

Everyone's Environment Scotland policy reviews

The [Everyone's Environment programme](#) is a collaboration of over 80 social and environmental charities to accelerate action on the social impacts of the environmental crises.

As part of the programme, the [Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland](#) was commissioned to produce policy reviews on access to green and blue spaces, transport, renewables, housing and green jobs in Scotland between September and November 2024.

#3 Fair access to renewables

Renewables in Scotland

Definition of renewable energy

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has defined renewable energy as 'any form of energy from solar, geophysical or biological sources that is replenished by natural processes at a rate that equals or exceeds its rate of use.'¹ Renewable energy technologies ('renewables') include bioenergy (burning fuels derived from biological sources such as wood), solar energy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy and wind energy.²

Renewable energy production and consumption in Scotland

In 2022, Scotland's renewable energy production consumption: renewables generated the equivalent of 113% of Scotland's gross energy consumption and represented 71% of all energy production.³

Despite the abundance of renewable energy, renewables accounted for only 29.5% of energy consumption.⁴ Most of energy in Scotland was consumed for heating (48.2%), but only 7.8% of it came from renewables.⁵ Although renewables production exceeded the volume of consumption, 31% of all households were estimated to be in fuel poverty in 2022 and were not able to afford the energy they would have otherwise consumed.⁶

Instead of renewable energy production, connection to renewable energy supply and energy prices limit access to renewables for the priority groups (young people, minority ethnic communities, disabled people and older people). Diversifying the ownership of renewable energy assets from private companies to communities and localities could address both barriers.



Devolved and reserved areas of renewable energy policy

Energy policy and market support for renewables in Scotland is reserved to the UK Government. Devolved competencies for the Scottish Government include building standards, environmental regulation and planning permissions.⁷

Priority groups & cross-policy priorities

Priority groups: These are noted if the policy mentions these groups in a significant way:

1. Young people
2. Minority ethnic communities
3. Disabled people and older people

Cross-policy priorities: These are noted if the policy mentions these aspects in a significant way:

1. Active involvement from priority groups in policy development and implementation
2. A rights-based/ fairness approach to policies
3. Accessible information
4. Greater action at the devolved level

What are the parties proposing?

The proposals from parties other than the Scottish National Party who set government policy have been taken from party manifestos for the 2021 Scottish Parliament election. Party manifestos for the 2026 election are currently being developed.

- Scottish National Party: References provided to current government policies.
- Scottish Labour: [National Recovery Plan](#)⁸
- Scottish Greens: [Our Common Future](#)⁹
- Scottish Liberal Democrats: [Put Recovery First](#)¹⁰



Increase renewable energy production

Increase renewable energy production			
Party	Policy	Priority groups	Cross-policy priorities
Scottish National Party (SNP)	<p>National Performance Indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment: Energy from Renewable Sources (the amount of renewable energy generated in Scotland as a percentage of Scottish gross energy consumption).¹¹ <p>Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan.¹²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to increase more than 20 GW of additional renewable electricity on- and offshore by 2030, energy security through development of our own resources and additional energy storage (p.3). Onshore wind: policy statement¹³ Wave Energy Scotland (WES) technology programme¹⁴ Developing a Bioenergy Action Plan for Scotland¹⁵ <p>Target to generate 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption from renewable sources by 2030, and by 2050 to decarbonise energy system almost completely.¹⁶</p> <p>Green Heat Innovation Support Programme¹⁷</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland (SDS), Heat Decarbonisation sub-group of the CESAP, to work with the heat and energy efficiency industry to: develop new targeted skills support; maximise existing skills pathways; establish new skills pathways; and, bolstering training capacity.¹⁸</p> <p>National Planning Framework 4, policy 11 supports development proposals for all forms of renewable technologies (outwith National Parks and National Scenic Areas).¹⁹</p>	-	1 3



