



LINK



For Better or Worse?

Environment Policy in the First Four Years of Scotland's Parliament

A Report for Scottish Environment LINK
to coincide with the *everyone* campaign



www.everyonecan.org

Research undertaken
for Scottish Environment LINK
by Grayling Strategy in Scotland
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'For better or worse' – Environment Policy in the First Four Years of Scotland's Parliament

A Report for Scottish Environment LINK

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Introduction



Introduction

The establishment of the new Scottish Parliament in 1999 brought not only new political institutions to Scotland, but also new aspirations and expectations of what might be achieved through the devolution settlement. Certainly the principle of devolution, and the specific powers vested in the Parliament, meant that it could address issues of importance to Scotland quicker than was previously the case, and with policies tailored specifically to Scottish needs and priorities.

Many organisations developed their own manifestos, mission papers and wish-lists, in the hope that the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Executive - open, accessible and accountable - would prioritise particular issues and assist in the development and delivery of particular solutions.

This report, with input from many of the key players such as the Minister and Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, examines the way in which the Scottish Parliament and Executive have risen to the particular challenges posed by the issues of Environment and Sustainability, whether through legislation, policies, strategies, initiatives, action plans, reports or debates. The assessment is made against seven key priority areas, each of which was addressed in Scottish Environment LINK's own policy priorities for the Parliament, **The Scottish Parliament and a Sustainable Scotland**, published in 1999, and again in Link's **Must Try Harder** progress report on sustainability, published in 2002. The key issue areas are:

- Sustainable Development
- Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism
- Waste & Recycling
- Air and Water (pollution and protection)
- Energy
- Transport, and
- Wildlife and Conservation

This report was commissioned as part of the Scottish Environment LINK 'everyone' campaign – for information on the campaign please visit www.everyonecan.co.uk.

The first objective of this study is to identify the major actions undertaken by the Parliament and Executive. This has been based on a thorough search and assessment of publicly available information on the Scottish Executive and Parliament websites, including all press releases, publications, documents, reports and transcripts. The Parliament and Executive have devoted considerable time and effort to addressing many of the key issues. The first four years of the Scottish Parliament has, for example, been witness to four Acts relating to land reform and land use, two relating to animal conservation and protection, one on Transport, one on Housing and one on the Water Environment, with a draft Nature Conservation Bill also recently announced. In addition there have been a range of strategies developed for sustainability, aquaculture, agriculture, transport, tourism and, most recently, biodiversity, and the development of a National Waste Plan.

The full list of identified actions by both the Parliament and the Executive are provided in Appendix 1 of this report. Chapter 3 provides an overview of these actions, set against the expectations outlined in **The Scottish Parliament and a Sustainable Scotland** and **Must Try Harder** reports.

The second objective of this report is to provide a review of these actions and an assessment of their effectiveness and consistency. We are pleased to be able to incorporate into this report assessments provided by MSPs from across the political spectrum: Ross Finnie, Allan Wilson, Robin Harper, Fiona McLeod, Nora Radcliffe and John Scott. These are complemented by assessments from Lloyd Austin (RSPB Scotland), Kevin Dunion (FoE Scotland, until February 2003), Dave Morris (Ramblers' Association Scotland) Simon Pepper (WWF Scotland), Steve Sankey (Scottish Wildlife Trust) and LINK's Jessica Pepper.

Each of the respondents has addressed many or all of the key issue areas, providing an assessment of achievements, failings, and actions for the future. These assessments are assessed in Chapter 4 of this report, and unedited transcripts of the responses are provided in Appendix 2.

Finally, the report seeks to clarify the environment movement's own agenda for the future. This is based on issues raised in the 'everyone' campaign – an initiative from Scottish Environment LINK involving 26 organisations with nearly half a million supporters. The 'everyone' campaign's **Manifesto for a Sustainable Scotland**, which was launched on Wednesday 26 February 2003, promotes six 'key tests' of political commitment to the environment. The six demands for a better environment are: clean air, healthy seas, safe food, less landfill, protection for wildlife and wild places, reduction in climate changing gases. Chapter 5 of this report outlines the proposed actions and objectives surrounding these issues.

That the report ends with information regarding a partnership campaign by a coalition of 'environmental' bodies is perhaps a fitting reminder that identifying issues and proposing solutions is not just the responsibility of elected representatives. No matter what the aspirations and expectations are that surround the Scottish Parliament as it approaches its second term, and no matter what the achievements, or disappointments, are surrounding the actions of the first four years, the parliament has proved its relevance. The devolution of power to the Scottish Parliament has presented us with an opportunity to move forward on a broad range of issues, and the responsibility to ensure it does so lies not only with our elected representatives, but with all of us.

Grayling Strategy in Scotland has been pleased to research and compile this report on behalf of Scottish Environment LINK.

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The Politics of Environment

Kevin Dunion



LINK

The Politics of Environment



Until February of 2003, Kevin Dunion OBE was Chief Executive of Friends of the Earth Scotland. He has now moved on to be Scotland's First Information Commissioner. While still at FoE Scotland he wrote this reflection on four years of environmental policy, debate and, sometimes slow, progress.

Looking back, environmental activists could scarcely have been expected to come up with the scenario that unfolded after the elections to the Scottish Parliament. The judicious use of the second vote had returned Robin Harper, the first British Green Party Parliamentarian. It was only the start as far as the environment agenda was concerned.

As the coalition partners got down to negotiations on the weekend of 8 and 9 May, the responsibility for drawing up the environmental agenda was given to two key people, both of them already prominent in the environmental movement, Sarah Boyack for Labour and Andy Myles for the Liberal Democrats. The programme for Government that emerged contained 4 principles and 14 initiatives on the environment and transport alone.

Within days Sarah Boyack, to her surprise, was named as Minister for the Environment. She quickly set up a Ministerial Committee to coordinate activity towards a sustainable Scotland, with Friends of the Earth asked to represent environmental NGOs. Later, events took an even more unpredictable turn when a First Minister emerged, also a paid-up green sympathiser, who to everybody's astonishment chose to make his first policy speech on the leading edge issue of environmental justice. Within months Jack McConnell was to take Scotland onto a world stage as he addressed delegates at the United Nation's World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa.

Recalling this chronology, it is important – as Bill Speirs of the STUC frequently reminds us – to measure how far we have come even whilst we impatiently recognise how far we still want to go in terms of transforming Scotland.

So why then are environmental groups not now basking in a glow of smug satisfaction? Perhaps it is precisely because, though such an unprecedented platform for change was established, performance has been patchy and progress slow.

Looking back over the life of this first Parliament there are positives of course, especially on energy. The Scottish Executive's contribution to the UK energy review was strongly influenced by coalition ministers Ross Finnie and Rhona Brankin, such that it offered no encouragement to new nuclear build in Scotland and instead highlighted the opportunities to be gained from investment in renewables and energy efficiency. The First Minister has since signalled his hope that Scotland can generate 40% of its power from renewable sources by 2020. New building regulations taking account of the Scottish climate are now comparable to those in Europe. The appalling scourge of fuel poverty is at last being seriously addressed with the Scottish Executive committed to eradicating it by 2016. This will benefit the health and incomes of the 738,000 households living in fuel poverty, as well cutting global warming emissions.

Yet on other issues where the Executive could have anticipated praise for implementing its legislative programme, an unfortunate tendency to shoot itself in the foot has left it nursing its wounds.

The establishment of National Parks has been a long held aspiration in Scotland, finding itself to be one of the very few countries in the world not to have any. Contrary to thoughts that this was imposing a designation upon an unwilling populace, the clamour of communities to belong to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park was also replicated in the Cairngorms. Yet at a stroke the Executive redrew the boundaries that had resulted from painstaking consultation and, instead of gaining plaudits, found itself roundly berated.

The recent "Organics Action Plan" fails to come up with the firm commitments called for in the Organics Target Bill tabled by Robin Harper of the Green Party but unsupported by the Executive.

Sometimes there has to be a willing suspension of disbelief to respond positively to Executive initiatives! Scotland is still at the bottom of the European recycling league. However the National Waste Strategy is expected to result in mandatory requirements on local authorities to recycle on average 25% of their waste by 2010. But this was the same target adopted by the Conservative Scottish Office in 1990 and then the date for reaching that target was 2000 by which point, in reality, we had barely reached a recycling rate of 6%.

Some other projections are even harder to swallow. Take the Executive's transport strategy which anticipates stabilising traffic at year 2000 levels by 2020. To be frank, those setting the target are unlikely to be around to take the rap if the trajectory continues upwards rather than declines at some point over the next 20 years and, in the meantime, road building still dominates Executive transport spending in Scotland with even "green" ministers confronted with a realpolitik which they feel incapable of resisting. In the case of the M74 Extension, Sarah Boyack was faced by a phalanx of West of Scotland politicians and councillors, of all political hues, demanding that the road should be built and, for good measure, helping to undermine her position.

The "roads means growth means jobs" concept of development, prominent in the thinking of all parties, suggests that concepts of sustainable development have barely percolated into the mainstream economic agenda of Scotland.

Even though the Executive has commendably declared its commitment to sustainable development, its definitions are somewhat garbled. The Deputy First Minister has made a stab at it saying: "sustainable development is about economic growth, social development and environmental protection". Those may be the raw ingredients but the finished product is meant to be a strategy which achieves all three at the same time rather than simply weighs one in the balance against the other.

Ideally, of course, we should have had a strategy for a sustainable Scotland such as those produced in Germany, Netherlands and even in the United States. Instead Smart Successful Scotland shows little evidence of having grasped the fact that modern nations will be tested, even by the OECD, on whether or not they have decoupled their economic growth from consumption of energy and materials.

But after 4 years, I believe the bottle is half full rather than half empty. The Parliament has given more time for environmental legislation, the accessible committee system has allowed issues such as mobile phone masts, GMOs and salmon farming to be addressed. The spending review has obliged Executive Departments for the first time to state openly what contribution each will make to sustainable development. We could have expected more, but we can be sure that without the Parliament we would have achieved a lot less.

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Policy and Politics

Overview: 1999 to 2003



Policy and Politics Overview 1999 to 2003

The assessment sections of this report are divided into seven areas of environmental policy:

1. Sustainability
2. Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism
3. Waste and Recycling
4. Air and Water (pollution and protection)
5. Energy
6. Transport
7. Wildlife and Conservation

The Sources

In drawing up an overview of political and policy statements and objectives we used the following documents:

- “The Scottish Parliament and a sustainable Scotland”, LINK’s policy priorities for the Scottish Parliament 1999
- “Must Try harder”, Link’s progress report on sustainability 1992-2002
- “Building a Sustainable Scotland”, the Scottish Executive’s commentary on sustainable development commitments as part of the 2002 spending review
- Key political events and policies from the Scottish Executive and Parliament from the official report and Scottish Executive’s website

In this section, **major documents and legislation follow in bold**, while initiatives and mechanisms are underlined.

A full breakdown of parliamentary activity from 1999 to 2003 can be found in Appendix 1

Sustainability

When setting out its policy priorities in 1999, LINK called for the creation of structures in the new Scotland that promote sustainability, for annual environmental audits, a strong parliamentary sustainable development committee and compulsory statements of environmental impact published with all new legislation. The aim was that the sustainable development committee would examine all legislative proposals and initiate measures for sustainable development. The Environmental Audit Commission, envisaged as a non-departmental public body, would monitor the performance of government and other agencies and publish an independent annual audit.

LINK’s **Must Try Harder** paper, published in the run-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 criticised the Executive for the fact that few of the ten recommendations of the Advisory Group on Sustainable Development published in 1999 had yet been acted upon. The document called for sustainable development to be placed “at the heart of the Executive”, that policy should be led by the First Minister with all departments’ decisions vetted for sustainable development by Parliament. Again LINK called for the Scottish Parliament to conduct an annual audit of sustainable development work within the Executive and for the Executive itself to produce a comprehensive sustainable development strategy with targets and indicators. Sustainable development decisions, the document said, should be reached through power-sharing while sustainable development and global citizenship should become a “purpose” of education.

It took the Parliament until February of 2000 to hold the first of four debates on Sustainable Development. In the vote on that day, the Parliament supported a motion to place sustainable development at the core of its work, and commended the Executive on its commitment to integrate the principles of sustainable development into all Government policies.

In February 2002 the First Minister made his first major policy speech following his appointment on the subject of sustainable development and environmental justice. This was warmly welcomed by the LINK network. As well as a personal commitment to environmental justice, Jack McConnell committed the Executive to a full sustainable development strategy with indicators and targets, his attendance at the World Summit in Johannesburg, the establishment of a Sustainable Development Forum and a general commitment to “step up the action”.

In May 2002, the Scottish Executive published **Meeting the Needs...Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland**. The document declared that the Executive subscribes to the goal of sustainable development as set out in the Brundtland Report. It also identified the three key areas upon which the Executive would focus in order to “take forward” sustainable development: waste/resource use, energy and travel, and set out 24 indicators across these priorities and social justice, against which the Executive would measure progress on sustainable development in Scotland.

In **Building a Sustainable Scotland**, the Scottish Executive’s commentary on sustainable development commitments as part of the 2002 spending review, the Executive set itself the target of promoting sustainable development in the built environment through its own architecture policy, acknowledging that 40% of UK carbon dioxide emissions are from buildings. It sought to take sustainability into education: integrating sustainable development into the major school building and refurbishment programmes, and developing education for sustainable development across the curriculum, including initiatives like the Sustainable Secondary Schools Initiative and Eco-Schools. Meanwhile the Executive committed itself to sustainable investment in new social housing “to promote sustainable development through the use of renewable materials, better insulation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, maximising the development of brownfield sites and better land use planning to reduce travel to work distance”.

In August 2002, First Minister Jack McConnell MSP attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, as part of the UK Delegation. Before he travelled, the First Minister commented that the environment is “not just a minority issue” and stated that he wanted to “see Scotland leading by example”.

In January 2003, following on from the **Meeting the Needs** document, the Executive published a detailed Report on Sustainable Development Indicators, outlining trends and the actions being taken to influence them.

Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism

In 1999, when LINK set out its priorities for the Scottish Parliament, it insisted that there had to be a rural development strategy for Scotland that integrated social, economic and environmental needs. LINK called for Scotland’s environment to be placed at the heart of land reform legislation, securing the right of access to land and water for quiet recreation and new procedures for paths and tracks. Hand in hand with land reform was LINK’s call for the creation of National Parks to protect the nation’s natural heritage. LINK said the parks would be about more than environmental protection – they would also achieve sustainable rural community development and employment.

The Abolition of Feudal Tenure Bill, the fourth Bill to be presented to the Scottish Parliament (which received royal assent in June 2000), was a major part of the land reform agenda and has a symbolic importance. LINK tried to ensure that a public interest element would be retained when outright ownership comes into effect. LINK was not entirely successful although there were assurances in the Parliament. **The Title Conditions Bill** (which includes provision for conservation burdens) – the next stage in this process – is currently awaiting Royal Assent.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Bill, introduced on 27th November 2001, received Royal Assent on 25 February 2003. This piece of legislation established statutory access rights to land and gives smaller communities and crofters a legal right to buy land. Jim Wallace MSP, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Justice, stated that this legislation provides for “sustainable” futures. Foot and Mouth Disease had highlighted the importance of outdoor access for the economy.

The Bill as introduced was much amended from the draft Bill and the Bill was then substantially amended in the Parliament.

Much of the LINK **Must Try Harder** report in 2002 was devoted to land use, particularly forests. LINK acknowledged that, by then, native woodlands had expanded but complained that the Scottish Forestry Strategy of 2000 had focused on timber production rather than sustainable forestry and made insufficient commitment to native woodlands. It called on the Executive to ensure no further loss of ancient or native woodland, and for there to be a significant expansion of native woodlands

By the time of the Johannesburg summit, Scotland's first National Park in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs had been created, the **National Parks Bill** having received Royal Assent in August 2000. Fears were expressed over the boundary of the second Park, in the Cairngorms -specifically the exclusion of the area of Perthshire proposed for inclusion by SNH, and the prospect of planning powers there being inadequate. **Must Try Harder** called for a doubling of agri-environment spending and additional measures to be included in the **Water Environment and Water Services Bill** to ensure wetland conservation and enhancement, improved flood management and greater stake-holder participation.

In June 2001, the Scottish Executive published **A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture** which contained 54 action points. Amongst the proposals were an intention to substitute land management contracts for traditional production-based support and the creation of an adviser post to work with farmers to help them ensure levels of biodiversity on their land. LINK says agri-environment schemes remain significantly underfunded and continue to fail to integrate with access.

Earlier this year, Robin Harper's Members' Bill on Organic Farming Targets did not receive Executive support and was defeated. The Executive published its own Organic Farming Action Plan only two days prior to the Parliamentary debate on the Bill. Although similar to the Bill in a number of respects, the Action Plan does not contain any statutory targets for organic production, which was a key objective of the Bill.

In **Building a Sustainable Scotland**, its commentary on sustainable development commitments as part of the 2002 spending review, the Scottish Executive promised to help tourist businesses become more sustainable through the VisitScotland Green Tourism Business Scheme, and through access funds for energy-efficient heating systems or waste recycling through the Clean Energy Demonstration Scheme and Loan Action Scotland. It also stated that: "Sustainable Tourism must and will be promoted across the various components of the tourism industry, and not just within eco-tourism niche markets". The report highlighted the importance of the outdoors for tourism (90% rating scenery as a factor in choosing Scotland). Up to that point, golf and genealogy had been singled out as particular areas of focus for 'specialist' tourism.

In March 2002, the Scottish Executive published The Tourism Framework for Action, which sought to outline ways in which the objectives of the **New Strategy for Scottish Tourism**, published in February 2000, could be moved forward. No specific focus of attention is given to environmental or eco-tourism, nor, indeed, to sustainable tourism, though the Framework does state that 'Tourism's potential to enhance both the natural and built environment should be recognised.'

Likewise, in January 2003, The Scottish Parliament's Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee published its report on The Future of Tourism in Scotland which, although making reference to environmental tourism in other countries, made no specific recommendations regarding environmental or sustainable tourism in Scotland.

The **Building a Sustainable Scotland** document also committed the Executive to managing sustainable forests, pointing out that Scotland's national forests were among the first in the world to win internationally-recognised independent sustainability certification. The Scottish Forestry Strategy was published in November 2000. The strategy identified five key directions for the industry. These included: maximising the value to the Scottish economy of wood resources;

the creation of a diverse high-quality forest resource for the future; ensuring that forestry contributes positively to the environment and that it creates opportunities for more people to enjoy woodlands and forests; and that it helps communities to benefit from woods and forests. A Scottish Forestry Forum was also established.

During the Scottish Parliament debate on Forestry in November 2002, Allan Wilson MSP, Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, said that “following the world summit on sustainable development in Johannesburg, we agreed to examine ways of using our purchasing power to promote the purchase of wood products from sustainable sources”. He also indicated that a new grants scheme, which he expected to be in place from April 2003, would support work to improve the ecological value of native woodlands and to enlarge them through the development of forest habitat networks.

Waste and Recycling

Waste/resource use has been signalled by the Scottish Executive as one of the three key areas it has chosen to focus on to “take forward sustainable development”.

In 1999, LINK called for action by the Scottish Parliament to reduce the use of Scotland’s resources, by maximising re-cycling and re-use of waste. LINK also called for policies to reduce the volume of waste produced by Scots, encouraging manufacturers to minimise packaging and to reuse and recycle materials. Local authorities were to be obliged to fulfil their recycling targets while landfill would carry a much higher financial cost, and sewage sludge needed to be treated before being spread on land rather than being incinerated.

In December 1999, the then Minister for Transport and the Environment, Sarah Boyack MSP, announced to Parliament the introduction of the National Waste Strategy. The principles of the strategy were that the best approach was to reduce waste; thereafter that items currently consigned to the bin should be reused; that a third option should be recycling materials or composting them into useful products; with a final option of incineration only when other options are exhausted and where energy can be extracted. Incineration was not to be used as an easy alternative to landfill. The core of the strategy was the identification of the best practicable environmental option — the BPEO — for long-term waste management. Local area groups were established to develop Area Waste Plans.

