

Scottish Parliament election 2026

Rural – UK – April 2026

Manifesto summary

OVERVIEW

The 2026 Scottish Parliament election takes place at a critical point for Scotland's rural economy. While the immediate disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic has passed, its legacy continues to shape public finances, labour markets and investment decisions. At the same time, pressures are intensifying around land use, food production, nature restoration, and the delivery of net-zero ambitions. The focus of this election is therefore less on setting new long-term aspirations, and more on how existing environmental and agricultural commitments will be delivered in practice over the next parliamentary term.

Across all major parties, rural land, farming and estates are presented as integral to Scotland's economic and environmental future. The manifestos recognise that agricultural policy is entering a period of structural change, shaped by climate obligations, biodiversity targets and pressure on public spending. While approaches differ, there is broad agreement that future support must sustain productive farming alongside environmental delivery. The emphasis has moved beyond principle to questions of funding certainty, regulatory burden and how land managers are expected to adapt over the next parliamentary term.

Beyond this shared context, the manifestos set out clearly differentiated political approaches to rural land, farming and estates, with differences most evident in how parties prioritise environmental delivery relative to food production and the degree of direction or flexibility proposed for land managers. Firstly, Reform Party Scotland set out the clearest break from recent rural policy, prioritising food production, energy affordability, and traditional land uses over climate-led land-use change. Reform Party Scotland's approach rejects net-zero-driven regulation, favouring support for active farmers, productive land management, and sporting estates, alongside reduced regulatory intervention and greater discretion for land managers. The Scottish Greens present the most interventionist approach, placing climate and biodiversity objectives at the forefront of rural policy and assuming rapid progress towards existing statutory targets, with land use and agricultural systems expected to adapt accordingly through stronger regulatory signals and tighter links between public funding and environmental outcomes.

The Scottish Conservatives adopt a markedly different position, emphasising food production, economic resilience and investment confidence, and showing greater resistance to accelerated environmental regulation or net-zero-related requirements, with a preference for partnership and voluntary action over prescription. The Scottish National Party positions itself between these poles, largely building on existing frameworks and commitments, emphasising continuity, implementation, and a managed transition through mechanisms such as whole-farm planning and tiered support, while maintaining business viability. Scottish Labour proposes a firmer role for government through statutory targets and the redistribution of agricultural support, but places notable emphasis on sequencing change carefully to avoid undermining farm businesses. The Scottish Liberal Democrats prioritise local delivery, incentives and partnerships, favouring community-led solutions, procurement reform and practical support over centralised regulation.

