

# Greenprint

News from the Scottish Green Party • Autumn 2010

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## 100% Renewable 100% Doable

*Recent debates on Scotland's energy future show 1960s thinking blocking massive benefits we could be experiencing right now.*

In September Holyrood held a debate on energy future. As we expected, this showed up a straightforward divide between those who want action and those who simply want to talk around the issue while pursuing "damage as usual".

Almost ten years ago, Scottish Ministers published a report showing Scotland's capacity for renewables was at least 59.1GW, almost six times the country's electricity usage, and more recent figures suggest the potential is far higher, perhaps up to 160GW of offshore wind alone.

I wrote in advance of the debate:

"There's much more to the idea of a low carbon economy than simply switching to renewables, vital as that is. Every aspect of the economy must be truly sustainable, from transport and housing to manufacturing and banking. Scotland has for too long relied on the declining oil and gas industry and on the whims of international inward investment. It's time Ministers started properly supporting Scottish innovation and the kind of local businesses that won't just move abroad when the exchange rate changes. It's also time they abandoned their transport and industrial policies, ideas which would have been outdated in the 1960s.

"Clean energy will be crucial, but Scottish and UK Governments have spent too long talking about that potential instead of making it a reality. It's time to change the approach altogether and set a date for turning Scotland

100% renewable, perhaps even before 2020. All the additional power we generate beyond our own needs could then be exported to our neighbours in the UK and beyond. That's the vision we need for a low-carbon economy, not the SNP's tinkering at the edges."

But on the day, in practice, the Labour MSPs backed a Conservative amendment supporting new nuclear power, a move which would be costly, dangerous, unsustainable and unpopular, but this amendment was rejected. MSPs rejected a Green amendment which set out several basic policy changes essential if we are to move to a low carbon economy.

These votes are a clear guide to the various parties' attitudes to energy, climate change and the economy. Fortunately most Scots will see their unprincipled role in office, past or present, for what it is.

Nuclear power is dead in the water in Scotland, and the public are dead set against it too. The more worrying outcome today was the decision by every other party to reject our proposals to move towards a comprehensively low carbon economy. They voted *for* more road capacity and yet more growth in aviation, *for* new coal and *against* additional investment in renewables, and they failed to back our call for investment in local low carbon economies.

Holyrood has a consensus on the science – most Tories don't even claim climate change isn't real anymore. But the other parties have also agreed on inaction and drift. They seem to think that talk is enough.

Greens will continue to reject that apathetic consensus. Scotland deserves better.

Patrick Harvie

### In Brief...

#### Holyrood 2011

**2** Elaine Morrison asks what's not to like about the Green platform, and our first round of announcements of candidates for 2011.

#### News

**4** An active century of Leslie Spoor; global campaign news.

#### Roots & Branches

**5** What Greens are up to round the country.

#### Views & Reviews

**6** Community Regeneration, the *Piper* project and the carbon footprint of bananas (and more or less anything else).



scottish  
green party

## A Socially and Ecologically Just Vision for Scotland

*A personal perspective from Elaine Morrison of the Argyll and Bute Greens.*

As the Holyrood election peeks at us from around the corner we are facing the prospect of yet another electoral squeeze. How do we ensure that the Scottish Green Party maintains its presence, builds upon it and delivers more representation than ever before at next year's elections? I would argue that a clear positioning of our social and environmental justice agenda should be at the heart of our campaign and our subsequent actions. The following is a

snapshot of where our strengths lie and how we can ensure that we are the party of choice for all those who care about equality and sustainability.

There is no getting away from the fact that we need to live within our means – ecologically and financially – to ensure that there is enough to go round. This can be a positive message, one that offers an alternative to blaming individuals for their personal debt, for climate change and for losing their jobs.

We are different from other parties because we promote a steady state economy with an emphasis on quality of life, in the form of health, happiness, community, environmental quality

and economic security, not a life based upon never ending consumption as a means of lifting us out of recession.

We say that it's okay to turn on your heating or go on holiday abroad but it should be done within the limits of a personal carbon budget. How you use your allowance is up to you, but there are only so many carbon emissions to go round. No more overdrafts for this planet.

