

A motion to the Friends of the Earth Scotland AGM 2025

Proposer: Catherine Lyons

Seconder: Mark Ballard

This motion proposes:

1. An amendment to the 2024-26 Strategy
2. The commitments we make to movement building

Introduction

Over nearly fifty years, Friends of the Earth Scotland has conducted national mobilisations, events, training programmes, support for local struggles, online and community organising, and built coalitions. These approaches have enabled key local and national victories. However, they have fallen short of sustaining a consistent base. We therefore propose to commit to *movement building* to fulfil our larger *Organisational Strategy, 2024–26*: our mission, values, and strategic aims.

The movement-building approach and this set of commitments have been created collaboratively by the Senior Leadership Team, the Campaigns Team, community-organising staff in Aberdeenshire, and members of the board.

This motion is brought before FoES members because the trustees and staff team believe that movement building is the work of many, and we all need to understand the strategy in order to deliver it, and because this is a plan to deepen participation, and as such can only succeed if it has the backing of our members.

Amendment to the 2024-26 *Organisational Strategy*

Our 2024-26 strategy set out the following Strategic Aims:

1. Scotland is on track to make a just transition away from fossil fuel production by 2031.
2. FoES is a thriving, resilient and inclusive organisation, and a best practice employer.

To give due prominence to movement building in the *Organisational Strategy*, this amendment proposes a third strategic aim:

3. Movements for system change in Scotland that align with our vision become more powerful and connected.

The *Organisational Strategy* presents our Vision for the future of environmental and climate justice:

a world where systems of power and resource use are transformed so that all living beings and ecosystems have what they need to flourish, now and in the future.

The *Organisational Strategy* distinguishes between building the ‘climate movement’ and the ‘broader progressive movement’; it introduces ‘deep partnership work and relationship building’ where these intersect. FoES is uniquely placed in Scotland to foreground climate and

environmental justice as a compelling dimension of the broader Scottish movements for system change.

Our commitments to movement building

For FoES, movement building means growing the capacity and power of networks of people, communities, and groups seeking environmental, social, and economic justice.

In our movement-building approach, together we establish the following commitments.

1. We *believe this diverse approach* to movement building will establish lasting change.
2. We *prioritise membership* as the main way to get involved in our movement, to build power through participation; we commit to diversifying our membership demographics.
3. We *balance political advocacy*, mobilising *action*, and community *organising*.
4. We work at *community and neighbourhood level*, speaking to the experiences of people in Scotland, identifying and empowering leaders, sharing knowledge about systems of power, and building partnerships of solidarity.
5. We *campaign for transformative solutions* to environmental problems: proactive alternatives that are stepping stones to system change, connecting local and global experiences of injustice.
6. We *support other groups in alignment with our vision*, with funds, spaces, knowledge and services, attending to conflict and care, and understand our leadership role in climate and broader progressive movements.
7. We *amplify our distinctive voice* within broader movements for system change, recognising environmental justice as the lens through which FoES understands inequality; we recognise that the impact of environmental degradation and climate change falls most acutely on those least responsible for it, whether in the industrialised North or the global South.
8. We *develop internal governance protocols* and structures that mitigate risk, uphold the obligations of trustees, distribute power democratically within the membership, and amplify those voices within the movement that struggle to be heard.
9. We *monitor and evaluate* our deployment of the strategy; we *reflect on progress* and use *our learning* to inform ongoing development.
10. We embed movement building *within our fund-raising strategy* and commit to *sharing our learning with grant-funders*.
11. We *work strategically*: we commit to this work in the long-term, preparing for movement boom and bust, not getting deflected by reactive campaigns, adapting to change, being accountable and democratic, sharing our strategy openly.
12. We *account to the membership* by sharing the experience and results of this strategy at each AGM.