

<p>Labour manifesto</p> <p>Tackling climate change and fuel poverty: energy efficient homes and public buildings</p>	<p>Stepping in the right direction... or dragging their heels?</p> <p>Although the everyone ask is not mentioned specifically, Labour do have a raft of policies aimed at more energy efficient homes and public buildings including:</p> <p>Energy efficient homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New planning regulations to make it easier for people to install micro-renewables in their home • Tougher building standards for energy efficiency and incentives to make use of micro-renewables more attractive • Design competitions to encourage the best housing design and technology to build carbon neutral homes • Introduction of a Scottish standard for sustainable homes • New housing to be at least 15% more energy efficient by 2011 • Carbon free housing by 2016 <p>Energy efficient public buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new public sector buildings include micro-renewable energy where possible • Develop carbon neutral schools • New targets for Scottish government to be carbon neutral <p>Tackling fuel poverty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge to ‘increase energy efficiency through better controlled heating, improved insulation and schemes which help reduce the cost of energy such as combined heat and power schemes’ for the fuel poor • Work with social housing providers to take forward energy efficiency schemes
<p>Green networks for people and wildlife</p>	<p>No specific mention of the everyone ask on green networks in the manifesto, and very little about cycling and walking except for the promise to continue developing the ‘safer routes to schools’ initiative. However, there is provision for green space mentioned including a promise to ‘focus on the protection of our industrial heritage as an aspect of regeneration while securing environmental improvements for example by creating foot and cycle path networks, nature reserves and green corridors on vacant and derelict sites’. Another interesting proposal is for a “community environmental standard” to ‘improve community access to green space, places for children to play and green corridors’ and ‘require development of new housing schemes to include community facilities and high quality green space in their plans’. There is also a ‘Town centre turnaround fund’ giving local communities ownership of rundown land to turn into safe green space with a £50 million initial starter fund.</p>
<p>Healthy sustainable food in Scotland’s schools and hospitals</p>	<p>There are no specific targets, but Labour does pledge more generally to increase ‘the use of local, unprocessed and organic food in school and hospital meals and other public sector catering’ as part of their wider policy on ethical procurement.</p>
<p>Better Protection and management of Scotland’s nature</p>	<p>everyone is pleased to see mention of a marine bill for Scotland in the Labour manifesto – however, it is short on promises to protect the marine environment stating that Labour will ‘consider the case for further nature protection legislation both on land and sea’ – a little vague. However, the manifesto does pledge to establish Scotland’s first coastal and marine national park.</p> <p>The manifesto makes a general pledge to ‘protect and enhance our biodiversity and the habitats of our threatened wildlife’. This will involve protection for specific species – the red squirrel and wildcat are given specific mention. Labour will also re-introduce the beaver and common crane. Labour’s funding for biodiversity comes via environmentally-friendly farming with a promise to increase voluntary modulation of the Common Agricultural Policy up to 15% over time for environmental protection and rural development.</p> <p>There is no specific mention of landscape legislation in the manifesto.</p>