We say that core public services should be controlled by the public, not delivered for profit. We want to re-nationalise the railways, provide affordable

housing through the public sector and cooperatives, keep the post office in public hands and invest in social enterprise. I would go further and suggest energy companies but that (note to self) is for a conference motion sometime.

We push for localisation of food production and for redirecting agricultural subsidies towards organic farming. We support penalising the supermarkets for waste production, encouraging allotments to make local food available in urban and more marginalised communities, and changing procurement rules so that school dinners can be local,

***We are the party of choice for all those who care about equality and sustainability.***



organic and affordable. Local, organic food promotes health, supports local business, creates jobs, cuts carbon emissions and is really tasty. What's not to like?

And that is just it – what's not to like? We have to think about how we can make living within our means an attractive option and one that only a vote for the Scottish Green Party will deliver. We must play to our strengths but also be savvy enough to know

***We offer an alternative to blaming individuals for their personal debt, for climate change and for losing their jobs.***

that the other parties will try to steal our clothes. We must stay ahead of the game to deliver a vision and actions for a socially and ecologically just Scotland. More focus, more positivity, more votes!

## Editorial

Hello and welcome to the Autumn 2010 issue of Greenprint. As we all gear up for next year's elections this issue is full of the campaigns our members are working on and some great Green ideas.

Patrick Harvie introduces our Holyrood candidates while Elaine Morrison looks at the strength of our core policies and asks, what's not to like? I couldn't agree more.

We also have Gavin Corbett on Leslie Spoor's hundredth birthday and Fabio Villani on land reform, along with lots of news from Greens around the world and around the country.

This is my first issue as editor and I owe a debt of gratitude to Rosemary and Niall for building up such a vital publication. I hope I can continue supporting members in turning Scotland a vibrant Green.

*Varihi Scott*



*The Scottish Greens' National Council met in Stirling in September.*

## Correction

In the Summer issue of Greenprint we said that Ian Baxter, our candidate for Midlothian, received 0.9% of the vote in the Westminster elections. Ian in fact received 1.5% of the vote.



## Holyrood Candidates

*"Scotland has for too long relied on the declining oil and gas industry and on the whims of international inward investment. It's time Ministers started properly supporting Scottish innovation and the kind of local businesses that won't just move abroad when the exchange rate changes."*

*Patrick Harvie*



*"Across the region the recession is biting and the cost of living is rising. The other parties have settled for bickering and shallow point-scoring. The positive Green alternative is economic policy driven by the needs of local people and local business."*

*Eleanor Scott*

*"Lothian made history over ten years ago by electing Robin Harper as the UK's first Green parliamentarian. Robin has worked hard for local people and my colleague Steve Burgess and I share his high hopes for the future. The Lothians have elected two Green MSPs before, and I believe we can do so again."*

*Alison Johnstone*



*In early September we announced our party's top candidates, across six of the eight regions, for next May's Holyrood elections. Patrick Harvie MSP is here with the introductions:*

I am proud to stand alongside an excellent crop of Green candidates across Scotland – candidates with experience in Parliament, in local government and as community activists on a wide range of issues.

The 2011 election will be an important moment, where Scots can vote for a positive agenda of social justice and safeguarding the environment instead of the failed centre-right agenda of the rest. Every other political party at Holyrood supported that agenda – growth obsessed, free market dominated and environmentally reckless – while the Greens predicted their failure.

Now a vicious programme of public service cuts is proposed as the solution. The alternative is to cut the vanity projects and protect the vital services; to realise the opportunities of a low-waste, low-energy, low-carbon economy; and to put quality of life ahead of the selfish values of the right which have dominated our politics for far too long. We have the opportunity to re-draw Scotland's political landscape next year. I urge everyone who wants to see that happen to get involved with the Greens and help make it a reality.

