

SCCAN's

NOW

Manifesto

**Enhancing
Community
Power**



Table of Contents

Background.....	1
Explanation.....	2
Executive Summary.....	5
MEDIA: Reclaiming Truth, Challenging Power.....	7
POLITICAL & SYSTEM CHANGE: Democracy for Climate Justice.....	10
LAND & SEA: Reclaiming the Commons.....	12
HEALTH & WELLBEING: Remove the barriers to health.....	13
ENERGY: Power to the People.....	14
FOOD: Grow Local, Eat Radical.....	15
WASTE: From Pollution to Regeneration.....	17
TAX & FUNDING: A Just Economy for People & Planet.....	18
TRANSPORT: Mobility Without Carbon.....	19
HOUSING & BUILDINGS: Shelter as a Right, Not a Commodity.....	20
FRESH WATER: Protecting the Lifeblood of the Land.....	21
INCOME & WORK: A Just Transition for All.....	22
Our Pledge.....	23
Thank you.....	24

Background

WHO ARE SCCAN?

Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) is a national network dedicated to empowering community-led responses to the climate and nature emergency across Scotland.

Serving grassroots community groups, local organisations and individual changemakers, SCCAN represents a growing movement of over 1,200 community organisations and individuals committed to building a just, resilient and thriving future.

Rooted in values of collaboration, inclusion and climate justice, SCCAN's ideology centres on the belief that communities are at the heart of meaningful climate action and social transformation.

SCCAN's aims are to strengthen local capacity, connect people and projects, share knowledge and resources, and amplify community voices - leading to practical action that restores nature, reduces emissions, and nurtures fairer, healthier places for present and future generations.

HOW DID THE NOW MANIFESTO COME ABOUT?

SCCAN asked our members and key stakeholders for their opinions on the things that matter most to them going forwards and what they'd like to do about it. The results are in this document.

Where we believe matters are reserved to Westminster we note that and ask the Scottish Government to do what they can to pressure Westminster into action.

Where matters are devolved we're asking the Scottish Government to act directly.



Photo by Becky from [Open Eye](#)

Explanation

WHY INCLUDE BOTH DEVOLVED & RESERVED ASKS

SCCAN's NOW Manifesto is grounded in urgency, honesty, and community power. One question that may arise when reading it is: why does the manifesto include actions that sit outside the Scottish Parliament's devolved powers?

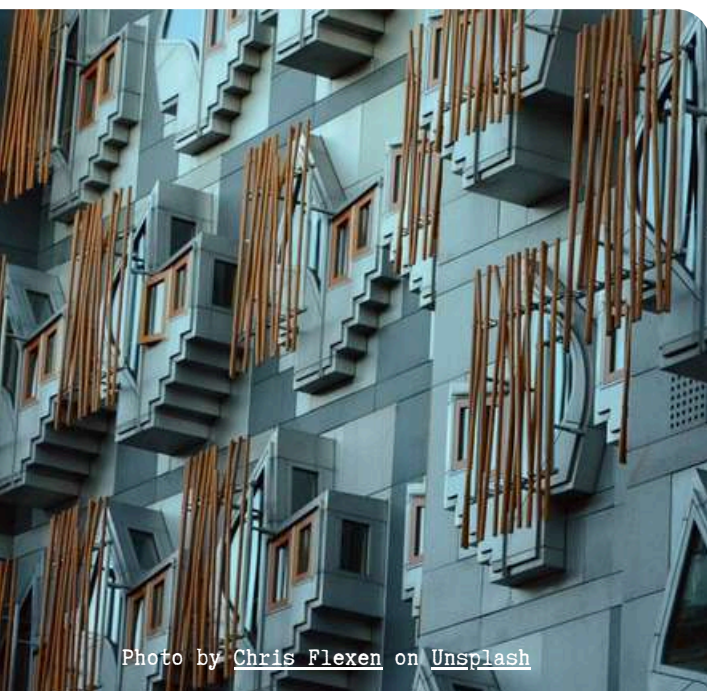
The answer is simple: because this manifesto is driven by what needs to happen — not by what is politically convenient.

WHAT DO "DEVOLVED" & "RESERVED" MEAN?

