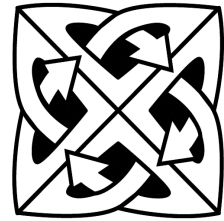


Friends of the Earth Scotland proposals for inclusion in party manifestos for 2003 Scottish Parliamentary elections.



Friends of the Earth Scotland

Environmental Justice

Many people who are living in disadvantaged communities are also confronted by a degraded environment, are disproportionately exposed to the risk of pollution and find it difficult to secure information and redress regarding pollution.

- Pollution prosecution – commit to improve environmental prosecution so that the polluter pays e.g. introduce environmental courts or shake up of Procurator Fiscal system. Equip SEPA with the powers to levy on the spot fines for certain pollution offences.

- In the four years from 1996/97 302 cases were recommended for prosecution by SEPA - no decision taken by PFs in 17% of these cases and 34% of the remaining returned to SEPA marked 'no proceedings'.
- In several jurisdictions fiscals initiated prosecutions in only half or fewer of the cases referred to them by the agency. (Arbroath - 17%, Dumfries 35%, Glasgow 50%, Kilmarnock - 37%, Paisley 50% and Stranraer 20%).
- West Region - in cases where decision taken in 1999/2000 65% of cases the decision has been not to prosecute.

Comparison with Environment Agency

- Prosecutions for water and waste offences are roughly four times less common in Scotland than England and Wales - only 1 prosecution under IPC has been brought in 3 years compared to 17 in England and Wales.
- Fines in Scotland remain well below those in England and Wales - average fine per water pollution offence in 1998/89 was £2,414 - about two thirds of the level south of the border - for waste offences the average fine in Scotland was £705 - about a third of the level in England and Wales.

Planning – improvements for third parties

- Third Party Right of Appeal - introduce TPRa along the lines suggested by Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution i.e. for developments which require an environmental impact assessment; where the planning authority has an interest; where it is contrary to the local development plan or where an approved development was subject to planning officers recommendation for refusal.

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- Mediation - make provision for a public mediation service, so that communities can engage with developers over controversial applications without resorting to legal or quasi judicial routes.
- Corporate accountability - Promote voluntary good neighbour initiatives which encourage companies to go beyond the legal minimum of regulatory requirements regarding environmental protection; access to information and responding to community concerns.
- Information– introduce a Pollution Release and Transfer Register detailing chemical releases and potential health effects, with provision for web based access and annual updates.

- Aarhus proposes a list of 244 substances ⁽¹⁾.
- The American Toxic Release Inventory requires manufacturers to report on the releases of over 600 chemicals.
- In Canada 268 substances are covered under their pollution release and transfer register.
- In Australia 90 chemicals on the list.

Sustainable Development

Scotland like all Northern nations has unsustainable consumption and production patterns. To live within our environmental space we need to cut resource and energy consumption and measure the impacts of our economic and social activities, as measured against internationally benchmarked sustainability indicators.

- Cabinet sub committee for a sustainable Scotland should produce an annual state of Scotland report monitoring performance against indicators. Specific reports on the sustainable development implications of the spending review and specific programme impacts should also be made public.

- 18% of Britain's total GDP expenditure is via central and local government purchasing ⁽²⁾.

- Establish the ecological footprint of Scotland and Scotland's cities and develop a strategy to reduce our impacts.

- Ecological footprint of UK calculated as 5.2 ha/capita ⁽³⁾, this compares to:
Global capacity 1.9 ha/capita
India 0.8
Netherlands 3.3
Canada 7.8

- Enterprise – revise ‘Smart successful Scotland’ so that the enterprise network promotes green jobs and the greening of business and addresses infrastructural deficiencies e.g. paper recycling capacity, fridge recycling and renewable energy construction developments.

- More permanent jobs could be created (per million tonnes of waste processed) by recycling and composting compared to landfill and incineration ⁽⁴⁾.

Type of waste disposal	Number of Jobs (per millions of tons waste processed)
Landfill	40-60
Incineration	100-290
Composting	200-300
Recycling	400-590

- Employment implications of renewables compared to conventional power generation result in estimated net creation of 11,600 jobs ⁽⁵⁾.

- In Public and Public Private Partnership projects, the design, build, operating and procurement policy should be measured against resource use, energy and travel implications with the more sustainable developments to be favoured as part of the contract process.

- PPP projects
 - £5.6 billion – Glasgow Housing Stock Transfer Scheme
 - £1.15 billion – Schools refurbishment/replacement programme

Climate change

Scotland is signed up, through the UK Government, to commitments under the Kyoto protocol to reduce climate change gasses emissions. However it is not clear what contribution will be made by Scotland nor whether current policy initiatives are sufficient to cut emissions.

- Propose a climate change target, by elaborating the current vague ‘equitable share’ into a stated target for Scotland broken down to sectoral guidelines.
- CO₂ proof major policies and projects.
- Binding targets for home energy conservation, - translate the PIU targets for Scottish housing and revising the Home Energy Conservation Act.
- Extend new building regulations to existing building stock.
- Energy audits to be made of Scotland's building e.g. by requiring sellers surveys of private domestic housing.
- Rule out new nuclear build.

Climate change:

- Between 1990 and 1998 Scotland's carbon dioxide emissions fell by only 1.2% while England's fell by 9.4% ⁽⁶⁾.
- Scotland, with 9% of the population, produces 13% of UK carbon dioxide emissions ⁽⁶⁾.
- Scotland cannot reach the Labour Party commitment of a 20% cut in CO2 from 1990 levels by 2010. In the best case Scotland's emissions might be 16.6% below 1990 levels, in the worst case they would be only 4.7% below ⁽⁷⁾.