Decisions taken over the next five years will shape the economic viability of rural businesses, the direction of land management, and Scotland's ability to deliver on climate and biodiversity commitments simultaneously. As this briefing note demonstrates, the key issue is not a lack of ambition across party manifestos, but whether the next Scottish Government will have the political capacity, administrative capability and stakeholder support needed to translate its manifesto pledges into coherent, deliverable policy on the ground.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
AGRICULTURAL POLICY	Reform the Farm Payments System and the Less Favoured Areas to support the active farmer. Include the whole farm area on IACS maps to count towards space for nature currently taken from productive land. Provide grant funding for farmed land to improve fertility, drainage, and fencing.	Commit to an immediate £50 million boost to the rural affairs portfolio “in our first budget” to support farmers and fishermen. Commit to a full review of the distribution and delivery of farm payments to ensure farmers get enough financial support to put food on our plates, and aim to increase support for farming and crofting. Promise multi-annual funding deals so rural businesses have “clarity to make the investment choices” needed to grow.	Pursue a fundamental transformation of agricultural policy to address the climate and nature emergencies, shifting away from conventional subsidy models toward agroecological and regenerative farming. Including large-scale rewilding, native woodland expansion, soil health improvements, and emissions reduction (introduction of a Carbon Emissions Land Tax). Align agricultural and land use policy with legally binding nature recovery targets, including protecting 30% of land and seas for nature by 2030, even where this constrains traditional agricultural output. Implement a farmer-led education and knowledge-transfer system for existing farmers and future growers.	Modernise Scotland's agricultural support system so it is “fit for purpose and fairer”, with public funding explicitly supporting food production, biodiversity and thriving rural communities. Reform farm payment structures by capping Tier 1 payments to the largest businesses and redistributing support to smaller farms and crofters, while avoiding sudden funding “cliff edges” that would undermine farm viability. Reform fishing quota management to increase local control, incentivise sustainable fishing practices, expand quota leasing, and improve protections and outcomes for fisheries workers. Commit to reviewing crofting legislation to ensure it aligns with wider rural policy objectives and keeps crofting accessible for future generations.	Ringfence agriculture funding, protect support payments and move to three-year funding deals to give farmers the confidence and certainty they need. Increase UK-wide investment in agriculture by £1 billion a year to support “profitable, sustainable and nature-friendly farming”, with funding going to the Scottish Government to increase budgets. Expand and diversify the Farm Advisory Service, helping with digital innovation, precision agriculture, skills development, and disseminate the innovation from Scotland’s world-leading rural research institutes and mainstream it among farmers. Champion the scrapping of the family farm tax, protecting generational farming, rural livelihoods and food security. Support a new bespoke UK-EU customs union, making it easier for	Commit to supporting active farming and crofting and food production with direct payments and a four-tier support framework - to provide certainty to the industry. Support nature- and climate-friendly farming to deliver actions for biodiversity, climate adaptation, sustainable land management and food production, building on whole-farm plans to develop individual farm action plans and the multi-tier support framework. Improve fish welfare and streamline consenting processes to support innovation and investment, which is crucial to the future of the aquaculture sector.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
					businesses to export to key markets in the EU.	
FOOD POLICY	Maintain Scotland's premium reputation through Quality Meats Scotland and Scottish Quality Crops, but ensure it is quality and welfare-based, not ideological. Maintain import standards and block illegal meat coming in. Support abattoirs with apprenticeships to grow that workforce.	Support the food and drink industry and avoid implementing harmful regulations/policies, e.g., those that encourage a reduction in meat and dairy products. Specifically commit to opposing any restrictions on alcohol advertising, marketing and sponsorship in Scotland. Encourage public bodies to buy healthy foods from local farmers to allow people to eat more healthily in public sector settings through a new food and drink procurement strategy.	Restore funding to Scotland's internationally renowned agricultural research institutes, so that food producers can adapt in the face of a changing climate. Ensure the continued rollout of a national pipeline of farmer-led skills development to support the transition to regenerative and sustainable farming and food production, for existing farmers and new entrants. Support councils to deliver local Good Food Nation plans. Support farmer-owned, sustainable food supply chains by improving support across rural and island communities, such as the creation of local food hubs, regional processing sites, and small abattoirs. Tackle food poverty, ensure supply chains are fair, and support food producers to perform their critical role.	Work with supermarkets to promote healthy food promotions and reduce sales of food with no nutritional value. Invest in local abattoirs and fish processing facilities, commissioning a strategic review of processing investment to support local producers, strengthen local supply chains and rural food economies, and maintain the quality of Scottish products, recognising food and drink as a key economic asset.	Support fairer prices for farmers and producers through the Food Supply Chain Fairness Bill. Aim to make it easier to put "affordable, healthy and nutritious food on the table," produced to "high welfare and environmental standards". Reverse the decline in livestock numbers, maintain support for production, and strengthen domestic food processing to reduce food miles. Support local food infrastructure, including small abattoirs across Scotland. Improve food trade by supporting a UK-EU customs union and securing a veterinary and SPS agreement to ease exports. Promote Scottish food and drink exports and remove trade barriers. Use public procurement to prioritise locally and sustainably produced	New action to make sure big supermarket chains keep prices low for dozens of food essentials by capping prices for essential foods. Support sustainable agriculture and food systems through procurement reform. Establish a public sector food procurement taskforce - working with stakeholders at pace to review key barriers to local procurement and make recommendations to strengthen local procurement.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
			Encourage plant-based diets and support locally-based market gardens to supply a greater proportion of fruit and vegetables.		food and to increase the proportion of homegrown food.	
BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION	Replace carbon audits with practical, outcome-based measurement.	Introduce a time-limited pause on major renewable energy infrastructure applications to reassess cumulative environmental, landscape, and community impacts through a new National Energy Policy. Oppose the rollout of Highly Protected Marine Areas, committing not to introduce policies that would ban fishing in large areas of Scottish seas. Pause the muirburn licensing scheme, arguing it would undermine effective land management and wildfire prevention. Halt further government-backed rewilding projects without full assessment and the consent of farmers and crofters, including giving affected land managers a veto over proposals that harm livelihoods.	Establish a Scottish Environmental Court, accessible to individuals and communities, to hear cases on pollution, biodiversity loss and corporate environmental crime, with strong enforcement powers. This could include challenging projects such as major new road building and public subsidies for polluting companies. Ensure the changes to the National Planning Framework secured by the Scottish Greens are fully enacted, requiring developments to have a positive effect on biodiversity and take the nature crisis into account in planning decisions. Change the law to allow councils and public bodies to prioritise procurement and commissioning from local content, worker-owned firms and organisations	Commit to set clear statutory nature targets, using powers under the Natural Environment (Scotland) Act to define a route to nature restoration and biodiversity recovery. Establish a Marine Recovery Fund, funded through developer contributions, to support strategic marine and wider nature restoration, alongside a new Marine Plan with a spatial approach to managing competing uses of Scottish waters. Reward farmers and crofters for nature-friendly practices, with agricultural support payments explicitly redesigned to support biodiversity, habitat restoration and environmental outcomes alongside food production. Review and consolidate the roles of nature and	Oppose Highly Protected Marine Areas imposed through top-down processes, committing instead to strengthening locally driven marine planning and marine protection, and managing waters as locally as possible, developed in partnership with coastal, island and fishing communities. Support enhanced marine biodiversity protection, including measures to reduce whale and dolphin bycatch, cut underwater noise and improve fisheries management.	Commit to value and protect Scotland's natural environment as part of a "Sustainable Scotland", explicitly linking biodiversity protection with climate action and long-term environmental targets. Commit to marine and coastal environmental protection, including balanced fisheries and aquaculture policy, protection of wild salmon, and support for marine environments alongside coastal and island community livelihoods.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
			with high labour and environmental standards. Create landscape-scale nature networks, including “wildways” and habitat corridors, to connect protected sites and improve ecological connectivity across regions.	environmental agencies, with the stated aim of reducing duplication and unnecessary bureaucracy while focusing regulation and funding on protecting Scotland's natural resources.		
TREE PLANTING AND WOODLAND CREATION	Encourage maintenance and creation of hedging and tree lines through the restart of the fence and hedge grant scheme. Stop poorly managed forestry and rewilding schemes, and develop a long-term plan to plant extensive native woodlands across Scotland.	Expand woodlands using at least 50% native species, supporting diverse and resilient habitats, with a special focus on protecting Scotland's rainforest, connecting existing woodlands and increasing planting in towns and cities.	Introduce tree planting requirements into the planning system, requiring developers to provide every community with access to nearby trees and green spaces. Increase the resilience and diversity of forests and the forestry sector, supporting local businesses, job creation, and training opportunities through more active management of forests. Reforest Scotland's hills and glens, with 9,000 hectares of new native woodland each year, and a plan to restore Scotland's unique west coast rainforest and ancient woodlands, accompanied by dedicated funding. Ensure the majority of public forestry grants are	Expand native woodland creation and mixed species tree planting, encouraging diversity in forestry and balancing biodiversity goals with timber and land use needs. Support the forestry and timber sector by increasing the use of homegrown timber, linking forestry to off-site construction, and helping the sector move into higher-value products and processing.	Expand woodlands using at least 50% native species, supporting diverse and resilient habitats, with a special focus on protecting Scotland's rainforest, connecting existing woodlands and increasing planting in towns and cities. Work with architects and the construction and forestry industries to promote homegrown sustainable timber, supporting well-managed Scottish forestry and rural jobs. Expand woodland cover using at least 50% native species, with a focus on biodiversity, protecting Scotland's rainforest, connecting woodland habitats, and increasing tree planting in towns and cities.	Set an ambitious target of 23% canopy cover in urban areas to drive action to increase planting and build on the existing work to encourage an increase in tree canopy cover in urban areas. Complete the National Register of Ancient Woodland, and strengthen biosecurity, among other actions. Expand Scotland's native woodlands through funding 18,000 hectares of woodland creation annually by 2029, with at least 40% of new native woodland by 2045.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
			ring-fenced for native woodland planting, and prioritise planting on public and community-owned land.			
PEATLANDS	N/A	N/A	Commit to restoring at least 45,000 hectares of peatland annually, banning the extraction and sale of peat compost, and integrating peatland restoration into wider farming and land-use policy.	N/A	N/A	Aim to restore more than 400,000 hectares of peatland by 2040, investing £28 million this year to deliver 10,000 hectares of peatland restoration.
ANIMAL WELFARE	Stop any future offshore wind farms which harm fishing grounds and migratory birds.	Develop policy in consultation with land managers to achieve wildlife management goals.	Make Scotland a world-leader in farm animal welfare and fight moves by the UK Government to sign us up to trade deals that undermine high standards. Review and update Scotland's animal welfare laws to take account of the latest scientific understanding of animals' sentience, agency and welfare needs, as well as expanding the range of species protected under law. Make the laws protecting wildlife easier to enforce by reviewing, modernising and consolidating wildlife legislation into a single,	Review and consolidate wildlife legislation to strengthen and clarify wildlife and animal protection laws, reflecting the changes and developments made in the 20 years since Scottish Labour's Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. Work in partnership with farmers to improve animal welfare, with a strategy to target rural veterinary shortages and phase out the use of farrowing crates.	N/A	N/A

