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Anas Sarwar MSP  
Scottish Labour Party  
Donald Dewar House  
139 Norfolk St  
Glasgow  
G5 9EA

24 April 2025

Dear Anas Sarwar MSP,

### **Making environmental policy inclusive in Scotland**

I am writing to you to share recommendations from the [Everyone's Environment](#) project which engaged with Scottish charities and marginalised and disadvantaged groups to understand their needs from environmental policy.

The recommendations of [our position statement](#) were developed in partnership with Scottish human rights and environmental charities, and 13 have signed up to support them.

In 2024, a series of deliberation groups and a roundtable event brought together voices of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people, young people, Disabled people, and older people in Scotland. These discussions highlighted five policy priorities:

- access to quality green and blue spaces
- accessible, affordable and clean transport
- fair access to renewables
- high-quality housing
- accessible green jobs and skills.

The people that we spoke to also emphasised four priorities for how these policies should be delivered. They wanted to see:

- active involvement in policy design and implementation
- a rights-based and fairness-driven approach
- accessible and inclusive information
- greater action at the devolved level.



Our findings underscore the need for greater focus on the social outcomes of environmental policies. Addressing this gap is essential to ensure that environmental policies equitably benefit different social groups in Scotland. We are calling for all Scottish Parties to embed a human rights-based approach throughout their environmental policies.

We urge the Scottish Labour Party to champion these recommendations and work towards environmental policies that uphold economic, social, and cultural rights while protecting the right to a healthy environment for all.

We hope that our recommendations provide practical options for implementing this commitment in your manifesto and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Shivali Fifield  
Chief Officer, Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland

Position statement endorsed by:

Greenspace Scotland  
Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)  
Human Rights Consortium Scotland  
Inclusion Scotland  
NPC  
The Poverty Alliance  
SCVO  
Verture  
Woodcraft Folk  
YMCA Scotland  
Young Sea Changers Scotland  
Youth Link Scotland