Nearly three years later, on the eve of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, LINK was scathing of Scotland’s achievements on recycling saying the rate of 6% being achieved by local authorities was one of the worst in Europe and pointing out that Scotland had failed miserably to achieve the target of 25%, set in 1990 for 2000. LINK acknowledged the First Minister’s commitment to increasing recycling and positive measures like increasing landfill taxation and the Executive’s support for local authority schemes to reduce landfill. But LINK’s **Must Try Harder** paper concluded that steps were required to reduce Scottish overuse of natural resources, and called for tough mandatory recycling targets to be set for each local authority with the minimum acceptable level of waste recycling being set at 30%.

In **Building a Sustainable Scotland** (2002) the Scottish Executive committed itself to increasing the amount of waste collected by local authorities that is recycled or composted to 25%.

In May 2002, Ross Finnie MSP indicated that all 11 area waste groups had now produced their draft area waste plans and the Executive had established the Strategic Waste Fund to help local authorities to implement those plans. The next step was the integration of the 11 plans into a **National Waste Plan**.

In September 2002, Ross Finnie MSP announced new targets for Scottish Councils, requiring them to achieve the recycling of 25% of municipal waste by 2006. The Executive also allocated funds in the 2002 spending review to addressing waste minimisation.

The Scottish Executive published its **National Waste Plan** on 24 February 2003, establishing the direction of the Executive’s policies for sustainable waste management to 2020. Core objectives include: the provision of segregated kerbside waste collections to over 90% of

households by 2020; to stop growth in the amount of municipal waste by 2010; to achieve the recycling and composting of 55% of municipal waste by 2020; to recover energy from 14% of municipal waste; reduce landfilling of municipal waste from 90% to 30%; provide waste minimisation advice to businesses and to develop markets for recycled materials.

Air and Water (pollution & protection)

In the run-up to the first Scottish election, LINK called on the new Scottish Parliament to choose policies that reduced discharges of all pollutants into water and air to the lowest possible levels. LINK set a target of cutting emissions of carbon dioxide from 1990 levels by at least 20% before 2010. Their document also called for policies that brought together planning, land use and freshwater management to revitalise Scotland's river systems; an integrated strategy to curb over-fishing; sensitive management of coastal waters; the identification and monitoring of over 100 beaches to get them above EU bathing water standards and the resumption of the work of the Bathing Beaches Review Panel. To police this, LINK called for SEPA's legal powers and funding to be increased.

The Scottish Executive's initiatives have included the Scottish Climate Change Programme, aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in Scotland, which was published in 2000, the same year as the National Air Quality Strategy.

In October 2001, Ross Finnie MSP announced that, along with other stakeholders, the Scottish Executive was creating a post at the Scottish Agricultural College to coordinate advice on water management to farmers. Later that same month, his deputy, Rhona Brankin MSP, indicated that the Executive's £25m decommissioning package, aimed at reducing and restructuring the Scottish whitefish fleet by up to 20%, was a key part of the Executive's contribution to "ocean recovery".

In December 2002 both reform of the European Common Fisheries policy agreed by the European Union and further news of crashing fish stocks and restrictions on cod fishing had created a defining moment for the future of both fish and the industries that depend on them. Environmental groups supported the idea of investing in recovery programmes for both fish and the industry. Decisions on investment funds and final agreement on cod recovery plans were promised but environmental groups warned that political compromise might in the end satisfy no-one and do little to restore depleted fish stocks.

LINK's **Must Try Harder** paper, published in the run-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 noted the efforts at UK level to reduce greenhouse gases: the Climate Change Levy on sales of polluting electricity, coal and gas, and the Scottish Executive's decision to set up a Climate Change Unit and develop a strategy for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. But LINK said it was wrong that Scotland had no specific targets for reducing emissions and appeared to be doing little to contribute to the UK target – Scottish greenhouse gas emissions, the document said, fell just 5% between 1990 and 1999 compared with 17% in England. On air quality **Must Try Harder** was equally scathing claiming that, while air quality was better than in the past, 2000 people were still killed each year by vehicle exhaust fumes and local authorities' air pollution strategies were behind schedule. On 19 November 2002, the Scottish Executive announced £5.1 million to be allocated over three years to help cut pollution from HGVs, buses, taxis and other commercial vehicles.

In **Building a Sustainable Scotland**, the Scottish Executive's commentary on sustainable development commitments as part of the 2002 spending review, the Executive commented that "a key element in delivering the change to sustainable management of our water resources is funding for implementation of the **Water Environment and Water Services Bill (WEWS)**". The WEWS Bill, introduced to the Parliament on 18 June 2002 and which received Royal Assent on 5 March 2003, transposes the **EU Water Framework Directive** into Scots law and deals with a range of issues including diffuse and point source pollution, wetlands, flooding, river basin management and licensing.

In August 2002, the Scottish Executive announced plans to guarantee easier access to pollution data. The proposals are designed to bring environmental information in line with the **Scottish**

Freedom of Information Act. In November 2002 the Scottish Parliament agreed to the use of the Sewel motion to allow Westminster to take forward proposals in the **Waste and Emissions Trading Bill**. The Executive announced last month that SEPA will 'launch a comprehensive pollution inventory in August 2005'.

Energy

Central to LINK's recommendation that the Scottish Parliament should preside over significant reductions in Scotland's CO₂ emissions was a call for a 10-year programme to improve energy efficiency in Scotland's housing. LINK called on politicians to set themselves a target of improving energy efficiency by 20% by 2010 and a further 20% by 2020 to reduce the CO₂ contribution from the domestic housing sector at the same time as improving the quality of life for householders and families by making homes affordably warm. LINK also called for improved building regulations, energy auditing of all homes, energy efficiency targets, labelling of products to increase energy efficiency and the provision of best practice guidance for renewable energy developments. The Parliament itself was challenged to use energy efficiently, use resources sustainably, reduce pollution and minimise waste.

Energy was one of the three main priority areas for sustainable development adopted by the Scottish Executive. In the first four years of the Scottish Parliament there were two parliamentary debates dedicated to the subject of renewable energy, one a Green Party debate and the other a debate on a member's motion.

In November 2000 it was announced by then Minister for Environment, Sam Galbraith MSP, that local authorities were to be given the power to independently approve the building of sustainable energy developments.

In February 2001, the then Scottish Executive Social Justice Minister, Jackie Baillie, unveiled a £350m Central Heating Programme to install central heating systems to tackle fuel poverty. 140,000 householders where people were pensioners, where an elderly person was living alone, or where householders were disabled or suffering from a long-term illness were identified as a priority for the scheme which the Executive stated would save an average of £550 a year on a family's heating bills.

LINK's **Must Try Harder** paper, published in the run-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 branded the Scottish Executive's target of 18% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 as "unambitious", suggesting 25% by 2010, and 50% by 2020, were more appropriate given Scotland's "vast – and almost totally unused – resources of wind and wave energy".

Against the background of the existing commitment by the Executive to 18% of electricity from renewable resources by 2010, in August 2002 Ross Finnie MSP announced that sustainable energy resources are to account for 40% of Scotland's electricity by 2020. The Executive described this target as an "aspirational objective" rather than a formal target.

As recently as 14 January 2003, Minister for Environment and Rural Development Ross Finnie MSP announced a fund for grants designed to help community groups and householders develop renewable energy projects. The new grant scheme, under the Scottish Community Renewable Initiative (SCRI) will provide £3.7m over three years.

In **Building a Sustainable Scotland**, the Scottish Executive's sustainable development document in 2002, government promised to set high performance standards for central heating installed under the Central Heating Programme. In its single biggest spending area, healthcare, the Executive promised to support the further development of the Greencode Environmental Management Tool and NHS Scotland's good record on energy-efficiency. The document also stated that homes with 'poor' energy efficiency would be reduced in number by 20% by 2006.

Transport

From its inception, LINK has called for the development of an integrated and sustainable transport policy to promote less environmentally damaging forms of transport. Its 1999 “manifesto” called for the introduction of transport charging to open up the possibility of “imaginative new schemes - so long as money raised locally is spent locally”.

When LINK reported three years later in its **Must Try Harder** paper, the Scottish Executive had embarked on a £500m road-building programme, spending which LINK said far outweighed the expenditure on sustainable transport and simply encouraged more pollution. It was particularly critical of the approval of the M74 extension which LINK claimed had ignored sustainable alternatives, the £250 million cost (now predicted by the Executive to be more like £375-500million) being more than sufficient to pay for a Safe Route to School for every child in Scotland. The Executive was also criticised for allowing Scotland to fall behind England, where two-thirds of transport spending was on improving public transport. LINK said several cities in England were progressing with the introduction of modern light rail or tram systems with none imminent in Scotland, while the opportunity of introducing a workplace-parking levy had been dropped by the Scottish Executive in the face of complaints from businesses.

The Scottish Executive’s **Transport Bill** (which received Royal Assent in January 2001) had undergone a rough passage through Parliament, with its proposals for a workplace-parking levy removed in order to ensure less opposition to the overall package, which essentially sought to lay the foundations for integrated transport. **Building a Sustainable Scotland**, the Scottish Executive’s commentary on sustainable development commitments as part of the 2002 spending review, promised better public transport for all sectors of the community “reducing both resource use and the need to travel unsustainably”. The document also included a pledge to use the Modernising Government Fund to encourage projects to help to reduce or eliminate the need to travel to access public information, advice or services, for example through contact centres, “one stop shops” and video conferencing.

In March 2002, the then Minister with responsibility for Transport, Wendy Alexander MSP, announced the publication of the transport delivery report, **Scotland’s Transport: Delivering Improvements**. She indicated that the greatest transport problem facing Scotland is congestion and signalled the Executive’s aim to stabilise road traffic levels at 2001-levels by 2021. **Building a Sustainable Scotland** reaffirmed this goal, stating that “an overarching objective of the transport delivery report, Scotland’s Transport: Delivering Improvements, is traffic stabilisation over the next 20 years”.

In a statement to the Parliament on the delivery report, Ms Alexander outlined the top ten priorities for helping to achieve this goal. These were: a new 15 year passenger rail franchise from April 2004; redevelopment of Waverley Station to provide more platforms; the development of rail links to Glasgow and Edinburgh airports; the development of transport solutions in Edinburgh – including tramway projects; tackling congestion in Aberdeen; tackling congestion in the A8, A80 and M74 corridor; progressing the central Borders rail link; free off-peak bus travel for elderly people and people with disabilities; improved provision of travel information and through-ticketing arrangements on local buses and, finally, an examination of the missing motorway links on the A8 and A80.

More recently, in March 2003, The Minister for Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning, Iain Gray MSP, announced that the Executive is to support investment in public transport infrastructure by taking a longer term strategic approach to financial planning backed up with £3 billion over ten years. The investment figure referred to is derived from a calculation that, by 2006, the Scottish transport budget will provide almost £1 billion a year to transport, with at least £300 million of that devoted to infrastructure improvements. Importantly, the Minister also indicated that new measures would ensure that financial planning will be extended beyond the standard three year budgeting cycle and include some additional end year flexibility to cater for major projects, such as the first tram route for Edinburgh and a Western Peripheral Route for Aberdeen.

The spending figures were outlined in **Building Better Transport**, published on 5 March 2003, which provides an update on progress across transport and major transport projects.

Wildlife and Conservation

A key element of the policy priorities set out by LINK in 1999 was the need to protect and enhance Scotland's wildlife. An action plan was needed, LINK stated, to preserve and restore biodiversity on land and sea. Work should also be encouraged to save Scottish species threatened with extinction such as the corncrake and capercaillie, while species should be reintroduced such as the beaver. Local biodiversity action plans should be the product of initiatives and debate within local communities. LINK asked that the political policy on opencast mining should be to refuse permission for new operations except where there is clear local benefit such as in the reclamation of derelict land, and that the restoration of mining sites should be designed to enhance biodiversity of each area, and should be fully funded by the developer.

LINK's **Must Try Harder** paper, published in the run-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 put great emphasis on achieving the aims of the Convention on Biological Diversity which commits government to protecting and enhancing plant and animal life. A year earlier, in March 2001, the Scottish Executive published **Nature of Scotland: A Policy Statement**, a series of proposals to toughen Scottish wildlife laws.

In summary its main proposals relate to measures to fight wildlife crime and to the designation and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), which "should remain at the heart of our system of protecting Scotland's natural heritage". On biodiversity, the policy statement proposed "that Scottish Ministers should accept a specific duty to have regard to the conservation of biological diversity in the exercise of our functions".

During a debate in November 2001, the then Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, Rhona Brankin MSP, referred to the **Nature of Scotland** policy statement, stating: "We announced recently that we intend to produce legislative proposals at an early opportunity and a draft bill will be published as soon as possible". A limited number of wildlife crime provisions were included in the Criminal Justice Bill (passed by Parliament on 20 February 2003). After a rather lengthy wait, remaining provisions were included in the **Draft Nature Conservation Bill**, published on 11 March 2003.

The draft Bill outlines measures to strengthen protection for Scotland's SSSIs (proposing measures to be able to prevent, rather than simply delay, operations and activities which genuinely threaten SSSIs). It also places a duty on public organisations to further biodiversity and proposes new legislation to tackle wildlife crime. The draft Bill has been launched for consultation with a closing date for responses of 6 June to comment on the proposals. In view of the pending election it will be for the next administration to take forward any legislation arising from the proposals published.

The draft **Nature Conservation Bill** is intended to link with and support the draft **Scottish Biodiversity Strategy**, which was launched for consultation on 14 March 2003.

The **Strategy**, intends to create a 25-year vision for biodiversity in Scotland. The document revolves around a 'vision' and two aims. The vision states '*Scotland is a nation where the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity underpins all decision making and practice to ensure the environment is sustained for its people*'. The two stated aims are to halt the loss of Scotland's biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses by targeted action for species and habitats, and to raise awareness of the many benefits of biodiversity.

Commenting on the **Strategy**, Allan Wilson MSP, Deputy Minister for Rural Development, said: "The publication of the draft Strategy, is a further example of our commitment to sustainable development."

4 everyone



For Better or Worse?
Assessments





THE CONTRIBUTORS

Allan Wilson
Fiona MacLeod
Ross Finnie
Kevin Dunion
Simon Pepper
Dave Morris

Nora Radcliffe
Robin Harper
John Scott
Jessica Pepper
Steve Sankey
Lloyd Austin

Assessments

How it was done

Statistics can only give half of the answer to the question “For Better or Worse?” when assessing the impact of the first four years of the Scottish parliament’s control over the environment agenda. The same decision can be interpreted as a significant commitment by one person and rhetoric by another.

The researchers were asked to find out what some of the participants in the environment debate over the last four years felt were the main achievements – and shortcomings of the Scottish Parliament and Executive. To that end, we asked for the personal assessments of a dozen people, who between them represent a cross section of political and NGO opinion:

Ross Finnie MSP	Minister for Environment and Rural Development (Liberal Democrat)
Allan Wilson MSP	Deputy Environment Minister (Labour)
Robin Harper MSP	Scottish Green Party
Fiona McLeod MSP	Deputy Environment Spokesperson, SNP
Nora Radcliffe MSP	Environment Spokesperson, Scottish Liberal Democrats
John Scott MSP	Environment Spokesman, Scottish Conservatives
Lloyd Austin	Head of Policy Operations, RSPB Scotland
Kevin Dunion	Chief Executive Friends of the Earth Scotland (until February 2003)
Dave Morris	Director, Ramblers’ Association Scotland
Jessica Pepper	Parliamentary Officer, Scottish Environment LINK
Simon Pepper	Director, WWF Scotland
Steve Sankey	CEO, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Each was asked to respond within the seven chosen policy areas (sustainability; land reform, land use and tourism; waste and recycling; air and water pollution and protection; energy; transport; and wildlife and conservation), stating what they felt had been the main successes and shortcomings in that area, and giving their hopes for the next parliament.

The majority of the responses were received by email, though Robin Harper MSP and John Scott MSP chose the option of being interviewed.

The full, unedited, responses are presented in Appendix 2 of this report.

The response of Ross Finnie MSP should be regarded as that of the Scottish Executive 2003, while those remaining MSPs were invited to respond on the basis of their being the senior environment policy-maker in their party.

Some respondents chose to answer across all the subject areas, other chose to leave particular questions unanswered. Rather than answering every question, some respondents provided a statement to answer each set of questions.

Sustainability

Sustainability was put at the heart of the Scottish Executive's policy, according to Environment Minister, Ross Finnie:

"The Scottish Executive made the challenging commitment back in 1999 to integrate sustainable development into all Government policies. In 2002, Sustainable Development Indicators were published, providing an essential benchmark for assessing progress made in policies over the long-term. Priority has been placed on tackling resource use, energy and travel. In the 2002 Spending Review, all spending divisions had to direct their spending contribution to sustainable development. Significant progress has undoubtedly been made in the first four years, with the level of transparency greatly improved and priorities established against which future Executives can and must be held to account."

For Labour, his ministerial deputy, Allan Wilson went further

"We recognise that sustainable development and social justice are inextricably linked. All Bills before the Parliament have to include a statement on their relevance to sustainability – this system could be enhanced and improved. All spending proposals have to be assessed against how they contribute to sustainable development."

Of the other respondents, the general feeling was that there have been positive achievements over the first four years of the Parliament and Scottish Executive, but also a number of shortcomings, while there remained many areas where progress still needs to be made.

Opinion was clear that the political mindset must continue to regard sustainability as being about all policy – not just environmental. Simon Pepper championed a 'green' jobs strategy as being central to the nation's economic wellbeing:

"One of the biggest needs and opportunities is to create a Green Jobs Strategy for Scotland"

One of the main achievements identified is the Water Environment and Water Services Act (2003). This primary legislation has a wide ranging impact on such issues as flood control, water quality and planning control. Robin Harper MSP commented:

"I think without any doubt the water environment bill represents the greatest achievement. It's going to have long-term benefits for the Scottish environment. It's going to put us ahead of the rest of Europe."

Jessica Pepper, Parliamentary Officer for Scottish Environment LINK, also commended the Act as a template for what good environmental legislation should be:

"The Water Environment and Water Services Bill stands out. Rather than being regulatory, the Act is forward thinking. It puts the people and communities who depend on the well-being of the environment at the heart of it and it is integrated in its approach"

Respondents were generally pleased with what they saw as the Executive's clear commitment to conducting its own building programme in a sustainable way and the First Minister's personal commitment to sustainable development. Nora Radcliffe for the Scottish Liberal Democrats:

"The Executive's commitment to its own building programme, for instance in investing in schools and social housing, being carried out in a sustainable way has been the most important achievement in policy terms during the first Parliament."

There was praise for the First Minister's personal role, particularly Jack McConnell's speech on environmental justice at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, and his chairing of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on a Sustainable Scotland (CSCSS). Also commended was the Executive's commitment that every Executive Bill should include a statement on its relevance to sustainability. Dave Morris, Director of the Ramblers' Association was pleased with the leadership on the issue:

"The decision of the First Minister to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg was a clear signal of personal commitment to sustainable development principles at the top of the Executive."

As well as the successes, however, respondents identified a number of shortcomings. There was a perceived gap in the Executive's ability to translate the rhetoric on sustainable development into effective action. Fiona McLeod of the SNP was blunt:

"The future must be less about talk and more about action'.

Jessica Pepper backed up this view in more detail:

"There are various examples of the gap between rhetoric and delivery. In his 'green' speech, Jack McConnell stated that the Sustainable Development Forum was up and running. In fact it took months to have its first meeting and after the second, the enthusiasm of participants is not being matched by that of the Executive. Rhetoric is great, but without action it is meaningless."

NGOs point to the need for a full set of targets and indicators as part of a more comprehensive strategy on sustainable development. As Lloyd Austin of RSPB Scotland said:

"... the indicators and targets for achieving sustainability were incomplete or absent."