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
			consistent Act with ethical principles at its heart. Bring in tougher rules around fireworks to minimise stress for all animals. Phase out harmful agricultural practices, including the abuse of antibiotics to stimulate unnatural growth, the use of farrowing crates for pigs and cages for chickens, as well as the killing of day-old male chicks. Accelerate a transition to high-welfare nature-friendly animal farming, with new regulations supporting livestock with plant-rich diets, cage-free rearing, and calf-at-hoof dairying, as part of broader regenerative farming practices.			
DEER MANAGEMENT	N/A	N/A	Implement strategic deer management to reduce overgrazing and environmental damage, with incentives for land managers who actively reduce deer numbers.	Work in partnership to deliver sustainable deer management, continuing incentive pilots and supporting community initiatives to supply venison to local markets.	Work with partners, including land managers and environmental organisations, to tackle damaging deer overgrazing, enabling young trees to grow, supporting rural employment, and boosting the low-carbon wild venison market.	To protect native woodlands from threats, support firm deer control incentives, and implement a national deer management and venison program.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
LAND REFORM	Repeal SNP “bad laws”, including Land Reform.	Scrap National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and remove planning restrictions that limit land availability for housing and development. Return planning strategy and decision-making powers to local councils. Establish a Brownfield Development Fund to bring vacant and derelict land into housing use. Prioritise market-led development of land, with no expansion of compulsory purchase, compulsory sale, or community right-to-buy powers. Oppose land reform measures that weaken private land ownership, including land ownership caps or estate break-up policies. Reduce regulatory and environmental constraints on land use, including opposition to mandatory rewilding without landowner consent. Scrap Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT)	Deliver a radical Land Reform Bill to limit how much land can be owned by any individual or company to a maximum of 500 hectares, unless it can be proved that ownership will make a significant contribution to the common good. Introduce a surcharge on the purchase of large land-holdings (500ha+), forcing the breakup of more big estates at the point of sale. Improve transparency about who owns and receives public subsidies for managing Scotland's land, through completion of Scotland's Land Registry and creating a comprehensive and publicly-accessible online map. Review succession law to ensure the inheritance of landholdings does not contribute further to Scotland's monopoly of landownership. Introduce Compulsory Sale Order powers to force the sale of sites that have been consistently left vacant	Simplify and expand Community Right to Buy processes to make it easier for communities to acquire land and assets for long-term community benefit. Establish Housing Development Trusts with powers to assemble land and leverage public assets, enabling public bodies to play a more active role in land acquisition and control (ownership intervention, not land-use planning).	Conduct an assessment of publicly owned brownfield land and consult on a mechanism for selling such land on a plot-by-plot basis, directly to communities for self-building. Reform planning to make it simpler to redevelop long-term derelict buildings. Force the sale of derelict sites that blight communities to deliver more suitable land for housing. Develop standardised models of homes, with support from planners across the country, to speed up planning approval when applications are made. Reform NPF4 to ensure sufficient land is available for developers and to reduce the level of prep approval reports required, especially for SME builders.	Propose a Rural Renewal Bill as a future framework to continue the land reform journey and consider a range of strategic proposals. Main aim of co-ordinated rural land use, covering planning reform, renewables, crofting, landscape protection and land reform measures. It will include steps to make land ownership transparent, implementing robust anti-avoidance measures, supporting existing tenants, providing new long-term opportunities for progressing farmers, and enhancing opportunities and support for community right-to-buy and ownership.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
		on primary residences and reduce the Additional Dwelling Supplement (ADS).	and derelict in cities, towns and rural areas. Apply a Public Interest Test on those who want to purchase large areas of land, which would exclude overseas owners and overturn the concentration of land ownership in the hands of a few. Empower communities to take over ownership of more land by updating the Community Right to Buy legislation to make it easier. Expand opportunities for communities to manage more sites critical to tackling the climate and nature emergencies, including woodlands and rewilding sites, local energy projects, and hutting and nature connection.			
LAND USE NETWORKS	Scrap the Scottish Land Commission, keep Tenant Farmer Commissioner. Use the planning system to fast-track the building and expansion of industry on existing industrial sites, so that we can bring factories and high-paying	Scrap the Scottish Land Commission, thus removing a national land policy co-ordination body. Reject nationally imposed land-use strategies and shift coordination to local authorities.	Embed land use co-ordination within Just Transition governance, including permanent support for the Just Transition Commission and worker- and community-led transition planning that integrates land, energy and livelihoods.	Introduce a National Land Use Plan to coordinate how land is used across regions, balancing housing, economic growth, climate targets and nature restoration within a single strategic framework.	Ensure housing delivery and rural land support each other rather than compete for land by: 1. Use a holistic, data-driven housing and land framework that coordinates land release, infrastructure delivery, transport	Use the Climate Change Plan as the primary cross-sector framework to coordinate land use across emissions reduction, nature policy, energy, housing, and infrastructure, rather than creating a standalone land-use network.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
	manufacturing jobs back to Scotland.	Establish a Scotland-wide Planning Inquiry Commission to assess cumulative land impacts of renewable generation, transmission and storage on landscapes, rural communities, agriculture, tourism and food security. Introducing community veto powers over major land-impacting infrastructure projects.	Strengthen Local Place Plans and community-led spatial governance, requiring public authorities and planning decisions to align with locally produced, participatory land-use frameworks. Coordinate land use through nature-positive agriculture and forestry frameworks, aligning public funding, land management incentives, and data to support food production, biodiversity, and climate goals simultaneously.	Expand community-linked land-use co-ordination, including community energy, community asset ownership and local participation in land-use decision-making as part of wider place-based strategies. Integrate land-use management into modernised agricultural support, ensuring public funding supports food production, biodiversity, and thriving rural communities through coordinated land-management incentives.	access and energy efficiency, replacing the existing national housing strategy. 2. Co-ordinate rural land use through whole farm planning and diversification frameworks, aligning food production, nature recovery and climate objectives rather than treating them as separate land demands. Strengthen co-ordination between planning authorities and national infrastructure bodies, requiring land-use decisions to align with transport, water and utilities investment. Reform community benefit rules for renewable energy to coordinate land use, energy development, local authorities and communities in managing the impacts and returns of land-based energy projects.	Use Regional Economic Partnerships (e.g., the Glasgow-Edinburgh Arc; the East Coast Arc) to spatially coordinate land, infrastructure, innovation, and investment at a regional scale.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
NET ZERO	Restore income tax bands in Scotland to align with the three UK bands, and re-allocate the £1bn currently spent on ideological Net Zero projects. Scrap all SNP Net Zero related targets, subsidies and quangos.	Scrap the net-zero by 2045 target and drop any policies that are imposing costs on households to meet it. Scrap the net-zero regulations known as Passivhaus Standards, which some councils estimate add up to £150,000 to the cost of building a home.	Require that all new homes meet net zero standards and be connected to zero-carbon public transport. Get Scotland back on track to deliver net zero by 2045, launching a coordinated climate action delivery programme to drive down emissions from transport, energy, farming and housing. Advocate for an international Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to stop the global expansion of coal, oil and gas production and phase out existing fossil fuel use in a fair and managed way that supports workers and the most climate vulnerable countries. Scottish Greens will continue to call for Scotland to join the international Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance.	Deliver and achieve net zero targets through the proposed new National Land Use Plan and through supporting and rewarding farmers and crofters through the modernisation of agricultural support payments.	Develop a programme for a new generation of net-zero new towns, prioritising from the outset features such as rail links, biodiversity, district heating, and the 20-minute neighbourhood. Set out a clear, detailed and stable roadmap to net zero, giving businesses the confidence to invest. Work closely with the UK Government to create a new carbon capture and storage industry, supporting around 15,000 jobs at its peak. Bring forward a Fairer Heating Bill to accelerate the rollout of smart, climate-friendly heating systems and take a fabric-first approach to retrofitting.	Seize the opportunities of net zero - creating new jobs and economic growth, better infrastructure and energy security, cleaner heating, cleaner air and improved public services, fairly distributed across all of Scotland as part of a just transition.
RENEWABLE ENERGY	End the SNP's "ideological" ban on new nuclear facilities in Scotland. Prepare to rehabilitate North Sea gas as the primary energy system.	Introduce a time-limited pause on major renewable energy infrastructure applications to ensure Scotland delivers this infrastructure in a planned, cost-effective,	Lead a renewables revolution with a £600 million investment programme in onshore and offshore wind, tidal and solar, including redeploying the millions of public funding that's been pledged to	Support the expansion of renewable energy generation in Scotland, cut decision times, and support grid build through planning reforms, as well as increase community	Use the proceeds of Scottish renewable energy investment to fund local housing, overhauling the outdated guidance on community benefit.	The Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) supports communities to engage with, participate in, and benefit from the energy transition to net-zero emissions. To keep up with rising demand

