



Time for Action



Holyrood Elections 2021

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland supporter guide

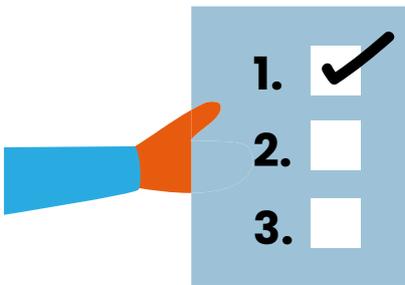
This guide will tell you about the three key things we want parties to do for climate and nature and suggestions for some of the accompanying transformational policies which we believe the next Scottish Government should adopt. The guide also explains how you could talk about these policies to those candidates seeking your vote.

You will have plenty of opportunities to put your points to them at hustings, or other online events. We have to ensure that candidates from all parties understand that their prospective constituents are deeply concerned about the climate crisis, and want them to work hard to build the fairer, greener Scotland we all need.

What we want to see from the next Scottish Government

See our [*manifesto*](#) for full details of what we are calling for

We have suggested some policies that would deliver these, and sample questions for candidates - but please feel free to put them into your own words.



1. The next Scottish Government should deliver transformative change to cut emissions across all areas of life.

68% of adults agree that climate change is an immediate and urgent problem. Change must be made at the highest level so that the lowest carbon option is the most accessible. This is where our Government and Parliament come in. The next Scottish

Government must introduce new, expanded, policy measures and investment that reduce emissions, particularly in our most polluting activities, while recognising evidence that the over-consumption of the richest people are disproportionately creating the climate crisis. This means increasing funding for active travel and low-carbon transport, bringing forward a fair and just food system that allows us to access sustainable, local and healthy diets, and making it easier for people to heat their homes with renewable energy.

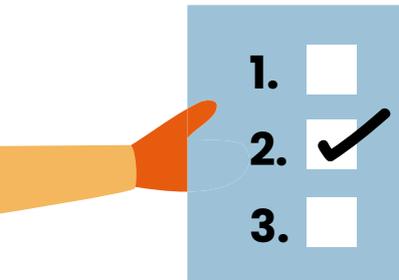
Sample questions

1. Scotland has set a target of cutting emissions by 75% by 2030. Do you support this target and how will you make transforming the economy to meet the challenges of the climate crisis an urgent priority in the next parliament?

3. Environment groups are urging that 100% of electricity generated in Scotland needs to come from renewables by 2032. What steps will you take to achieve this?

2. Scotland has set a target of cutting emissions by 75% by 2030 and helping keep our homes warmer could save the NHS millions. Will you ensure that all homes in Scotland reach at least Energy Performance 'C' by 2030? What support will the Government provide to households to cover the cost?

4. Taking action to protect and enhance our land and seas supports nature and increases the potential for capturing carbon emissions. What steps will you take to ensure that nature is protected, restored and managed together with communities?

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2. Phase out our most polluting activities as part of a Just Transition to a low carbon future

There has been a historical lack of policy support and very little progress in decarbonising our most polluting sectors, such as transport, buildings and agriculture. This has allowed for the continuation of harmful practices, including the expansion of the oil and gas industry, damage to marine and peatland carbon stores, emissions-heavy farming practices, and disproportionate investment in road building at the expense of low-carbon transport options.

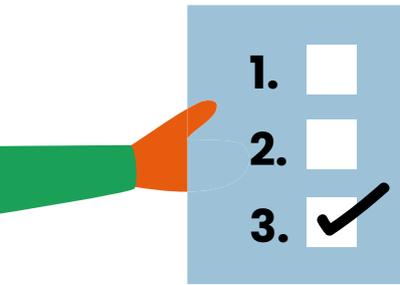
To ensure Scotland does its fair share to tackle the climate emergency in a way that protects workers and communities currently involved in these industries, the next Scottish Government must commit to embedding a Just Transition at the heart of all investments, to decarbonise every sector and deliver a prosperous, sustainable and fair economy for all. As well as bringing multiple benefits for our climate ambitions and the environment, promoting the growth of green industries would create urgent, new, and quality jobs, in line with a Just Transition and a green recovery.

Sample questions

1. One way of encouraging climate and nature-friendly farming and fishing is to move toward ending subsidies to ways of working that damage the environment and produce greenhouse gases. Do you support this? If so, what steps will you take?

2. How will you ensure the roll out of Heat Networks across Scotland and what other key actions will you prioritise to ensure the decarbonising of heating Scotland's homes and workplaces is fast-tracked?

