



Keep Scotland
Beautiful

Practical action to keep Scotland beautiful now and in the future

Our priorities for the next
Scottish Parliament

Your charity inspiring action for our environment





A national mission to keep Scotland beautiful

“The Scottish Parliament Election 2026 presents an exciting opportunity for political parties to show leadership and ambition; commit to working together and develop bold funded environmental policies which connect our diverse society and inspire positive action benefitting our people, nature and the places we love.

“Our priorities for the next Scottish Parliament are backed by significant numbers of people, are practical and will deliver immediate benefits in communities across the country. By tackling over consumption, helping people become more climate, nature and litter aware and empowering everyone to make a positive difference – we can collectively ensure the places we live in, work in and visit are clean, green and welcoming.

“We remain committed to supporting local action and working at scale with communities, businesses and schools to embed long-term behaviour change to keep Scotland beautiful, now and for the future.”

Barry Fisher, Chief Executive





Our priorities

Everyone deserves to live in a beautiful Scotland. Let's work together to deliver proven, value for money, effective environmental activity at a more ambitious pace, on a national scale and for a sustained period of time.

In line with Our Strategy we are asking for the next Scottish Parliament to:

- 1** Invest for the long term.
- 2** Tackle the litter emergency.
- 3** Provide climate and nature education for all.
- 4** Deliver clean, green and sustainable community spaces for everyone.





1. Invest for the long term

Over the past 25 years our track record of meaningful, impactful action is clear. But we can't continue to deliver that action until the fundamental funding challenges that stand between us and our ambition are addressed.

2.1%

real terms decrease in Scottish Government funding in the 2024/2025 budget, against a backdrop of increased inflation and high demand for services.

[SCVO](#)

We are calling for the next Scottish Parliament to:



Develop, test and adopt a Fairer Funding scheme, as called for by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), with a view to increasing the number of multi-year funding awards allocated to the third sector.

Show leadership to support and facilitate cross-sector collaboration and funding by working with with local authorities and businesses to consider how 1% of Extended Producer Responsibility waste payments being introduced in 2025 could be ringfenced to support efficient and effective behaviour change interventions to tackle packaging which is littered.

Investigate ways of ensuring that any forthcoming charges introduced on single-use beverage cups under the proposals outlined in the Circular Economy Act are invested in recycle and reuse infrastructure that supports a shift in the behaviours needed to create a more circular economy.



2. Tackle the litter emergency

We spearhead national efforts to tackle litter in communities across the country. But, with nine in ten people stating Scotland has a litter problem, we know that addressing litter through prevention, behaviour change and enforcement must rise up the political priority list, preventing further pollution of our environment.

We are on the cusp of seeing the impact of collaborative and constructive Scottish and UK wide policy and legislation being introduced including a Deposit Return Scheme, Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and a Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024. The commitment and timeframe for fully implementing these must be maintained.

66%

agree levels of litter in their area make them embarrassed of their neighbourhood.

We are calling for the next Scottish Parliament to:



77%
agree

Prioritise and invest funding to support delivery of the actions laid out in the National Litter and Flytipping Strategy and Scotland's Marine Litter Strategy.

85%
agree

Invest at least £500,000 a year in raising awareness of, and reducing, roadside litter via a national campaign across the next parliamentary term.

87%
agree

Take a source-to-sea approach to marine litter by providing funding to help prevent litter entering our rivers and polluting our seas.

85%
agree

Champion community litter training for all, including out with formal education settings.



3. Provide climate and nature education for all

Environmental change starts when people understand the challenges and learn about the benefits taking action will have for our people and our planet.

We are the only organisation in Scotland delivering climate education at scale across all educational settings. Our online Live Lessons have reached 75,000 pupils across all local authorities.

We are the official partner for the award-winning Carbon Literacy Project, the only Carbon Literate Training Organisation in Scotland, and the only Scottish organisation to have attained Platinum Carbon Literate Organisation status. We have trained more than 6,000 people across all sectors to be Carbon Literate.

75%

worry about climate change and more than two out of three want ambitious action.

[Climate Outreach](#)

We are calling for the next Scottish Parliament to:



Continue to show leadership and ensure that climate education in schools is embedded as a priority so that our educators, children and young people feel equipped to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Actively support the implementation of the Climate Action Schools and International Eco-Schools programme in all Scottish schools to deliver on the UN Greening Education Partnership commitments and Target 2030 with a 50% increase in investment.

Ensure climate and nature training is accessible for all, including outwith formal education settings.

Support environmental and heritage skills and careers development, through investment in both vocational and academic learning.



4. Deliver clean, green and sustainable community spaces for all

We have inspired communities as they transform spaces in their neighbourhoods into thriving habitats, supporting nature recovery, wellbeing and inclusive access.

Caring for outdoor spaces and community gardening leads to a connection to nature, which leads to positive action to address the big ticket issues – climate change and nature restoration.

Scotland deserves thriving communities - where clean, green and sustainable spaces are available to all, enhancing health and wellbeing and protecting our built and natural heritage and environment.

73%

think litter in their area makes public spaces unsafe for children.

We are calling for the next Scottish Parliament to:



Acknowledge the widening and deepening inequalities around good quality environments and prioritise work to address this at a national and community level, ensuring the benefits to improved mental health, and the value of good quality spaces to people, business and nature is key.

Recognise and celebrate the role that dedicated volunteers who deliver community environmental improvement initiatives and beautify towns, villages and cities across the country play in combatting climate change and restoring nature by committing £200,000 a year to fund the Climate and Nature Friendly Communities Network.

Promote built and cultural heritage and nature-based skills, and target efforts to reach under-represented groups, ensuring an equal voice in taking forward actions to value, protect and restore places.

Keep Scotland Beautiful works collaboratively to get things done.

At a time of public frustration, political change and tightening budgets, we are a respected and established charity working across all sectors with a proven track record of delivery and impact.

We understand the complex social and financial challenges facing the next Scottish Parliament. But we also see opportunities. Together, we have an opportunity to inspire people across the country to take positive environmental action which strengthens communities and supports economic growth across Scotland, now and for future generations.

Join us in our mission to keep Scotland beautiful.





We support the Sustainable Development Goals.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is your charity for Scotland's environment. We work with you to help combat climate change, reduce litter and waste, restore nature and biodiversity and improve places. We aim to inspire changes in behaviour to improve our environment, the quality of people's lives, their wellbeing and the places that they care for.



**Keep Scotland
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