In Scotland, decision-making powers are split between different levels of government:

- **Devolved powers** are those controlled by the Scottish Parliament (e.g. health, education, housing, land use, and aspects of energy and transport)
- **Reserved powers** are controlled by the UK Government (e.g. broadcasting, taxation structures like VAT and corporation tax, most energy markets, and regulation of large corporations and media)

This division shapes what policies can be directly implemented by the Scottish Government — but it does not define the limits of what must change.



WHY WE INCLUDE RESERVED ASKS

The climate and ecological crises — and the inequalities they intensify — do not respect constitutional boundaries.

If we only included what is currently within devolved powers, we would be:

- Ignoring major drivers of harm (such as fossil fuel subsidies, media ownership, and national taxation systems)
- Limiting our ambition to what is administratively straightforward
- Accepting a fragmented approach to problems that are systemic

That is not acceptable in the face of a climate emergency.

Instead, this manifesto sets out the **full picture of what must happen** to create a just, regenerative Scotland — regardless of where those powers currently sit.

THIS IS A NEEDS-BASED MANIFESTO, NOT A PERMISSION-BASED ONE

We have deliberately not released this prior to the election, because the climate doesn't know one happened. Too often, policy discussions begin with the question: "What can this government realistically do?"

We start somewhere else:

What needs to be done — now — to protect communities, restore ecosystems, and secure a livable future?

From there, we map those actions onto existing powers:

- Some can be delivered immediately within devolved competence
- Some require cooperation, pressure, or change at the UK level
- Some point to deeper systemic and constitutional questions

But all of them are necessary.



WHAT THIS MEANS IN PRACTICE

Including both devolved and reserved asks allows the manifesto to:

- Tell the truth about the scale of change required
- Empower communities to advocate at multiple levels – local, Scottish, and UK-wide
- Support alignment and collaboration across movements and governments
- Challenge political inertia and passing of responsibility between institutions

It also makes clear that **no single institution can solve this alone** – change must be collective, coordinated, and community-driven.

A TOOL FOR ACTION, NOT JUST POLICY

This manifesto is not only a document for governments. It is a tool for:

- Communities organising for change
- Campaigners pushing for national reform
- Networks building alliances across Scotland and beyond

By naming both devolved and reserved actions, we equip people to act wherever they have influence.

IN SUMMARY

We include both devolved and reserved asks because:

- The crises we face are interconnected and systemic
- Limiting ourselves to existing powers would mean limiting real solutions
- Communities deserve honesty about what change truly requires
- This is a manifesto for what must happen – not just what feels politically possible

We are not waiting for permission.

Executive Summary

Scotland stands at a crossroads. While climate legislation is ambitious, the pace of political action is far outstripped by accelerating climate impacts – from extreme flooding and wildfires to biodiversity collapse, rising food pricing and energy insecurity, and widening health inequalities. The resulting Action Gap leaves communities vulnerable and waiting for change that is too slow to arrive.

SCCAN's NOW Manifesto responds to this urgency by placing community power at the centre of Scotland's transformation. Rather than waiting for top-down solutions, we propose a bold, community-led programme across twelve interconnected domains: Media, Land, Health, Energy, Food, Waste, Tax, Transport, Housing, Water, Income & Work, and Political & System Change. These proposals draw on devolved and reserved powers, current policy frameworks, and real conditions facing communities today.

Across all areas, the manifesto calls for:

1. Reclaiming Truth and Challenging Power - through an active, evidence based media that is trusted and delivers for communities.
2. Revitalising democracy – through citizens' assemblies, curbs on corporate influence, strengthened political integrity, and universal climate literacy.
3. Reclaiming and regenerating the commons – through land reform, ecosystem restoration, marine protection, and community ownership.
4. Building a wellbeing nation – where health, equality, and climate action are treated as inseparable.
5. Powering Scotland through community-owned energy – ensuring a just transition away from fossil fuels.
6. Creating a resilient, fair, and sustainable food system – supporting local growers, banning harmful practices, transforming diets, and empowering communities to produce, access, and value good food.
7. Moving from waste to circularity – eliminating pollution, expanding repair and reuse, and embedding local zero-waste infrastructure.
8. Taxing and Funding for climate justice – shifting economic incentives away from extraction and towards regeneration, fairness, and community wealth.