### Our Candidates

<b>Central</b>	Kirsten Robb Emma Stewart (a)
<b>Glasgow</b>	Patrick Harvie MSP Cllr Martha Wardrop (b)
<b>Highlands &amp; Islands</b>	Eleanor Scott Donnie MacLeod (c)
<b>Lothians</b>	Cllr Alison Johnstone Cllr Steve Burgess (d)
<b>Mid Scotland &amp; Fife</b>	Mark Ruskell Hilary Charles (e)
<b>North East</b>	Cllr Martin Ford Rhonda Reekie (f)

*"The Forth Road Bridge is our region's connection to the rest of Scotland. Rather than repair it, the other parties want to condemn commuters to a decade of congestion while draining money from health, education and public transport budgets to pay for a new bridge. Only a strong Green voice for Mid Scotland and Fife will help avoid this bleak prospect."*

*Mark Ruskell*

*"It's clear what a difference just two Green MSPs have made to Scotland, from securing Climate Challenge Fund money for 261 community-led projects across Scotland to clamping down on hate crimes and helping abolish tuition fees. I would love the opportunity to help with this work as Central Scotland's first Green MSP."*

*Kirsten Robb*



*"No-one currently represents the thousands of North-East residents who want to see priority given to investing in education, instead of expensive and ineffective road building. The North-East needs a strong Green voice in Holyrood, someone local people can trust and who will put the community's interest before unsustainable profiteering."*

*Martin Ford*

## SGP Founder Reaches Century

*The Greens alone have a sense of urgency about the future of the planet, says Scotland's longest serving political activist. Gavin Corbett spoke to Leslie Spoor for Greenprint.*

One of the principle movers behind the Scottish Green Party celebrates his hundredth birthday on 12th of October. Party member Leslie Spoor was the main instigator of the then Scottish Ecology Party, as part of the Ecology Party UK in 1978. (The party changed its name to the Green Party in 1985 and the Scottish Green Party became a separate political party in 1990.)

Leslie bears the honour of being dubbed Scotland's longest serving political activist. Although very much an Edinburgh man, he spent time in London in his earlier years and was active in the 1936 Cable Street riots, when communities in London's East End took action against Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists. Seventy-four years later, he was featured in the Edinburgh Evening News delivering leaflets for Robin Harper's campaign for the Westminster seat of Edinburgh East.

A Labour Party member for many years, Leslie was a close friend of the

late Foreign Secretary and Livingston MP, Robin Cook. He was already three years into his retirement when the Scottish Ecology Party was formed. He also organised the party's first general election campaign in Scotland in 1979.

More than 30 years later, Mr Spoor still maintains a keen interest in politics and current affairs and until the last four or five years was a regularly-hailed figure at Edinburgh branch meetings and party conferences.

Leslie told Greenprint: "In a long and active life I have seen political fashions come and go, and when you have such a wide perspective, you realise that what matters is long-term vision. I

continue to back the Greens because they alone have a sense of urgency about the future of the planet."

All Scottish Green Party members will surely congratulate Leslie on reaching another landmark in a distinguished life.

*when you have such a wide perspective, you realise that what matters is long-term vision*

## Biggest Offshore Wind Farm

The UK's new biggest offshore wind farm has opened – and it's not in Scotland, but off the shore of Kent. Nor were the turbines built by an increasingly strong UK renewable energy engineering sector, but by the Swedish company *Vatenfall*.

We welcome this development and note that there's more than enough capacity from the old energy sector to be taken up – so long as we find the political will to address the infrastructure questions that have been holding developments like this back in the past.

With the installed wind power capacity in the UK now over 5 GigaWatts we are at least on the way to meeting some Government targets for renewable energy – *if* the rate of installation keeps apace. Still short of where we need to get.

## Climate Catastrophe All Around Us

This summer thousands of people lost their lives and countless more have lost their families, homes and livelihoods in climate change disasters. Massive mud slides in China, unprecedented flooding in Pakistan and fires still burning in Russia and Kazakhstan are just some of the examples cited by Johann Hari in an article in *The Independent* headed 'How much proof do the global warming deniers need?'

## Australia Greens

In August the Australia Greens won the balance of power in the Senate. This outstanding victory included winning a Senate seat in every state and winning their first seat in the lower house at a general election. Adam Bandt took the lower house seat for Melbourne with a massive 13% swing on primaries.

## Camp for Climate Action

As the Australian votes were being counted, Camp for Climate Action 2010 was getting ready for its day of action against the Royal Bank of Scotland and the fossil fuel industry. Three activists glued themselves to the door of an RBS branch so that they could tell every customer about where RBS invests their money.

## Greenpeace and Cairn Energy

On August 31st, Greenpeace activists occupied Cairn Energy's Stena Don rig in Baffin Bay. Under a banner stating 'Hands off the Arctic, go beyond oil!' the protesters called for a ban on deep sea oil drilling in the Arctic.