The Sustainable Development Forum was identified by a number of respondents as an undertaking which had failed to fulfil their expectations. As Kevin Dunion formerly of Friends of the Earth Scotland put it:

"Where policy has not lived up to our hopes was in the fact that the Sustainable Development Forum has been rudderless..."

Other areas on which respondents felt the Executive or the Parliament had failed to follow their stated intentions with effective action were:

- waste management and recycling,
- the lack of policy integration across all Executive departments including an apparent lack of seriousness from some departments towards the issue of sustainability,
- a lack of clear targets and timescales for implementing policy, and
- the lack of a public procurement strategy for fostering sustainable production and consumption.

For the future, many respondents called for increased scrutiny of spending plans and policy for their impact on sustainable development. Jessica Pepper suggests this could be carried out by the Audit Committee, while Dave Morris of the Ramblers' Association suggested:

"The next Scottish Parliament should establish a Sustainable Development Committee as recommended by LINK in 1999."

Ross Finnie, too, believes government has to allow the consideration of the sustainability of policies to go far deeper:

“The challenge for the next and indeed all future Executives must be to embed even more effectively the process by which environmental issues inform public policy making. Embedding sustainability into government thinking through Strategic Environmental Assessment, for example, will make the policy process more open and can identify adverse environmental impacts before they happen.”

Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism

Environment Minister Ross Finnie identified the Land Reform (Scotland) Act, and the creation of Scotland’s first national parks, as two of the most significant achievements of the Executive’s first four years:

“The Land Reform (Scotland) Act was a flagship bill of the first Parliament. The potential benefits of community ownership have been demonstrated time and again. The most recent community to charge of their affairs was Amhuinnsuidhe on Harris in February 2003. The task for Scottish Natural Heritage and the new Parliament relating to land reform will be to ensure that the code of responsible access is delivered and promoted to offer clarity and encourage people to enjoy Scotland’s countryside and wilderness. With this Act, and the creation of two new National Parks, Scotland’s natural landscapes have been recognised as a unique and invaluable asset for native and visitor alike to enjoy.”

A number of other respondents also cited the Land Reform (Scotland) Act as a key achievement. Robin Harper of the Green Party commented:

“The land reform legislation has moved things forward. It is not going to produce a sudden change in land ownership but it will produce change over a period of time and that is the best way to achieve change.”

This view was backed-up by Dave Morris, Director of the Ramblers’ Association Scotland:

“The access legislation provides Scotland with a statutory framework for public access to land and water that is probably better than any other European country.”

However, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act was not universally viewed as a positive development. John Scott, of the Scottish Conservatives, suggested that parts of the Act may need to be repealed:

“I cannot see a silver lining to the land reform cloud. Much of the land reform process was unnecessary – if not all of it...For the next Parliament...there may be some very important work to be done in terms of repealing parts of it.”

A number of respondents identified the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 as a successful piece of legislation. Lloyd Austin, Head of Policy Operations, RSPB Scotland commented on the benefits of the Act, though with some reservations:

“Now nearly three years ago, the National Parks (Scotland) Act was one of the Parliament’s first achievements, and the subsequent designation of the first two parks represent a success (although rather muted by the ‘fudge’ over the Cairngorms Park boundary and planning powers).”

Also welcomed by some respondents were:

- the Organic Action Plan
- the Scottish Forestry Strategy
- the creation of the Historic Environment Advisory Council

- the Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture
- the Executive's Tourism Strategy

Where respondents registered disappointment in the performance of the Executive and Parliament during the last four years was over a perceived failure to move from the strategic or consultation stage on issues, to achieving actual changes in policy accompanied by appropriate levels of funding. With regard to the agriculture and tourism strategies, Lloyd Austin commented:

“There has been a notable failure to turn the good intentions (rhetoric) of the agriculture and tourism strategies into policy changes, [and] the commitment of the required resources or action.”

Steve Sankey, CEO of the Scottish Wildlife Trust echoed this view of the Executive's agriculture policy:

“The Scottish Wildlife Trust has been deeply disappointed by the way agricultural policy has been handled, especially the vastly under-resourcing of agri-environment programmes in Scotland.”

Steve Sankey suggests reform:

“...there must now be complete reform and modernisation of the Agriculture Department to ensure that environment and sustainable development are thoroughly integrated in their thinking and processes. It is easily the least integrated department at the moment.”

Waste and Recycling

In his response, Ross Finnie pointed to the Executive's National Waste Plan, and the level of funding the Executive has made available to carry out the strategy, as the foundation on which progress in this area can now be achieved:

“The National Waste Plan and associated Area Waste Plans were launched in February 2003. Tackling historical problems in waste management and recycling in Scotland is not a simple or inexpensive task. However, the National Waste Plan – and the Executive's commitment of £230m over the next 3 years – is an ideal base for progress over the next two decades, increasing the level of recycling and composting of municipal waste to 55%. The challenge for the new Parliament in achieving this target will be four-fold:

- ensuring that kerbside recycling is widely available
- waste should be seen as a resource, requiring a significant mind set change
- markets are stimulated and developed for recycled products
- the growth in waste levels linked to economic activity is halted.”

Labour's Allan Wilson, in describing the strategy, emphasised that Scotland is the ‘first part of the UK to adopt such a national plan’. But Robin Harper for the Scottish Green Party criticised the Executive for taking until towards the end of the Parliament's first term to introduce a waste management policy:

“The Executive should have been able to sit down and work out a framework strategy within months and given councils a list of things to be getting on with straight away like allowing householders to separate waste.”

Both Fiona McLeod, of the SNP, and John Scott, of the Scottish Conservatives, said the Executive had taken too long to produce the strategy:

“We really have had three years of dithering – a classic example of a lot of pilots with nothing taking off, nothing being rolling out”. (Fiona McLeod)

“The waste strategy...will be the most positive achievement in this area but it has been so long in coming. How many years behind is it from when it was first promised? The key point is that this national waste plan was meant to be out last year”. (John Scott)

Despite the delay in delivering the National Waste Strategy, the Liberal Democrat’s Nora Radcliffe commented on the positive content and eventual implications of the Executive’s approach:

“I was very encouraged by the Area Waste Plans created by the local authorities feeding into a National Waste Strategy. While the planning stage was necessary, action needs to follow – and the action bit is just beginning.”

Steve Sankey, CEO of the Scottish Wildlife Trust is also a fan of the Waste Strategy saying:

“Scotland’s National Waste Strategy is visionary and includes some tough targets which we support.”

Given the delay in producing the National Waste Strategy many respondents felt there was a need to make up for the time lost during the first Parliament. Kevin Dunion, former Chief Executive of Friends of the Earth Scotland, commented:

“If they are to make up for the first four years, Scotland’s politicians must set a statutory requirement to meet the 25% recycling target, and recognise the cost of implementing household separation and kerbside collection schemes.”

John Scott endorsed this view:

“The priority for the next parliament will be to deliver. That said we must move it forward as quickly as we can because we are still at the bottom of the European league table in terms of delivering recycling schemes.”

Respondents identified a number of other initiatives that they would like to see implemented in the next Parliament, including limiting the creation of new landfill sites, policies aimed at reducing waste as well as increasing recycling, and an effort to change the culture in Scotland with regard to waste and consumption.

“Policy guidance should be issued to local authorities making it clear that there should be a presumption in future against the creation of any more landfill sites.” (Dave Morris, Director of the Ramblers’ Association Scotland)

“The Waste Strategy should be implemented and significant funds directed into doing so. The emphasis should not just be on recycling but also on reducing the amount of waste that we produce. In terms of recycling, the facilities and infrastructure needs to be significantly improved to make it easier for people to recycle their waste.” (Jessica Pepper, Parliamentary Officer, Scottish Environment LINK)

“Support major collaborative efforts to drive cultural change in Scotland on the question of sustainable production and consumption. Need to ensure doorstep recycling to meet the needs of public as identified in Executive attitude survey of 2002 where nine out of ten people said they would recycle if offered this service.” (Simon Pepper, Director, WWF Scotland)

Air and Water (Pollution and Protection)

Although the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee expressed its doubts over the cost of implementing the legislation, the Water Environment and Water Services (WEWS) Act was seen by many respondents as a defining milestone in Scotland's ability to deliver Scottish solutions, in this case in transposing the European Water Framework Directive into Scots law.

Environment Minister, Ross Finnie, chose to lead off his response on moves to reduce air pollution:

"Our tough new Air Quality Strategy has stricter objectives than the rest of UK. The focus is now concentrating on delivery. The Water Environment and Water Services Act is a major piece of environmental legislation, with Scotland leading the way across Europe in implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. The potential in this progressive legislation will be realised through sensible implementation, improving management and conservation of Scotland's waters on a catchment basis. The Executive's commitment of £1.8bn in modernising Scotland's water and sewerage system is delivering significant environmental – as well as health – benefits now, with more to come in the future."

Other respondents also identified the Water Environment and Water Services Act as one of the Executive's main achievements with regard to the issue of pollution and protection. Dave Morris, Director of the Ramblers' Association Scotland commented:

"The passage of the Water Environment and Water Services Bill has provided a sound framework for the future management of water resources and the incorporation of recommendations from LINK, especially in relation to the protection of wetland habitats, was very welcome."

Lloyd Austin, Head of Policy Operations, RSPB Scotland was also positive about the Act, but cautioned that much of the real impact will be determined by the subsequent secondary legislation:

"RSPB Scotland particularly welcomed the inclusion of wetlands and sustainable flood management in the Water Environment and Water Services Act. Now secondary legislation and the River Basin Management Plans must turn the good intentions of the WEWS Act into action."

Steve Sankey, CEO of the Scottish Wildlife Trust welcomed the Act, but pointed out that the final legislation was only a success due to strenuous lobbying from environmental organisations.

"The transposition of the EC's Water Framework Directive into Scots Law under the Water Environment Bill was a great achievement. But the final Act could have been so different had it not been for the input of environmentalists. There seemed to be a real problem getting the Scottish Executive to accept fundamental points until they were challenged by Committee amendments following briefing by LINK NGOs. It is essential that government Ministers and senior civil servants should be more sensitive to briefings issued by NGOs."

Some of the short-comings of the WEWS Act were identified by Fiona McLeod of the Scottish National Party, including the lack of a flood management strategy and a failure to provide complete costings for the implementation of the Act:

"The WEWS Bill was not all good by any means. The Executive told everyone that its funding of the implementation of the Bill was a key element in delivering sustainable management of our water resources, but the financial memorandum that accompanied it was severely criticised."

While Ross Finnie pointed out the Executive's achievements in this area, tackling air pollution was felt by some respondents to have been eclipsed by the WEWS Act. Scottish Liberal Democrat Nora Radcliffe said:

"I feel that not much was done on air quality. Perhaps that is understandable as our cities are nowhere near as bad as some."

A similar point was made by Jessica Pepper, Parliamentary Officer for Scottish Environment Link. She said the Executive's failure to set precise targets for emissions reduction as one of the missed opportunities of its first four years:

"Scotland has not yet committed to targets on emission reduction. Although committed to a climate change strategy, there is no designated goal for emission reduction. The Scottish Executive claims Scotland will make an 'equitable contribution' to the UK target under the Kyoto protocol, yet has consistently declined to state what that will be. Without a goal, how can we know where we are going and determine how we will get there?"

However, Labour's Allan Wilson emphasized that the level of funding for SEPA had been significantly increased, with the aim of ensuring sufficient regulation of both air and water pollution:

"In the year to March 2002 SEPA's core funding was increased by over 35%, demonstrating Labour's commitment to tackling pollution and protecting our environment."

One of the main suggestions for improved air and water pollution control in the next Parliament was for the Executive to pursue the transgression of environmental regulations more rigorously. Robin Harper, Scottish Green Party, made this point:

"I think we have got to the time now where our courts need to be encouraged to see how serious breaches in environmental regulations are. Slapping a £2000 fine on an enormous company for a serious breach of regulations is not acceptable any longer. We need to gear everything up and achieve higher standards and protect the environment better by a more vigorous attitude to environmental law breaking."

Fiona McLeod, SNP, made a similar plea:

"The next Parliament must ensure that tougher action is taken to tackle pollution and the degradation of our environment."

A further suggestion for improved pollution control was made by Dave Morris:

"The environment brief should be separated from rural development and be recognised as a cabinet level post in its own right, with climate change responsibilities a key part of the post."

Energy

The period of the first Scottish Parliament will be remembered by many as the time when Scotland decided to "get serious" about seeking renewable and sustainable solutions to the nation's energy needs.

Environment Minister Ross Finnie was keen to emphasise the Executive's commitment to achieving measurable progress:

“In 1999, there was no target for the amount of energy generated from renewables. We are now well on our way to meeting the 18% target set for 2006 and, in recognition of the massive potential of Scotland’s renewable energy resource, the Executive is looking at a target of 40% of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020.”

Of course, energy policy is about reducing consumption as well as finding sustainable sources. With the Warm Deal policy, the Executive and Parliament sought to achieve this element of energy resource management at the same time as eradicating the fundamental social justice issue of too many Scots living in inadequate homes they could not afford to heat. Ross Finnie’s assessment was:

“...the Executive has also made good progress in eradicating the scourge of fuel poverty. The challenge will be in maintaining progress in tackling the most intractable elements of the housing stock in the next 5-10 years.”

A number of other respondents also identified the Warm Deal as one of the Executive’s key achievements of the last four years. Of this initiative, Labour’s Allan Wilson commented:

“The Scottish Executive has invested heavily in home energy-efficiency measures for those in receipt of certain income-related benefits. The Warm Deal has improved the energy efficiency of 137,000 homes by 2001-2 and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 42,000 tonnes annually.”

Nora Radcliffe, of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, also welcomed the Warm Deal and Central Heating Programme:

“The ‘warm homes’ initiative that saw central heating being installed in people’s homes, alongside draught-proofing and proper insulation, was a real step forward in energy conservation. I also believe the setting of challenging targets for renewables and the creation of the Intermediate Technology Institute to move development along were also important achievements.”

Scottish Green, Robin Harper, while acknowledging the social benefits of the programme, questioned its environmental soundness:

“The research that I commissioned suggested that the social aims are being well achieved and there are undeniable improvements to people’s quality of living, but in terms of the savings in terms of greenhouse gases things are likely to be pretty static because people who once heated one room in their homes inefficiently now heat all of them efficiently.”

A number of NGO respondents also cited the renewable energy policy as one of the areas of environment where real progress had been achieved. Kevin Dunion, former Chief Executive of Friends of the Earth Scotland, described the improving climate for investment in renewable forms of energy:

“A climate of encouragement on renewables was created which has stimulated investment. The Garrad Hassan report on Scotland’s potential from renewable sources has also encouraged a view that we can accommodate renewable schemes over large parts of Scotland whilst still protecting valuable landscapes and habitats.”

This view was supported by Jessica Pepper, Parliamentary Officer for Scottish Environment LINK:

“The Executive is to be commended on setting and consulting upon more ambitious renewable energy targets for Scotland.”

For the full potential of Scotland's natural, renewable resources to be realised, there was consensus that there needs to be investment in infrastructure, taking the National Grid to the remote areas where wind and wave farms may be located. Ross Finnie identified this issue as one which needs to be addressed by the next Parliament:

"...it will be important that the next Parliament and Executive maintain pressure on the UK Government to deliver an improved national grid and genuine commitment to reassure potential investors that renewable energy will receive long term support."

There was a more cautious welcome to the Executive's commitment on renewable energy from Lloyd Austin, Head of Policy Operations, RSPB Scotland:

"While RSPB Scotland welcomed the increase in targets for renewables, we have been worried by the absence of strategic and spatial plans for on-land and marine wind farms. There has been a failure to invest in the research and development of wave and solar power generation, to develop other forms of renewables and to investigate and minimise their environmental impacts."

Dave Morris, Director of the Ramblers' Association Scotland, concurred on the need to assess the visual impact of renewable energy projects:

"Insufficient attention has been given to the impact of wind-farms and hydro schemes on the landscape."

His comment was coupled with the suggestion that the Executive should develop a strategy for the location of wind-farms:

"Much clearer guidance is needed on the best locations for wind-farms and hydro schemes, with preference given to small scale developments near to communities rather than large scale developments in relatively wild areas. An overall energy strategy is needed."

A further suggestion was that the Executive's energy policy should not only look at sustainable means of energy generation, but also at reducing overall energy use. Jessica Pepper made this point:

"To reduce emissions, the focus must not be on renewable energy alone. It must be a twin track approach – with a reduction in our energy consumption along with a shift to alternative sustainable sources."

Most respondents were positive about the Executive's decision to reject nuclear power as a future energy source. Jessica Pepper singled out Ross Finnie for some praise:

"The Executive, and Ross Finnie in particular should be commended for resisting further nuclear power developments in Scotland."

Only John Scott, from the Scottish Conservatives remained in favour of nuclear energy:

"We will need to have a nuclear programme. In terms of CO₂ emissions, I do not think we can deliver our Kyoto commitments unless we have nuclear power."

Transport

Scotland's transport policy is an area where there are deep divisions between those who believe that the Parliament has shown real commitments to supporting alternatives to road use, and those for whom investment in road building has overshadowed everything else.

Ross Finnie said the transport legislation and framework put in place by the Executive will help to deliver an expanded rail network in the future:

“The Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 has given a framework for improved transport delivery across Scotland. New rail tracks have been laid in Edinburgh and trams are to be reintroduced. The rail network is set to undergo great expansion in the next decade, to the Borders, through Clackmannanshire and between Airdrie and Bathgate. With much of the preparatory work already done or close to completion, the challenge for the next Parliament and Executive will be to ensure that work is taken forward in time and on budget. Grants from the Executive have transferred over 21 million lorry miles from Scotland's roads to rail and canals.”

Allan Wilson, of the Scottish Labour Party, also outlined some of the Executive's achievements on transport. He included the Public Transport Fund, and the Freight Facilities Grant Scheme. He also chose to highlight investment in the rail network:

“In December 2002, the Scottish Executive announced a major investment package of new trains, drivers and ticketing facilities for Scotland's rail passenger network. The initial £5.4 million package is the result of close co-operation between the Scottish Executive, the SRA and ScotRail, National Express and is likely to result in £100m worth of new trains.”

Nora Radcliffe, of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, identified the passing of the Transport (Scotland) Act as an important step by the Parliament, though with certain qualifications:

“The Transport Act was a particular achievement of the first parliament, but it was also a disappointment in that it ducked the issue of workplace car parking charges. Some road building will still be necessary in the future years, but we have to see more of the transport budget transferred from road into rail improvement.”

Robin Harper, Scottish Green Party MSP, was less positive about the Executive's record on transport:

“It is a complete mess – the priorities are completely upside down. The M74 should never have attracted the money but I suppose that is water under the bridge now. And I don't think the Aberdeen bypass should have been accepted either. It is appalling the Executive has given into a political lobby.”

This view was also expressed by a number of NGO respondents, including Jessica Pepper, Parliamentary Officer for Scottish Environment LINK, and Simon Pepper, Director of WWF Scotland:

“The Scottish Executive has continued to invest in large road building projects with far less emphasis on developing alternative and integrated public transport options.”
(Jessica Pepper)

“Increased spending on road construction, especially the Aberdeen Bypass, failure to provide central support for Edinburgh’s congestion charging plans, pathetic traffic reduction targets, lack of support for the environmental basis for the fuel duty escalator.”
(Simon Pepper)

Conversely, for John Scott of the Scottish Conservatives, there has not been enough investment in road building:

“The most fundamental failure was the lack of ability to deliver any road improvements for the first 2 years of the parliament. The Roads budget was hacked down to nothing and our roads decayed significantly because of that. We lost more than two years of investment after ’97. It was after 2000 before anyone started thinking of the roads again. They are wearing out and there is a need for significant amounts of money to be dealt with that.”

This is a view on road building that was not endorsed by any of the respondents from the environmental NGOs. Kevin Dunion, former Chief Executive of Friends of the Earth Scotland, expressed his hope that the next Parliament will place less reliance on roads, and instead concentrate on improving public transport:

“The next Parliament must achieve a greater rebalancing of the transport budget towards public transport investment, coupled with congestion charging for the major cities. Politicians must stop linking plans for economic development with spending on roads.”