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
	Revise and simplify the planning system to fast-track permissions for hydro, micro-hydro, geothermal, open-cast coal mining, and electrical network infrastructure, especially on brownfield or industrial sites, while retaining protections for Scotland's invaluable natural beauty, and taking into account local communities. Stop massive solar and battery farms. Create a Scottish Energy Workforce Plan linked to colleges and apprenticeships, ensuring young Scots can train for high-value careers in the energy sector.	and community-focused way. Introduce a robust process for Economic Impact Assessments of major renewable energy developments. Use the money raised from renewable energy auctions to subsidise household bills directly. Back the abolition of renewable energy subsidy schemes that increase bills. Update the Energy Skills Passport to provide appropriate support for oil and gas workers and to allow funding for this programme to be used to retrain oil and gas workers for jobs in the nuclear industry, should they wish to. Abolish the Energy Consents Unit and decentralise the coordination of land-intensive energy developments.	unproven, greenwashing carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies. Consolidate Scotland as the world leader in marine energy innovation by providing stability to the wave and tidal sectors and establishing a world-leading offshore wind test site. Ensure Scotland benefits from the jobs and investment in energy efficiency by working with industry to source a minimum percentage of their materials and components from Scotland. Pay for people to install heat pumps, solar panels with linked battery storage, and other green heating technologies in their homes, with help available for homeowners to remove fossil-fuel boilers, to meet a 2035 phase-out target for most households. Deliver at least 1GW of new, truly community-owned energy projects by 2030, with a nationwide review to	ownership of renewable energy generation. Building on progress made to date with the new Digital Skills Passport to allow offshore workers to move seamlessly between oil and gas and renewables. Deliver transition loans to supply chain businesses, to ensure Scottish businesses can meet the manufacturing needs of the renewables' expansion.	Accelerate the rollout of smart climate-friendly heating systems, including heat pumps and district heating, backed by a Fairer Heating Bill. Give local authorities the General Power of Competence to make it easier for councils to further innovate in renewable energy. Help farmers diversify to generate additional income by removing barriers to on-farm renewable energy.	and accelerate local projects, we will increase CARES funding to £15 million annually, bolstering resources to recruit more community energy officers. Formally request the transfer of energy powers from Westminster to Holyrood, and we will use those powers to end the practice of gas setting the price for an energy system dominated by renewable energy to lower bills. Rural planning reform, improving permitted development rights, such as for small-scale renewable energy production, business diversification and opportunities to streamline processes.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
			maximise opportunities for community projects on publicly owned land and exploring legislative options to enable councils and public agencies to enter into energy supply contracts with community-owned projects. Increase current government funding through the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme, covering feasibility studies, capital costs, and project staff, and develop a standardised approach for industry to engage with community groups in developing projects and partnerships. Establish a Scottish Community Wealth Fund to deliver equitable distribution of a proportion of the wealth being generated by Scotland's renewable energy resources. Large renewable energy developers would be required to contribute a percentage of their profits to this fund – in addition to any existing local benefit schemes – which would then be			