Nuclear:

- British Energy 650 million loan.
- 96 per cent decline in share value in the past year.
- Ecotricity claim this sum would build sufficient onshore wind turbines to supply 15% of UK energy demand ⁽⁸⁾.
- MORI poll (July), 72% prefer renewables to nuclear (costs being similar) ⁽⁹⁾.
- Power output of Hunterston B and Torness is equivalent to the electricity exported from Scotland to England and Northern Ireland.

Transport

The recent transport policy is not likely to reduce CO2 emissions nor curb traffic growth far less reduce traffic numbers. It has also downplayed efforts to improve cycling and walking.

- Charging regimes - introduce economic incentives for modal switch (eg trunk road user charging, cordon charging, out of town shopping centre levy) with money linked to public transport not building new roads.
- Certain proposed roads such as M74 northern extension and Aberdeen city Bypass should not proceed.
- Review transport spending priorities - expand safe routes to school network, provide funding for city trams.
- Introduce walking and cycling targets, and commit funding enabling them to be achieved.

- Without action traffic levels in Scotland will grow by 27% cent over the next 20 years ⁽¹⁰⁾.
- Executive plans to stabilise traffic at 2001 levels by 2021 but no interim targets set ⁽¹⁰⁾.
- As part of this plan the projections are for an overall reduction in traffic and pollution in Aberdeen and Edinburgh, however, in Glasgow traffic set to increase by some 40% ⁽¹⁰⁾.
- Scottish Executive spending commitment to new trunk road building since November 1999 totals approximately £520m ⁽¹¹⁾.
- 36% of Scotland's population have no access to a car ⁽¹²⁾.
- The Public Transport Fund provides around £50 million a year for the whole of Scotland – the equivalent of one mile of the M74 extension.
- People on lowest income quartile make over 4 times as many trips per year on a bus that those in the highest income quartile ⁽¹³⁾.
- Over past 25 years the DETR have calculated that in real terms the cost of rail travel increased by 62%, bus and coach travel by 82% and motoring by 1% ⁽¹⁴⁾.
- In the UK 55% of people over 70 years of age, and up to 60% of the poorest 20% of households have no car.

Waste

Scotland's record on recycling is one of the worst in Europe and we still have not grasped the basic principle of sustainable development which means pursuing economic development which is not reliant on increasing our resource consumption.

- Area waste management strategy to be binding , with provision for doorstep recycling for every household in Scotland by 2010
- Introduce a carrier bag levy as in Ireland .
- Incineration – no permission for new incinerators
- Ban the application of abattoir waste to land and introduce tougher control on other organic wastes.

- Recycling ⁽¹⁵⁾ .
Percentage of household waste recycled in recent years:
Switzerland - 52%
Netherlands - 45%
Austria - 45%
Norway - 34%
Sweden - 33%
USA - 31.5%
Germany - 30%
Finland - 30%
Canada - 29%

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Denmark - 28%
England & Wales - 10%
Scotland - 6.6%

- Carrier bag levy
10 billion plastic bags given away in the UK each year.
10 years to degrade on average.
Ireland – 90% decline in plastic bag purchase since introduction of tax ⁽¹⁶⁾ .

Agriculture

- Organic farming - set ambitious targets for organic production in Scotland and introduce an action plan to achieve these.
- GMOs- given the potential impact of the contamination of organic and conventional crops, halt farm scale trials and maintain the freeze on commercial release of GMO crops.

- 70% of UK organic produce is imported ⁽¹⁷⁾ .
- UK remains the fastest growing organic market in Europe ⁽¹⁷⁾ .
- The area of organic land in Scotland has increased from 60,000 ha in 2000 to 140,00 ha in 2001 with an additional 148,000 ha currently undergoing conversion. However there is a marked imbalance between farm types, in that 85% of land in conversion to organic is upland rough grazing ⁽¹⁷⁾ .
- Each year 136 million is spent removing pesticides and nitrates from drinking water in the UK ⁽¹⁸⁾ .
- 45% of shoppers at farmers markets wish to be able to purchase locally produced organic food ⁽¹⁹⁾ .
- Current separation distances of 50 metres for conventional crops and 200 metres for organic crops or seeds are inadequate. The EC suggest that a 5km separation distance would be needed to ensure that oilseed rape seed production achieved a contamination threshold of 0.3% ⁽²⁰⁾ .

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Country	Recycling rate	Source
Switzerland	52% in 1998	Swiss Environment Agency
Netherlands	46% in 1998	Dutch Environment Ministry
	60% by 2000	
Austria	49.7% in 2000	Austrian Environment Agency
Germany	48% in 1996	Resource Recovery Forum Warmer Bulletin
Norway	40% in 2000	Statistics Norway
Sweden	34% in 1997	Resource Recovery Forum Warmer Bulletin
USA	31.5% in 1998	Biocycle annual nationwide survey
	35% by 2005	
Finland	30% in 1997	ETSU for DTI
Canada	29% in 1997	ETSU for DTI
Denmark	31% in 1996	Danish Environmental Protection Agency
	40-50% by 2000	
France	12% in 1993	Resource Recovery Forum Warmer Bulletin
Spain	20% in 1997	Resource Recovery Forum Warmer Bulletin
Italy	13% in 1997	Resource Recovery Forum Warmer Bulletin
England	12% from 2000-01	DEFRA
	30% by 2010	
Scotland	6.9% from 2000-01	Scottish Accounts Commission
Northern Ireland	5% from 1998-99	NI Waste Management Strategy
	25% by 2010	
Wales	4.7% from 1998-99	National Assembly for Wales
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