

# Scottish parliament elections 2026 manifesto comparison

A comparison of the Scottish political party manifestos against the [Quaker manifesto](#) for the purpose of:

- Understanding how thinking is developing within political parties on our focus areas of climate justice, economic justice and peacebuilding to inform our UK wide advocacy.
- Helping us target engagement with new MSPs by identifying areas that certain parties may work with us **on**.

The manifestos of each party are linked at the top of each table and below, where there is a blank space this means that the manifesto does not mention the topic area. Please refer to the manifestos for further details of policies.

The Quaker manifesto that we wrote ahead of the election can be found [here](#).

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## Climate justice finance

### Increased funding for the Climate Justice Fund to £15 million in the next parliament

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
<p>Increased funding for the Climate Justice Fund to £15 million in the next parliament</p>	<p>Close down the SNP's international climate change budget so that we can spend this money on our priorities at home instead (p46)</p> <p>The support they announced for households struggling with heating oil costs was less than half the amount of money they're planning to spend dealing with 'International Climate Change' next year p46</p>	<p>"Safeguard and expand Scotland's international development programme, including the International Development Fund, the Climate Justice Fund and the Humanitarian Emergency Fund." (p132)</p>	<p>In turbulent global times, acting in solidarity is even more important. It was a Scottish Labour government that first introduced Scotland's voluntary contributions to international development work, in recognition of Scotland's outward facing and internationalist outlook. We will continue this work, making sure that the contribution Scotland makes is as effective as it can be in tackling humanitarian crises around the world. (p86)</p>	<p>"Our commitment to fostering a new global approach to Loss &amp; Damage continues to shape the case we make internationally for an ethical approach to foreign policy" (p34)</p> <p>"We will increase the £15 million International Development Fund by at least 25% by the end of the next Parliament. This will be in addition to the continuation and growth of our Climate Justice Fund and our 'aid match' scheme with SCIAF." (p34)</p>	<p>"Supporting the Liberal Democrats' calls to restore the UK's role as a global leader on climate change, including through international development and loss and damage finance" (p72)</p>	

## Continued and expanded contributions through the Humanitarian Emergency Fund

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Continued and expanded contributions through the Humanitarian Emergency Fund	Another part of our drive to curtail public spending would see us reduce the Scottish Government's foreign aid budget. At a time of stretched budgets, our priority should be to fix our problems at home, so we would redirect this money towards public services instead (p10)	"Safeguard and expand Scotland's international development programme, including the International Development Fund, the Climate Justice Fund and the Humanitarian Emergency Fund." (p132)	<p>Maintain the international development budget, ensuring that funding for humanitarian aid is only delivered through not-for-profit organisations and is targeted at areas where we have Scottish partnerships in place. (p86)</p> <p>Establish an aid matching scheme, so that government contributions to international development can double the generous donations made by the Scottish public to specific projects. (p86)</p>	"We will continue support for tackling global emergencies through the Humanitarian Emergency Fund, and give particular focus on supporting the efforts related to United Nations Security Council Resolution1325, which recognises the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls" (p34)	"Supporting the Liberal Democrats' calls to restore the UK's role as a global leader on climate change, including through international development and loss and damage finance" (p72)	

### All climate-justice finance to be new, additional, and provided as grants, not loans

See innovative taxation below, detail not provided by any party in manifestos about the nature of international climate finance and whether it would be new, additional, grants not loans.

## Climate and economic justice

### Innovative taxation- polluter pays principle

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
<p>Climate finance is generated by the biggest polluters contributing the most through innovative taxation</p>	<p>“Support the scrapping of the carbon tax and carbon price support schemes that increase the cost of your energy bills.” 46</p>	<p>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 p35</p> <p>Overhaul the taxation of air travel in Scotland, by replacing the incoming Air Departure Tax with a frequent flyer levy. P34</p> <p>Increase both the standard and higher rates of Landfill Tax as an incentive for businesses to reduce the waste they send to landfill. P34</p> <p>Fully embed the ‘Polluter Pays’ principle, with financial penalties for pollution and habitat damage p156</p>		<p>We are committed to progressive taxation that asks the wealthiest to pay their share while helping the less well-off make ends meet. P29</p> <p>We will put in place a Private Jet tax P29</p> <p>From 2028, we will levy a mansion tax, raising additional funds for local services by adding two bands to the top of the council tax system for properties valued at over £1 million and £2 million. P19</p>	<p>Reduce the climate impact of flying by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering the devolution of Air Departure Tax...</li> <li>• Ensuring passengers on private jets pay rates that reflect the per-passenger impact of these flights on the environment.</li> <li>• make sure Scotland gets a good share of the benefits of research and investment in the production of low-carbon sustainable aviation fuels and the development of zero-emission aircraft p67</li> </ul>	