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
			disbursed to communities across the country, as determined by an independent board of community representatives. Invest in Scotland's planning system to be fully capable of accelerating the rollout of grid infrastructure so that affordable renewable energy can reach all parts of the country. Provide cash support to help families insulate their homes, making them cheaper to heat.			
RURAL HOUSING	Stop plans to phase out the use of oil boilers in rural households. Cease any new building regulations and stop local planners from getting in the way of sensible local development. Repeal the SNP's regulations for all new tenancies, while keeping the terms of existing tenancies unchanged, making homes both plentiful and more affordable for those who need them most.	Abolish the tax on buying a home in Scotland for those purchasing a primary residence. Stop costly housebuilding regulations that increase the cost of building houses. Oppose the introduction of the Building Safety Levy. Ensure that any major housing developments are accompanied by adequate service provision for local residents.	Deliver a Rural Housing Revolution with 2,700 new social homes in rural and island communities, and tackle long-term empty properties to prioritise local housing needs over second homes and holiday lets. Support housing solutions, including community-led housing, local housing needs and demands assessments, flexible building standards, and funding models that reflect small-scale, higher build costs	Consolidate rural housing funds to maximise impact. Ensure 10% of new homes are built in genuinely rural areas, and review the classification of rural housebuilding so rural housing data and targets adequately capture the reality in rural areas. Review the Croft House Grant Scheme, ensuring it supports delivery of the quality homes that crofting communities need.	Tackle the chronic housing shortage by returning housebuilding to a level that gets 25,000 new homes built annually, and create new key worker housing so that finding a home isn't a barrier to taking up a job. Create a new holistic data-driven housing strategy, re-establishing social rent as a long-term option, prioritising the building of communities, and deploying innovative finance models that	Build more homes, create a new housing agency, provide up to £10,000 deposit support for First Time Buyers, unlock £20 billion of pension fund investment and create a new £50 million homelessness fund. A £75 million Rural and Island Housing Fund will help by supporting the construction of more affordable homes of all tenures in rural Scotland. £25 million for local authorities to identify affordable homes for key