9. Transforming mobility – investing in free, renewable-powered public transport and designing neighbourhoods for people, not cars.
10. Ensuring housing as a right – through retrofit, community-led housing, and planning that prioritises social and ecological wellbeing.
11. Protecting Scotland’s fresh water systems – restoring rivers and wetlands, preventing pollution, and placing waste governance in public hands.
12. Enabling a just economic transition – guaranteeing meaningful, climate-aligned work and exploring Universal Basic Income.

Together, these pathways form a coherent, people-powered approach to climate justice and regeneration. They recognise that communities already hold the knowledge, creativity and energy required to build a fairer, more resilient Scotland – one garden, one street, one town at a time.

Our pledge is simple:

We are not waiting for permission.

We are building the future now.

SCCAN invites every community in Scotland to join this collective effort toward a regenerative, democratic, & climate-resilient nation.

MEDIA: Reclaiming Truth, Challenging Power

SUMMARY

A just and regenerative Scotland depends on a media system that informs rather than distorts, empowers rather than distracts, and holds power to account rather than serving it. Today, much of our media landscape is shaped by concentrated corporate ownership, advertising-driven business models, and the unchecked power of digital platforms. This fuels misinformation, entrenches inequality, promotes environmentally destructive consumption, and reinforces an economic narrative of endless growth on a finite planet.

A democratic transition requires media that is plural, accountable, climate-literate, and rooted in the public interest — enabling communities to tell their own stories and confront the structural causes of crisis.



POLICY LINK

Broadcasting, media ownership, and advertising regulation are largely reserved, governed by the UK Government and Ofcom. However, Scotland holds meaningful devolved influence through culture funding, education, ethical procurement, public information campaigns, and community empowerment.

→ Fair, Balanced, and Democratic Media

- Establish and fund independent, community-owned local media in every region of Scotland by 2030. (Devolved)
- Guarantee long-term funding for public-interest journalism, protected from political and corporate interference. (Devolved)
- Embed climate literacy, ecological limits, and social justice standards across publicly funded media. (Devolved)

→ End Media Monopolies and Concentrated Ownership

- Break up excessive concentration of media ownership and prevent further consolidation. (Reserved)
- Introduce ownership caps and strengthened public-interest tests for media mergers. (Reserved)
- Increase transparency of media ownership and funding sources. (Partly Devolved)
- Support cooperative, not-for-profit, and community-owned media models as the default alternative. (Devolved)



→ Advertising Curbs on Environmentally Harmful Products

- Ban or severely restrict advertising for fossil fuels, high-carbon travel, and other environmentally harmful products. (Reserved)
- End public-sector advertising contracts with companies whose business models undermine climate and biodiversity goals. (Devolved)
- Redirect public advertising spend towards repair, reuse, low-carbon living, public transport, and local economies. (Devolved)



→ Challenge the Myth of Endless Economic Growth

- End the uncritical promotion of GDP growth as the primary measure of success in publicly funded media and public discourse. (Devolved)
- Require publicly funded media to present plural economic perspectives, including wellbeing and post-growth models. (Devolved)
- Actively challenge narratives that frame ecological destruction as necessary or inevitable for prosperity. (Devolved)

→ Tackle Misinformation and Harmful Narratives

- Hold big tech platforms and major media organisations accountable for climate misinformation and harmful content. (Reserved)
- Strengthen media and digital literacy education at all ages. (Devolved)
- Protect journalists, activists, and communities from harassment, legal intimidation (including SLAPPs), and online abuse. (Partly Devolved)

→ Radical Additions for a Regenerative Media System

- Establish a Citizens' Media Assembly to shape standards, funding priorities, and accountability mechanisms. (Devolved)
- Recognise access to trustworthy information as a public good, essential to democracy and climate justice. (Devolved)
- Centre marginalised and climate-impacted voices in media funding and representation decisions. (Devolved)
- Encourage climate literacy through education programs in school.
- Media must serve people, planet, and truth — not profit. (Devolved)



Photo by [Glenn Carstens-Peters](#) on [Unsplash](#)

POLITICAL & SYSTEM CHANGE: Democracy for Climate Justice

SUMMARY

We cannot make the changes necessary without dramatic systemic change

POLICY LINK

Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change (2021)

DEVOLVED POWERS

Electoral systems for the Scottish Parliament and local government, public engagement, and local governance. Constitutional reform is reserved.