Scottish Labour	<p>Climate recovery plan to invest in renewable energy and low-carbon infrastructure (p.22):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish the Scottish Energy Development Agency to coordinate the growth in renewable energy production including in skills and training.• Only approve new developments for offshore wind farms when a plan for supply chain manufacturing is in place and conditions on job creation in Scotland.	-	1
Scottish Greens	<p>Green infrastructure investment plan, with £450 million invested into a new deal for onshore wind and a support programme for the development of tidal energy. (p. 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Wind power:</i> Support upgrading existing wind farms with more powerful turbines, to deliver an additional 8GW by 2030 (p.7).• <i>Tidal power:</i> A long-term support programme for tidal power delivered either via an emergency derogation or ring-fencing contracts for tidal power, including a feed-in tariff to deliver 1GW of installed tidal energy by 2030. A 25m p.a. top-up revenue support programme for early stage tidal turbines, and a £10m p.a. tidal innovation programme to drive down the cost of tidal energy to under £100/MWh before 2030 (p.16).• <i>Hydropower:</i> Create a subsidy and non-domestic rates regime to grow smaller scale hydropower project, supporting rural communities. (p.15) <p>Green industrial strategy to grow the renewables sector (p.9):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A centre of excellence to deliver a technical skills programme for green manufacturing;• a Scotland-wide programme of ‘people and place centred industrial strategies’, resourcing	-	1 4



	<p>regions and localities to create and implement their own industrial plans.</p> <p>Planning reform to accelerate planning consents for onshore wind (outwith National Parks and National Scenic Areas) (p.15):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the climate emergency a material consideration in planning decisions; • A presumption in favour of repowering. 		
Scottish Liberal Democrats	<p>Set a new target for 100% of energy generated in Scotland to come from renewables by 2030, and develop the principle that Scottish electricity should be “100% renewable for 100% of the time” (p.37):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support projects developing underground geothermal energy for heating. 	-	-

Increase the number of homes heated with renewable energy

Increase the number of homes heated with renewable energy			
Party	Policy	Priority groups	Cross-policy priorities
Scottish National Party (SNP)	<p>Targets in law for renewable heat and heat networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Renewable heat target:</i> The Scottish Ministers must publish a plan for the promotion of the use of heat produced from renewable sources, including targets, deadlines and reporting (Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009).²⁰ • <i>Heat networks target:</i> 2.6 Terawatt hours (TWh) of output by 2027, 6 TWh of output by 2030, 7 TWh by 2035 (Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021)²¹ <p>Heat in Buildings Strategy, by 2045 almost all must be using a zero emissions heating system:²²</p>	-	1 2 3 4