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
	Require every related policy decision to include an Energy Price Impact Statement so that there is transparency for the public about the effect on their energy bills. Immediately cancel the planned increase in council tax - the two additional bands labelled a “mansion tax”.	Create a purpose-built Brownfield Development Fund to build more homes in the right areas. Scrap the SNP's planning framework, with councils setting their own planning strategies so that they can build the homes they need. Scrap SNP rent controls as they result in reduced housebuilding and increased rents.	and supply chain constraints. Bring back the Heat in Buildings (Scotland) Bill to set a clear route map for decarbonising Scotland's homes and buildings by 2045; to include a Clean Heat Standard and target dates for compliance, set in consultation with individuals, local councils, social housing providers and industry experts. Scrap Council Tax and replace it with a fairer, more effective system that fully reflects the wealth tied up in the housing market. Create a new 'mansion tax' rate of 15% on properties worth over £1 million. Create a 'Multiplying multiplier' where the ADS rate paid increases for every additional property bought, discouraging a small number of landlords from buying up more and more properties. Set higher ADS rates for areas of acute housing	Expand the use of rural housing burdens to allow communities to buy back homes when they come up for sale and protect rural housing stock by preventing homes from being sold as second homes. Work with rural employers and local authorities to crowd in funding and fast-track developments that build housing to attract and retain rural workforces, support job creation and provide the necessary homes for key workers. Establish a £1 homes scheme, bringing derelict homes back into use by selling them to homeowners who are committed to turning them back into homes that are lived in and loved. Introduce measures to tackle the concentration of housing assets, including action on empty homes and second homes, to prioritise homes as places to live rather than speculative assets.	make it easier for people to buy and rent. Support the model promoted by the Community Housing Trust with a rural burden to develop more homes in rural areas. Force the sale of derelict sites that blight communities to deliver more suitable land for housing. Make homes warmer and cheaper to heat with a new emergency insulation programme. Accelerate the rollout of smart climate-friendly heating systems, including heat pumps and district heating, backed by a Fairer Heating Bill.	workers in rural areas and support the retention and attraction of key workers in these areas, and £20 million through the Rural and Island House grant scheme to support more families to live in rural areas. Commission an update of the design guidance for accessible homes, and to reflect this update in the 'Housing for Varying Needs' in the appropriate building standards regulations. Remove land transfer fees for people under the age of 30 for the purpose of building a single domestic housing unit.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
			pressure caused by holiday homes and short-term lets, including in rent control areas, National Parks, and Areas of Linguistic Significance. Set an overseas buyers rate, starting at 20%, to crack down on the global super-rich buying up Scottish properties as holiday homes during a housing crisis.			
RURAL COMMUNITIES AND JOBS	Support rural communities by maintaining traditional country sports. Support outdoor recreation, especially walking, climbing, snow sports, touring, cycling, paddling and horse-riding with accessible paths. Tackle rural depopulation by supporting self-build and small-scale developments through a revised planning system. Invest in rural infrastructure, including broadband expansion. Incentivise young people into the farming industry.	Ensure that as part of the plans to upgrade Scotland's roads, rural communities would get their fair share. Introduce a Rural Crime Bill that would ensure agricultural equipment is fitted with an immobiliser and forensic markings to identify the buyer. Finish the delayed rollout of the 'R100 programme' to bring faster broadband to all communities in Scotland. Fight against bank closures in rural and remote communities to protect residents who are still reliant on cash.	Redirect funding from carbon-heavy transport industries into transformative green transport investment, making sure that ferries, trains, buses and roads are kept as lifeline routes for rural communities. Embed a Rural First approach to infrastructure investment, prioritising harder-to-reach communities, including island communities, and ensuring policy and funding decisions are island-proofed from the outset. Introduce a Rural and Island Services Guarantee, ensuring every community has access to essential	Prioritise rural-specific industries within the industrial strategy, ensuring that government interventions are designed for both rural and urban areas from inception. Widen eligibility for energy-efficiency grants, so 3,000 more older households can access funding for home upgrades, and rural home grants are worth £500 more. Protect services in under-served areas, working with GPs to secure provision in rural and Deep End practices.	Overhaul the Scottish Government's outdated guidance on community benefit, so local people get much more of the money companies make from generating, storing and transmitting renewable energy near them, funding short and long-term investments in local economic development, housing and cutting energy bills. Create strong clinical networks to give peer support to professionals working in remote and rural communities. Continue Scottish Government support for the National Rural Mental Health Forum.	Establish a Last Provider Fund to help keep open shops and pubs that are the last remaining providers in rural and island communities. Implement a new mobile community dental service for the Western Isles, backed by £750,000 of investment and improve the incentives on offer to attract dentists to work and live on the islands. Deliver more mobile health services, with a specific focus on rural and island communities, bringing services closer to patients.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
	Review of the unfunded statutory obligations placed on councils by central government, so that they are given greater control over their own expenditure, returning control to democratically elected councillors. Build on the concept of Local Place Plans to give local people more say in the design and form of their communities, even down to street level, by reviewing current planning laws.		banking, public transport and childcare within a reasonable distance. Fully utilise nurses and allied health professionals to ensure primary and routine healthcare is delivered locally in rural and island settings as far as possible. Create rural jobs and ensure skills and training opportunities for young people through expanding the Nature Restoration Fund and delivering sustainable multi-year funding to two UNESCO biospheres.			