## Norwich Greens

On the 9th of September Norwich Greens took the ward of Thorpe Hamlet from the Liberal Democrats, increasing their number of seats on the city council to 14.

## Anti-Coal Occupation at Happendon Wood

As we go to press, forty people are occupying Happendon Wood, to limit coal expansion in the Douglas Valley, South Lanarkshire.

## Greens Online

**Better Nation** is a new political blog from Scottish political bloggers James Mackenzie, Jeff Breslin and Malcolm Harvey: <http://www.betternation.org>

**Stirling and Clackmannanshire Greens** have joined twitter as: @stirlinggreens

**Highlands and Islands Greens** have joined Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Highlands-and-Islands-Green-Party/141129265907143>

# Roots & Branches

## Aberdeen

We are holding internal elections for those who wish to stand in the 2012 local council elections. We're maintaining our focus on Tripping up Trump, our Union Terrace Gardens campaign and upcoming council cuts. Clive Kempe represented us at the CND Hiroshima anniversary and managed to get a mention in the press. In September we'll have our AGM and will elect new branch officers.

*Rhonda Reekie*

## Midlothian

Midlothian Greens are kicking-off their action plan for the 2012 elections with a social event for members and supporters in mid-October. They are also planning to look closely at Midlothian Council to identify where savings can be made to protect services we feel are most important.

*Ian Baxter*

## Highlands and Islands

We are opposing development of A96 corridor, promoting green proposals and a proper consultation process for the Highland-Wide Development Plan and challenging public spending cuts. We are also fighting plans to sell off common good land in Forres and promoting the establishing of all new residential developments, and ideally existing ones too, as Home Zones. In August, Argyll and Bute became a sub-branch and Shetland held its first official Green Party meeting.

*Myra Carus*

## South Lanarkshire

Some of our members are participating in a massive anti-incinerator campaign in Stonehouse (20,000 objections and counting!). Our help to the Dovesdale Incinerator campaign has focussed on research and organising. You can find more information about the campaign at [www.dovesdaleincinerator.info](http://www.dovesdaleincinerator.info). We've started fundraising for the elections and have held our first community stall of the campaign. Patrick Harvie joined us and did his bit of legwork at Clydesdale's Energy Efficiency Project's world record cycling attempt – a great community day where we gave out hundreds of Green windmills. Our Holyrood candidates for Central Region have met up – we're all looking forward to working together.

*Kirsten Robb*

## Perth

The Perth branch is working with Fife and Stirling branches towards the election of Mark Ruskell for the Mid Scotland and Fife seat. In the first week of September we launched our first Perthshire Green Drinks, which we hope will bring in new members and friends. I'm always delighted to hear from members and would encourage them to keep in touch as we get our campaigns rolling.

*Hilary Charles*

## Better by a Country Mile on Land Reform



*Moray Greens convenor, Fabio Villani, learns a nice lesson in giving an audience what it wants.*

I was a panelist at June's Development Trusts Association Scotland conference, talking land reform and asset transfer to communities with representatives from the SNP, Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

The Trusts share our view that land reform must be reviewed and improved and that asset transfer to communities should be facilitated and supported.

In my own experience of community land initiatives I've found serious shortcomings in current legislation.

Lack of public money is often raised as a constraint in these issues. However, this perceived lack is the result of policy choices, such as cutting public services rather than increasing tax revenue through a more redistributive tax system. Our policy choices are different: we believe in empowering communities through devolving decision making and power to the lowest possible level.

***Lack of public money is the result of policy choices. Our policy choices are different.***

The event was my first experience as a panellist and afterwards I asked our chair, Lesley Riddoch, how I could improve. She said that my strength was knowledge of the detail and that I should not be afraid to use it. I got similar feedback from members of the audience.

Other parties often resort to generalities when it comes to serious green issues; we don't have to and our audiences don't want us to either.