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed Heat in Buildings Bill, ‘prohibit the use of polluting heating from 2045’ (meaning, fossil fuel burning heating systems) (p.14).²³• New Build Heat Standard, new homes and buildings must install climate-friendly heating systems instead of oil and gas boilers from 1 April 2024.²⁴• Consult stakeholders and citizens in delivering this strategy (p.28), only take forward actions where they are found to have no detrimental impact on fuel poverty rates (p.40), publish a monitoring and evaluation framework and work with COSLA to strengthen and integrate governance arrangements on heat and energy efficiency (p.124).• Heat networks:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New consenting regime to require new heat networks to use heat from low or zero emissions sources (p.16).○ Heat Network Pre-Capital Support Unit○ Review Permitted Development Rights (PDR) for heat networks• <i>New Renewable heat target (provisional)</i>: at least 22% of heat in buildings to be directly supplied from renewable sources by 2030. (p.25)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ £1.8bn investment into decarbonising heating in 1 million homes by 2030 (p.7).○ 2024 New Build Zero Emissions from Heat Standard for new buildings, all new homes delivered by Registered Social Landlords○ and local authorities will be zero emissions by 2026 (p.103).○ Phase out funding for fossil fuel heating systems by 2024 (p.40).		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Continue to use delivery programmes to target support to fuel poor households (p.37).○ Work with network companies to ensure vulnerable households moving to heat pumps are identified in distribution network operators' vulnerable customer strategies (p.39).○ Develop approaches and solutions to transition Scotland's historic buildings to low and zero emissions heating (p.50).○ Interest-free loans for heat and energy efficiency technologies via Home Energy Scotland (p.78).○ Extend Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund until 2026○ Establish Green Heat Finance Taskforce²⁵○ Warmer Homes Scotland helps eligible households by funding the installation of a range of heating (including renewable and micro-renewable heating measures).²⁶● <i>Heat in Buildings Research Programme</i>: includes analysing how building-level storage technologies could support deployment of zero emissions heating in domestic properties (p.23).● <i>Public engagement strategy for heat in buildings</i>: raise the profile of zero emissions heating options, enabling people to actively participate in shaping policy and incentives as well as local level heat and energy efficiency planning, raise awareness of the support and advisory services available (p.27).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ National Public Energy Agency by 2025 to coordinate action and advise the public.²⁷○ Retain Home Energy Scotland to advise citizens on zero emissions		
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	<p>heating (p.30), retain Green Homes and Business Networks to support homeowner-to-homeowner learning (p.31).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Work with the Energy Consumers Commission, Consumer Scotland and a range of Scottish consumer representative organisations to ensure that issues of consumer detriment are identified and addressed, focussing on consumer understanding, accessibility, costs, redress, and support for vulnerable consumers (p.42).● Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies to decarbonise heat in buildings,²⁸ as required legally by Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022²⁹● Work with the UK Government to ensure that the Green Gas Support Scheme meets the needs of Scotland (p.59).● Review Permitted Development Rights for heat networks (p.56). <p>Heat networks delivery plan to implement heat networks target, and licence holders will have to prepare and implement a Heat Network Decarbonisation Plan between 1 and 3 years of a licence being granted.³⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Heat Network Fund³¹ <p>National Planning Framework 4, policy 19 supports development and connection to heat networks.³²</p>		
Scottish Labour	<p>Upgrade all homes to at least an energy efficiency rating of C or higher by 2030 and, where possible, zero carbon by 2045 (p.21):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A national housing agency to work closely with local authorities, coordinate measures including boiler replacement, forms of renewable heat, and heat networks.	-	2



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renovate 80,000 homes annually, 90% of homes will need to be fitted with a form of renewable heat such as heat pumps or heat networks.• Low and middle income households would be awarded grant funding, other households offered interest free loans to pay for the upgrades. Fuel poor and rural homes prioritised.• Planning laws should be used to ensure that all future houses are built to the highest available efficiency standards (p.82). <p>Support Energy Efficient Scotland Bill, including a target to eradicate fuel poverty by 2032, with stricter interim targets.</p>		
Scottish Greens	<p>Just transition in heating homes to be zero carbon by 2040, investing at least £500m p.a. and £7.5bn in private investment (p. 23):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scale up existing energy efficiency and green heat programmes.• Retain interest-free loans and cashback incentives currently in place for private homeowners investing in zero carbon heat.• A Green Rural Homes service to engage homeowners and landlords in rural areas that are off the gas grid.• Green heat grants for households to replace fossil fuel boilers with green alternatives, principally heat pumps, with the aim of installing 500,000 by 2030.• A ban on fossil fuel boilers from 2025 for buildings off the gas grid, and 2028 for all buildings.• End public subsidies for oil and LPG boilers, fund renewable and low carbon heating technologies.	3	2 3 4



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a £500m heat networks fund to support the expansion of local and district heat networks, connecting 20,000 homes. 		
Scottish Liberal Democrats	<p>Energy Efficiency and Zero Carbon Bill to underpin a new zero carbon homes strategy (p.35):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in low carbon heating, an initial five-year programme to improve 80k homes per year. Switch a million homes from mains gas to heat pumps by 2030. Invest in low-carbon heat networks, including the potential for connecting whole towns. Work with the UK Government to build resilience in the electricity grid to support more electric power for heat. <p>Makes changes to the national planning framework to support connection to renewables supply (p. 36):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardise district heating for new developments, and support the move away from new gas heating installation. <p>Establish a Scottish Standard for Housing to apply across all forms of tenure, including zero emission heat (p.40).</p>	-	

Address the cost of energy and energy prices

Address the cost of energy and energy prices			
Party	Policy	Priority groups	Cross-policy priorities
Scottish National Party (SNP)	<p>National Performance Indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty: <u>Cost of living</u> (the percentage of net income spent on housing, fuel and food by households in Scotland and is measured as a three-year rolling average). 	1, 2, 3	2 3



