

## Media Release

Embargoed until: 28<sup>th</sup> August

### **Cross-sector coalition calls for a strong Circular Economy Bill to help meet Climate Emergency**

A cross-sectoral coalition of organisations has been launched today (Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August) calling for an ambitious and comprehensive Circular Economy Bill.

The coalition of over 30 organisations is led by Scottish Environment LINK (1) and includes Friends of the Earth Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Marine Conservation Society, UNISON, Oxfam Scotland, Project Heather, IBioIC, Soilutions Ltd, Wellbeing Economy Alliance, Binn Group, and Construction Scotland Innovation Centre.

In 2016, the SNP committed to bring forward a Circular Economy Bill in the current parliamentary term. This new coalition is calling (2) for the Bill to include targets for reducing our consumption of resources in order to help address climate change, biodiversity loss and our inequitable consumption of planetary resources.

Over 80% of Scotland's carbon footprint (3) is from emissions embedded in goods we use and consume, such as food, furniture, computers and vehicles; and 90% of global biodiversity loss caused by resource extraction and processing (4).

We are using approximately three times our share of planetary resources to produce the goods which Scottish citizens consume and absorb all the waste we produce (5).

Matthew Crighton, Convenor of LINK's Economics Group, said:

“The aim of the coalition is simple, we want a strong Circular Economy Bill which will set ambitious targets for reducing the nation's material footprint – the amount of stuff which our economy uses. If the Scottish Government is serious about climate change then such a bill must be included in the forthcoming Programme for Government because the two are intimately connected.

“Scots have responded with alarm to plastic pollution in our oceans, but the problem goes far wider than that. The Scottish Government's commitment to a deposit return system is commendable. However, this is only one example of extended producer responsibility, there are other major waste streams where items need to be banned, taxed, or carry charges.

“To protect the environment on which we depend, we urgently need to change the ways in which we make and use products and services, using less raw materials and reducing our demand on the planet's resources. We'd like the Government to set a pathway to move to 'One Planet Prosperity' where we only use a sustainable and fair share of the world's resources.”

Tomás Carruthers, CEO and founder of Project Heather, said:

“We all have a responsibility to contribute to the preservation of natural capital. At Project Heather we are building a new stock exchange in Scotland, the first in the world to mandate reporting by issuers of the social and environmental impact of their business, and we are pleased to join with LINK and partners to call for stretching targets and enabling frameworks in the Circular Economy Bill.”

Examples of circular economy can already be seen in Scotland including the Remanufacturing Institute; Jaw Brew, which is using leftover bread to produce beer; repair focused social enterprises, such as the Edinburgh Remakery; and EGG lighting (6). Such initiatives are valuable, but we need change on scale and across the economy.

ENDS//

## Contact details

Matthew Crighton, Friends of the Earth Scotland and Convenor of LINK's Economics Group: 07851 348426

Martha Walsh, Communications Director, Project Heather: 07876 245 962

## Editors' Notes

(1) Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 35 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society. LINK is a Scottish Charity (SC000296) and a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee (SC250899). LINK is core funded by Membership Subscriptions and by grants from Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Government and Charitable Trusts.

(2) The Scottish Environment LINK paper calling for an ambitious CE bill can be found [here](#)  
The full list of supporting organisation: Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, Cairngorms Campaign, Friends of the Earth Scotland, Marine Conservation Society, Froglife Scotland, Trees for Life, Scottish Wild Land Group, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Binn Group, Blythwood Care, Circular Edinburgh, Coastal Communities Network Scotland, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, CRNS - Community Resource Network Scotland, Eco-congregation, EAUC - the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education, EcoldeaM Ltd, Fidra, Green Alliance, IBioC – Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre, IEMA, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Oxfam Scotland, Project Heather, Remade Network, Resource Futures, Ricardo Energy and Environment, SMaSH – The Scottish (Managed) Sustainable Health Network, Soilutions Ltd, Tearfund, UNISON, WasteSwitch Ltd, Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland

(3) Our carbon footprint is the total GHG emissions related to everything we use and consume in Scotland, so includes imports. It is different to our territorial emissions which are subject to reduction targets under our climate change legislation <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-carbon-footprint-2015/pages/4/>

(4) Biodiversity loss associated with resource extraction and processing is presented in this International Resource Panel report <https://resourcepanel.org/reports/global-resources-outlook>

(5) SEPA has used One Planet Prosperity as an overriding objective  
<https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/219427/one-planet-prosperity-our-regulatory-strategy.pdf>

(6) Examples of CE initiatives in Scotland <http://www.scot-reman.ac.uk/>  
<https://foodanddrink.scotsman.com/drink/glasgow-brewery-jaw-brew-creates-new-beer-using-leftover-morning-rolls/>  
<https://www.edinburghremakery.org.uk/>  
<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/case-study/egg-lighting>

LINK is a Scottish Charity (SC000296) and a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee (SC250899). LINK is core funded by Membership Subscriptions and by grants from Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Government and Charitable Trusts.

Registered office: 13 Marshall Place, Perth PH2 8AH, T. 01738 630804 email [information@scotlink.org](mailto:information@scotlink.org)  
Parliamentary office: Dolphin House, 4 Hunter Square, Edinburgh, EH1 1QW, T 0131 225 4345 [advocacy@scotlink.org](mailto:advocacy@scotlink.org)

LINK is a Scottish Charity (SC000296) and a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee (SC250899). LINK is core funded by Membership Subscriptions and by grants from Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Government and Charitable Trusts.

Registered office: 13 Marshall Place, Perth PH2 8AH, T. 01738 630804 email [information@scotlink.org](mailto:information@scotlink.org)  
Parliamentary office: Dolphin House, 4 Hunter Square, Edinburgh, EH1 1QW, T 0131 225 4345 [advocacy@scotlink.org](mailto:advocacy@scotlink.org)