***"While our schools, libraries and museums face the threat of permanent closure, Highland Council spends £25 million, per year, on processing unwanted packaging. Supermarket profits are on the rise and of every pound we spend in our local supermarkets, 80 pence leaves the Highlands."***

*Myra Carus*

***"The Forres area deserves a councillor willing to stand up for the interests and values of the local community. This includes ensuring that local assets, such as common good land and the Tolbooth, are kept in public ownership and managed for the benefit of the community, rather than sold off for the benefit of property developers. It also includes ensuring that budget savings are secured by running public services more efficiently, rather than by cutting services to the most vulnerable people in our society."***

*Fabio Villani*

## A Cultural Shift in Regeneration



*As recession bites, supporting community regeneration is more important than ever and the active involvement of local residents will be vital. Andy Milne, head of SURF, Scotland's independent regeneration network, reports on growing calls to put the focus on people instead of property.*

After decades of under investment and marginalisation, community and voluntary organisations are being shoved centre stage in dramatic efforts to sustain and reinvent community regeneration. It's a tough role to fulfill in the most hostile of economic theatres.

Regeneration policy makers now publicly acknowledge that the previous model of funding community regeneration on constantly increasing property values, is broken. The fallout of disastrously unregulated greed and gambling (a horror show that is still running) will not only slash public sector resources, it will massively increase poverty levels and related service demands.

Peter Head OBE, one of *Time* magazine's top 30 global eco heroes, shared some inspiring solutions to address these challenges when he spoke at the Royal Town Planning Institute in June.

***sustainable regeneration must be rooted in the fertile soil of authentic local identity, skills and aspirations***

The truth is we can achieve both community regeneration and sustainable growth if we plan properly towards an emerging ecological age. A central component is retrofitting existing buildings and cityscapes to provide a practical and exciting future for urban living.

However, this is not about a return to speculative property development; sustainable regeneration must be rooted in the fertile soil of authentic local identity, skills and aspirations. This positive, people based approach is often called cultural planning and SURF and others have been advocating it for years. Peter showed examples from China and Africa, as well as England, arguing that this approach could provide a sustainable renaissance of Scottish towns and cities.

Cultural planning is alive and well in Scotland: city-wide in Dundee and localised in places like Govan, Granton, Neilston and Prestonpans. At SURF's annual conference, senior civil servants called for more communities to bring forward creative solutions – a good sign that a real cultural shift is in progress. SURF has organised a special conference on 'Creative Approaches to real regeneration' to highlight the success and potential of this real people based approach. It will take place in the excellent community owned Pearce Institute in Govan, Glasgow on 10-11-10. For more details see the SURF web site at

[www.scotregen.co.uk](http://www.scotregen.co.uk) or email me at: [andymilne@scotregen.co.uk](mailto:andymilne@scotregen.co.uk)

## Edinburgh Community Project Under Threat

Mike Ferrigan, project consultant for PIPER talks to Greenprint:

Without all the hard work and dedication of Green Party members and Robin Harper and Patrick Harvie's hard negotiating skills, PIPER would not exist. PIPER works with schools, homes and the wider community on climate change and sustainability initiatives.

We currently work in three Edinburgh communities with a cost effective model that could be applied to every school in Scotland. Our six Parent Councils work in partnership with existing local organisations such as community councils, churches and local authorities.

As acting moderator of the Climate Challenge Fund Coalition, I am concerned that the funding for PIPER and all 260 Climate Challenge Funded community projects across the length and breadth of Scotland will end in March 2011.

If you are involved in a Climate Challenge Funded project, the newly formed CCF Coalition can be found here:

<http://groups.google.com/group/climate-challenge-fund-coalition> Seventy eight projects have already signed up. Please join and help us campaign for a Climate Challenge Fund 2. For more information you can contact me on [chspiper@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chspiper@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 0131 449 3966. Many thanks.



## School, Home and Community Climate Change Action



Images on this page courtesy of SURF and Piper.

## Review

### How Bad are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything

Mike Berners-Lee  
Profile Books £8.99 240pp.

As it happens, bananas are pretty good. Especially if you eat them to power your bike. Asparagus from Peru is exceptionally bad, but I think most of us knew that anyway.

Mike Berners-Lee has written the ultimate guide to assessing how much carbon is generated by almost everything we eat, drink or do. The average person in the UK has a carbon footprint of around 15 tonnes. The Malawians emit less, the Australians and North Americans more. Mike is trying to persuade each of us to adopt a 10 tonne lifestyle but paying attention to our carbon footprint.

