

IAN MURRAY MP

COP26: 31st Oct-12 Nov

**COP26
EDINBURGH
SOUTH
CLIMATE
MANIFESTO**

Prepared by constituents in Edinburgh South



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FOREWARD

The climate crisis is the largest existential threat this country has ever faced. The decisions we make now, in the coming months, will determine whether the world my 1-year-old daughter grows up in is sustainable and thriving, or plagued with natural disasters and extreme temperatures. It is not too late, but this will be a decisive decade.

COP26 has turned the eyes of the world onto Scotland. We can use this opportunity to make Scotland and Glasgow synonymous with climate progress, we just need to have the ambition to achieve it - Kyoto, Copenhagen, Paris and....Glasgow.

The international nature of the climate crisis means that too often the debate can seem remote and detached from people's daily lives and experiences. The idea to produce this Edinburgh South COP26 Climate Manifesto came from a desire to engage local people in the process and find out what their goals and aspirations were.

The ideas in this manifesto are born out of discussion and debate between thoughtful and engaged local residents in Edinburgh South. The manifesto isn't produced to be an exhaustive list of the plethora of climate issues. We concentrated on the issues and areas brought by local people. I hope the document shows the strength of feeling and commitment shared by many in Edinburgh South that action is needed and that we are all willing to play our part in resolving the climate emergency.

Here's to a successful COP26 for our planet and thank you to everyone who has contributed to this manifesto.



Ian Murray

MP for Edinburgh South and Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

CLEAN ENERGY

BACKGROUND

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, which amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045, with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040. Net-zero is the point where the same volume of greenhouse gases is being emitted as is being absorbed through offsetting techniques like forestry.

Scotland has the potential to be a world leader in renewables but the way we produce and use energy has to change. Household electricity is almost completely completely decarbonised but we have so much more to do to ensure net-zero.

PARTICIPANTS

For our session on clean energy we were delighted to be joined by Johanna Carrie and Neil Kermode. Johanna has worked with Transition Energy South to help local people save energy and transition to a zero carbon economy. Neil is Managing Director of EMEC (European Marine Energy Centre) who are world leader in tidal renewable energy in Orkney.

OUR PANEL



MP for Edinburgh South
Ian Murray



Fairmilehead Energy Hub
Johanna Carrie



Managing Director
EMEC
Neil Kermode

POWER GENERATION



UK households are extremely reliant on gas, with just 2% using heat networks. UK households install more than 1.6 million new gas boilers per year, and just 30,000 electricity powered heat pumps. One of the key discussions was not just on electricity generation but the whole issue of heat.

Decarbonising and electrifying residential heat is crucial if the UK is to achieve its Net Zero targets. At present, however, many policy costs - such as Feed-In Tariffs, Renewable Obligation Certificates and Contracts for Difference - are imposed on electricity bills but not on gas, penalising those who do invest in cleaner options. These practices incentivise gas and disincentivise cleaner electricity use.

The main source of carbon emissions in the UK is from homes. Retrofitting homes is one of the largest, most complicated and expensive parts of the net zero agenda. We need to move to as close to 100% clean energy generation as possible but energy efficiency measures are also key.

Policy proposals from the session:

- Reform the energy market to switch the taxation burden from electricity to gas to encourage electrification.
- Modernise the transmission charge regime to help promote renewable generation.
- Allow a flexible regulatory approach to drive renewable innovation by granting geographical regulatory exemptions for renewable generation, R&D, exploration and usage.
- Move away from large power distributors to a mix of large and smaller (local) power distributors to minimise energy lost during transmission and increase efficiency and resilience.
- Create a national energy company that can give direction and inject investment on a large scale, driving new generation capacity and working with local supply chains, engaging councils and local communities under common ownership.
- Learn from successful community models already in operation here in Edinburgh like the Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative which generates renewable electricity locally.
- Explore opportunities to increase the use of communal heating systems as a means to drive energy efficiency and reduce costs.
- The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) consultation – ‘Future Support for Low Carbon Heat’ – identifies that heat pumps could enable the UK to almost completely decarbonise heat alongside the decarbonisation of electricity generation. The current Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) has supported only a fraction of the heat pump installations required. It is therefore imperative that these schemes are both funded and the upfront financial burden on the consumer is lessened.
- Change regulations to ensure all new build housing is adapted with either the technology fitted as standard or built to make the possibility of adaptation easier and cheaper.
- See transition from traditional sources of fuel as not an either/or but as a partnership where fossil fuels reduce as renewables and new green technologies increase so that there is a proper transition.
- Refuse permission to drill at Cambo oilfield.
- Reform planning laws to make it easier to retrofit Scotland’s tenement stock with energy efficiency measures, including heatpumps.