RURAL CONNECTIVITY	End the SNP “war” on the motor car, fix potholes, and abolish ULEZ. Embark on a 10-year plan to upgrade major trunk roads. Embark on 10-year programmes for: 1. Ferry renewal to reduce the age of ferries and improve reliability across the network. 2. Modernisation of railways for both passenger travel and freight.	Establish a national Small Town and Rural Bus Services Fund to improve connectivity between Scotland’s small towns, rural areas and major cities.	Explore the feasibility of bridges, tunnels and causeways across the sounds of Harris and Barra, and in the Northern Isles, to improve connectivity for islanders.	Upgrade Scotland’s road network, dualling the A9 by 2035, commissioning a business case for the dualling of the A77 and A75, and creating a new National Roads Plan to prioritise upgrades based on economic need, public safety, and local connectivity.	Subject new policies and legislation to Rural Communities Impact Assessments to guarantee local connectivity is at the heart of decision-making, and it reflects the commitment that no one and nowhere is left behind.	As part of wider public sector reforms to remove duplication of functions, Transport Scotland will be brought back into the Scottish Government, along with the other national transport bodies.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
	3. Modernisation of harbours. Ease congestion and improve the efficiency of roadworks by adopting Lane Rental Schemes to charge utility companies and contractors for road space during busy times, encouraging works to be completed quickly.					
TOURISM AND CULTURE	Get young people and adults tooled up for a new, modern economy – tourism sector. Introduce dynamic pricing for large tourist vehicles on ferries to subsidise essential travel for islanders.	Conduct a full review of the regulatory barriers that have threatened jobs within the tourism industry to remove harmful regulations, as part of the Reduction in Red Tape Bill. Support the thriving culture sector with a new Culture Act that guarantees multi-year funding for cultural bodies. Overhaul the SNP's heritage quango to ensure it looks after historic buildings.	Provide direct funding for Scotland's two UNESCO biosphere reserves in Wester Ross and Galloway/South Ayrshire, to support more nature restoration, job creation and tourism management in the areas. Develop proposals across the economy to introduce new taxes which raise funds for communities, including plans for a Carbon Emission Land Tax, Stadium Levy, Cruise Ship and a 'point of entry' levy for tourism. Deliver targeted support for seasonal workers, particularly in agriculture, hospitality and tourism, to expand unionisation and deliver better pay, guaranteed hours,	Establish a Major Events Bureau, strengthening the Edinburgh festivals, supporting the expansion of the Scottish Events Campus and positioning Scotland as a leading destination for world-class sport, culture, and international conferences. Champion the development of specialist hospitality qualifications, working with business schools and colleges to close critical skills gaps and build clear, respected career pathways across the industry. Drive the expansion of international air routes through a route development fund that prioritises establishing more direct flights to North America and Asia.	Help farmers diversify to generate additional income by removing barriers to on-farm renewable energy generation, agritourism, building change of use, and the delivery of small-scale housing for workers and locals. Champion responsible and sustainable tourism, recognising it as a key industry and incorporate it into industrial and skills strategies. Maintain free access to national museums and galleries. Support the creation of Dundee's Eden Project. Tackle the big city bias that exists in how cultural money is distributed to nurture and promote	Invest further in the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF), which aims to improve the visitor experience in rural parts of Scotland that are experiencing visitor management issues. Work with partners, including streaming stakeholders like Amazon Prime and Netflix, to build formal programmes which include official filming location trails. Continue to support the development of the Eden Project in Dundee, helping to solidify Dundee's status as a truly world-class destination.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
			working conditions and suitable accommodation. Ensure that spending time in Scotland's outdoors is accessible and affordable for disabled people and minority ethnic groups, investing in transport infrastructure to support this.	Advance the Glasgow airport rail link as a national priority, finally delivering a modern metro connection from the city centre to the airport and ending decades of delay. Work with the Dundee Eden project to build on Dundee's reputation as a creative and cultural destination. Protect Scotland's historic assets by reforming Historic Environment Scotland so it is fit for purpose, and ensure funding is properly used to maintain Scottish sites. Market Scotland as a premium food and drink destination, leveraging the strength of whisky and salmon while treating the wider food and drink sector as a strategic economic asset.	talent in every corner of Scotland.	
CIRCULAR ECONOMY	N/A	N/A	Ensure that Aggregates and Landfill Taxes are well-aligned, rapidly reducing construction waste, and meeting Scotland's circular economy objectives.	Work with local authorities to improve recycling rates and reuse facilities, learning from best practices and ensuring more recycling is processed in Scotland	Embrace the circular economy and reduce waste by learning the lessons from the Deposit Return Scheme and the landfill ban.	Commit to Community Wealth Building, to "keep wealth circulating locally, regionally and nationally", using public spending and local economic anchors rather than extraction.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

						
				rather than shipped elsewhere. Tackle littering and waste from drinks containers, roll out the deposit return scheme, and introduce a small charge for single-use takeaway cups.	Double the fixed penalty for littering and introduce a new restitution order to tackle fly-tipping by making offenders pay for the clean-up of dumped waste, with fines that reflect the damage the polluter causes. Wherever possible, phasing out the use of problematic non-recyclable non-essential single-use plastics and replacing them with affordable alternatives.	Reduce waste and improve efficiency in public services, including reducing duplication, integrating services, and simplifying reporting requirements as part of public sector reform.



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