A further suggestion, from Dave Morris, of the Scottish Ramblers’ Association, was that Scotland’s politicians should invest more of their efforts in trying to change public attitudes to transport, encouraging walking and cycling:

“There needs to be a general acceptance of the principle that, wherever you live, there will be connections to adjacent communities, by foot and cycle, which are separated from vehicular traffic. Transport policy and resources need to be much more strongly committed to the walking and cycling strategies in the next Parliament.”

Jessica Pepper believed that the Executive’s future transport policy should not only centre on reducing car usage, but also be more realistic about the environmental implications of encouraging increasing air travel:

“This balance must be redressed with serious investment in integrated public transport giving people a viable alternative to using the car. The environmental implications for commitments to increasing air transport must be considered.”

Wildlife and Conservation

While this could be seen as a traditional area of environmental policy, and with particular significance for Scotland’s economy, conservation of the nation’s natural heritage failed to grab the headlines at any stage during the Parliament’s first term. However, according to Ross Finnie, it is an area of achievement for the Executive:

“Stricter penalties for wildlife crime were introduced as part of the Criminal Justice Bill. This has addressed the concern that wildlife crime was seen as somehow unimportant in the criminal justice system.”

And Labour's Allan Wilson highlighted the implications of this legislation:

"Labour has made wildlife crime an imprisonable offence, meaning that the police will now have the power of arrest over suspects so they won't have the opportunity to destroy evidence. Making wildlife crimes imprisonable also increases the range of sentencing options available and sends a strong message to those who commit these crimes."

Liberal Democrat Nora Radcliffe also listed the wildlife crime amendment among the Executive's achievements:

"There has been a raft of achievements including the Nature of Scotland consultation, the creation of bio-diversity action planning and the wildlife crime amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill."

Although the wildlife crime amendment is in place, Lloyd Austin claimed this was not enough, pointing out that additional resources are still required to enforce the legislation properly:

"RSPB Scotland was also very disappointed by the shortage of resources and training for Wildlife Liaison Officers and Procurators Fiscal to enable the appropriate investigation, deterrence and prosecution of wildlife crimes."

A different achievement in wildlife and conservation policy identified by respondents was the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, which paved the way to the establishment of Scotland's first two national parks. Jessica Pepper, Parliamentary Officer for Scottish Environment LINK, commented:

"The National Parks legislation has been one of the most positive achievements of the Parliament. The establishment, particularly of Scotland's first national park, has been welcomed by everyone involved. All the recognition, such as the designation of further SACs [Special Areas of Conservation], that value and invest in Scotland's precious natural and cultural heritage must be welcomed."

However, Jessica Pepper was less positive about the way in which the national parks legislation had been put into practice in the case of the Cairngorms National Park:

"The political debacle that surrounded the designation of the Cairngorms National Park was one of the Parliament's most damaging exercises. A parliamentary committee forced to go against their own expressed will, for fear of losing the opportunity to create the long awaited national park in the Cairngorms."

A number of other shortcomings were identified by the environment NGOs. Simon Pepper of WWF Scotland mentioned the lack of a clear strategy on marine conservation, while Steve Sankey of Scottish Wildlife Trust noted the absence of indicators and targets in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy:

"The failure to manage the marine environment in a coherent way is a tragedy unfolding for wildlife and people." (Simon Pepper)

“There has been a general lack of commitment to biodiversity targets and indicators in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, which also lacked clear direction, detailed actions and responsibilities.” (Steve Sankey)

Another disappointment for some respondents was the Parliament’s failure to make time for nature conservation legislation. Steve Sankey called for this to be a central plank of the future legislative programme:

“The priority for MSPs in the second Parliament will be to ensure early delivery of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Bill. We also want early approval of the beaver re-introduction pilot in Scotland in the next session of Parliament. And parliamentarians must ensure that civil servants take a genuine partnership approach to the promotion of biodiversity conservation in Scotland – the current Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Working Group pays lip-service to partnership ideas and suggestions.”

The need for nature conservation legislation to be delivered was also underlined by Lloyd Austin:

“Within the first year of the new Parliament, we want to see the introduction and real progress of the nature conservation bill.”

Ross Finnie acknowledged the need for this bill, and included it as one of his own priorities for the next Parliament:

“The challenge for the next Parliament will be to develop and pass the Nature Conservation Bill to protect our biodiversity and guarantee the sustainable management of designated natural heritage land.”

5



everyone



For Better or Worse?

Conclusions



LINK

For Better or Worse: Conclusions

NGO Responses

Throughout, the assessment responses from the environment NGOs reflected the following opinions:

- The Scottish Parliament has been of considerable value in progressing the environment debate. The quantity and quality of the legislation has been far beyond anything that could have been achieved before devolution
- The Scottish Parliament has taken time to “find its feet” in this area of policy
- On too many occasions policy was announced and strategies published, but the delivery of the legislation was too slow, or is still awaited
- The definitions of, and commitment to, sustainable policies was impressive but, in terms of delivery, the Executive ministers and civil servants did not always seem to give it the same priority
- The environment movement has clear expectations of the next Parliament, regards the learning process for politicians and civil servants as being over and appears less willing to accept delays in implementing agreed policy.

Delivering on the 1999 LINK Manifesto

A comparative analysis of the ten key areas from the ‘make a difference’ section of the 1999 LINK Manifesto and additional points from the 10 Point Action Plan from the 2002 **Must Try Harder** review document, against the progress made in those areas by the Scottish Parliament/ Executive in the term of the first four-year session.

**LINK Manifesto and Review
Document Recommendations**

**Executive/Parliament Action on
this Recommendation**

Sustainability Structures

Using structures that promote sustainability –
annual environmental audits conducted by the
Scottish Parliament
a strong sustainable development committee
and compulsory statements of environmental
impact in all legislation

All Executive Department decisions to be vetted
for Sustainable Development by Parliament

The Executive to produce a comprehensive
sustainable development strategy with targets
and indicators

The Action Plan for a Sustainable Scotland was published in October 2001 and set out a number of goals for achievement by January 2002. This included the establishment of the Sustainable Development Forum. The Forum first met finally in July 2002. A steering group is still working on the development of a workplan to determine an agreed framework and function for Forum.

A Sustainable Development Document ‘Meeting the Needs’ was published in May 2002. It set out core actions in 3 areas (waste/ resource use, energy and travel) and also sets out 24 indicators for progress. The indicators do not cover all issue areas and only half of them have targets.

More detail on these indicators was published in January 2003

LINK Manifesto and Review Document Recommendations

Executive/Parliament Action on this Recommendation

Annual Spending Reviews include distinct Sustainable Development reports and all Bills before the Parliament have to include a statement on their relevance to sustainability.

Sustainable Development Processes:

Establish a forum on sustainable development including business, community and environmental stakeholders to monitor and advise on progressing Scotland's sustainable development strategy.

Assessment

Little Progress – good commitments but slow to come to fruition. Work needs to be done across all policy areas and progress needs to be quicker.

Particularly since 2002, some progress has been made in the development of means by which to assess Sustainable Development activity. This progress needs to be used as a basis for further development towards fulfilling the LINK recommendations. The Sustainable Development Forum is evolving very slowly and has yet to be developed as an effective tool. There is still no comprehensive sustainable development strategy for the country with a full set of targets and indicators. Sustainable Development statements in Bills were regarded as very poor (or non-existent) but thought to be improving towards the end of the first term.

Land Reform

Put Scotland's environment at the heart of land reform legislation

ensure people have access to the countryside

Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 provides for responsible access to the countryside and, along with Abolition of Feudal Tenure (Scotland) Act and the Title Conditions Bill, ensures changes to ownership rights, which impacts on land management.

Access & Recreation:

Secure recreational opportunities for all based on responsible access to land and water.

Legislate for responsible land access.

Assessment

Good Progress

Requirement for responsible access met, but there is more to be done in finalising the code of responsible access and creating a national path network to make access a reality for people.

LINK Manifesto and Review Document Recommendations

Executive/Parliament Action on this Recommendation

National Parks

National Parks for Scotland with environmental protection and rural sustainable development as guiding principles

Since the National Parks (Scotland) Act received Royal Assent in August 2000, two national parks have been created in Scotland – one covering Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and the other in the Cairngorms.

Assessment

Good Progress - with some reservations on the quality of environmental protection

The promotion of national parks has been informed by a variety of objectives, including environmental protection, rural sustainable development and the promotion of tourism. However, concerns remain about an inappropriate park boundary and the planning controls in relation to the Cairngorms National Park.

Education

An integrated education programme to raise environmental competence

Building a Sustainable Scotland outlines proposals for developing education for Sustainable Development across the school curriculum.

Foster responsible attitudes in the community

Make Sustainable Development and global citizenship a 'purpose' of education

In February 2002 a 'Power Partnership' between the Executive's *Do a Little, Change a Lot* environment awareness campaign, launched in July 2001, and leading power, oil and television companies was announced, with a view to promoting understanding of, and action towards, energy efficiency.

Assessment

Very Little Progress – Few Achievements

Guidance has been developed for introducing Sustainable Development across the curriculum, but falls far short of LINK's call for making it a key 'purpose' of education. Community focussed projects have progressed in a relatively unfocussed and piecemeal fashion but the eco-schools initiatives has been welcomed.

LINK Manifesto and Review Document Recommendations

Executive/Parliament Action on this Recommendation

Energy Efficiency

10 year programme to improve energy efficiency in housing

Cut CO₂

Secure sustainable energy use and production by increasing energy efficiency, conservation and use of renewables: Increase targets for energy from renewable sources from 18% to 25% by 2010

In February 2001, the Scottish Executive launched the £350m Central Heating Programme to tackle fuel poverty and to assist in delivering energy efficiency.

Building a Sustainable Scotland, published in 2002, outlined proposals to set high standards for the achievement of energy efficiency under this programme. The Executive has also committed to energy efficiency programmes within schools, the NHS and within its own buildings. It has been supportive of 'green housing' initiatives, but not to the extent of drafting relevant legislation or providing substantial funding for its encouragement. *(See also the Do a Little, Change a Lot campaign, outlined in 4, above)*

A Climate Change Levy has been introduced and the Executive is committed to developing a renewable energy programme.

Assessment

Some Progress – due to significant achievements in some areas

On energy efficiency, initiatives to secure progress towards achievement have been introduced and are in progress.

Renewable energy commitments are good but there is no strategic plan for development.

No targets set for reducing climate emissions.

The main focus of energy efficiency schemes has been tied in with tackling fuel poverty. The social justice dimension is vital, but also serves to limit actions towards a broader housing energy efficiency initiative. There are no wide-ranging **mandatory** national or domestic energy efficiency targets and that up till now local authorities have been failing to achieve even low, aspirational targets - ie. much room for improvement. On renewables, whilst the Executive has retained the 18% target for 2010, on 25 March it raised the 2020 target of 30% from renewables to 40%.

LINK Manifesto and Review Document Recommendations

Executive/Parliament Action on this Recommendation

Integrated Transport Policy

Promote less environmentally damaging forms of transport

Secure a sustainable transport policy and integrated planning: Revise transport spending plans so that two-thirds go to public transport, walking and cycling.

The Executive has undertaken a range of initiatives both to encourage the delivery of public transport services and to encourage their use, and has also undertaken initiatives to encourage the reduction of traffic and congestion. The Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 provided a framework for delivery and with regard to public and environmentally friendly transport, new rail links have been announced, funding for the Edinburgh tram system has been secured, cycling and walking initiatives have been announced and funded, and rural transport services have consistently received support and funding.

However, the Executive backed away from road-user charging measures in the Transport Act, has also committed over £500m to road building programmes, and has also sought to encourage the development of air travel.

Assessment

Little Progress - Some minor achievements in terms of initiatives, but these have yet to translate into changes in transport mode usage and have been undermined by the lack of consistency in approach.

Transport policy appears to have developed without a consistent environmental focus – as exemplified by the decision of the Scottish Executive to embark on a £500m road-building programme (after recent commitments to the M8 corridor, M80, Aberdeen bypass and a possible doubling of the M74 costs, this figure will now break the £1 billion mark), which is at odds with any sustainable transport initiatives. Doubts are cast on the Executive's own commitment to stabilising road traffic at 2001 levels by 2021.

LINK Manifesto and Review Document Recommendations

Air and Water Pollution

Reduce pollution to lowest possible levels

Improve quality of bathing beaches

Water Resources

Secure sustainable management of Scotland's rivers, lochs and coasts:

Add measures to the Water Environment Bill to ensure wetland conservation and enhancement, improved flood management and greater stakeholder participation.

Executive/Parliament Action on this Recommendation

Progress has chiefly been made through the implementation of UK initiatives (such as NAQS), through joint-initiatives with Westminster (such as the Marine Stewardship Report), the fulfilment of international obligations (such as the Scottish Climate Change Strategy) or through the integration of EU directives in to Scots law (such as the WEWS Act). The WEWS Act does incorporate a commitment to *'prevent further deterioration of, and protect and enhance, the status of aquatic ecosystems and... wetlands directly depending on those aquatic ecosystems'*, to promote sustainable flood management, and also requires regulators to carry out consultation in connection with the exercise of any of their functions and on any guidance they propose to issue.

The Scottish Executive has also undertaken a number of smaller scale initiatives and actions towards achieving the objective of pollution reduction, such as funding to reduce pollution from vehicle emissions and the introduction of a range of regulations limiting or controlling emissions. The Executive also indicated that it sees fishing fleet decommissioning as a key element of its contribution to ocean recovery.

Bathing water standards are also set at EU level and the Executive has undertaken a range of actions, through the development of a Bathing Water Strategy, and pollution control measures such as waste water treatment standards and discharge consents. In addition, the Executive conferred 'sensitive area status' on nine Scottish beaches in February 2002.

Assessment

Good Progress especially on the WEWS Act which is regarded as a major achievement of environment policy.

However, reduction of pollution to lowest possible levels is far from being achieved yet.

Improving the quality of bathing beaches is also advanced.

Major initiatives and standards often originate outwith Scotland. However, with regard to implementation, the Executive has by and large met its requirements, or began necessary measures to do so – but with the exception of the achievement of the WEWS Act, it has often been to a minimum standard and/or behind schedule and/or without specific targets (as is the case regarding reducing emissions). There is concern that prosecution rates and fine levels are inadequate

LINK Manifesto and Review Document Recommendations

Rural Development Strategy

Integrating social, economic and environmental needs

Land Resources

Promote sustainable agriculture, forestry and land management

- * Double agri-environmental spending
- * Ensure that all forests and woodlands in Scotland are certified through the Forest Stewardship Council to ensure sustainable woodland management

Executive/Parliament Action on this Recommendation

In October 2000, the Scottish Executive announced that its Scottish Rural Development Plan had been approved by the European Union STAR Committee. The objectives included encouragement to farmers and crofters to operate in environmentally friendly ways, and to support afforestation of agricultural land. The plan also included an area-based scheme to support Less Favoured Areas, the agri-environment programme, including the Rural Stewardship Scheme and the Organic Aid Scheme, and the continuation of the Woodland Grant Scheme and the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme.

In June 2001, the Scottish Executive published *A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture* which contained 54 action points. The vision of the strategy is for 'a prosperous farming industry...which benefits all the people of Scotland.' It stated that it should 'play a major role in sustainable rural development and help to maintain the prosperity of our rural communities; and be a leading player in the protection and enhancement of our environment'.

In Support of individual rural development schemes, the Executive manages a Scottish Rural Partnership Fund – a competitive fund offering grant aid to rural communities to encourage community development and to support a range of community-based projects. It includes the Rural Challenge Fund for tackling specific problems, the Rural Strategic Support Fund which facilitates the establishment of local rural partnerships, and the Local Capital Grants Scheme, which assists local youth, voluntary and community organizations to secure premises and funding for activities.

Assessment

Little Progress – integrated approach not yet evident.

There are, however, a range of initiatives to promote sustainable agriculture, forestry and land management in train but there is a lack of government commitment and funding to encourage responsible environmental stewardship.

The Scottish Executive has undertaken initiatives towards meeting the social, economic and environmental needs or rural development, but the initiatives lack an integrated approach and are seriously underfunded.

The response of the Minister to the 'Custodians of Change' report in 2003 appeared to ignore many of the proposals put forward by the Minister's own working group that included a proposal to review the current rural development plan involving stakeholders.

LINK Manifesto and Review Document Recommendations

Executive/Parliament Action on this Recommendation

Wildlife

Take steps to protect and enhance Scottish Wildlife

Biodiversity

Ensure conservation and enhancement of Scotland's biodiversity:

Legislate to implement the 'Nature of Scotland' proposals.

Criminal Justice Bill amended to include stiffer penalties for wildlife criminals.

Draft Nature Conservation Bill published on 11 March 2003.

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy launched for consultation on 14 March 2003.

Assessment

Some Progress – many proposals only recently announced and yet to make a difference on the ground

Steps being taken to match LINK manifesto requirement, but progress was a long time coming and the 'first four years' are rather short on major achievements

Waste

Reduce the use of resources
Maximise recycling
Re-use waste

Consumption

Reduce Scottish overuse of resources: Calculate Scotland's global environmental footprint and use it as a key indicator of progress
Legislate for tough mandatory recycling targets for each local authority – with a minimum of 30%.

A National Waste Strategy was announced in December 1999, with the National Waste Plan following over three years later in February 2003. The plan establishes the direction of the Executive's policies for sustainable waste management to 2020. Core objectives include: the provision of segregated kerbside waste collections to over 90% of households by 2020; halt the growth in municipal waste by 2010; the recycling and composting of 55% of municipal waste by 2020; to recover energy from 14% of municipal waste; reduce landfilling of municipal waste from 90% to 30%; and to develop markets for recycled materials.

Assessment

Little Progress

Specific proposals and targets for recycling and re-using waste have now been committed to, but the issue of reducing resource use (primarily to be achieved through reducing consumption) has not been addressed. In short, **proposals** for part-achievement of these goals have been produced, but no real progress was made over the course of the 'first four years'.

Progress has been slow in developing specific targets (though they have finally arrived with the National Waste Plan), and it will be up to the next Parliament and Executive to ensure implementation. The targets, whilst ambitious given the poor starting point, will barely enable Scotland to match, in 2020, the standards already achieved by other European countries. There is a great deal of concern that waste production will continue to rise and that government is looking favourably at incineration as a solution.

6



everyone



Agenda for the Future

Agenda for the Future

In 1999 and then again in 2002, the Scottish environment movement set out a list of political priorities for the years ahead.

Now, in 2003, Scottish Environment LINK's 'everyone' campaign set out six demands for a better environment in its manifesto for the forthcoming Scottish election, which is entitled '*Must Do It: an Environmental Agenda for the Next Parliament*'. The six demands for a better environment are: clean air, healthy seas, safe food, less landfill, protection for wildlife and wild places and reduction in climate changing gases. (www.everyonecan.org)

This section is also informed by the specific suggestions for future action made by respondents from a number of environmental NGO's, including: RSPB Scotland, Scottish Ramblers' Association, Friends of the Earth Scotland, WWF Scotland, Scottish Environment LINK and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Here we set out the priorities under the seven headline areas chosen for this report.

Sustainability

- All spending plans and proposed legislation should be independently reviewed for sustainable development impact, possibly by the Audit Committee or a designated Sustainable Development Committee of the Parliament.
- Complete a sustainable development strategy for Scotland including clear indicators and targets.
- Create a Green Jobs Strategy for Scotland.
- Politicians must be better informed on sustainable development issues while civil servants, across all departments, must take seriously the need for bio-diversity conservation.
- Separate the environment brief from rural development and recognise the position at cabinet level, with special responsibility for cross-cutting issues such as climate change and strategic environmental assessment.
- Review legislation affecting the marine environment.
- Progress designation of internationally and nationally important marine areas as Marine National Parks, Natura 2000 sites or SSSIs - and/or fishery regeneration areas.
- Appoint a Marine Minister or Minister for the Seas to overhaul Scotland's outdated legislation to manage our seas and coasts better and introduce 'regeneration areas' to restore fish stocks and wildlife.

Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism

- Treble investment in environmentally friendly agriculture
- Pay organic farmers beyond the current five year support limit.
- Introduce a new payment scheme for conversion to organic fruit and vegetables.
- Roll-out integrated Land Management Contracts.
- Establish new path networks around communities.
- Ensure that all public bodies buy timber products that are certified under the UK Woodland Assurance or Forest Stewardship Council Scheme.
- Incorporate third party rights of appeal into the planning application process.
- Reform the Agriculture and Marine Departments to ensure environmental and sustainable development issues are thoroughly integrated into their policy process.

Waste and Recycling

- Reduce waste by providing doorstep recycling/kerb-side collection for every household and by introducing a plastic bag charge.
- Reduce the total amount of household and industrial waste Scotland produces.
- Set a 1% per year reduction target for total waste produced by 2010.

Air and Water (pollution and protection)

- Set clear Scottish targets for pollution emission reduction and formulate a strategy for how these will be achieved.
- Tackle air pollution and climate change by redirecting at least two thirds of the £900 million planned for road-building to public transport, walking and cycling.

Energy

- Reduce energy consumption.
- Tackle climate change by improving domestic energy efficiency by 20% by 2010 and a further 20% by 2020. Introduce energy auditing for all homes.
- Develop strategic and spatial plans for wind farms.
- Support investment into wave and solar power.
- Lobby Westminster to upgrade the National Grid to allow the development of facilities to generate energy from sustainable sources in remote locations.

Transport

- Reduce road traffic levels by 10% by 2010.
- Redirect at least two thirds of the £1 billion planned for road building to public transport, walking and cycling.
- Promote the healthiest forms of transport - walking and cycling - rather than the use of vehicular transport.
- Stabilise growth in air traffic - the most damaging form of transport for the environment.

Wildlife and Conservation

- Introduce and progress the Nature Conservation Bill.
- Through this and other means, legislate for stronger protection, and increased funding, to care properly for Scotland's precious wildlife and wild places
- Increase resources for police, Wildlife Liaison Officers and Procurators Fiscal to investigate and prosecute wildlife criminals.
- Extend wildlife crime provisions to include international wildlife trade.
- Commit more resources to encourage enjoyment of the countryside, including a Scotland-wide path network.
- Complete the Natura 2000 Network.
- Tackle downstream flooding through improved watershed management.
- Include the Highland Perthshire area within the Cairngorms National Park and improve the planning powers of this park authority.



Appendix 1

Policy and Politics

The Whole Picture



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1. SUSTAINABILITY

1.1 Sustainability – Scottish Parliament Business

Date	Subject	Business
03 February 2000	Sustainable Development	Executive Debate
28 February 2001	Sustainable Development	Executive Debate
03 May 2001	Rural Scotland (employment Patterns)	Conservative Debate
24 January 2002	Environmentally Sustainable Employment and Recycling	Green Party Debate
26 February 2002	Developing a framework for assessing the contribution to rural sustainability of public policy in support of agriculture	Rural Development Cttee Report
08 May 2002	Sustainable Development	Executive Debate
04 September 2002	World Summit on Sustainable Development	Executive Debate
26 September 2002	Rural Business (Sustainability)	Conservative Debate
09 January 2003	Integrated Rural Development	Rural Development Cttee Report

1.2 Sustainability – Scottish Executive

Date	Subject
23/08/1999	NHS in Scotland does its bit for the Environment Scottish Minister Iain Gray announced the new Environmental Management Policy for the National Health Service in Scotland
03/02/2000	Indicators to measure progress on sustainable development Scotland will have its own set of indicators to measure progress in sustainable development, said Environment Minister Sarah Boyack today. "I am therefore commissioning experts to look at existing work"
22/09/2000	Environment to benefit from £190 million in additional funding: Boyack £190 million extra for Scotland's environment over the next three years. The environment programme excluding water will see an increase from £61 million to £76 million - an overall percentage increase of 25 per cent in real terms compared to 2000-01.
28/02/2001	Scots To Get Their Say On A Sustainable Scotland Scots are being asked their views on how to shape a more sustainable Scotland. The consultation project - jointly sponsored by the Scottish Executive, BT Scotland and Shell UK - was overseen by the Scottish Civic Forum
16/04/2001	'Checking for Change' – Consultation on Sustainable Development Indicators
04/07/2001	Do a Little-Change a Lot - McLeish Launches Campaign for the Environment The campaign focuses on the variety of simple actions we can all take to reduce our impact on the environment. These include encouraging people to : Use energy efficient light bulbs; turn off lights when not using a room; turn off electrical equipment such as televisions instead of leaving them on standby overnight; walk, cycle or use public transport rather than the car on short journeys; use washing machines or dishwashers only with a full load, and recycle waste
10/08/2001	Cash boost for sustainable development - Finnie Ross Finnie, Minister for Environment and Rural Development, today announced grants totalling £334,000 for projects promoting sustainable development across Scotland.
19/09/2001	School children to join Our World challenge WWF and Executive team up to encourage children to get involved in environmental issues. Scotland's school children were today encouraged to join the <i>Our World</i> challenge, being jointly run by WWF and the Scottish Executive.
9/10/2001	Action plan for a sustainable Scotland The Ministerial Group on Sustainable Scotland has agreed proposals to push forward the sustainability agenda. By January 2002 the Scottish Executive will: Build on the success of the Ministerial Group on Sustainable Scotland by widening its Ministerial membership and appointing a third external member. · Develop a clear statement of what sustainable development means for the Scottish Executive and how it will work towards greater sustainability. Statement to be published at the turn of the year. · Develop ways to measure progress towards sustainability, in the light of the sustainable development indicators consultation which closed on Friday 28 September. · Set up a Sustainable Development Forum to build broad partnerships to work towards a sustainable Scotland. The Forum will bring together government, business, NDPBs and NGOs.
3/11/2001	Dynamic outlook on sustainability Dynamic Youth project seeks to encourage young people to be more conscious of the environment.

04/03/2002	Greener future for new buildings	New, greener standards introduced today under Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations.
30/04/2002	Seeking a more sustainable Scotland	<i>Meeting the Needs: Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland.</i> Priorities and targets laid out in drive to achieve sustainable development
28/06/2002	Minister encourages sustainable Scotland	Minister comments on the setting up of the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum.
10/07/2002	Environment receives extra £76 million	Allocation of resources under latest end-year flexibility arrangements.
16/07/2002	Public have say on environment agency	Launch of consultation on Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).
06/08/2002	Scottish delegation for world summit	FM announces civic delegation to represent Scotland at World Summit on Sustainable Development.
11/08/2002	Cash for Quality of Life	The Executive has approved proposals for local authorities to spend an extra £95 million. The projects address important local issues, including: improving local roads and pathways; local environmental initiatives and reducing litter.
22/08/2002	Scottish Environment Statistics	Details from National Statistics publication - Key Scottish Environment Statistics 2002.
25/09/2002	£11 million extra funding for SEPA	Additional £11 million in resources for Scottish Environment Protection Agency over next 3 years.
18/12/2002	Building a Sustainable Scotland	Executive details contribution its spending decisions make towards sustainable development in Report.
20/01/2003	Sustainable design in architecture	More than £500,000 allocated to encourage holistic approach to building design.
20/02/2003		Indicators of Sustainable Development for Scotland Detailed report on Scottish Sustainable Development indicators, including historical trends and actions being taken to influence them.
24/02/2003	Sustainable action funding extended	Another £600,000 made available for local projects over next three year.
07/03/2003		Scottish Rural Partnership Funding announced - 46 community projects sharing £1.5 million.

2. LAND REFORM, LAND USE, TOURISM

2.1 Land Reform, Land Use, Tourism – Scottish Parliament Business

2.1.1 Land Reform

Date	Subject	Business
08 June 1999	National Park	Members' Motion Debate – Dr Sylvia Jackson (Labour) Executive Motion
24 November 1999	Land Reform	
15 December 1999	Abolition of Feudal Tenure etc (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 & Financial Resolution	Executive Bill
29 March 2000	Argyll Forest Park	Members' Motion Debate – George Lyon (Lib Dem)
03 May 2000	Abolition of Feudal Tenure etc (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill
11 May 2000	The Black Cuillin	Members' Motion Debate – John Munro (Lib Dem)
24 May 2000	National Parks (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 & Financial Resolution	Executive Bill
05 July 2000	National Parks (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill
20 March 2002	Land Reform (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 & Financial Resolution	Executive Bill
22 January 2003	Land Reform (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill
23 January 2003	Land Reform (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill

2.1.2 Land Use

Date	Subject	Business
07 October 1999	Agriculture (Agenda 2000)	Executive Debate
04 November 1999	Agriculture and Rural Affairs	SNP Debate
23 March 2000	Genetic Modification Science	Executive Debate
06 April 2000	Agricultural Strategy	Ministerial Statement
17 May 2000	Agricultural Holdings	Ministerial Statement
25 May 2000	"Rural Scotland: A New Approach"	Executive Debate

29 June 2000	Agricultural Strategy	Executive Debate
04 October 2000	Carbeth Hutters	Debate on a Justice and Home Affairs Committee Motion
22 March 2001	Rural Scotland	Executive Debate
03 May 2001	Genetically Modified Organisms	Debate on a Transport and Environment Committee Motion
03 October 2001	“A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture”	Executive Debate
15 November 2001	Rural Economy	Members’ Motion Debate – Annabel Goldie (Conservative)
29 May 2002	Genetically Modified Crops	Members’ Motion Debate – Fiona McLeod (SNP)
30 May 2002	Timber Industry	Members’ Motion Debate – Alex Fergusson (Conservative)
19 September 2002	Crofting Support (Highlands and Islands)	Members’ Motion Debate – Tavish Scott (Lib Dem)
07 November 2002	Forestry	Executive Debate
21 November 2002	Affordable Rural Housing	Members’ Motion Debate – John Munro (Lib Dem)
19 December 2002	Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1	Executive Bill
17 January 2003	Organic Farming Targets (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1	Rural Development Committee Report
06 February 2003	Organic Farming Targets (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1	Members’ Bill Tabled by Robin Harper MSP
12 March 2003	Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill

2.1.3 Tourism

Date	Subject	Business
22 September 1999	Tourism	Executive Debate
17 February 2000	Tourism	Executive Debate
28 September 2000	Tourism	Conservative Debate
28 March 2001	Tourism and Economy	SNP Debate
05 April 2001	Tourism	Ministerial Debate
10 May 2001	Tourism	Conservative Debate
27 March 2002	Tourism	Executive Debate
29 January 2003	The Future of Tourism in Scotland	Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee Report
13 February 2003	Tourism	Debate on a Motion by the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee

2.2 Land Reform, Land Use, Tourism – Scottish Executive

2.2.1 Land Reform

Date	Subject	Business
05/08/1999	Land reform plan will hold us to account - Wallace	Publication of the Scottish Executive’s land reform action plan.
20/08/1999	Ministers will lead by example on land ownership	Community involvement and accountability should be embraced by all landowners and Scottish Ministers are setting the standard with a new charter for their estates. (Estates Charter)
24/11/1999	Crofting right to buy to be in land reform bill	A special right to buy for crofting communities is to be included in the Land Reform Bill.
17/05/2000	Ross Finnie announces publication of agricultural holdings white paper	
22/02/2001	Land Reform - For All Of Scotland	Publication of Land Reform (Scotland) Bill
26/02/2001	£10.8 million cash boost for community land buy-outs	
11/06/2001	Brankin launches consultation into Scotland’s first National Park	
19/11/2001	Protection strategy for Nevis Area	The Nevis Strategy, a framework and action programme for the Ben Nevis area, has been launched.
27/02/2002	Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park	Orders lodged in Parliament set out the boundary of the Park, the planning powers the National Park Authority will possess, the membership structure of the Park Authority and the arrangements for electing members to that Authority.
28/02/2002	Funding increase for National Park	Funding for Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, for 2002/2003, increased by £1.9 million.
16/04/2002	Draft Agriculture Holdings Bill	Published. Ministers propose that tenants should be given pre-emptive right to buy.

07/06/2002	Abolition of feudal system completed	The abolition of Scotland's feudal system will be completed under proposals contained in the Title Conditions (Scotland) Bill introduced to the Scottish Parliament today.
04/07/2002	Line-up complete for first National Park	Announcement of the full complement of members to Scotland's first National Park Authority.
04/07/2002	Proposals to reform crofting	Rural Development Minister unveils Crofting Reform White Paper at Roy Bridge in Lochaber.
24/07/2002	John Muir's vision on Loch Lomond	Scotland's first National Park is formally opened at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.
17/09/2002	Agricultural Holdings Bill published	Proposals are designed to stimulate the tenanted sector in Scotland.
04/10/2002	Prediction of "rural renaissance"	£7.5 million for national path network to open up countryside.
14/11/2002	Cairngorms National Park takes shape	Orders laid before Parliament increase area by more than 50%.
21/11/2002	Property ownership simplified	Feudal system to finally disappear on 28 November 2004.
12/12/2002	Second National Park takes shape	Parliament decides to create Cairngorms National Park, to be the largest in the UK.

2.2.2 Land Use

Date	Subject
28/06/1999	Government Leaflet aims to improve biodiversity on arable farms at little or no cost A range of practices and land management procedures which should help maintain or improve biodiversity on arable farms are outlined in a new leaflet ' <i>Biodiversity on Lowland Arable Farms</i> ' published today by the Scottish Biodiversity Group. The leaflet - aimed at arable farmers - will help improve awareness of, and demonstrate opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Future leaflets will be aimed at other farming and crofting enterprises.
26/08/1999	Improving the quality of crop varieties - consultation paper issued today Draft procedures for assessing the quality of plant varieties available to farmers were issued by the Scottish Executive for consultation today.
14/02/2000	Boyack Awards £4.4 Million To Provide "Vital Spark" For Timber Industry Today's announcement of £4.4 million is a major boost to the Executive's commitment to moving freight off Scotland's roads and brings the total awarded through the Freight Facilities Grant scheme in the last six months to £17.5 million. This announcement means timber will now be shipped between the Kintyre peninsula and Ayrshire thanks to a £4,410,100 grant from the Scottish Executive to Associated British Ports.
17/03/2000	Scottish Executive Announce First Site Selected For Environmental Monitoring of GM Crops
12/04/2000	Ross Finnie announces major boost for wide range of projects in Scotland The Minister for Rural Affairs was speaking after announcing the award of grants from the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund. The funding is aimed at a wide range of projects across rural Scotland: £1.533 million from the Rural Challenge Fund for community-based projects which make a contribution to rural development and tackle social exclusion
10/08/2000	Impact Of Grazing And Sustainable Farming - Scottish Executive Publishes Research
23/08/2000	Latest Scottish GM Trials Receive Approval Ross Finnie, today gave formal approval for four Scottish farms to plant GM oilseed rape this autumn as part of the UK-wide farm scale evaluation programme.
15/09/2000	Ross Finnie acts to strengthen Scotland's hill farming scheme Ross Finnie announced today that the whole of the Less Favoured Areas budget of £61.5m will now be spent exclusively on payments to Scotland's hill farmers
25/10/2000	Ross Finnie welcomes approval of Scottish rural development plan The Scottish Rural Development Plan - worth more than £685 million to Scottish farmers - included a new scheme to support the hard-pressed farmers in Less Favoured Areas
3/11/2000	Harris superquarry application refused
14/12/2000	New support for green farming a welcome boost - Finnie The Rural Stewardship Scheme, part of the Agenda 2000 package, worth £90 million over the next six years is intended to encourage environmentally-friendly farming will shortly open for applications, Ross Finnie said.
15/12/2000	Finnie Announces Opening Of Rural Strategic Support Fund For Applications Communities across Scotland are invited to apply for the Rural Strategic Support Fund. The Scottish Executive offers grants through the RSSF to help establish local rural partnerships. It is the third element of the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund which distributed around £2 million to 60 new schemes across Scotland last year.
15/02/2001	Scottish Executive consultation paper offers incentive to farm diversification - Finnie The Scottish Executive consultation paper on rate relief for small businesses offers a boost for farmers wishing to diversify. The Minister for Rural Development highlighted proposals

contained in the paper aimed specifically at helping farmers: Relief for new farm diversification projects - giving encouragement to farmers who want to branch out; and Help for other kinds of agricultural businesses such as machinery rings, contract/share farming and other similar enterprises.

- 28/03/2001** **Experts say GM trials can go ahead safely** The Scottish Executive today approved the spring planting of GM oilseed rape at five fields in the North and North East of Scotland.
- 26/06/2001** Publication of **A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture**
- 04/07/2001** **Scottish Executive to consult on European commission GM seed proposals**
- 12/07/2001** **Executive to Hold Seminars on Review of Main Forestry Support Schemes Consultation**
- 17/08/2001** **Brankin launches latest round of Scottish rural partnership fund**
- 21/08/2001** **Four fields cleared to join GM programme** The Scottish Executive has approved the planting of GM oilseed rape at four fields in the North and North East of Scotland
- 23/08/2001** **Rhona Brankin announces £1.5 million boost for land use research** Rhona Brankin announced £1.5 million for new research at the internationally renowned Macaulay Land Use Research Institute. This extra funding will assist with research in areas such as: * preventing cancer, diabetes, obesity * preserving our unique natural heritage * improving farm animal welfare * producing new and improved foods
- 26/09/2001** **Agricultural group begins work** The Agriculture and Environment Working Group held its first meeting today.
- 24/08/2001** **Executive launches consultation on new GMO rules**
- 20/11/2002** **Farmers to become 'rural stewards'** The environment, farmers and crofters to benefit from conservation payments totalling £18 million.
- 27/12/2001** **Grant awards for agri-food businesses** Twenty-seven companies benefit from award schemes aimed at new markets and improved customer service
- 22/01/2002** **Forestry policy review** Minister announces review of forestry policy.
- 29/01/2002** **Soil strategy report** Report outlining the issues associated with the development of a soil protection strategy.
- 30/01/2002** **New group to advise on agriculture strategy** The membership of the Agriculture Strategy Implementation Group has been announced.
- 04/02/2002** **Interim report on farmland management** Group seeking ways to improve environmental protection and enhancement of rural areas.
- 20/02/2002** **Forestry administration review** Consultation on future of Forestry Commission issued to forestry and interested land use bodies.
- 04/03/2002** **Agricultural strategy group holds first meeting** The Agriculture Strategy Implementation Group (ASIG) holds its first meeting.
- 07/03/2002** **Final results from agricultural survey** Final results have been issued from the December 2001 Agricultural Survey.
- 14/03/2002** **Executive approves three GM sites** Go ahead given for genetically modified oilseed rape in Aberdeenshire and Fife.
- 18/03/2002** **Agri-environment schemes** Consultation on proposals to improve operation of schemes to help farmers secure environmental gains
- 20/02/2002** **Diversification projects net £1.2 million** 114 new projects across Lowland Scotland awarded cash boost under Farm Business Development Scheme.
- 20/05/2002** **Strategy outlines golf's green credentials** Strategy which outlines ways courses can enhance Scotland's environment unveiled at Gleneagles.
- 20/06/2002** **Environmental priorities for agriculture** Agriculture and Environment Working Group Report, *Custodians of Change* identifies priority issues for Scottish agriculture for next five to ten years.
- 21/06/2002** **Woodland grant schemes revamped** Review brings about changes to conform to modern thinking on integrated land use.
- 26/06/2002** **Common Agricultural Policy Review** Report detailing review arrangements for the administration of CAP in Scotland.
- 01/07/2002** **Funding encourages farmers to diversify** Projects to help farmers in Highlands and Islands awarded £1m.
- 3/07/2002** **Final round of GM farm trials** Executive announces arrangements for the last round of GM crop trials.
- 01/08/2002** **Proposals to control GM presence** Executive to consult on European Commission GM Seed Proposals.
- 06/08/2002** **Arable Areas Payment Scheme** Scottish farmers can expect payments of £119m under the 2002 Arable Area Payments Scheme.
- 20/08/2002** **Integrated approach for Scottish forests** Ministers agree recommendations contained in the Forestry Devolution Review.
- 19/09/2002** **Consultation on public comment on GM crops** Package of measures aimed at ensuring early comment on GM decisions.
- 27/09/2002** **Grants for Highland & Islands farmers** Latest round of approvals from the Agricultural Business Development Scheme.
- 27/09/2002** **Stating the case for organic farming** Minister announces formation of group to promote interests of organic sector.