WAVE AND TIDAL ENERGY



Tidal energy has the capacity to produce 20% of the UK's energy. Tidal stream and wave energy are an exciting growth market that we want to be at the forefront of, along with other UK companies, to create a robust UK supply chain. Here in Scotland we have the world's most powerful tidal turbine off the coast of Orkney, where world-leading research is taking place.

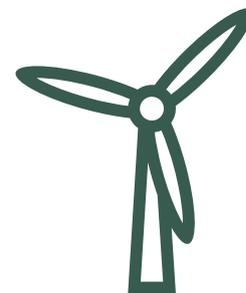
According to the ORE Catapult Report, 2018 the tidal stream industry could generate a net cumulative benefit to the UK by 2030 of £1.4 bn, including considerable exports and the creation of 4,000 jobs; whereas wave technology, which is at an earlier stage of development, could add a net positive contribution to the UK economy, worth a cumulative benefit to the UK by 2040 of £4.0 bn and supporting 8,100 jobs.

We should continue to support projects, such as those run by European Marine Energy Centre who are pioneering the development of a green hydrogen economy in Orkney, and have set up an onshore hydrogen production plant in Eday to generate hydrogen from tidal and wind energy. This includes investing in connectors to get renewable energy from where it is generated to the places that need it. This will require a rewriting of the energy grid and supply rules, something OFGEM and BEIS have failed to grasp.

The UK Government's Contract for Difference scheme, which is vital in supporting developing renewable technologies, must be used to its full effect to benefit tidal energy. Currently, tidal energy risks being drowned out by being in the same bidding pot as much more commercially developed forms of energy.

The UK is a world leader in tidal energy, and if we are to maintain that strong position the Contracts for Difference scheme should have a specific allocation for tidal energy so that it can continue to develop.

WIND ENERGY



The U.K. currently has more than 15 GW of potential wind generation right now but for much of the very wind-free summer it was only generating ca. 2-5 GW. **Our offshore wind capacity will rise from 10 to 30 GW by 2030 and almost certainly further by the development of artificial offshore islands. This means that, even with the overnight demand to charge electric cars and supply heat pumps, there will be many occasions when we have up to 20 - 30 GW of surplus wind generation capacity.**

This electricity could be used to make Green Hydrogen once our electrolyser industry has scaled up - it currently has an annual manufacturing capacity of just 1 GW with plans to scale up to 5 GW.

Wind energy and our ability to benefit from periods when it will be in surplus will be a crucial component of our Scottish and UK clean energy budget. Of course, storage of energy when it is in surplus so it can be used for other purposes or kept for times when the wind doesn't blow is the key challenge. We have a lot of wind potential and the technologies to be a global leader in both research, development and manufacture which will create thousands of highly skilled and highly paid future jobs.

TRANSPORT

BACKGROUND

Transport is a major component of CO2 emissions across the world. According to the European Environment Agency, in 2017 27 % of total EU-28 greenhouse gas emissions came from the transport sector (22 % if international aviation and maritime emissions are excluded). In Scotland transport emissions, excluding International Aviation and Shipping, account for around 36% of the total in 2018 – the largest of any single category used by the SG.

The 2020 Edition of the Scottish Transport Statistics report reveals that from 2018-19 to 2019-20:

- Car Traffic increased by one per cent
- ScotRail train passengers fell by 1.4 per cent
- Bus Passengers fell by 3.2 per cent
- Bus Passengers are down 11.6% over the last 5 years
- Car traffic is up 6.5% over the last 5 years
- Car is the main mode of transport to work for 65% of people
- The next highest is walking at 12%



Travel seems to be such an emotive subject pitching people against one another as a consequence of their choice of transportation, rather than asking us to consider what our journey is for and seeing what options we have."

Paul, Marchmont

PARTICIPANTS

For our first session on Transport we were delighted to be joined by Lawrence Marshall, John Robson and Daniel Johnson MSP. Lawrence has worked on Scotland's railways for decades and the Capital Rail Action Group. John Robson is an active travel campaigner for Spokes, the Edinburgh and Lothians cycling campaign. Daniel of course is our local MSP and has been actively campaigning for the re-opening of the Edinburgh Suburban Railway.