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Indicator can be broken down by attributes including: households with or without children; age; disability; ethnicity.³³ <p>Legal target to reduce fuel poverty: By 2040, as far as reasonably possible no household in Scotland is in fuel poverty and, in any event -- no more than 5% of households in Scotland are in fuel poverty, no more than 1% of households in Scotland are in extreme fuel poverty (Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019).³⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fuel Poverty Strategy ³⁵<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wellbeing and Supporting Communities Funds & Winter Support Fund to support those facing fuel insecurity.Explore how data sharing could enhance support from Home Energy Scotland to provide fuel poor households with a benefits check (p.57).Explore a Minimum Income Guarantee (p.58). <p>Engage with Ofgem and energy retailers, encouraging the development of new tariffs tailored to zero emissions heating systems.³⁶</p> <p>Addressing energy costs through financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Child Winter Heating Payment ³⁷Scottish Child Payment ³⁸Pension Age Winter Heating Payment ³⁹Replace the Cold Weather Payment with a new annual payment of £50 for all low income households who are currently eligible to receive the Cold Weather Payment during cold spells.⁴⁰Scottish Welfare Fund ⁴¹		
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	<p><u>Good Practice Principles (GPPs) for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments.</u>⁴²</p> <p><u>Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Offshore Renewable Energy Developments.</u>⁴³</p>		
Scottish Labour	<p>Work with communities, especially those most at risk of economic inequality, to develop a Minimum Income Standard that no one falls below (p.89).</p> <p>Reduce child poverty by automating and increasing the Scottish Child Payment to £20 pw, provide at least £5 supplement per child to families with disabled children or parents (p.89).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with UK colleagues to abolish the two-child cap (p.91). <p>Reduce poverty for disabled people (pp.89-90):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Assistance paid at an adequate rate to cover the extra costs associated with disability. Remove the rule which dictates that you require support at least 50% of the time • Disability Poverty Target, with interim goals and sufficient funding. • A Scottish Employment Injuries Advisory Council Bill to upgrade the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB). <p>A Commissioner for Older People to reflect their needs in policy and help combat ageism (p.95).</p> <p>Build a targeted approach to tackling poverty in diverse minority communities, mainstreaming this into anti-poverty and child poverty strategies and action (p.96).</p>	1,2,3	1 2 3
Scottish Greens	<p>Requiring discounted energy deals to be offered to local communities around wind farms (p. 15).</p>	1, 2, 3	2 3 4



	<p>Negotiate with the UK Government to secure the powers to introduce a comprehensive Universal Basic Income pilot (p. 76).</p> <p>Meet the legal 2030 target of reducing Relative Child Poverty to 10%, on the road to eradicating child poverty (p.75):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accelerate the roll-out of the new Scottish Child Payment and double it to at least £20.• Ensure all devolved social security payments increase annually, at least in-line with rising costs. Payments aimed at children will be double-locked to rise annually with the higher of inflation or increases in average incomes.• Scrap the Benefit Cap by funding Local Authorities <p>Address financial inequity for minority ethnic groups (p. 81):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve data collection about black and minority ethnic communities' economic participation, health status, and access to public services.• Take action to address Scotland's race pay gap. <p>Improve disability benefits (p. 76):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Disability Assistance to examine what is needed to meet the six conditions established by the Scottish Campaign for Rights to Social Security.• Double the Young Carer Grant, expand eligibility.		
Scottish Liberal Democrats	<p>Review and improve the Community Wind Benefit Scheme (p.35).</p> <p>Work with the UK Government to develop a system of universal basic income (p.41).</p>	1, 3	2 3



	<p>Address child and disabled people's poverty (pp.40-41):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the Scottish Child Payment. • Consider top-up social security payments for families with one or more disabled child or parent. • Campaigns to improve take-up of Scottish Disability Payments, Children's Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Attendance Allowance. 		
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Support public and community ownership of renewables