08/10/2002	Land management contracts	Steering group proposes use of real farms to model new farm support system.
05/12/2002	Strengthened regulations on GMOs	Regulations on release of genetically modified organisms into environment put in place.
13/01/2003	Planning advice for land reclamation	New advice for mineral operators and local authorities once extraction ceases.
27/01/2003	New grants for woodland in Ayrshire & Arran	A plan for using woodlands and forests to improve people's lives in Ayrshire & Arran - and £1.2 million worth of special new Executive grants to encourage woodland planting there - were announced today.
04/02/2003	Organics action plan takes root	An action plan for organic food and farming in Scotland was published today. It sets out new ways in which the Executive will support the sustainable development of the organic sector, taking into account of the expert views of the Organics Stakeholder Group formed in September last year.
28/02/2003	Research report and National Parks	The issue of sustainable land management in Scotland's National Parks.
06/03/2003		Publication of a consultation on proposed improvements to support schemes for environmentally-friendly farming was launched today. Proposed changes to the Rural Stewardship and Organic Aid schemes are designed to build on changes already introduced for 2003, and take forward the delivery of the Executive's Organic Action Plan that was published in February.
13/03/2003	Funding of organic aid scheme applications	£2 million for Farmers and crofters keen to convert to organic production from next year.
18/03/2003	Funding to tackle contaminated land	- Allocation of £15 million to help local authorities clean up Scotland's most polluted land.

2.2.3 Tourism

Date	Subject
03/08/1999	Henry McLeish launches consultation on new strategy for Scottish tourism
12/10/1999	Henry McLeish calls for new golf tourism strategy Henry McLeish, Minister for Tourism, today announced that he has asked the Scottish Tourist Board to bring forward proposals to develop golf tourism as part of the new tourism strategy.
02/2000	Publication of A New Strategy for Scottish Tourism
04/04/2000	Alasdair Morrison launches new tourist ferry package from Europe to Western Isles Deputy Minister for The Highlands and Islands and Tourism, Alasdair Morrison today launched a new ferry package for tourists between The Netherlands and the Western Isles.
22/05/2000	Alasdair Morrison Launches Tourism 'Toolkit' To Boost Off-Season Business
19/09/2000	Henry McLeish launches new tourism skills group to boost industry standards
06/02/2001	Scottish Cities Twinned To Offer World Class Tourism Destination - Alasdair Morrison The Initiative has been developed as a result of one of the actions proposed in the Scottish Executive's <i>A New Strategy for Scottish Tourism</i> , which was published in February 2000.
07/08/2001	£36 million investment in Highlands and Islands tourism Minister for Tourism, Alasdair Morrison, today launched two initiatives enabling tourism businesses across the Highlands and Islands to access £36 million pounds of funding to improve their visitor facilities. "HIE Activity and HIE Standards" initiatives are jointly funded by the public sector (£12 million) through Highlands and Islands Enterprise, European Funding from the Highlands and Islands Special Transitional Programme and the private sector (£24 million).
11/03/2002	Tourism blueprint points way ahead A working blueprint designed to reinvigorate the tourism industry, to out-class competitors and make Scotland a 'must-visit' destination was launched today. Tourism Minister Mike Watson presented <i>The Tourism Framework for Action</i> , a multi-partner initiative which drives forward and develops the actions contained in the National Tourism Strategy.
17/06/2002	'Green shoots' of recovery in tourism Pioneering project to promote Dumfries and Galloway's natural assets to visitors. VisitScotland is providing £300,000 for the eco-tourism project in Dumfries and Galloway.
27/06/2002	Funding boost for tourism marketing £4.75 million of new money allocated for increased tourism marketing in Scotland.
18/09/2002	Tourism Framework for Action First meeting of steering group to drive forward industry developments.
23/09/2002	FMD funding for 'green' tourist board Scottish Borders Tourist Board to receive £240,000 for second year of FMD recovery plan.
05/11/2002	Tourism focus on one-stop shop Minister formally opens National Contact Centre for Scottish tourism.

3. WASTE & RECYCLING

3.1 Waste & Recycling – Scottish Parliament Business

Date	Subject	Business
09 December 1999	National Waste Strategy	Ministerial Statement
22 March 2001	Recycling in Fife	Members' Motion Debate – Iain Smith (Lib Dem)
19 September 2001	Waste Disposal (incineration)	Members' Motion Debate – Irene McGugan (SNP)
24 January 2002	Environmentally Sustainable Employment and Recycling	Green Party Debate
16 May 2002	National Waste Strategy	Executive Debate
10 October 2002	Organic Waste Disposal	Debate on a Transport and Environment Committee Motion
28 November 2002	Waste and Emissions Trading Bill	Executive Debate
13 March 2003	Report on petition on the location of a cattle incinerator	Transport and Environment Cttee Report

3.2 Waste & Recycling – Scottish Executive Initiatives

Date	Subject
08/07/1999	Sarah Boyack announces £234,000 to help keep Scotland beautiful Scottish Environment Minister Sarah Boyack today announced funding of £234,000 to the community environment group Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) to contribute to their campaigns until March 2000
16/07/1999	Dounreay waste authorisations accepted Scottish Environment Minister Sarah Boyack today accepted new SEPA authorisations for disposal of radioactive waste from the Dounreay site
17/11/1999	Reducing dependence on landfill Launching a consultation paper on options to ensure we reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill sites
22/11/1999	Contaminated land - the way forward Sarah Boyack, MSP, Minister for Transport and the Environment today announced the publication, for consultation, of draft statutory guidance to tackle risks to human health and the environment from contaminated land. The guidance will form part of the new statutory regime for contaminated land.
02/05/2000	Permits To Reduce Landfilled Waste - Boyack
30/05/2000	Statutory Guidance On A New Contaminated Land Regime
14/07/2000	New regime to clean up contaminated land - Boyack Local Authorities have been given new powers to serve notices on companies who fail to clean up contaminated land, Sarah Boyack announced today.
28/09/2000	New Pollution Regulations To Improve Environment Enforced Today Under existing regulations, control over routine discharges to air, land and water is already protected but the new regulations announced today go further by covering waste minimisation, energy efficiency, accident prevention, site restoration, and heat, noise and vibration emissions.
20/10/2000	New Planning Advice To Safeguard Communities And The Environment From Contaminated Land Planning Advice Note 33 <i>Development of Contaminated Land</i> , issued by the Scottish Executive today, outlines the role of the planning system in dealing with contaminated land and the implications of the new contaminated land regime.
22/12/2000	Tough new controls on organic wastes - Galbraith Environment Minister Sam Galbraith will introduce tough new controls on the practice of spreading organic wastes directly on land.
01/02/2001	Galbraith's £2.5 million clean-up Environment Minister Sam Galbraith today announced the distribution of £5.2 million to help local authorities clean up Scotland's most polluted land. Scotland's local authorities will share in the funding which aims to help them implement the Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations. The objective is to bring land contaminated by past generations through mining or industrial activities back into productive use and erase any threat to the environment.
09/02/2001	Landfill Directive Consultation Launched The challenges and opportunities that face the waste industry following implementation of the EU Landfill Directive are the subject of a consultation paper launched today

13/09/2001	Debate launched on nuclear waste management	A consultation paper on radioactive waste management was published today.
27/11/2001	Tidying up the litter laws	Review will consider measures to improve powers to tackle litter available to local authorities.
20/02/2002	Planning advice on waste	Planning Advice Note 63: <i>Waste Management Planning</i> highlights good practice and outlines ways in which planning authorities can incorporate the land use planning elements of the National Waste Strategy into their development plans and development control decisions to take over from simple waste disposal.
07/03/2002	Cash windfall for old fridges and freezers	Local authorities to share £1.69 million to ensure efficient disposal of ozone.
25/04/2002	£4.5 m to help clean up contaminated land	Funding for local authorities to implement Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations.
02/07/2002	Group sets out to tackle waste mountain	Scottish Waste Strategy Advisory Group holds its first ever meeting in Edinburgh.
26/07/2002	SEPA to implement landfill directive	Executive issues direction to SEPA to implement certain requirements of the Landfill Directive.
27/08/2002	New controls for incineration of waste	Start of a public consultation on new controls for the incineration of waste in Scotland.
29/08/2002	Proposals for safer landfill sites	Launch of consultation on improving the standards of landfill sites across Scotland.
09/09/2002	Waste recycling liaison officer begins work	Minister greets new post as “turning point” for environmental responsibility.
12/09/2002	25 per cent recycling target by 2006	Minister says fourfold increase in recycling is possible with new investment.
07/10/2002	Moves towards 25 per cent recycling target	£2 million over three years to encourage recycling of paper and glass.
07/11/2002	Proposals to control sludge spreading	Minister proposes to tighten regulations on use of sewage sludge on agricultural land
18/11/2002	Community waste recycling initiatives	Minister welcomes over £10m in initiatives to help make communities cleaner, greener and safer.
02/12/2002	New funding for fridge disposal	Extra £3.3m to help with disposal of more than 220,000 fridges discarded in Scotland every year.
04/12/2002	Cash boost for recycling projects	Announcement of £6m to help all local authorities expand waste recycling and composting projects.
06/12/2002	Clean up of contaminated land	Councils to share £4 million to clean up derelict land and reduce landfill.
16/12/2002	Ban on spreading of untreated organic waste	Consultation unveils plans to ban the practice of spreading untreated organic waste on land.
03/02/2003	Major cash boost for waste management	Funding package to help councils improve recycling and waste management.
24/02/2003	Launch of National Waste Plan	Plan sets out Executive’s targets for sustainable waste management until 2020.
04/03/2003		Deputy Environment Minister Allan Wilson introduced an affirmative motion to the Parliament’s Transport and Environment Committee clarifying Executive proposals for stricter regulation of landfills
11/03/2003	Ban on spreading untreated organic waste	Announcement of new regulations to outlaw the spreading of untreated organic waste.
19/03/2003	Funding to cut landfill in Midlothian	Annual award of up to £3.1m over 25 years to meet the targets outlined in the National Waste Plan. The funding will come from the Strategic Waste Fund.

4 AIR AND WATER (POLLUTION AND PROTECTION)

[4.1 Air and Water \(Pollution and Protection\) – Scottish Parliament Business](#)

4.1.1 Air and Water Pollution and Protection

Date	Subject	Business
19 January 2000	Air Quality Strategy	Ministerial Statement
09 March 2000	Climate Change	Ministerial Statement
25 October 2001	Ocean Recovery	Members’ Motion Debate – Tavish Scott (Lib Dem)

30 January 2002	Pollution Inventory	Members' Motion Debate – Dr Sylvia Jackson (Labour)
30 October 2002	Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1	Executive Bill
28 November 2002	Waste and Emissions Trading Bill	Executive Motion
29 January 2003	Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill

4.1.2 Water (Industry, Services, Charges, Safety)

Date	Subject	Business
16 September 1999	Water Industry	Ministerial Statement
26 January 2000	Water Charges	Ministerial Statement
08 March 2000	Water Charges	SNP Debate
26 April 2000	Scottish Adjacent Waters Boundaries Order 1999	Conservative Debate
15 June 2000	Water Industry	Ministerial Statement
02 November 2000	Groundwater Maintenance Charge	Members' Motion Debate – Alex Fergusson (Conservative)
15 November 2000	Water and Sewerage Charges	Ministerial Statement
04 April 2001	Water and Sewerage Charges	Members' Motion Debate – Richard Lochhead (SNP)
06 December 2001	Water Industry (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 & Financial Resolution	Executive Bill
24 January 2002	Progressive Water Tax	Socialist Party Debate
14 February 2002	Water Industry (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill
04 September 2002	Scottish Water Supplies and Public Health	Executive Debate
13 February 2003	Water Supplies (lead pipes)	Members' Motion Debate – Robert Brown MSP

4.2 Air and Water (Pollution and Protection) – Scottish Executive Initiatives

4.2.1 Air and Water Pollution and Protection

Date	Subject	
17/06/1999	Sarah Boyack launches £700 million coastal clean up initiative	Sarah Boyack launched Scotland's biggest ever environment campaign to improve the beaches and coastal waters of the West Coast. The West of Scotland Water Authority's WaterWatch campaign is investing almost £700 million over the next three years in a partnership programme with local councils, businesses, schools and environmental groups.
22/07/1999	Sarah Boyack announces extra £350,000 for councils to monitor air quality	
19/08/1999	Sarah Boyack welcomes further consultation on integrated pollution prevention and control	
06/10/1999	Action programme to combat nitrate pollution in the Ythan estuary	the Ythan catchment and estuary in Aberdeenshire will be designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ)
07/10/1999	Minister Sarah Boyack launches Drinking Water Quality in Scotland report.	
19/01/2000	Boyack Plans for Cleaner Air	Scotland will witness cuts in air pollution of up to 62 per cent within the next five years following the announcement of tough new guidelines in the UK Air Quality Strategy
27/01/2000	Boyack Strengthens Measures To Prevent And Control Water Pollution	Proposals for stronger powers to prevent and control water pollution were announced today by Environment Minister Sarah Boyack. Under the proposed regulations SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency) will be able to serve notices on polluters or potential polluters requiring them to take immediate action to clean up pollution or reduce the risk of incidents.
07/03/2000	Boyack unveils plans to reduce water pollution	The Draft Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 consultation paper
08/03/2000	Developers Urged To Help Prevent Water Pollution - Boyack	Sarah Boyack launched a new design manual for property developers 'The Sustainable Drainage Systems Manual for Scotland' which describes drainage methods inspired by natural processes.
09/03/2000	Boyack announces plans to tackle climate change	Sarah Boyack announced consultation on the Scottish Climate Change Programme which outlines the Executive's proposals to tackle global warming

- 25/08/2000** **Boyack moves ahead with tougher pollution controls** Scotland's environmental watchdog (SEPA) is to be given tough new powers to combat water pollution under proposals issued for public consultation today by Sarah Boyack.
- 20/12/2000** **Leaflet launched on new sulphur limits** A leaflet informing distributors and users of industrial oil of tougher new sulphur limits was published today by the Scottish Executive.
- 11/06/2001** **£180 million investment will improve water quality and promote a cleaner environment - Finnie** North of Scotland Water's £180 million Water Quality Improvements Programme
- 29/06/2001** **The future for Scotland's waters** The Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development issued *Rivers, Lochs, Coasts: The Future for Scotland's Waters*. The paper contains proposals to clean up rivers, control pollution and ensure the long term health of the water environment.
- 31/08/2001** **Blueprint for councils on climate change** Deputy Environment Minister Rhona Brankin launched the blueprint *Community Leadership and Climate Change in Scotland: Guidance for Chief Executives of Scottish Local Authorities*. The leaflet provides guidance to councils on reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- 02/10/2001** *Potential Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change in Scotland*, compiled by Edinburgh University and funded by the Executive, recommends strategy for adapting to climate change conditions.
- 14/01/2002** **New anti-pollution NVZs proposed** A consultation exercise begins today on the designation of new Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) where groundwater and rivers can be potentially contaminated by fertilisers and manures.
- 21/01/2002** **New post to tackle water pollution** 'Project officer in water resource management' to address risk of pollution to water from farming activities.
- 07/02/2002** **Water Bill consultation paper released** Proposals for Water Environment and Water Services Bill announced.
- 26/02/2002** **Beaches designated "sensitive" areas** The new status is being conferred on Fraserburgh, Philorth, Inverboyndie, Nairn Central, Nairn East, Portobello Central, Portobello West, St Andrews East Sands and St Andrews West Sands.
- 07/03/2002** **Kyoto protocol to be ratified** (by UK Government). Minister commits Executive to playing its part in tackling climate change.
- 12/03/2002** **Plans to improve bathing waters** Minister outlines plans for a bathing water strategy.
- 21/03/2002** **75 new protected waters named** The number of protected waters around Scotland's coast has been increased from 33 to 108. Designating these additional sites will protect shellfish that grow there as well other flora and fauna which depend on the water environment.
- 15/04/2002** **Proposal on environmental liability** A consultation exercise on the proposals for a European Environmental Liability Directive was launched today
- 15/04/2002** **Consultation on NVZs** Public asked for views on how best to handle Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.
- 01/05/2002** **First Marine Stewardship report** Vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas. The first Marine Stewardship Report - *Safeguarding Our Seas: A Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of our Marine Environment* - was jointly prepared by the UK government and devolved administrations – including the Scottish Executive.
- 22/05/2002** **Environment included in Fol Bill** Consultation paper regarding proposals for Freedom of Information regime to include pollution and the environment.
- 07/06/2002** **Nitrate Vulnerable Zones mapped out** Announcement of which areas of Scotland will need to take action to reduce their nitrate pollution.
- 11/06/2002** **Use of malachite green to end** Use of common fungal treatment in fish farming to end following discussions between UK and EC.
- 12/06/2002** **Tough new targets for cutting air pollution** Minister outlines Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002
- 19/06/2002** **Cleaner water from source to sea** The Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Bill published
- 24/07/2002** **Measures to improve water quality in Islands** The Scottish Executive asks Scottish Water to improve the standard of urban waste water treatment at Kirkwall, Lerwick and Stornoway.
- 20/08/2002** **Consultation on groundwater regulations** Views sought on code of practice for mineral extraction industries to protect groundwater.
- 25/09/2002** **Blueprint to protect Scotland's water** Minister outlines measures contained within the Water Environment and Water Services Bill.
- 17/10/2002** **Marine environment study** Announcement of a major new study - the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Project will be financed by £250,000 from the Scottish Executive.
- 12/11/2002** **Groundwater code of practice** Consultation to examine risks to groundwater of petroleum hydrocarbons in underground storage tanks.
- 19/11/2002** **Pledge to CleanUp Scotland** The Executive is to spend £1 million this year and at least £5.1 million over the next three years to cut pollution from HGVs, buses, taxis, and other commercial vehicles. Vehicle operators will be encouraged to reduce emissions through the CleanUp Scotland Programme
- 23/12/2002** Announcement of £1.8m contract for marine survey vessel for Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

31/01/2003	Action introduced to reduce nitrate pollution	Action programmes to introduce measures to minimise nitrogen pollution in vulnerable areas. (Implementation of an EC Directive)
06/02/2003	Air quality guidance for local councils	Minister says revised policy will be 'valuable tool' in producing clean environment.
13/02/2003	New pollution inventory being prepared	Environment agency to run scheme giving online access to pollution data by May.
11/03/2003	New regulations against water pollution	Notices can be served on polluter or on situation liable to cause pollution.