OUR PANEL



MP for Edinburgh South
Ian Murray



Chair of CRAG
Lawrence Marshall



Spokes Edinburgh
John Robson



MSP for Edinburgh Southern
Daniel Johnson

BUS

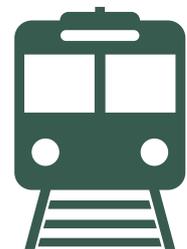


The Scottish Government reports that, in 2019, 39 per cent of survey respondents had used the bus in the past month. Eight per cent used the bus every day or almost every day. Despite these being more than any other mode of public transport, bus usage is on the wane and is often overlooked in the policy debate. We are lucky in Edinburgh to have such an excellent bus company owned by the City but that is very much the exception to the rule.

Policy proposals from the session:

- More dedicated bus lanes to improve speed of bus travel throughout the city.
- Transition to electric buses and other cleaner forms.
- Hopper fare (as per TfL) with unlimited travel for 70 mins.
- Explore hydrogen as a means to powering vehicles in the future.
- Ensure buses are accessible for bikes.
- Explore integration of bus, rail and tram network with a London style 'Oyster Card'.
- Cheaper and more accessible fares.

RAIL



For decades, rail has consistently produced by far the lowest total million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e). A report published by the Department for Transport in 2018, Moving Britain Ahead, showed rail produced a total of 2 MtCO₂e in 2016 – the same as in 1990. This compared to 70 MtCO₂e for private cars. Any solution to the climate emergency has to involve making rail travel cheaper and more convenient for people.

Policy proposals from the session:

- Consider subsidy regimes which make rail travel competitive with aviation.
- Look to provide alternatives to short haul flights where a rail alternative under 4 hours exists.
- Re-open the South Suburban Railway either as a circular route or as part part of a Cross Rail service, with the existing Edinburgh-Berwick trains running through Haymarket then round the South Sub to Newcraighall.
- Use the powers in the Transport Act to bring Scotland's railways back under public ownership.

PRIVATE VEHICLES



New statistics published by the Government shows that the number of motor vehicles registered in Scotland is at an all-time high of around 3 million and even before the pandemic. The distance driven by motor vehicles on roads increased by 8% over the past five years to reach 48.7 billion vehicle kilometres in 2019. In 2019, 44% of car journeys in Scotland were for trips under 5 miles.

Policy proposals from the session:

- Promote car share schemes.
- Rapidly expand charging facilities for electric vehicles.
- The Scottish Government should look at schemes such as those launched by the Mayor of London, which allow motorists to scrap heavily polluting motorcycles and cars in favour of cleaner vehicles and greener forms of transport to help clean the city's toxic air.
- Consider alternative taxation schemes to replace failing Fuel Duty.
- Consider a pay per mile scheme, road toll and congestion charges so the user pays for what they use.
- Give consideration to disincentivising purchasing of SUV/4x4 style motor vehicles for use in urban environment.

ACTIVE TRAVEL



Switching to walking or cycling for more of our shorter journeys helps to protect biodiversity. It creates less noise, less air pollution, and results in fewer emissions that are warming the atmosphere. Providing the correct infrastructure for people to be able to cycle or wheel safely and with confidence is essential.

Policy proposals from the session:

- Build upon Spaces for People measures in Edinburgh to create a full city cycling network.
- Give everyone a free bike that wants one. Relatively cheap, creates jobs and removes a cost barrier.
- 20mph speed limit on local, residential roads
- Better planning regulations to require active travel provision in new build estates

FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LAND

BACKGROUND

Agriculture is the main type of land use in the UK. Representing 71% of UK land area, the agricultural sector produces food, fibre and fuel, with UK agriculture currently providing around 50% of the food consumed in this country.

However, we know that how food is grown and how and where that food is transported has a massive impact on the climate. Before reaching our plates, our food is produced, stored, processed, packaged, transported, prepared, and served. At every stage, food provisioning releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

PARTICIPANTS

For our session on Food, Agriculture and Land we were delighted to be joined by Patricia Abel and John Knox. Patricia is Chair of Transition Edinburgh South and a member of Nourish Scotland and John is Chair at Bridgend Farmhouse who do fantastic work in the community on sustainable agriculture.