- Institutionalise citizens' assemblies across communities by 2030. (Devolved)
- End corporate lobbying in Scotland by 2030. (Devolved)
- Reform political finance and fossil fuel influence by 2030. (Partly Devolved)
- Democracy must be participatory, transparent, and regenerative, by 2027. (Devolved)
- Make it illegal for MSPs to lie to or mislead parliament and introduce punitive measures by 2027. (Devolved)
- Ban any MSP from having another paid job or received benefits from another role. (Devolved)
- Ban the advertising of environmentally harmful products by 2028. (Partly Devolved)

Photo by [Ben Marler](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Embed climate literacy across the education system, ensuring that every student learns about climate science, sustainability, and the social and economic impacts of climate change, so they are equipped to make informed decisions and contribute to a resilient, just, and sustainable Scotland. (Devolved)
- Tackle misinformation by holding big tech platforms and exploitative media organisations accountable, promoting media literacy, and countering false and extremist narratives - particularly from far-right groups. This is essential to protect people's rights to dignity and humanity and to ensure that transparent, evidence-based information supports the fair, just, and inclusive society we want to see in Scotland, especially on climate change and other urgent societal issues. (Reserved)
- Encourage movement building and effective collaboration across our political spectrum to maximise our resources and impact. (Devolved)
- Embed long term funding for Climate Hubs across Scotland so they can plan, prepare and support future work in our communities. (Devolved)



Photo by [William Gibson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

LAND & SEA: Reclaiming the Commons

SUMMARY

The land and sea belong to the people. We are just custodians for our future generations and we must leave them with a land and sea that is regenerated.

POLICY LINK

Scottish Land Commission, Community Right to Buy, Land Reform Bill (2023)

DEVOLVED POWERS

Land use, planning, agriculture, forestry, and community ownership are devolved.

- End concentrated land ownership by 2030. (Devolved)
- Make it compulsory for Local Authorities to give over “stalled” spaces to community bodies where they want/need it by 2030. (Devolved)
- Expand Community Land Trusts by 2030. (Devolved)
- Restore ecosystems through rewilding and agroecology by 2045. (Devolved)
- Make it policy that land must serve ecological and social wellbeing – not speculation by 2030. (Devolved)
- Create a “Landbank” that can move quickly to take ownership of assets on behalf of communities while they raise the funds to acquire them by 2027. (Devolved)
- Protect Marine Habitats by expanding, enforcing and managing MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) 2030. (Partly Devolved)



HEALTH & WELLBEING: Remove the barriers to health

SUMMARY

We believe that we can tackle health and wellbeing through climate action and that a healthy Scotland is a regenerated Scotland.

POLICY LINK

Care Reform (Scotland) Bill → Care Reform (Scotland) Act 2025, Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill, Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

- Put health and well-being at the centre of how we measure success as a people. By 2028 (Reserved)
- Tackle health inequality through climate action by 2028. (Reserved)
- Fund public health campaigns promoting diets that reduce chronic disease, improve physical and mental wellbeing, and align with Scotland's climate goals. (Devolved)
- Expand free or subsidised healthy meals in low-income communities to tackle food insecurity and improve long-term health outcomes. (Devolved)
- Deliver sustainable funding for health care through taxation of wealth by 2027. (Partly Devolved)
- Remove private health care providers from the NHS and bring assets back under public ownership. By 2032 (Devolved)
- Reduce health inequalities by giving access to warm homes, affordable nutritious food and free public transport. By 2030 (Devolved)



ENERGY: Power to the People

SUMMARY

Communities should be in charge of their energy. It is unacceptable that energy companies make huge profits while communities struggle to heat their homes.

POLICY LINK

Energy Strategy & Just Transition Plan (2023)

DEVOLVED POWERS

Energy efficiency, heat networks, and some aspects of renewable energy are devolved. Grid regulation and subsidies are reserved.

- 100% community-owned renewables increased by 2030, ramp up complete community ownership of renewables so that communities who wish to own their power, can do so. (Partly Devolved)
- Decentralise the grid and empower local energy cooperatives by 2030. (Partly Devolved)
- End fossil fuel subsidies and redirect funds to clean energy innovation by 2030. (Reserved)
- Increase the CARES funding to meet demand from communities by 2027. (Devolved)
- Encourage large scale community energy projects that support larger communities and geographically wider spread communities to own their infrastructure by 2030. (Partly Devolved)
- Update the National Framework Agreement to allow local authorities and other public bodies to purchase energy direct from community energy generation. By 2027 (Devolved)
- Encourage community heat networks so no heat is wasted and no home is cold.
- Where 100% community owned energy isn't possible legally ensure that private investment includes a statutory fair share for the local community.
- Ensure consideration is given to biodiversity impact and creation for new energy infrastructure, ensuring that there is no biodiversity loss.