## Fossil fuel phase-out

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
<p>Support no new oil and gas developments in the North Sea or elsewhere</p>	<p>“The Scottish Conservatives would include in our energy strategy a clear commitment to using all the reserves in the North Sea that we can find so that we can provide a longer term future for our oil and gas industry.” P47</p> <p>“Overturn the SNP Government’s opposition to new oil and gas developments and lobby the Labour Government to reverse their ban.” Includes a mention of approving Jackdaw and Rosebank p47</p>	<p>Continue to oppose new fossil fuel developments in Scotland, including new oil and gas exploration in fields like Rosebank, and the new gas-fired power plant at Peterhead. P5</p> <p>Support an immediate end to new oil and gas extraction.p12</p>		<p>For as long as Scotland requires fossil fuels, we will continue to call on the UK Government to approach decisions for North Sea oil and gas projects on a rigorously evidence-led, case-by-case, basis – with climate compatibility and energy security as key considerations. P23</p>	<p>Recognising that the futures of the oil and gas industry and renewables are intertwined, avoiding polarising policies that will fail them both. P73</p>	<p>"Prepare to rehabilitate North Sea gas as our primary energy system" p15</p>

## Sign the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Sign the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty		<p>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.p5</p> <p>Continue to call for Scotland to join the international Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance. P5</p>				

## A Just transition

### Delivery of the Climate Change Plan and deliver net zero by 2045

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
<p>Delivery of the Climate Change Plan and deliver net zero by 2045</p>	<p>“The tax rises and behavioural changes necessary to meet net zero emissions by 2045 would cripple our economy. We would scrap the 2045 target and drop any policies that are imposing costs on households in order to meet it.” P45</p> <p>Overhaul Scottish Government energy policy so that its main objective is to lower costs for households and businesses, rather than reaching arbitrary net zero targets. P46</p>	<p>“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.” P4</p>	<p>Scottish Labour will take the action needed to achieve our net zero by 2045 ambitions and protect Scotland’s natural environment for future generations.p76</p>	<p>"We will take the necessary action to achieve net zero by 2045." (p61)</p> <p>Our Climate Change Plan sets out actions from now until 2040 to reduce emissions, seize the opportunities of net zero for new jobs and economic growth, improve our infrastructure and, improve our energy security. P23</p>	<p>Take the action needed now for Scotland to achieve net zero by 2045 p74/75</p>	<p>Scrap all SNP Net Zero related targets, subsidies and quangos (p15)</p>

## Funding redirected to proven climate solutions

### Transport

There is not space to list all the detailed policies related to transport, heating etc. So this is a selection and won't be fully representative, look at manifestos for more details

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Transport	<p>“The Scottish Conservatives would lower the tax rate on long-haul flights to attract investment and the jobs that would come with it.” P39</p> <p>“Advocate for the extension of the Borders Railway and the reopening of railway stations that have been previously closed.” P39</p> <p>“Abolish and oppose any targets that aim to reduce the use of cars in Scotland.” E.g. congestion charges, reducing speed limits p36</p> <p>“We would open up a new Small Town and Rural Bus Services Fund p37</p>	<p>Expand free bus travel to everyone resident in Scotland.p156</p> <p>Abolish first class rail on all ScotRail services...Introduce Scotland’s first integrated ticketing system p16</p> <p>Expand Scotland railways p20</p> <p>And lots of other policies too.</p>	<p>Keeping down the cost of public transport, preventing a return to peak rail fares, maintaining free bus travel for under-22s and older people, and delivering a plan to place local bus services under public control. P10</p>	<p>Our £2 bus fare cap extended nationwide. P5</p> <p>Peak rail fares will not be re-introduced as long as there is an SNP government. P30</p>	<p>investing to move all forms of transport away from fossil fuels, as well as encouraging walking and cycling, we will protect the environment and improve public health. P62</p>	