OUR PANEL



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Chair of Transition
Edinburgh South
Patricia Abel



Chair of Bridgend
Farmhouse
John Knox

AGRICULTURE



According to the IPCC, food systems contribute around a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. In Scotland that figure is 25% though slightly different criteria are used. Furthermore, livestock production is responsible for 70-80% of this. What is clear is that our current food system is not fit for purpose, contributing to global climate change & biodiversity collapse; obesity; and food poverty.

Policy proposals from the session:

- Explore largescale and widespread regenerative agriculture techniques, such as no-tilling, maximising crop diversity, rotational use of pastures.
- Support schools with 'garden to plate' initiatives like at Gracemount Walled Garden which allows children to understand the practical process of food growing and promotes healthy diets.
- Provide support schemes that enable livestock farmers to reduce both the quantity and intensity of their livestock emissions and/or to diversify into alternative sustainable income sources.
- Ban single use plastics and make our tax system respond to "polluter pays" and "reward green".
- Ensure all food should contain a carbon label to show the environmental impact.
- Use Government to promote innovation by offering prizes and tax breaks for new ideas.

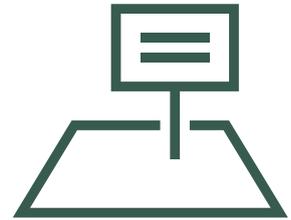
SUPPLY CHAINS



Scotland is heavily enmeshed in complex, globalised "just in time" supply chains, trading in huge quantities of cereals, oilseeds, fishmeal, soya and inorganic inputs like fertiliser. These systems cause extensive environmental damage both at home and abroad.

Policy proposals for the session:

- The building of low-rise, suburban housing estates around major population centres makes short distance supply chains more difficult. We must reconsider urban planning priorities in the housing system that help with more localised supply chains. Make, sell and buy more locally and in the U.K.
- Provide clear and consistent, real and total carbon content labelling on produce, products and services (showing production; processing; transport; and usage emissions) to enable people to make informed choices.
- Return to a more localised system of production with incentives for cheaper and healthier food.



Policy proposals from the session:

- Since the estimated GHG emissions from degraded peat of 4 Mt CO₂e /yr amount to ½ total Scottish agricultural emissions, commit to higher levels than in current Scottish Government plans of restoring peatlands and native woodlands for carbon sequestration and improving biodiversity.
 - Post Common Agricultural Policy, the Government should commit to a subsidy regime which encourages transition to more sustainable land management practices and links support to agricultural emissions reduction and increased carbon sequestration.
 - A Scottish Conservation Corps, modelled on the Civilian Conservation Corps of the New Deal, to employ and train a new workforce dedicated to restoring Scotland's natural environment.
 - Reintegrate broadleaf trees within agricultural fields and promote silvopasture. This would provide shelter for sheep and cattle graze, reducing the costs of overwintering livestock, increasing soil organic matter and soil fertility, thus reducing off-farm carbon inputs, while sequestering more carbon in timber and soil, increasing both farm biodiversity and net profitability.
 - Establish generously tall and wide field-edge hedgerows to include long-lived hardwood trees, as an enduring network of carbon-rich biodiverse wildlife habitat intermittently yielding high value timber.
 - Ensure all forests have adequate fire breaks, not only of rough cut forest but even of considerable areas of arable or pasture land. A patchwork is safer than close-packed single species plantations.
 - Water courses should be altered to ensure adequate catchment, adequate replenishing of water tables, reservoirs and lakes and flood prevention.
 - Peatland sequestration rates are highly sensitive to minor climatic fluctuations and as the health of the climate deteriorates, most peatlands are now evolving from sinks to sources of GHG's. Since 20% of Scotland is covered in peatland, their restoration amongst other forms of carbon sequestration, must be made an immediate priority.
 - Plant, plant, plant and plant more trees and wildlife areas. Use the investment system to monetise such replanting e.g. with timber production etc.
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INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE JUSTICE

BACKGROUND

The scale of the challenge is clear. If every country hits Paris pledge targets a child born in 2020 will experience twice as many wildfires, 2.8 times as many crop failures, 2.6 times as many droughts, 2.8 times as many floods, 6.8 times as many hurricanes and, of course, it will disproportionately affect the poorest.