FOOD: Grow Local, Eat Radical

SUMMARY

We are what we eat. It is a basic need. Our current food system is not set up to support a healthy environment and people.

POLICY LINK

Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022; Scottish Climate Change Plan

DEVOLVED POWERS

Agriculture, education, public health, procurement, and food policy are devolved. Trade standards and taxation are partly reserved.

In our [Vision for a just and equitable Scotland](#) we are aiming for a Vibrant Local Food Culture, where:

- The Scottish Diet is based on high quality local produce by 2030. (Devolved)
- There is an abundance of esteemed small-scale local food growers and producers by 2030. (Devolved)
- Local food growing is evident everywhere – city centres, abandoned land, temporary spaces by 2030. (Devolved)
- Organic food production, sustainable fishing and ethically reared livestock are the norm by 2030. (Partly Devolved)
- Food waste is a thing of the past by 2030. (Devolved)
- Break up of large monoculture farming, devolving farms to small holders, encouraging, through planning legislation, building of rural homes on these new farms and grants available to do so by 2030. (Devolved)



Photo by Journeys With Sean
on Unsplash

- Invest in the recovery of our seas and safeguard coastal communities by the re-establishment of a modern, coastal limit on bottom-towed fisheries. (Partly Devolved)
- End the persistent and significant degradation of our marine environment by open cage salmon farming by 2030. (Devolved)
- Establish food sovereignty through agroecological farming, urban gardens, and seed-saving networks. (Devolved)
- Ban chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers by 2027. (Devolved)
- Create community food hubs, kitchens, and cooperatives in every community by 2030. (Devolved)
- End reliance on industrial monoculture and imported ultra-processed foods by 2030. (Reserved)
- Mandate 100% plant-based catering options across all government institutions by 2030 to show climate leadership. (Devolved)
- Create a “Farmer Transition Fund” for livestock farmers to diversify into plant-based crops. (Devolved)
- Launch a National Dietary Transition Strategy under the Good Food Nation Act. (Devolved)

- Integrate food-system education and plant-based nutrition into school curricula. (Devolved)
- Fund public health campaigns on climate-friendly diets. (Devolved)
- Ban new intensive livestock installations and cap total livestock numbers by 2030. (Devolved)
- Ban misleading environmental labelling (“greenwashing”) on high-emission foods. (Reserved – Trading Standards Act)
- Tax carbon-intensive foods (e.g. red meat, dairy) and use revenue to subsidise sustainable foods. (Partly Reserved)
- Incentivise food retailers to promote affordable plant-based options and to make them default options. (Partly Reserved)
- Eliminate imports of deforestation-linked commodities (soy, palm oil, animal feed) and phase out imports of high-emission animal products by 2030. (Reserved)
- Guarantee access to affordable & nutritious plant-based meals in schools, universities, hospitals and prisons. (Devolved)
- Fund Scottish research on plant-based agriculture and protein alternatives. (Devolved)



Photo by [Marisol Benitez](#) on [Unsplash](#)

WASTE: From Pollution to Regeneration

SUMMARY

Minimise waste, maximise reuse and recycle.

POLICY LINK

Circular Economy Bill (2023)

DEVOLVED POWERS

Waste management and environmental protection are devolved.

- Declare zero waste across Scotland by 2027. (Devolved)
- Open or build repair cafés, tool libraries, and upcycling centres in every community by 2030. (Devolved)
- Mandate composting and circular design in all industries by 2030. (Devolved)
- The immediate ban of products with in-built “planned obsolescence”, by 2027. (Devolved)
- Incorporate into law financial and penal punishments for those who pollute our environment by 2028. (Devolved)
- Tackle marine pollution and plastic waste by banning single use plastics, holding industry accountable for marine waste. By 2028 (Partly Devolved)
- Penalise polluters of our seas and water ways including holding shareholders and directors to account. By 2028 (Partly Devolved)



Photo by [engin akyurt](#) on [Unsplash](#)

TAX & FUNDING: A Just Economy for People & Planet

SUMMARY

We find it unacceptable to force taxes on the most vulnerable while those with huge sums of money are allowed to avoid paying tax and making a proportional contribution.