Many of the entries will not be news to readers of Greenprint. We know that flying to Hong Kong and back is bad – 3.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e for an economy seat or 13.5 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e first class (because your seat takes up more of the aircraft). But some others were more surprising. For example, he calculates that the carbon footprint of a red rose is zero picked in the garden, 350g CO<sub>2</sub>e grown in Kenya and flown in by air, and 2.1kg grown in a heated greenhouse in the Netherlands. Running a dishwasher twice a week on the economy setting works out better than handwashing with copious hot water. A minute's mobile phone chat comes in at 57g, about the same as an apple, most of a banana or a very large gulp of beer.

I would quarrel with some of his assertions, such as equating the carbon footprint of farmed fish with fish caught at sea. Surely farmed fish are fed with fish caught at sea, plus the energy used by the cages and service boats, to say nothing of the commensurate problems of release of farmed fish into the wild and the proliferation of diseases and pollution from their doses of antibiotics. He asserts that shipping is better than flying, but shipping has very high sulphur emissions due to the lower restrictions on the type of fuel shipping can use and this has significant negative environmental effects.

However, if you are serious about lowering your carbon footprint, this is the guide for you. It's written in an approachable, even humorous style and, as he says, if it persuades one person to think carefully about the impact of their purchases or travel choices, then it will have been worth the carbon costs of printing and distribution.

Rosemary Burnett



*A minute's mobile phone chat comes in at 57g, about the same as an apple, most of a banana or a very large gulp of beer.*

### Obituary: Murray Falconer

Murray Falconer died on 9th June in Falkirk following a long battle with cancer. We will remember him for his determined campaigning, his laugh and that hat.

Murray was convenor of the Scottish Green Party in the mid-1990's and, for several years, our Transport speaker and co-convenor of Highlands and Islands Green Party with his wife Gale. Murray and Gale joined the party in 1989 at the start of the Euro-election and carried on campaigning from there, contesting local authority, Holyrood list and general election campaigns.

"He was always a fighter for a cause and ethical. He was always tirelessly trying to win this seat in Drakies," Gale commented. When he stood for parliament in the old Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber constituency, he was, typically, the only candidate to bother to visit the Isle of Eigg (dressed all in green, of course).

Murray, aged just 55, was brought up in Falkirk. He served his time as a pit electrician and ended his career as a lecturer at Inverness College before ill health forced early retirement. He was as proud of his National Union of Mineworkers background as he was of Falkirk Football Club.

I will remember his good sense of humour, his laugh – which once stopped a play ('Hitler killed my canary') – and the dash he cut negotiating Inverness roundabouts wearing his deer-stalker as a cycling helmet.

Our sympathies are extended to Gale, his daughter Susan and the rest of Murray's family.

David Jardine

# Scotland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

All the changes you've made around your home and that you've demanded from public bodies have brought down our country's greenhouse gases from 9 million tonnes to 8.6 million tonnes of greenhouse gases, since 1990.

**Waste Management**  
**4.6%**

**Agriculture** 12.6%

**Business & Industrial** 12.7%

**Residential & Public** 14.2%

**Transport**  
**23.8%**

**Energy Supply**  
**32.1%**

To keep driving down the other 47.5 million tonnes produced in Scotland, through energy supply, transport, business and agriculture, we need Green regional councillors, Green MSPs and Green MEPs.

Figures are for 2008, which are the most recent greenhouse gas emissions figures given in our source: *Key Scottish Environment Statistics 2010*, published by the Rural and Environment Research and Analysis Directorate of the Scottish Government. Full document available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/323958/0104272.pdf>

Greenprint welcomes submissions on any topic, but reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. The deadline for first submissions (which can include outlines) for the next edition is 13 December 2010. The mailing date will be around 17 January 2011 (subject to events).

Greenprint is available from our website or by email, or on paper from Party Branches (black & white). Large Format paper versions are available on request.

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The **Scottish Green Party** is affiliated with other Green Parties in the UK, Europe and around the World. Currently we have two MSPs and eight Councillors elected in Scotland, with more joining us as the basic integrity of Green politics becomes ever clearer.

For more news about Green Party activities around Scotland, in Councils, at Holyrood, and on the Streets, visit:

[www.scottishgreens.org.uk](http://www.scottishgreens.org.uk)

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