Support public and community ownership of renewables			
Party	Policy	Priority groups	Cross-policy priorities
Scottish National Party (SNP)	<p><u>Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan</u>:⁴⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 GW of community and locally owned renewable energy by 2030 (p.58). • <u>Carbon Neutral Islands programme</u> to support community-owned renewables assets on islands (p.57).⁴⁵ • Ensure that the community energy sector is represented on the forthcoming Onshore Wind Strategic Leadership Group (p.54). <p><u>Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES)</u> by Local Energy Scotland advises and funds communities and developers that are interested in shared ownership of a renewable project.⁴⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Community Energy Generation Growth Fund</u>, £1.5 million grant fund supports community groups across Scotland to develop wind, solar PV and other types of renewable energy generation projects.⁴⁷ 	-	2 3 4



	<p>Home Energy Scotland loan for small-scale home renewables.⁴⁸</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Business Support Service from Zero Waste Scotland, 75% cashback grant of up to £10,000 towards the costs of a renewables heating system for small to medium-sized businesses.⁴⁹</p> <p>Local Energy Policy Statement.⁵⁰</p> <p>Community ownership supported by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.⁵¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asset transfer to communities⁵² ○ Community Rights to Buy⁵³ 		
Scottish Labour	<p>A national energy company, working with local supply chains, engaging councils and local communities under common ownership (p.80).</p> <p>Support community and cooperatively owned local renewable energy projects (p.80):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish National Investment Bank to introduce a Worker's Ownership Fund to increase low-cost capital available for cooperative and employee-owned businesses in the low-carbon economy (p.78) 	-	4
Scottish Greens	<p>Support community ownership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By encouraging at least 20% of new windfarms to be owned by the community (p.15). • Review take-up of existing Community Rights to Buy and the Community Asset Transfer scheme to ensure they are fit for purpose (p.44). • Expand the Scottish Land Fund to help further community ownership or management of local assets (p. 73). <p>Support local renewables development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest £50m p.a. into a marine renewables and local economic development fund for 	-	2 4



	local infrastructure and communities, to maximise local economic benefits of the tidal industry (p.16). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back Councils to own local energy companies (p. 71).		
Scottish Liberal Democrats	Expand the Scottish Land Fund to help further community ownership (p.22).	-	4

What policy solutions are being suggested by charities/ academics/ think tanks?

Increase renewable energy production

Common Weal:

- The Bioenergy Action Plan should not be based on maximising supply but on minimising demand.⁵⁴
- Set up a National Energy Company to build and own the generation and energy storage capacity needed.⁵⁵ Use geothermal energy to set this up.⁵⁶
- Boost R&D in wave and tidal technology, with an aim to capture 25% of marine energy resource by 2030.⁵⁷

WWF Scotland:⁵⁸

- 2030 renewable energy target: to source at least 50% of Scotland's energy from renewables by 2030, with individual targets for each of the heat, transport and electricity sectors (p.7).
- Investment in energy storage, interconnection and demand-side response enabled by smart meters (p.17).

Just Transition Commission:⁵⁹

- Clusters of test and demonstration sites that build on existing capabilities and deliver supply chain diversification should be established to accelerate innovation (p.15).

Royal Society of Edinburgh:

- An independent expert advisory commission on energy policy and governance for Scotland should be established under statute, provide the Scottish Government, legislators and regulators with integrated and impartial advice on all aspects of energy policy and governance (p.111).



- Scotland should look to improve its energy security by increasing the capacity, and diversifying its range, of storage options (p.112).

Research papers:

- Investment in energy storage required, most likely source wind-hydrogen.⁶⁰

Increase the number of homes heated with renewable energy

Poverty Alliance:

- A focused strategy looking at upgrading the energy efficiency of homes in rural localities must be developed, with the voices of people living in rural communities at the centre of consultation.⁶¹

Common Weal:⁶²

- Set up an Energy Development Agency to plan the shift to renewable heating (p.55).
- Set up a National Energy Company to install a national district heating system and renewable heat generation infrastructure (p.55).
- A Heat Supply Act: require all developers of large waste heat sources to recover and recycle that heat to feed local homes and businesses and, where feasible, connect via district heating (p.55).
- Nationalise and upgrade the National Grid, including local storage and 'smart grid' technologies (p.67).
- Ban the sale of all new oil and coal boilers, and consult with rural communities on suitable options and connection to the grid.⁶³

WWF:

- New buildings must be zero-carbon and heated by renewables.⁶⁴

Changeworks:⁶⁵

- Incentivise developers to invest in rural energy networks in partnership with housing providers and local authorities.

