

Liberal Democrats	Stepping in the right direction... or dragging their heels?
Tackle climate change and fuel poverty: energy efficient homes and public buildings	The Liberal Democrat manifesto gives priority to energy conservation and includes a commitment to consult on new energy reduction targets, reductions in Council tax for homeowners taking forward energy efficiency measures, and energy performance certificates to become part of tenancy agreements and single seller surveys. Energy efficient homes are linked to ending fuel poverty, with the creation of a 'Healthy Green Homes Fund' to act as a one stop shop for the public on energy issues. The fund will upgrade 40,000 homes a year from 2009 to make them more energy efficient – as everyone asks. In public buildings, the Liberal Democrats commit to micro-generation providing 1/5 of energy on site for all public buildings by 2020. They also promise that Scottish Executive buildings will be carbon neutral by 2010.
Green Networks for people and wildlife	Cycling and walking are taken seriously in the Liberal Democrat manifesto: there will be targets for children to cycle, walk and take public transport to school, and a new 'Cycling Demonstration Town Fund' for developing cycle paths and cycle facilities locally. They also promise to provide long term funding for the development of the Core path network via land management contract incentives. However, there is no specific policy linking cycling and walking with green spaces and green corridors.
Healthy Sustainable Food in Scotland's Schools and Hospitals	The Liberal Democrat Manifesto is the only party fully committed to rolling out the East Ayrshire 'Food for Life' project to all schools across Scotland, and then to apply similar criteria to all public sector organisations – committing to our everyone Ask.
Better protection and management of Scotland's nature	<p>The Liberal Democrats commit to a marine bill to 'provide a coherent framework for managing our seas, including measures for marine spatial planning, conservation and sea fisheries'. This will include seeking to extend jurisdiction over Scottish seas up to 200 nautical miles. They commit to the process of establishing a marine and coastal national park.</p> <p>On biodiversity, the Liberal Democrats promise more coordinated action to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 through improving biodiversity indicators and increasing funding. They will consult on extending the existing target of features cited on Sites of Special Scientific Interest that are in 'favourable condition' from 80% by 2008 to 100% by 2010.</p> <p>The Liberal Democrats are the only party to specifically mention landscape, pledging to consult on renewing National Scenic Areas (NSAs) which 'could include the ability to create new NSAs, review boundaries, and management and give provisions for promotion of NSAs.'</p>