duty, with reporting and scrutiny mechanisms, would be a good start, there is also a need to provide incentives. A *strategic climate fund* for local authorities to bid into would help provide resources and action for local government to reduce GHG emissions. This fund would also need to be accompanied by a carbon budget and carbon assessment tool for local authorities.

#### 3) Access to environmental justice

Access to judicial review in Scotland is costly, difficult and not in line with the Aarhus Convention. This leads to inequality between corporations and the wealthy who can afford to bring a case forward and community groups, NGOs and the poor who – quite literally – can't afford to. An *environmental rights bill* is needed to ensure affordable, merits-based and timely access to justice in environmental matters.

### Economic Justice

To create a more sustainable and better society solutions to the climate crisis must be both scientifically based and socially just. We are calling for:

#### 4) Alternatives to GDP

There is a recognition across the political spectrum that while we may be better off materially than ever before, this doesn't necessarily translate to a happier more satisfied society. As the Sustainable Development Commission has said, alternatives to GDP must be explored.<sup>i</sup> However, paying lip service to alternative indicators is not enough – they must become a central part of Government's purpose and hold equal weight to GDP. A *well-being advisory group*, replacing the Council of Economic Advisors, should be set up. This would lead to greater scrutiny of carbon inducing projects with questionable, limited benefit and a greater appreciation of carbon saving policies achieving multiple benefits.

#### 5) A just transition to green jobs

The scope for environmental measures such as renewables, energy efficiency, waste reduction and public transport to create Scottish jobs is massive. But a low carbon economy will also mean less jobs in some sectors such as oil and gas. As we know all too well, restructuring can be painful and leave people

unemployed for a generation. A Scottish forum for a just transition should be set up and tasked with developing a transitional skills strategy. This strategy would look at potential areas for job creation; actions required to cope with potential skills shortages; and actions required to help support and re-locate workers who could lose out. By increasing support for environmental action in our workforces and by demonstrating the huge potential to create green jobs, we believe this could have a hugely significant role in increasing confidence in tackling climate change.

### **6) Green tax reform**

Whatever financial powers are in the hands of the Scottish Parliament for the 2011-2015 term, the next Government should commit to a green tax shift – rewarding ‘environmental goods’ while discouraging ‘environmental bads’. Within the Scottish context this could involve using council tax rebates, road user charging and proposals within the Calman Commission such as landfill tax to create a greener, fairer tax system.

### **7) Genuine commitment to climate justice**

Scotland owes a climate debt to the developing world. We could start paying this back, while sending a strong message to the international community, by committing to go carbon neutral by 2050 through raising the 2050 emissions reduction target in the Climate Act to 100% or more. Consideration should also be given to ruling out carbon offsetting by tightening the caps on carbon credits in the Climate Act; providing funds, over and above the existing aid budget, for the developing world to grow in a clean way while adapting to the consequences of climate change; and providing access to the courts for communities in the developing world adversely affected by the actions of Scottish based companies.

## **Sustainable Solutions**

There is an urgent need for sustainable solutions across all sectors of the Scottish economy. We are calling for:

### **8) Decarbonisation of Scotland’s energy system by 2030**

The UK Climate Change Committee has recommended that the UK’s power sector should be almost completely decarbonised by 2030. Recent research by energy analysts Garrad Hassan also demonstrated the enormous potential Scotland has to increase generation of electricity from renewable sources, concluding that renewable energy can meet up to 143% of our projected annual electricity demand by 2030. Given this unique resource, Scotland should commit to 100% renewable electricity by 2030; 50% carbon cuts in heat; and 70% carbon cuts in transport. This should be achieved by promoting renewable energy and microgeneration while ruling out new nuclear and dirty coal plants.

### **9) Waste reduction targets**

While good progress on recycling has been made the overall level of waste produced in Scotland is still going up every year. Ambitious waste reduction targets to cut climate emissions by at least 50% by 2020 and a programme to deliver them should be established. The mechanisms available to achieve these targets include local taxation, domestic waste charging (with parallel waste incentives), education and regulation.

### **10) Increased investment in public transport and active travel**

Transport is the one area where emissions continue to go in the wrong direction. Given that only 1% of the transport budget goes towards walking and cycling programmes, this is perhaps of little surprise. We need to rebalance the transport budget to ensure that at least 75% of is spent on public transport and 10% is spent on active travel. This would help cut emissions, while simultaneously bringing substantial community, health and job creation benefits.

### **11) No high carbon infrastructure in NPF3**

Given the need to meet our 42% emissions reduction target by 2020 we cannot afford to promote major projects that will massively increase carbon emissions. There should be no high carbon infrastructure in the third National Planning Framework. This would mean ruling out major road building projects, airport expansion and fossil fuelled power stations.

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<sup>i</sup> Sustainable Development Commission third annual assessment: <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/third-annual-assessment.html>. See also the Stiglitz Commission report to President Sarkozy <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/sep/13/economics-economic-growth-and-recession-global-economy>