4.2.2 Water (Industry, Services, Charges, Safety)

Date	Subject	
01/07/1999	Sarah Boyack announces new watchdog for Scottish Water Industry	A new Water Industry Commissioner is to be appointed to make sure that water customers in Scotland get the best possible deal from the Water Authorities on price and service, Scottish Environment Minister Sarah Boyack announced today
16/09/1999	Consumer champion appointed for Scotland's water	Appointment of first Water Industry Commissioner for Scotland
21/06/2001	Finnie commits to single Scottish water authority	The creation of a single authority has been backed by the Scottish Parliament's Transport and Environment Committee and the majority of respondents who commented on it in the Executive's consultation on the Water Services Bill.
05/09/2001	Water Industry Bill	Details from the Executive's legislative programme.
27/09/2001	Water Bill begins its progress	The merging of three existing water authorities into a single public body to be known as Scottish Water got underway today when the parliamentary Bill was published.
12/11/2001	Tough challenge for water industry	Outcome of the Strategic Review of the Scottish water industry's revenue needs has been announced.
27/11/2001	Consultation on private water supply	Minister says that driving up standard of private water supplies is crucial to public health.
19/12/2001	Appointments to Board of Scottish Water	
04/04/2002	Drinking Water Regulator appointed	Tim Hooton has been appointed Scotland's first Drinking Water Quality Regulator.
07/08/2002	Glasgow water fit for drinking	Decision to lift boiled water notice welcomed by Minister for Environment.
08/08/2002	Glasgow water gets watchdog treatment	Environment and Health Ministers call for full investigation into water problems.
09/08/2002	Public health paramount	First Minister calls together Ad Hoc group to discuss action over Scotland's water.
22/10/2002	New water treatment plant for Inverclyde	£15m facility near Gourock to spearhead a major environmental clean-up along the Clyde Estuary.
02/12/2002	Results of Water Quality Report	
24/01/2003	Advisory panel for water industry	Water Commissioner appoints seven-person panel to help prepare advice for Ministers.
03/02/2003	Plans to protect public water supply outlined	Environment Minister proposes draft Water Services Bill.
21/02/2003	Reports identify action to reduce water risks	Cryptosporidium incident report recommends modernisation of water infrastructure.

5 ENERGY

5.1 Energy – Scottish Parliament Business

Date	Subject	Business
30 March 2000	Housing Energy Efficiency	Green Party Debate
08 February 2001	Renewable Energy	Green Party Debate
01 March 2001	Fuel Poverty	Executive Debate
14 March 2001	Stage 1 Debate on Housing (Scotland) Act	Executive Bill
13 June 2001	Stage 3 Debate on Housing (Scotland) Act	Executive Bill
16 January 2002	Renewable Energy (Western Isles)	Members' Motion Debate – Alasdair Morrison (Labour)
14 March 2002	Nuclear Power Stations	SNP Debate

29 May 2002	Oil and Gas Industry	Executive Debate
05 September 2002	Fuel Poverty	Executive Debate
09 January 2003	Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm (Navigation and Fishing) (Scotland) Bill: Preliminary Stage	Private Bill
23 January 2003	Renewable Energy (Rural Communities)	Members' Motion Debate – George Lyon (Lib Dem)

5.2 Energy – Scottish Executive Initiatives

Date	Subject
20/10/1999	Warm deal grants: £12 million brings a glow to Scottish households An insulation package worth up to £500 is now available to low income householders so they can have their homes insulated against the worst of the coming winter weather, Deputy Minister for Local Government Frank McAveety announced today. Under the Warm Deal scheme, £12 million is available from the Scottish Executive to insulate cold homes and tackle the problem of dampness in Scotland's housing
28/10/1999	Energy scheme a boost for Scottish business says Alasdair Morrison Deputy Minister for the Highlands & Islands and Gaelic, Alasdair Morrison, launched Loan Action Scotland, an energy saving initiative which will allow small companies to adopt energy efficiency measures in the workplace. Loan Action Scotland is the first major initiative launched by the Energy Saving Trust in Scotland. The scheme provides interest free loans to Scottish companies for the installation of energy efficiency measures. Through reducing business costs, the programme aims to promote environmental and economic sustainability.
01/02/2000	Scottish obligations on renewable energy The Scottish Executive is to consult on new targets for the production of electricity from renewable sources Sarah Boyack announced today. The Minister for Transport and the Environment revealed her intention to consult on a new Renewables (Scotland) Obligation with the view to increase the amount of electricity produced from renewable sources from 10 to 15 per cent
01/03/2000	Alasdair Morrison gives green light for £5m renewable energy development Deputy Minister for The Highlands and Islands and Gaelic, Alasdair Morrison today gave the go ahead for the construction of £5 million hydro-electric power station in Ross-shire.
20/03/2000	Henry McLeish launches £0.6 million Scottish Energy Environment Foundation A Scottish Energy Environment Foundation, to create an international centre of excellence in energy and environmental technologies and exploit commercial opportunities in these areas was launched by Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning, Henry McLeish today. The £600,000 Foundation, based at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, is an industry and university partnership venture to research new technologies and get them into the marketplace
01/06/2000	Sarah Boyack announces consultation on new guidance on planning for renewable energy (NPPG 6)
21/07/2000	Warmer Homes Promise From New Building Regulations New homes in Scotland should be designed to bring lower energy bills according to new building regulation proposals launched today by Environment Minister Sarah Boyack. The package of proposed amendments to regulations includes: higher thermal insulation standards for all new buildings; and higher energy efficiency for boilers, lighting and other building services.
27/07/2000	Alasdair Morrison launches wind project to power Muck The £238,000 project uses two wind turbines to provide low cost electricity
19/09/2000	Free central heating for pensioners and families A £350 million total investment to help instal free central heating for all pensioners and all social tenants across Scotland in the next five years was announced today by the First Minister Donald Dewar and Communities Minister Wendy Alexander.
18/12/2000	Housing (Scotland) Bill submitted to Parliament. The Bill introduces proposals for fuel poverty targets.
17/05/2001	Baillie opens new housing development in Edinburgh providing affordable “green” housing 64 low cost homes have been provided by Link Housing Association close to the site of the new Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The £3.7 million development at Comely Green Place, Edinburgh incorporates energy-efficient and environmentally friendly features.
20/07/2001	Brankin secures future for Scottish Hydro generators - and 200 jobs This will result in the refurbishment of 30 hydro-electric power stations, investment worth £250 million and secure 200 jobs in rural areas.
22/07/2001	Brankin announces support for power from the oceans Scotland could soon become a world leader in marine energy production following the announcement of Scottish Executive support for a test centre on Orkney.
03/08/2001	Brankin sets out bright future for renewable energy in Scotland The Minister launched a final statutory consultation on the Renewables Obligation (Scotland), which is designed to

deliver on the Scottish Executive's commitment that, by 2010, 18% of Scotland's electricity will be accounted for by renewable sources.

- 13/09/2001** **Scotland contributes to UK Energy Review** Executive seeks to have 18% of energy from renewable resources by 2010.
- 24/09/2001** **Focus on energy efficient buildings** New regulations will improve insulation standards and save energy.
- 30/01/2002** **New planning advice for renewable energy** Climate Change Programme drives move towards greater take-up of renewable energy technology.
- 21/02/2002** **Power partnership for energy conservation** A 'Power Partnership' between the Executive's *Do a Little, Change a Lot* environment awareness campaign and leading power, oil and television companies was announced today. The partnership - which includes BP, Shell, Scottish Gas, Scottish Power, Scottish and Southern Energy and Scottish Television - was unveiled at a special event to promote energy conservation at the Glasgow Science Centre.
- 11/03/2002** **Executive pledges to end fuel poverty** Outlining its commitment to ending fuel poverty within 15 years, the Executive published its draft Fuel Poverty Statement today.
- 23/06/2002** **Community initiative on renewables** Schools could get access to solar panels, villages could be kitted out with forestry-waste heating schemes, and farms could be wind-powered, under the Scottish Community Research Initiative (SCRI) which seeks to promote wider use of renewable energy technology. The initiative, makes available £1 million over three years.
- 22/08/2002** **Fuel poverty reduction target** Ministers agree to reduce fuel poverty by 30 per cent in four years.
- 23/08/2002** **Views sought on renewable energy** Environment Minister launches a consultation on the future of renewable energy in Scotland.
- 10/12/2002** **Plans for Energy Institute in Aberdeen** City to be site of one of three flagship Intermediary Technology Institutes
- 14/01/2003** **£3.7 million renewables initiative** Grant scheme launched for green energy development in rural communities.
- 21/01/2003** **Cairn Ush wind farm gets go ahead** Ministers approve plans for what will be Scotland's largest wind farm to date.
- 19/03/2003** **Scotland's first offshore wind farm** Sea-located wind farm approved at Robin Rigg site in Solway Firth.

6. TRANSPORT

6.1 Transport – Scottish Parliament Business

6.1.1 General Strategy

Date	Subject	Business
16 September 1999	Transport	Conservative Debate
10 February 2000	Integrated Transport	Ministerial Statement
14 September 2000	Transport (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 & Financial Resolution	Executive Bill
28 September 2000	Transport Expenditure	Ministerial Statement
20 December 2000	Transport (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill
18 January 2001	Transport Links	Conservative Debate
26 April 2001	Rural Transport	Executive Debate
21 March 2002	Transport Delivery Plan	Executive Debate
28 March 2002	Transport	Conservative Debate
29 May 2002	Transport Strategy (North-East Scotland)	Members' Motion Debate – Elaine Thomson (Labour)
26 September 2002	Transport (Investment)	Conservative Debate
05 March 2003	Transport	Executive Statement

6.1.2 Rail

Date	Subject	Business
07 October 1999	Railways	Ministerial Statement
10 November 1999	Borders Rail Link	Members' Motion Debate – Christine Grahame (SNP)
02 December 1999	European Freight and Passenger Terminal (Fife)	Members' Motion Debate – Bruce Crawford (SNP)
15 December 1999	Fife Rail Service	Members' Motion Debate – Tricia Marwick (SNP)

16 March 2000	Rail Travel for the Blind	Members' Motion Debate – Euan Robson (Lib Dem)
01 June 2000	Borders Rail Link	Conservative Debate
15 November 2000	Rail Infrastructure (Glasgow and West Coast)	Members' Motion Debate – Sandra White (SNP)
06 December 2000	Glasgow Light Rail Scheme	Members' Motion Debate – Tommy Sheridan (SSP)
14 December 2000	Railways	SNP Debate
05 April 2001	Railways (Airdrie to Bathgate line)	Members' Motion Debate – Karen Whitefield (Labour)
24 October 2001	Railway Station Platforms (disabled access)	Members' Motion Debate – David Mundell (Conservative)
25 October 2001	Railways (investment)	SNP Debate
16 January 2002	Railways	SNP Debate
20 June 2002	Railways	SNP Debate
31 October 2002	Edinburgh Waverley Station	Members' Motion Debate – Sarah Boyack (Labour)
15 January 2003	Rail Industry	Transport and Environment Committee Debate
26 February 2003	Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine and Linked Improvements Bill - a private bill – was presented to the Scottish Parliament.	Presented to Parliament by Clackmannanshire Council in partnership with the Scottish Executive, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) and other partners.
24 March 2003	Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine and Linked Improvements Bill was published by the Scottish Parliament.	Private Bill

6.1.3 Road

Date	Subject	Business
23 June 1999	Peripheral Route, Aberdeen	Members' Motion Debate – Brian Adam (SNP)
30 September 1999	Mallaig Road	Members' Motion Debate – Fergus Ewing (SNP)
04 November 1999	Strategic Roads Review	Executive Statement & Debate
02 February 2000	A9 Improvements	Members' Motion Debate – Jamie Stone (Lib Dem)
17 February 2000	Car Parking Charges (West Lothian)	Members' Motion Debate – Bristow Muldoon (Labour)
23 March 2000	Bus corridors (Glasgow)	Members' Motion Debate – Bill Aitken (Conservative)
05 April 2000	A701 (Upgrading)	Members' Motion Debate – James Douglas Hamilton (Conservative)
10 May 2000	A90 Upgrade	Members' Motion Debate – David Davidson (Conservative)
25 January 2001	Roads	SNP Debate
07 February 2002	Scotland's Road Network	SNP Debate
27 November 2002	A9	Members' Motion Debate – John Swinney (SNP)
12 March 2003	New Forth Road Bridge	Members' Motion Debate – Dr Richard Simpson (Labour)

6.1.4 Air

Date	Subject	Business
03 February 2000	Air Transport	SNP Debate
01 November 2001	Inverness Airport	Members' Motion Debate – Margaret Ewing (SNP)
28 February 2002	Edinburgh Airport (Rail Link)	Members' Motion Debate – James Douglas Hamilton (Conservative)
29 May 2002	Air Links	Members' Motion Debate – Kenny MacAskill (SNP)
19 June 2002	Glasgow Airport (Rail Link)	Members' Motion Debate – Robert Brown (Lib Dem)
09 October 2002	Future of Air Transport	Executive Debate
15 January 2003	Glasgow to Barra Air Link	Members' Motion Debate -Duncan Hamilton (SNP)

6.1.5 Sea & Inland Waterways

Date	Subject	Business
14 December 2000	Ferry Services (Northern Isles)	Executive Debate
01 March 2001	Caledonian MacBrayne	Members' Motion Debate – George Lyon (Lib Dem)
07 November 2001	Rosyth-Zeebrugge Ferry Service	Members' Motion Debate – Bruce Crawford (SNP)
20 December 2001	Caledonian MacBrayne	Emergency Question – Duncan Hamilton (SNP)
11 September 2002	Ferry Services (Northern Isles)	Members' Motion Debate – Mary Scanlon (Conservative)
03 October 2002	Ferry Services (Gourock to Dunoon)	Members' Motion Debate – George Lyon (Lib Dem)

6.1.6 Fuel

Date	Subject	Business
13 September 2000	Fuel Situation	Executive Statement and debate
14 September 2000	Fuel Situation	Executive Statement
05 October 2000	Fuel Duty	SNP Motion
26 April 2001	Fuel Crisis	SNP Motion

6.2 Transport – Scottish Executive Initiatives

6.2.1 General Strategy

Date	Subject
15/09/1999	Boyack gives funding boost to rural transport A £500,000 boost for rural transport schemes across Scotland was announced today by Sarah Boyack. The awards are the latest to benefit from a £14.2 million package being put in place over the next three years.
28/10/1999	Public transport on track to receive extra £26 million Twenty new projects to improve public transport across Scotland received a £26 million boost today from Transport Minister, Sarah Boyack. The awards are part of the Executive's £90 million being allocated between 1999 and 2002 through the Public Transport Fund The new projects cover all aspects of public transport – rail, bus, ferry, air as well as measures to assist disabled people, and improve facilities for cycling and walking.
02/02/2000	£3.75 Million Public Transport Investment Boost For Islay
28/02/2000	Boyack guides the way forward for local transport strategies Revised guidance on the preparation of integrated local transport strategies was published today by Sarah Boyack Minister for Transport and the Environment.
01/03/2000	Boyack announces almost £4 million for rural transport services Local authorities throughout Scotland are to share a £3.7 million cash boost to fund rural transport links, Sarah Boyack announced today. Twenty-eight Scottish local authorities will share in the latest round of allocations from the Executive's Rural Transport Fund
31/03/2000	Boyack Announces £444 Million To Keep Scotland Moving Transport Minister Sarah Boyack today announced a £444 million package of improvements and repairs to Scotland's motorway and trunk road network. Schemes to improve and repair roads throughout Scotland will receive funding through the allocation of £210m and £234m in the years 2000-01 and 2001-02, an increase of 22% on the previous two years
24/10/2000	Sarah Boyack announces £900,000 investment in Scotland's rural transport Funding for 23 Rural Community Transport projects throughout the country.
09/11/2000	Sarah Boyack Announces £33 Million Boost For Public Transport Nineteen new projects to improve public transport across Scotland are to receive a £33 million boost from the Public Transport Fund
14/03/2001	Boyack provides £1.25 million to advance a modern transport system for Aberdeen
20/03/2001	Boyack details £18 million transport investment for Rural Scotland
20/03/2001	Boyack details £2 million rural transport investment for Southern Scotland
20/03/2001	Boyack details £6 million rural transport investment for Highlands and Islands
26/03/2001	Boyack Announces £1 Million For Rural Community Transport Projects

- 18/06/2001 Sarah Boyack and Transport Companies Join Together to Cut Congestion** Transport Minister Sarah Boyack today signed up Scotland's leading bus and rail operators as partners in a new campaign to encourage drivers to consider alternatives to the hassle and stress of urban car journeys. The TV and poster campaign – "learn to let go" - highlights the transport choices available for journeys into towns or cities. The operators are contributing £180,000 towards the total £697,000 cost of the campaign.
- 30/07/2001 Scottish Executive launches rural community transport guide** *Rural Community Transport: A Guide to Good Practice*, provides practical advice on planning, promoting and operating a rural community transport scheme in Scotland
- 25/01/2002 Transport strategies take shape** A long-term picture of potential for transport systems across Scotland has been produced in two reports on the transport strategies produced in 2001 by all 32 Scottish local authorities and by Strathclyde Passenger Transport.
- 31/01/2002 Boost for community transport projects** 20 rural communities benefit from latest round of Rural Community Transport Initiative(RCTI)awards.
- 04/03/2002 Minister outlines transport plans for Lothians** Businesses in Lothians and Central Belt asked for views on transport system for 21st century.
- 18/03/2002 Transport plans spelled out** Series of nine regional leaflets detailing transport improvements and vision for future.
- 19/03/2002 Transport investment for Aberdeen** A £1.1 million funding package aims to build infrastructure and cut congestion.
- 21/03/2002 'Route map' for future of transport in Scotland** A 'route map' for transport in Scotland (The Executive's Transport Delivery Report) was published today with the aim of tackling congestion, improving public transport services, and completing vital missing links.
- 15/04/2002 Transport assessment guidelines** Transport Assessments to gauge - and minimise - the impact on the environment of transport pressures associated with new development are likely to become essential components of planning proposals in Scotland.
- 21/05/2002 Rural development dependent on transport** Publication of research, in a report Rural Accessibility by the Central Research Unit. A key finding from a study of rural accessibility has found that better integration of transport options can help alleviate social exclusion.
- 02/08/2001 Executive launches transport appraisal guidance** Guidance which aims to ensure a level playing field for assessing Scottish transport proposals was published this week for consultation by the Scottish Executive
- 21/08/2002 Publication of Scottish Transport Statistics** Rise in air and bus passengers, but rail passengers on decrease.
- 23/08/2002 Strategic plan for West Edinburgh** Consultation on policy framework for improved transport opportunities. A long-term strategic vision for one of the fastest growing development areas in Scotland has been issued for consultation by the Executive. The West Edinburgh Planning Framework has been developed by Scottish Ministers, City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh and Lothian.
- 03/09/2002 Thistle Travel Card scheme** Help for people with disabilities to encourage travel on public transport.
- 18/09/2002 New nationwide travel helpline** Service provides info about all rail, coach, bus, ferry and internal air services in Scotland. The Executive has committed £1.7 million in grant assistance to the service for capital and set up costs.
- 23/10/2002 Executive back public transport projects** Integrated Transport Fund will support improvements in central Scotland and Aberdeen.
- 11/11/2002 £2 million for Highland transport projects** FM announces award of cash for four integrated schemes across Highlands and Islands.
- 14/11/2002 Final awards from Public Transport Fund** A total of £59 million completes £235 million investment since 1999.
- 02/12/2002 £7.1m for West of Scotland transport** Cash to be spent on dial-a-bus services, subway maintenance and improved info on bus services.
- 16/12/2002 Launch of Traveline website** Online information on services provided by the Scottish public transport network.
- 19/12/2002 Measuring progress in transport** Publication of paper setting out indicators to measure progress in improving transport.
- 22/01/2003 £450 million for road and rail improvements** Motorway network to be completed and public transport upgraded in Central Scotland corridor.
- 26/02/2003 Rural transport voluntary groups** Another 55 projects share £3.3 million from community initiative.
- 05/03/2003 Building Better Transport** Update on progress across transport and major transport projects
- 10/03/2003 Rural transport investment package** £11.9 million to be spread across schemes in all parts of Scotland.