POLICY LINK

Scottish Budget 2025-26 Climate Taxonomy

DEVOLVED POWERS

Land and Buildings Transaction Tax, Aggregates Levy, and partial control over income tax. Corporation tax and VAT are reserved.

- Tax land value, carbon emissions, and resource extraction by 2028. (Devolved)
- Introduce a Green Dividend to fund community climate action, by 2030. (Reserved)
- Divert public money from corporate profits to ecological restoration and care work by 2027. (Reserved)
- Introduce a 3% Wealth Tax on savings above £ 10 M to fund public services and policy asks. By 2027 (Devolved)
- Long term funding from Scottish Government for all activities related to climate action, including the Climate Hubs, and wider third sector funding, to allow realistic planning and employee retention.
- Align Scottish Government funding with IVAR principles.
- Ending non-stop economic growth / de-growth movement.

Photo by [William Warby](#) on [Unsplash](#)



TRANSPORT: Mobility Without Carbon

SUMMARY

Bring transport under public ownership and make it accessible to all.

POLICY LINK

Transport Scotland Corporate Plan 2024-27

DEVOLVED POWERS

Roads, public transport, active travel, ferries, and rail infrastructure. Aviation and vehicle standards are reserved.

- Build 15 minute neighbourhoods for every city area by 2030. (Devolved)
- Invest in free, renewable powered public transport by 2030. (Devolved)
- Ban airport expansion and motorway development by 2030. (Partly reserved)
- Prioritise rail, ferries, and low-impact travel by 2030. (Devolved)
- Make our streets safe for children by 2032. (Devolved)
- Invest in Community Transport initiatives by providing funding through taxation of big transport polluters by 2030. (Devolved)
- Improve active travel routes in rural areas as well as in towns and cities. (Devolved)

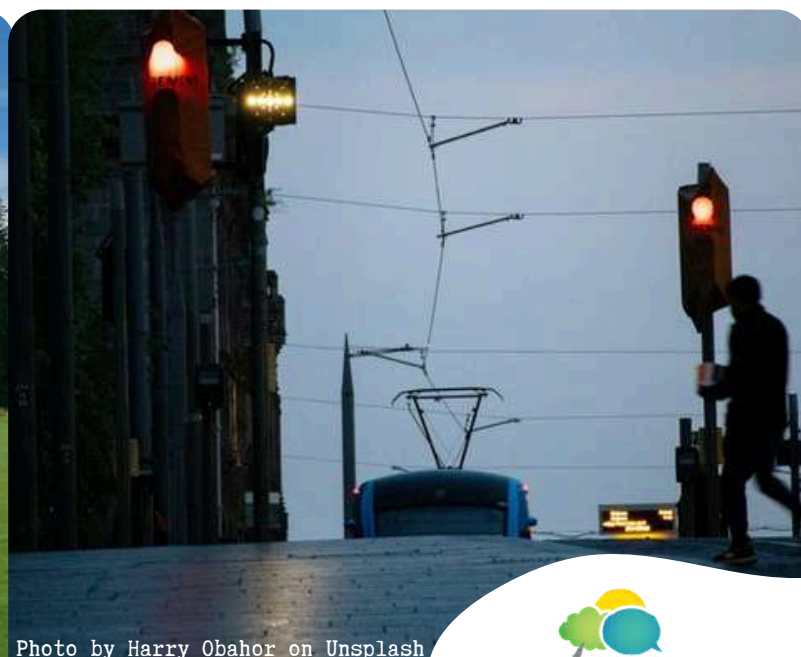
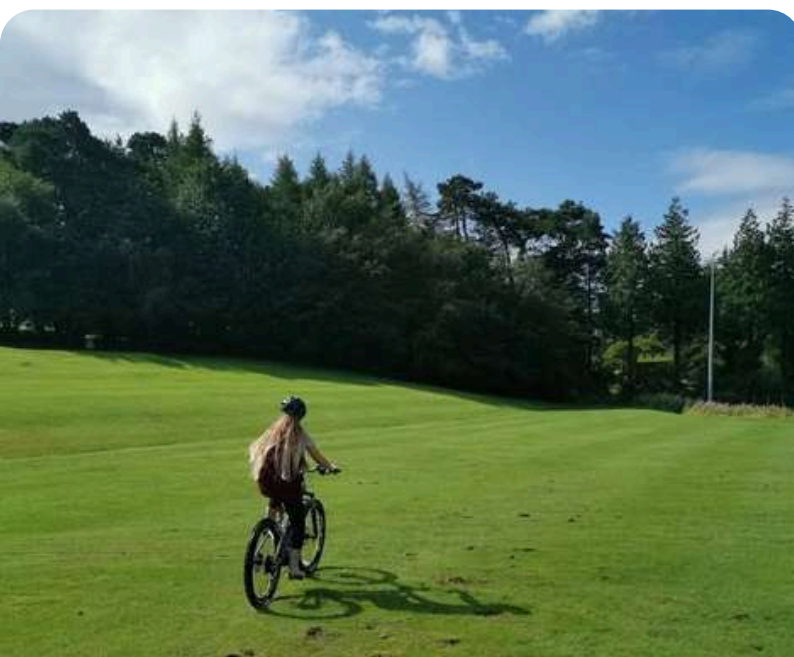