Despite not being responsible for most of the pollution leading to climate change, poorer countries suffer its most severe impacts, either in terms of extreme weather events or slow onset impacts like desertification. Global warming of 2° C would put over half of Africa's population at risk of undernourishment. These effects are likely to become more severe in future. The focus therefore must be recognising the responsibility of wealthy countries to lead rapid climate action and supporting developing countries to cope with climate impacts and transition to greener pathways. Working with vulnerable people and communities around the world, we help them to make their livelihoods, food, homes, and safety more resilient to climate change.



I hear the children of my local primary school outside my window, and I know their lives are endangered by climate change and they are absolutely innocent of any contribution whatever to this advancing catastrophe. They are the future and they are in danger from climate change unless we act globally and now."

Sarah, Bruntsfield

PARTICIPANTS

For our session on International Climate Justice we were joined by Kirsty McNeil and David Somervell. Kirsty is the Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns at Save the Children and David is a member of South Edinburgh Quakers with a special interest in climate breakdown.

OUR PANEL



MP for Edinburgh South
Ian Murray



Executive Director at
Save the Children
Kirsty McNeil



South Edinburgh
Quakers
David Somervell

CLIMATE MIGRATION



By 2050, The World Bank estimates that there will be 143 million climate migrants from Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Central and South America, alone. We must recognise that there is a shared international responsibility to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the world's most vulnerable, and more specifically to provide as much support as possible to those forced from their homes by climate change. Mass migration in the 20th century was mainly caused by conflict. The mass migration of the 21st century is likely to be caused by weather and access to water.

We know that climate change will hit the poorest countries hardest and first. We have a moral obligation as an international community to play a leading role in ensuring we both set the agenda to prevent climate change and help those most in need to mitigate climate change.

Policy proposals from the session:

- Protect and financially support people facing climate induced losses, and people who are forced to migrate due to climate change.
 - Recognise that whilst technological solution can help, system change must be at the root of any long-term solution to climate breakdown.
 - Update and uphold the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage to address the disproportionate impact of climate change on lower-income countries.
 - Make good the \$100 billion per year pledge made by rich countries to poorer countries in 2009.
 - Support the most vulnerable by reversing the overseas aid cut.
 - Recognise and work to alleviate the disproportionate impact climate change has on woman and girls.
 - Ensure the U.K. plays a leading role in the international community to lead the climate agenda as it did to drive Kyoto and Copenhagen processes.
 - Vaccinate the worlds poorest.
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MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS



Worldwide, around 150,00 deaths annually are linked to climatic changes. At a time when inward looking, nationalistic governments are posing a threat to multilateral climate solutions, it's crucial that we look outwards and increase cooperation with our neighbours to achieve net-zero, globally. Robust diplomacy is central to global climate justice, and we should be re-engaging with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to the present context.

Policy proposals from the session:

- Act on the 2015 Paris Agreement.
 - Increase collaboration between international NGOs and national governments.
 - Increase collaboration between countries impacted by the same big polluters.
 - Lobby international governments and parties to include more environmental policy content in their manifestos.
 - Decolonise our approach to environmental justice through increased cooperation with and empowerment of activists and stakeholders from the global south.
 - Rewrite the founding principles and constitutions of international bodies such as the UN, IMF, World Bank etc to make climate change a constitutional priority.
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THE NEXT GENERATION



It is critical that any solution to climate change involves our young people. It is children and young people who have the most to lose from the decades of delay and inaction from older generations. As part of the manifesto process I was delighted to visit primary schools around Edinburgh South to discuss COP26.

A Children's Parliament event was also organised by the late David Amess MP as a means of engaging primary school pupils, across the UK, in political issues ahead of COP26. Each constituency could send a representative to a zoom debate that would mimic the functioning of the House of Commons.

I was delighted that South Morningside Primary School sent a representative.

As always I am inspired by their ideas and positivity.

Here are just a few of those ideas:



"We need places to charge electric vehicles?"

P5 Sciennes Primary

"What should we do to help local people?"

P6, Sth Morningside Primary

"How do we make electric cars cheaper for lower income families?"

P6, Gracemount Primary

"How many types of renewable energy there?"

P6, Sth Morningside Primary

"Are houses being built to be econ friendly with heat pumps and solar panels?"

Eva, Gracemount Primary

"More community litter picks?"

Jack, Gracemount Primary

"How do we clean up our oceans of plastic waste?"

P5 Sciennes Primary