Research Institute for Disabled Consumers:⁶⁶

- Make information about renewable heating options accessible (1)
- Grants and subsidy schemes must reflect disabled people's actual circumstances, particularly around return on investment (ROI). For some disabled and older people ROI



(Return on Investment) needs be over a shorter time frame – reflecting life expectancies and future changes in housing and care needs. (2)

- Innovate for inclusive product design (3)

Royal Society of Edinburgh:⁶⁷

- Enforcing higher standards of energy efficiency in new-build housing and infrastructure should be a regulatory priority (p.114).

Address energy prices

Changeworks:⁶⁸

- Target fuel poverty support for rural communities by introducing a rural uplift, broadening eligibility for fuel payments beyond benefits and to all non-gas households (p.3).
- Increase funding and rural-specific training for advice services, using locally-based service providers (pp.5-6).
- Introduce a social energy tariff, re-evaluate standing charges, accelerate smart meter rollout, improve protection for restricted meter customers (p.10).

Centre for Sustainable Energy:⁶⁹

- Consider distributional cost effects of changing to smart meters (p.37).

Just Transition Commission:⁷⁰

- Access to fuel poverty schemes should be broadened (p.18).

Child Poverty Action Group:⁷¹

- Increase the Scottish child payment, mitigate two-child limit, invest in Scottish welfare fund (p.1).

Disability Equality Scotland:⁷²

- Disabled people overwhelmingly support changes to energy bills through a reform process to reduce costs and tariff changes.
- Support introducing a social tariff, there needs to be specific eligibility criteria for disabled people.
- Reform standing charges.

Poverty Alliance:



- Ensure that affordability of energy is linked to real time incomes from social security and wages. End forced instalment of pre-payment metres, and boost funding of the Scottish Welfare Fund and better publicise this whilst expanding eligibility.⁷³
- Urgently revisit whether the Winter Heating Payment is fit for purpose.⁷⁴
 - introduce a payment for people in colder, wetter regions during periods of colder weather to afford their bills.
 - increase the £50 Winter Heating Payment to at least £100
- Increase Scottish Child Payment to £40 per week, introduce a top-up payment for young parents.⁷⁵
- Scottish Government to take initial steps to deliver Minimum Income Guarantee:⁷⁶
 - Accelerate the review of the adequacy of disability assistance
 - Automate entitlement to social security where possible
 - Ensure Minimum Income Guarantee not undermined by public debt recovery
 - Review the council tax reduction and water rates discount
 - Increase the funded childcare entitlement

Research papers:

- Community benefits must be made mandatory or re-imagined to ensure a positive relationship.⁷⁷

Support public and community ownership of renewables

Community Land Scotland (pp.6-7):⁷⁸

- Scottish Government to establish a working group to create a roadmap of support to accelerate progress in the community owned energy sector, with a target of 1GW by 2030.
- A short-term multi-stakeholder working group to review opportunities and challenges of repowering.
- A mandatory requirement on the private sector to engage with communities at the earliest stage of any development, developers to report on community benefits, community benefits should be indexed to the consumer price index,
- The Scottish Government and private sector partners should use a proportion of community benefits from onshore, offshore and transmission network developments to create a



Scottish community wealth fund to support the delivery of a just transition to Net Zero for all communities across Scotland.

- Scottish Government to review how to increase uptake of community ownership, introduce support programmes on this.