## Peatlands, forests, farming

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Peatlands, forests and farms		Also peatland restoration p8, nature friendly farming p148, expansion renewables p38	Reward farmers for nature-friendly practices, incentivising nature restoration and recognising the environmental contributions already made by Scotland's farmers.p77	We will progress our plans for forestry and peatlands p63		

## Home heating

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Home heating		Bring back the Heat in Buildings (Scotland) Bill to set a clear route map for decarbonising Scotland's homes and buildings by 2045; p12  Pay for people to install heat pumps, solar panels with linked battery storage and other green heating technologies on their homes, with help available for homeowners to remove fossil fuel boilers, to meet a 2035 phaseout target for most households.p12		We will take forward our Heat in Building Bill to support homeowners, landlords and tenants to transition to clean heating in a fair and affordable way. P33	Make homes warmer and cheaper to heat with a new emergency insulation programme. P70	

## Community energy

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Community energy		Support the expansion of locally-owned district heat networks by increasing the Scottish Heat Network Fund, supporting the wider rollout of low-carbon, affordable heat to around 1-in-6 homes in Scotland's densely-populated urban areas, alongside expanding legislative and technical support for the development of low-carbon heat networks. P12	Support the expansion of renewable energy generation in Scotland, p76  Establish a community energy fund, ring fencing at least £100m of ScotWind revenues p53	We will accelerate investment in offshore wind, solar, pumped storage and emerging technologies. P23  We will expand the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) to £15 million p23	Investing in low-carbon heat networks, including the potential for connecting whole towns. P71  Supporting the expansion of community and decentralised energy. P72	"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" p15

## Carbon impact assessments

No mention of robust carbon-impact assessment (including full lifecycle and Scope 3 emissions) for any public-funded projects by any party.

### Prioritising proven and scalable technology

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Prioritising proven and scalable technology rather than carbon capture storage		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 unproven, greenwashing carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies. P12		We will support the Acorn project in the North East and the further use of Carbon Capture technology where it can demonstrate decarbonisation at pace. P23	Work closely with the UK Government to create a new carbon capture and storage industry, supporting around 15,000 jobs at its peak. P73	

### A nationwide public awareness campaign

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
A nationwide public awareness campaign		<p>Challenge climate misinformation through a sustained public information campaign to deepen people's understanding of climate change and counter climate denialism. We will maintain funding for existing climate and environmental education programmes to support educators and young people. P4</p> <p>Continue the rollout of climate justice education through the Learning for Sustainability Action Plan, co-developed by Green MSPs, and ensure Scotland's past is taught honestly and accurately, including tackling our role in the British Empire and slavery. P58</p>				

## Peace – Responsible Public Investment

### Strengthen human-rights checks on Scottish Enterprise and all public-funding bodies

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Strengthen human-rights checks on Scottish Enterprise and all public-funding bodies		<p>"Place legal duties on public bodies and any organisation acting on their behalf to not only uphold human rights here in Scotland, but consider how their work impacts on the human and environmental rights in other countries." (p7)</p> <p>"Ensure coherence across all Scottish Government activities to ensure we are not contributing to the same global crises we are trying to solve, for example by contributing to humanitarian support in warzones where the damage has been caused by arms dealers in receipt of Scottish Government funding" (p132)</p>	Carry out robust human rights due diligence checks on business support funding for defence, to take account of product end use and ensure public money is not connected to products used in human rights abuses around the world. (p86)			