Photo by [Harry Obahor](#) on [Unsplash](#)

HOUSING & BUILDINGS: Shelter as a Right, Not a Commodity

SUMMARY

Current legislation is unclear on responsibility and there are properties lying empty that could house people. We need energy efficient homes and buildings that are adaptable to climate change.

POLICY LINK

Housing to 2040, Heat in Buildings Strategy (202)

DEVOLVED POWERS

Housing policy, building standards, energy efficiency, and planning are devolved.



Photo by [Kirsten Drew](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Retrofit all homes that require it for energy efficiency and climate resilience by 2035. (Devolved)
- End housing speculation by 2030. (Devolved)
- Expand community-owned eco-social housing by 2030. (Devolved)
- Housing must serve communities – not profit. Add planning conditions to new housing developments that make health, education, sustainability, biodiversity and wellbeing priorities by 2030. (Devolved)
- Make it the responsibility of private landlords (including councils) to bring buildings up to appropriate energy standards by 2030. (Devolved)

FRESH WATER: Protecting the Lifeblood of the Land

SUMMARY

Fresh water brings life. Without protection and improvement of our relationship with water we threaten our existence.

POLICY LINK

River Basin Management Plans, Scottish Water Net Zero Routemap

DEVOLVED POWERS

Water supply, wastewater, and environmental protection are devolved.

- Restore rivers, wetlands, and aquifers by 2035. (Devolved)
- End excessive privatised water extraction and pollution by 2030. (Devolved)
- Community governance of water as a public trust by 2027. (Devolved)
- Increase resilience in communities by providing water collection and storage facilities by 2030. (Devolved)
- Introduce education on our water systems by 2028. (Devolved)



INCOME & WORK: A Just Transition for All

SUMMARY

Work should be focused on regenerating our communities and environment. Work that exploits people and the environment should be removed.

POLICY LINK

Just Transition Commission, Fair Work Action Plan

DEVOLVED POWERS

Economic development, skills, training, and aspects of employment policy. Employment law and welfare are reserved.

- Guarantee meaningful, climate-aligned work for all by 2030. (Devolved)
- Introduce Universal Basic Income by 2030. (Partly Devolved)
- Introduce legislation that work must empower – not exploit by 2030. (Partly Devolved)
- Bring in systems that help bridge the gap in income inequality by incentivising shared prosperity. By 2030 (Partly Devolved)



Our Pledge

We are not waiting for permission.

We are building the future now – in our
gardens, kitchens, town halls, &
imagination.

SCCAN is a network of dreamers, doers,
& disruptors.

We invite every community in Scotland
to join us in this transformation.

Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time, insight and passion to the development of this manifesto.

As a network rooted in collaboration and collective action, SCCAN is shaped by the voices of the more than 1,200 community organisations, local groups and individual changemakers we represent.

This document reflects the priorities, experiences and ambitions shared by our members and networks across Scotland, highlighting both the challenges communities face and the solutions they are ready to lead.

Your contributions ensure this manifesto is not just a statement of intent, but an urgent, hopeful and powerful call for action towards a just, resilient and thriving future for communities across Scotland.