Friends of the Earth Scotland:

- Equitable grid access for community projects: connection charges capped, community groups should not be required to pay for the costs of reinforcing the grid.⁷⁹
- Allow small and local enterprises to enter the market for green sustainable energy, streamline costs and timelines associated with becoming a fully licensed utility under the Standard Conditions of Electricity Supply Licence, reform Licence Lite to ensure community projects can enter into beneficial supplier service agreements, broaden the Electricity (Class Exemptions from the Requirement for a License) Order 2001.⁸⁰

Common Weal:⁸¹

- Create a publicly-owned National Energy Company that supports community energy via strategies such as building assets and transferring them to community ownership (p.55).
- Gradually take existing generation capacity into public ownership (p.66).

Centre for Sustainable Energy:⁸²

- Vulnerable consumer protections within community energy projects and for new flexibility services (p.36).

Royal Society of Edinburgh:⁸³

- R&D to pilot community energy schemes that include storage and managing small-scale rural grid supply/frequency and balancing issues (p.114).

Research papers:

- A more flexible planning regime for community renewables, stronger recognition of local development benefits in planning guidelines to renewable energy developers (p.163).⁸⁴



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- ¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2011) 'Introduction' in [IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation](#): 178
- ² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2011) 'Introduction' in [IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation](#): 182-83
- ³ Scottish Government (accessed 23 October 2024) [Energy Statistics for Scotland - Q3 2023 Part 2](#), Scottish Energy Statistics Hub (accessed 23 October 2024) [Proportion of electricity generation by fuel, 2022](#)
- ⁴ Scottish Energy Statistics Hub (accessed 23 October 2024) [Share of renewable energy in final consumption Scotland, 2012 - 2022](#)
- ⁵ Scottish Energy Statistics Hub (accessed 23 October 2024) [Share of renewable energy in final consumption Scotland, 2012 – 2022 & Total final energy consumption by sector Scotland, 2022](#)
- ⁶ Scottish Government (2024) [Scottish House Condition Survey: 2022 Key Findings](#): 9
- ⁷ Scottish Parliament (accessed 23 October 2024) [Devolved and Reserved Powers](#)
- ⁸ Scottish Labour (2021) [Scottish Labour's National Recovery Plan](#)
- ⁹ Scottish Greens (2021) [Our Common Future: Scottish Greens Manifesto 2021](#)
- ¹⁰ Scottish Liberal Democrats (2021) [Put Recovery First](#)
- ¹¹ Scottish Government (accessed 23 October 2024) [National Performance Framework: Energy from Renewable Sources](#)
- ¹² Scottish Government (2023) [Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan – delivering a fair and secure zero carbon energy system for Scotland](#)
- ¹³ Scottish Government (2021) [Onshore wind: policy statement](#)
- ¹⁴ [Wave Energy Scotland](#) (accessed 23 October 2024)
- ¹⁵ Scottish Government (accessed 23 October 2024) [Renewable and low carbon energy: Bioenergy](#)
- ¹⁶ Scottish Government (accessed 23 October 2024) [Renewable and low carbon energy](#)
- ¹⁷ Scottish Enterprise (accessed 23 October 2024) [Green Heat Innovation Support Programme](#)
- ¹⁸ Skills Development Scotland (accessed 23 October 2024) [Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan 2020-2025](#)
- ¹⁹ Scottish Government (2024) [National Planning Framework 4](#): 53
- ²⁰ [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#), s 61
- ²¹ [Heat Networks \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#), s 92(1)
- ²² Scottish Government (2021) [Heat in Buildings Strategy](#)
- ²³ Scottish Government (November 2024) [Delivering net zero for Scotland's buildings - Heat in Buildings Bill: consultation](#)
- ²⁴ Scottish Government (accessed 5 December 2024) [New Build Heat Standard](#)
- ²⁵ Scottish Government (accessed 23 October 2024) [Heat in Buildings: Green Heat Finance Taskforce](#)
- ²⁶ Home Energy Scotland (accessed 23 October 2024) [Warmer Homes Scotland](#)
- ²⁷ Scottish Government (accessed 23 October 2024) [Energy efficiency: The National Public Energy Agency](#)
- ²⁸ Scottish Government (2022) [Local heat and energy efficiency strategies and delivery plans: guidance](#)
- ²⁹ [The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies \(Scotland\) Order 2022](#)
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