

Green Party	Stepping in the right direction... or dragging their heels?
Tackling climate change and fuel poverty: energy efficient homes and public buildings	<p>Going even further than our everyone ask, the Greens commit to 65,000 houses built or renovated each year with levels of insulation, and micropower to achieve zero carbon emissions. As well as incorporating our specific Ask, the Greens make the following commitments to energy efficiency in the home and public buildings:</p> <p>Energy efficient homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding targets on energy efficient housing by 40% by 2020 • From 2008 all buildings sold/rented to have a Home Energy certificate • Council tax rebates for installing micro-renewables and energy efficiency measures • Permitted rights for micro power installations • Triple the funding of the current Scottish Community and Household Renewables Initiative <p>Energy efficient public buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New public sector, residential, and commercial developments to incorporate onsite zero/low carbon technology contributing at least an extra 25% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions beyond building regulation standards <p>Tackling fuel poverty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to meet the 2016 fuel poverty target, the Green party will increase investment in the energy efficiency of current housing stock to ensure that no Scottish home falls below NHER 7 (national home energy rating of good) by 2016
Green Networks for People and Wildlife	<p>everyone's Ask for cycling and walking networks incorporating parks and nature-rich areas is included within the Green manifesto, together with a national framework for walking, proper funding for upgrading of footpaths and better provision for cyclists using public transport. They also pledge to fight the erosion of green spaces and playing fields, and promote greater community access to green spaces and woodland.</p>
Healthy sustainable food in Scotland's schools and hospitals	<p>The Green manifesto commits to the everyone Ask to provide fresh (70%), local (50%) and organic (30%) food in schools and hospitals. They propose a Green Public Procurement Unit to advise the public and private sector and would look for ways to keep food chains of producers, suppliers and retailers as local as possible.</p>
Better protection and management of Scotland's nature	<p>The Green's proposals for a marine bill for Scotland include commitment to marine protected areas. They commit to establishing Scotland's first marine and coastal park.</p> <p>In order to ensure the halt of biodiversity loss by 2010 they pledge to increase funding for biodiversity, and will review the 2004 Nature Conservation Act to ensure biodiversity is conserved. An ecological restoration programme will be established in order that Scotland fulfils its obligations under the European Habitats Directive. They also have ambitious targets to increase native woodland cover: 20% by 2010 and 25% by 2020. They suggest that communities should be paid to protect public goods: wild places, freshwater and tackling climate change.</p> <p>On landscape protection, they will extend the Cairngorms National Park and will put in place a Scottish Action Plan for peatland restoration.</p>