## A shift in public spending away from weapons and the military

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
<p>A shift in public spending away from weapons and the military to be redirected to address the causes of conflict such as gross inequality and climate breakdown</p>		<p>"Ban the United States Military, and other governments involved in and facilitating war crimes and genocide, from using Scottish Government owned infrastructure, including Prestwick Airport and HIAL airports." (p131)</p> <p>"Ensure Scotland works towards a world free of nuclear weapons, including by committing to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and amending the Marine Scotland Act to ban the movement of nuclear weapons through Scottish waters. " (p131)</p> <p>"Establish a Scottish Reparative Justice Fund to support racialised communities in Scotland, global climate justice initiatives and partnerships with Caribbean and African nations affected by Scotland's historic role in the slave trade." (p132)</p> <p>Detailed commitments on Palestine and other aspects of global solidarity; key pledges over three pages 130-132</p>		<p>"We maintain our firm and unequivocal opposition to nuclear weapons - both in principle and to their location in Scotland. This includes opposition to the replacement of the Trident nuclear missile system and to the UK Government's commitment to increase the number of nuclear warheads to the tune of £15 billion." (p34)</p> <p>Scotland is home to a world class defence sector but with the UK isolated from EU defence funding it is being badly let down. We believe that the UK must secure access to the £150 billion 'SAFE' fund which would allow Scottish and UK defence companies the ability to bid for contracts supported by EU-backed loans and would also have allowed common procurement, boosting jobs and supply chains.p34</p>		

## Peace – human rights and peace protections

### Introduce the Scottish Human Rights Bill

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
<p>Introduce the Scottish Human Rights Bill</p>		<p>“Ensure the Scottish Human Rights Bill extends beyond the Rights of Children and Young People, already incorporated into Scots law. The new Bill will embed the rights of disabled people, older people, women, members of faith groups, migrants, gypsy, roma and traveller communities, and LGBT+ people under international treaties.” P70</p> <p>Introduce Human Rights Budgeting, and give the Scottish Human Rights Commission a role to assess every Scottish Budget Bill for rights compliance; and ensure all budgets set by public bodies go through similar processes.p70</p> <p>Further to the “Tinker Experiment” apology, we will accept the recommendations of the Scottish Human Rights Commission to provide compensation for the victims and families of forced assimilation, forced migration and other historic wrongs perpetrated by the State.p71</p> <p>recognise the right to a healthy environment... with these rights enforceable in a new Scottish Environmental court. p70</p>	<p>Protect Scotland’s commitment to being a Fair Trade Nation, promoting ethical trade and workers’ rights around the world, as well as at home. (p86)</p>	<p>We will introduce the Human Rights Bill in the next parliament and incorporate a range of conventions into Scots Law. P34</p> <p>"Issues of human rights, climate justice, and gender equality are central to our international approach." (p33)</p>		

## Use advocacy opportunities to call for an end to devastating conflicts and nuclear weapons

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Use advocacy opportunities to call for an end to devastating conflicts and nuclear weapons		<p>"Ensure that Scotland's authorities take every opportunity to uphold international law, UN resolutions, warrants and rulings of the International Criminal Court, in holding accountable any individuals who are suspected of committing war crimes or crimes against humanity" p131</p> <p>"Ensure Scotland's voice is heard globally through expanded diplomatic engagement and representation, including expanding Scotland's external representation networks to key global cities and regions, strengthening advocacy on climate, human rights and sustainable development" (p)131</p>		<p>"We will continue to build strong international partnerships with our neighbours in Europe, and stand up for peace, democracy, and the rule of law in an increasingly uncertain world." (p33)</p> <p>"We will expand the number of 'Scotland House' consulates around the world to over 40 by consolidating Scottish Government and Scottish Development International offices into a single network." (p41)</p>	<p>"Standing up for the values of democracy, liberty, human rights, the rule of law and international development, both at home and abroad." (p96)</p>	

## Peace education

Neither of our aims were mentioned in any manifestos, these were:

- Embed peace education across the curriculum
- Increase funding for Scottish Development Education Centres

## Other- Charity law

Our asks	Conservative	Green	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Reform
Charity law	Review charity law to consider whether bodies that receive almost all their funding from government or the public sector should still be classed as charities (p15)			We will develop an agreement with the third sector to strengthen its voice and improve lives, which will include delivering funding on a multi-year basis to allow better planning of service provision." (p33)		Form a department of government efficiency to cut waste and duplication and the endless funding of lobbyist charities by taxpayers (p25)
Ecocide		Bring forward a Scottish Corporate Accountability and Ecocide Bill criminalising severe environmental harm and widening liability for corporate executives.p4				

## Truth and integrity in public life

No manifestos talk about these areas. Our asks were:

- Model honest, respectful communication, avoiding scapegoating or the use of hostile rhetoric
- Improve Holyrood's systems for transparency and accountability, including clearer communication about policy trade-offs and long-term consequences