3. Do you support stopping new trunk road and motorway building in order to shift funding to subsidising public transport and enabling active travel options like walking and cycling? If not, how else will you reduce transport emissions which remain very high?



3. The next Scottish Government must be a good global citizen and demonstrate world leadership by championing climate justice

As well as emissions reductions, delivering climate justice involves action beyond our borders. For many of the poorest people in the world climate breakdown is already a lived reality. Recognising Scotland's historical role in contributing to the climate crisis, the

next Scottish Government must increase Scotland's Climate Justice Fund, sending a powerful message that it is committed to delivering its fair share and stand in solidarity with those who are already suffering from a crisis they did not cause.

At COP26, global leaders will come to Scotland to discuss the three pillars of climate action: emissions reduction, adaptation, and how to respond to the climate impacts already experienced ('loss and damage'). The cost of inaction will be far greater than the cost of action. The next Scottish Government must use all its powers to deliver action in each of these areas, while lobbying for change on any reserved issues. By doing this they can demonstrate leadership at COP26, and ensure the conference leaves a legacy in Scotland that delivers climate justice.

Sample questions

1. How will you and your party ensure that when world leaders come to Glasgow for the COP26 climate change summit this year they see a nation which is committed to helping people in the world's poorest countries adapt and thrive?

2. Recognising Scotland's historic responsibility as a rich industrial nation, will you and your party agree to significantly increase the Climate Justice Fund to show international solidarity with people already dealing with the worst consequences of climate change?

Advice on talking to candidates

- ✓ Don't worry about being an expert on the issues. The most important thing for them to know is that you care about the issue. They want your vote. Remember too that most of them are standing for election because they actually want to bring about positive change, so you caring about this issue gives them a mandate to act upon it.
- ✓ Their time will probably be limited so have a think about what you want to say before you meet them. It might help to write your question down so you say exactly what you want.
- ✓ Be polite but don't be afraid to ask a follow up question or ask for clarification if you feel they have not answered your question.
- ✓ When you're talking about your concern for climate action, give them evidence that you're not a lone voice. Tell them about friends and family or people in your community who care and are taking action.
- ✓ Take note of what your candidates commit to so you can follow up with them if they get elected.
- ✓ You can direct candidates to www.stopclimatechaos.scot/campaign/election2021 if they wish to follow up on the detail of what you asked them.
- ✓ When talking to candidates online, remember to be as polite as you would be in person.

Hustings

Hustings usually occur in specific 'seats' or constituencies when an organisation invites local candidates to a public meeting. An audience of voters listens to the debate and puts questions to the candidates. If you can get involved in local hustings, this will demonstrate to the candidates that many of their constituents really do care about climate justice.

Find out if a hustings is happening in your area by looking at:

- Local organisations' websites and social media feeds.
- Your local candidates' websites – find details of your candidates at www.whocanivotefor.co.uk
- Visit www.climatefringe.org/events-calendar/

Write to your candidate

You can write to or email your candidates with your chosen question(s). Find details of your candidates at: www.whocanivotefor.co.uk

Social media

This election campaign will look and feel very different than previous elections and candidates will be using social media to communicate with voters more than ever before. Getting involved in the conversation on social media is a good way to grab your local candidates' attention and help shape the debate.

DO YOUR RESEARCH - Find your local candidates' social media profiles and make sure you follow or 'like' them. This will give you an idea of the platforms they use most often and the best way of getting their attention. If you can't find their profiles by typing in their name in the search bar, keep an eye out for contact details on any election leaflets posted through your door.

SHARE CONTENT - Share election campaign material posted on SCCS and our member organisations' Facebook and Twitter channels. You can make sure your local candidates see it too by tagging in their handle (by typing @ + their name) in the post and it will pop up on their feed.

START A CONVERSATION - Your local candidates, especially if they are existing MSPs with a large social media following, are more likely to see your message if you reply to something they have already said. Keep an eye on their social media channels and if they post something about one of the topics you care about, reply with a question and let them know it's really important to you as a voter.

Thank you for helping to make sure urgent action on climate change is a priority for all candidates!

About us

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is a diverse coalition of over 60 civil society organisations in Scotland campaigning together on climate change. Our members include environment, faith and belief groups, international development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups.

We believe that the Scottish Government should take bold action to tackle climate change, with Scotland delivering our fair share of action in response to the Paris Agreement and supporting climate justice around the world.