6.2.2 Rail

Date	Subject
28/06/1999	Sarah Boyack helps Safeway on track to take lorries off A9 A new rail-freight service, which will cut 5,000 lorry journeys a year from roads between Glasgow and Inverness, was officially launched today by Sarah Boyack. Backed by Government funding of £680,000, the new operation will serve five Safeway outlets in the Inverness area.
14/07/1999	£870,000 to shift more freight from road to rail The switch means HJ Banks and Co will use rail links to supply Longannet Power Station with coal from Newmains, Lanarkshire
13/09/1999	Fewer lorries free up roads - £9.7m freight grant moves thousands of tankers into rail The £9.7 million grant to logistics firm TDG Nexus was made jointly by the Scottish Executive and the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR).
15/02/2000	Borders Railway - study outlines options for way forward Transport and Environment Minister Sarah Boyack today published the feasibility study into the reopening of the disused Borders railway from Edinburgh
13/03/2000	Almost £1 million for railwayline into Leith Docks - Boyack Sarah Boyack today announced two major awards totalling almost £1 million which will lead to the reinstatement of rail track into the heart of Leith Docks and remove over 8,000 lorry journeys from Scottish roads each year.
30/05/2000	£3.4 million rail investment £2.4 million special grant has been awarded to provide improved rail services in Fife. An extra £1 million has been added to the Freight Facilities Grant programme from extra resources announced in the Chancellor's budget statement.
09/11/2000	Scottish Borders To Receive £1.9 Million To Assist With The Next Stage In Development Of Borders Rail Link
09/11/2000	Clackmannanshire On Track To Receive £6.5 Million For New Rail Track
13/03/2001	Boyack Announces £11 Million Investment To Get Freight Off The Roads
27/08/2001	Boyack gives amber light to Larkhall-Milngavie rail link The Scottish Executive agree to take the project forward in partnership with Strathclyde Passenger Transport - jointly providing the £23m to build the link.
04/12/2001	Edinburgh CrossRail project Work on new city station gets underway ahead of rail services beginning this summer, following confirmation of £8.5 million of Executive funding for the project.
24/01/2002	Rail freight grant to benefit Caithness roads Rail freight in Caithness is to benefit from the award of a £289,000 Freight Facilities Grant to Thurso Building Supplies (TBS)
07/03/2002	Extra money keeps ScotRail on track Transport Minister announces £70 million deal to stabilise the ScotRail franchise.
20/03/2002	Stirling-Alloa rail link to reopen Decision to kick-start project by releasing £2m from the Executive's Public Transport Fund.
22/05/2002	Waverley on track for renewal Edinburgh's main railway station gets £1 million to aid plans for redevelopment.
04/06/2002	New rail station for Edinburgh commuters Newcraighall Station link opens as part of city's £11 million CrossRail project.
29/07/2002	Edinburgh tram line on track Development of the proposed West Edinburgh Tram Line receives cash boost of £5 million.
02/09/2002	Rail service improvement plans Development cash to progress projects for Shotts and the Waverley line in the Borders.
06/11/2002	Extra investment for Scottish rail industry Deputy Transport Minister announces commitment to three new rail projects.
04/12/2002	Freight Facilities Grants Three Freight Facilities Grants (FFGs) totalling more than £2.1 million were announced today.
18/12/2002	Plans for third tram line for Edinburgh Tram line will run from city centre towards the South East Wedge past the new Royal Infirmary.
13/02/2003	Summary of airport links feasibility Consultants study of potential rail links to Edinburgh and Glasgow airports.
21/02/2003	Roads investment for South West Five A77 improvement schemes around Stranraer and design work on roundabout at Ayr.
25/02/2003	Platforms lengthened to tackle overcrowding Works on four commuter lines to start in coming months to accommodate new and longer trains.
04/03/2003	Funding secures Edinburgh's new tram line Minister announces £375 million for tram go ahead in capital city.

6.2.3 Road

Title	Subject
28/06/1999	Sarah Boyack announces transport study Sarah Boyack, Minister for Transport and the Environment in the Scottish Executive, announced today that Hermiston Gait on the M8 in Edinburgh will be Scotland's element of UK electronic road user charging research.

- 13/07/1999 Sarah Boyack consults on how to tackle road congestion** Government today published its consultation paper Tackling Congestion on how it proposes to meet this challenge
- 13/09/1999 New Stirling bus station opens express route to better services - Boyack** Public Transport Fund we will support a range of projects, including new bus lanes and park and ride schemes. Already Stirling Council has been awarded £4 million from the Fund to help deliver a dedicated gas powered bus link across Stirling
- 22/03/2000 £900,000 grant will help ease congestion on the A9 - Boyack** awarded Safeway the second Freight Facilities Grant in a year enabling the company to move produce destined for Thurso, Wick, Kirkwall and Ullapool mostly by rail from its warehouse in Bellshill.
- 28/03/2000 Alasdair Morrison Announces Further Boost For Rural Petrol Stations** Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) will now be more widely available throughout the Highlands and Islands with the expansion of the Rural Petrol Stations Grant Scheme
- 04/10/2001 Pedestrian Preceptions Of Road Crossing Facilities - Report Published**
- 27/03/2001 Boyack announces £680 million investment in Scotland's trunk roads**
- 10/11/2000 Boyack Launches Multi-Million Pound Park And Ride Scheme** Fife Council was awarded £2.7 million Transport Challenge Funding to assist with the Ferrytoll Park and Ride bus facility, which is estimated to cost £4.2 million.
- 14/06/2001 Boyack clears the way for A1 expressway and Glasgow Southern Orbital**
- 18/06/2001 Sarah Boyack and Transport Companies Join Together to Cut Congestion** The operators are contributing £180,000 towards the total £697,000 cost of the campaign and at the launch today pledged to back up their cash with a range of service improvements and incentives to travel.
- 02/07/2001 Boyack Says Toolkit Now In Place To Revitalise Scotland's Bus Services** The main bus provisions within the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001, and two sets of regulations - to include existing facilities within statutory Quality Partnerships and to update and improve the bus registration system - all came into force on 1 July. The Act and regulations include provisions on: Quality Partnership and Quality Contract schemes; Joint ticketing schemes; Better information provision; Ensuring that new or varied bus services operate for at least 90 days; Changing the registration system for local bus services to encourage stability of services for bus users; Ensuring that operators notify both local authorities and the public well in advance of proposed service changes.
- 07/08/2001 McLeish and Boyack see the way ahead for the road to the Isles** Work to improve one of the last single track trunk roads in the country – the A830 Road to the Isles – was given the ministerial seal of approval and work officially get underway on the £10 million scheme to upgrade the road from Arisaig to Kinsadel.
- 07/09/2001 Action on escalating Forth Bridge traffic** The consultation process for the new Forth Estuary Transportation Authority has begun.
- 02/10/2001 Australia joins Scotland to monitor road traffic** The Executive has signed an agreement with Australia to develop traffic management systems.
- 15/10/2001 Bypass scheme moves forward** Fochabers-Mosstodloch bypass Draft road orders and environmental statement to be published.
- 29/10/2001 Major road contracts for Argyll and Bute** Argyll & Bute Council today won two major road contracts worth almost £1 million.
- 21/12/2001 Buses to support ferry services** A timetable of special bus services to help people travelling to Arran and Bute.
- 17/01/2002 New transport body for Forth Road Bridge** Forth Estuary Transport Authority will have wider powers to tackle congestion around the bridge.
- 31/01/2002 Garrion Bridge opens to traffic** £6.6 million scheme designed to ease congestion in Clyde valley road network.
- 31/01/2002 A1 dual carriageway go ahead** Work to start in April on £5 million project to improve roads around Dunbar.
- 01/02/2002 Key road-building project on the move** Tenders are invited for design, build and maintenance of M77 and Glasgow Southern Orbital.
- 01/02/2002 Views on parking standards sought** Draft consultation issued on use of maximum car parking limits in new developments in Scotland
- 07/02/2002 Ballanluig Exhibition looks at junction options** Residents invited to examine proposed options for improving safety at the Ballinluig junction on A9.
- 20/02/2002 Improvement scheme opens on A68** Clear overtaking opportunities now available to motorists on difficult road.
- 25/02/2002 £20M for road & bridge repairs** Multi-million pound cash boost for local authorities to improve transport infrastructure.
- 05/03/2002 Tackling congestion in Edinburgh** Executive considers additional funding to develop West Edinburgh tram line.
- 12/03/2002 Contract awarded to upgrade A1** £40m scheme to alleviate congestion south of Haddington.
- 21/03/2002 Funding to ease congestion on A8 and A80** Projects include £20 million for new junction at Auchenkilns and junction improvements at Shawhead.
- 15/04/2002 £3.75 million for North road scheme** Minister gives go ahead for A9 improvements at Ord of Caithness.

08/05/2002	Work to begin on upgrading of A8 Go-ahead for £23 million contract on arterial route between Baillieston and Newhouse.
06/06/2002	£4 million improvement plan for A90 Announcement of a £4 million improvement project on the Forfar Bypass between Aberdeen and Dundee.
13/06/2002	Making Scotland's roads safer Executive sets targets to reduce fatal and serious road casualties by 2010.
13/06/2002	Plans to tackle congestion in Central Scotland Three reports setting out recommendations to tackle congestion on A8, A80 and M74 corridors.
26/06/2002	New safety measures on A77 Improvements include up-grade of the A77/A719 junction at Sandyford to a roundabout.
13/08/2002	Work begins on A8 upgrading £23 million contract for improvements to Baillieston-Newhouse section.
19/08/2002	New guidance for road safety initiatives Publication of guidance on the setting up of community based road safety initiatives.
22/08/2002	Contract to monitor road programme Performance check on £109 million motorway and trunk road repair and maintenance.
04/09/2002	Trunk roads report Report on performance of trunk road maintenance companies after their first year of operation.
25/09/2002	Kincardine link road moves forward Announcement of major step towards construction of Kincardine Eastern Link Road.
30/09/2002	Start of free local off-peak bus travel Elderly and disabled concessionary card holders now entitled to free local bus travel.
04/10/2002	Revised A96 bypass plans Proposals on display for the Fochabers-Mosstodloch bypass.
22/10/2002	A96 climbing lane given go-ahead £4 million contract awarded to construct a 2.2 km climbing-lane at Newtongarry.
21/11/2002	Three Towns A78 Bypass Tenders invited to build bypass round Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston in Ayrshire.
22/01/2003	Road Haulage Modernisation Fund Executive provides £5 million for driver training schemes and vehicle upgrades.
22/01/2003	£450 million for road and rail improvements Motorway network to be completed and public transport upgraded in Central Scotland corridor.
23/01/2003	A9 consultation goes to Thurso and Wick Extension to proposed options for improvements to A9 between Helmsdale and Ord of Caithness.
31/01/2003	Cash boost for local roads Extra £15 million is being made available to Scottish local authorities to improve local roads.
03/03/2003	Upgrading begins officially on A96 First of three North East schemes worth a total of more than £23 million.
06/03/2003	Publication of a Scottish Planning Policy setting out guidance for local authorities on the maximum number of car parking spaces which new developments in their area should contain.
20/03/2003	Ten new road improvement schemes – to be developed across Scotland. Construction is expected to start in 2005-2006 and funding of £20 million will be committed to the development of the schemes over the next three years.

6.2.4 Air

Date	Title
27/02/2002	New terminals in Kirkwall and Stornoway Opening of airport terminals mark biggest investment in island air services since World War II. A Scottish Executive £3 million funding injection in June 2000 to Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd enabled the company to replace buildings which were no longer fit for purpose.
23/07/2002	30 year vision for air transport (UK Consultation with specific Scottish questions, including whether there should be a hub airport, and where.)
15/08/2002	Aberdeen Airport transport improvements £560,000 allocated to ease congestion and help commuters in Dyce area.
18/11/2002	Encouragement for direct air routes £6m fund offers landing charge discounts to airlines opening up new routes.
12/03/03	Routes of airport rail links announced Minister outlines the preferred links between Edinburgh and Glasgow airports and city centres.
24/03/03	Support for new European air routes - Four new European routes to Scotland are the first to benefit from The Interim Route Development Fund set up to encourage and speed up the introduction of new direct air routes.

6.2.5 Sea and Inland Waterways

Date	Subject
23/12/1999	£5.6m support as small Isles ferries sail into the new Millennium A £5.6m package was revealed today by Transport Minister Sarah Boyack to regenerate and improve the quality of ferry services to the Small Isles.
10/01/2000	Sarah Boyack welcomes launch of new guidelines to modernise trust ports in Scotland Transport and Environment Minister, Sarah Boyack, today welcomed the launch of new guidelines to modernise trust ports. The guidelines, A Guide to Good Governance , have been developed by the Scottish Executive in conjunction with the Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions (DETR). They develop a code of practice which will lead to a framework which will help ports reach their economic potential and increase accountability.
08/03/2001	Boyack Announces £12 Million Piers And Harbour Grant For Northern Isles Harbour
16/03/2001	Boyack announces grant towards Holmsgarth Pier development Transport Minister Sarah Boyack today announced a £585,800 Piers and Harbours Grant towards the estimated £3.6 million costs of a new terminal building, passenger access walkway and a 50-metre pier extension at Holmsgarth Pier in Lerwick, Shetland Isles.
15/05/2001	Boyack announces first Scottish appointments to inland waterways amenity advisory council
26/05/2001	Boyack welcomes canal milestone At the reopening of the canal in Falkirk today, Ms Boyack announced an additional £1.5 million funding for British Waterways Scotland.
03/07/2001	Boyack Announces Barra-Eriskay Ferry Grant Plans for a new Barra to Eriskay ferry service were boosted today by Transport Minister Sarah Boyack when she announced a £273,750 Piers and Harbours Grant for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
06/08/2001	Modern day 'puffer' to take timber off the roads Backed by a £693,000 Scottish Executive Freight Facilities Grant (FFG), the Lochaline pier development will remove over 2,500 timber lorry trips and 480,000 lorry miles from Scotland's roads each year.
07/08/2001	Boyack announces ferry good news for Eigg Highland Council will receive a £2,681,250 Piers and Harbours Grant from the Scottish Executive along with additional capital consent of £3,575,000 towards the cost of building a new causeway and pier at Sgeir nan Bagh on Eigg.
23/10/2001	Two new CalMac ferries ordered Transport Minister Sarah Boyack announces £12.6 million for two new CalMac ferries.
02/05/2002	Transfer of powers for ferry link underway Start of the process to devolve powers for the Campbeltown and Ballycastle ferry service begins.
17/05/2002	European ferry sails into future Inauguration of direct Rosyth-Zeebrugge passenger and freight sea link.
27/06/2002	New ferry services for Clyde and Hebrides Announcement made as part of consultation on tendering services currently operated by CalMac.
11/10/2002	Kintyre ferry launch in summer 2003 Executive publish plans to restore Campbeltown-Ballycastle ferry route.
11/10/2002	Encouraging a "canal culture" in Scotland Minister confirms extra £2.8 million to ensure bright future for revitalised network.
21/10/2002	Changes proposed on ferry consultations New way to approach consultation exercises for future ferry services.
30/12/2002	Campbeltown-Ballycastle ferry tender invited Bidders invited to submit tenders for subsidy to run Campbeltown – Ballycastle ferry service.

6.2.6 Buses, Cycling & Walking

Date	Subject
05/07/2001	Lewis MacDonald welcomes Lochearnhead pedal power boost The Scottish Executive's Trunk Road Cycling Initiative (TRCI) has supported Sustrans by providing trunk road sections and crossings for the network and has spent £7 million to date on the TRCI.
14/03/2002	Cycling review shows progress Publication of A Review of Progress Towards the Objectives in the National Cycling Strategy.
18/11/2002	£8m for cycling, walking and safer streets Details of projects designed to improve safety and increase participation in cycling and walking.
20/11/2002	Investment in national cycling network Executive provides £1.5 million for series of improvement projects around Scotland.
13/02/2003	Publication of ' <i>A Walking Strategy for Scotland</i> ' – consultation document
24/03/03	Technology to benefit older bus passengers - Older people will soon have more travel choices using their new Accord cards thanks to additional investment. £310,000 will be used to install smart card technology on Stagecoach Bluebird buses. The funding for the new technology on the Stagecoach buses comes from the Scottish Executive's Integrated Transport Fund.

7. WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION

7.1 Wildlife and Conservation – Scottish Parliament Business

7.1.1 Conservation/Protection

Date	Subject	Business
26 April 2000	Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Members' Motion Debate – Tavish Scott (Lib Dem)
22 November 2000	Protected Area Designations	Members' Motion Debate – John Scott (Conservative)
23 November 2000	Salmon Conservation (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 & Financial Resolution	Executive Bill
11 January 2001	Salmon Conservation (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill
19 September 2001	Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1	Member's Bill
04 October 2001	Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution	Member's Bill
15 November 2001	Scotland's Natural Heritage	Executive Motion
13 February 2002	Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Member's Bill
14 February 2002	Cairngorms (World Heritage Site Status)	Members' Motion Debate – Elaine Thomson (Labour)
18 April 2002	Environmentally Designated Areas	Members' Motion Debate – Jamie McGrigor (Conservative)
13 February 2003	Salmon And Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1	Executive Motion

7.1.2 Fisheries, Fishing Industry

Date	Subject	Business
02 July 1999	Fish Processing Industry	Members' Motion Debate – David Davidson (Conservative)
28 October 1999	Fisheries Council	Ministerial Statement
08 December 1999	Sea Fisheries	Executive Debate
08 December 1999	Sea Fishing Grants (Charges) Bill	UK Bill
15 December 1999	Infectious Salmon Anaemia	Ministerial Statement
10 February 2000	Scallop Industry (Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning)	Members' Motion Debate – Jamie McGrigor (Conservative)
18 May 2000	Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Amendment (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1	Executive Bill
24 May 2000	Infectious Salmon Anaemia	Ministerial Statement
28 September 2000	Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Amendment (Scotland) Bill: Stage 3	Executive Bill
07 December 2000	Sea Fisheries	Executive Debate
20 December 2000	Fisheries Council	Ministerial Statement
18 January 2001	Fisheries	Conservative Debate
08 March 2001	Fishing Industry	Conservative Debate
15 March 2001	Fisheries	Executive Debate
14 June 2001	Common Fisheries Policy	European Committee Debate
27 September 2001	Common Fisheries Policy	Emergency Question – Rhona Brankin (Labour)
13 December 2001	Sea Fisheries	Executive Debate
25 April 2002	Freshwater Fish and Fisheries	Executive Debate
13 June 2002	Common Fisheries Policy	Executive Debate
30 October 2002	Fishing	Ministerial Statement
31 October 2002	Fishing	SNP Debate
12 December 2002	Fisheries 2003	Executive Debate
08 January 2003	Fisheries	Ministerial Statement
19 February 2003	Fisheries	Executive Debate
05 March 2003	Fisheries	Debate on Subordinate Legislation

7.1.3 FMD and CJD, etc

Date	Subject	Business
22 September 1999	Beef on the Bone	Ministerial Statement
01 December 1999	Beef on the Bone	Ministerial Statement
28 February 2001	Foot and Mouth Disease	Ministerial Statement
08 March 2001	Crisis in Rural Scotland	Conservative Debate
15 March 2001	Foot and Mouth Disease	Ministerial Statement
05 April 2001	Foot and Mouth Disease	Ministerial Statement
26 April 2001	Foot and Mouth Disease	Ministerial Statement
24 May 2001	Foot and Mouth Disease	Ministerial Statement
08 November 2001	Foot and Mouth Disease (Public Inquiry)	Conservative Debate
10 January 2002	Foot and Mouth Disease (Public Inquiry)	Members' Motion Debate – Alex Fergusson (Conservative)
14 March 2002	BSE and New Variant CJD	Members' Motion Debate – Ken McIntosh (Labour)
20 June 2002	Foot and Mouth Disease (Public Inquiry), (Recovery Plan – Dumfries and Galloway)	Members' Motion Debate – David Mundell (Conservative)
21 November 2002	Foot and Mouth Disease (Inquiries)	Ministerial Statement

7.2 Wildlife and Conservation – Scottish Executive Initiatives

7.2.1 Conservation/Protection

Date	Subject
30/06/1999	Helping the wildlife and habitats of Dumfries and Galloway Scottish Environment Minister Sarah Boyack today launched a new action plan to help ensure the conservation of some of Dumfries and Galloway's most important species and habitats.
28/10/1999	Sarah Boyack announces new site to save the endangered corncrake The site at Aird and Borve on Benbecula forms part of a series of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to save the Corncrake from extinction.
31/01/2000	Boyack launches plans to safeguard roadside biodiversity The Trunk Road Biodiversity Action Plan
08/02/2000	Boyack and Finnie herald a new approach to managing wild geese Announcing the publication of the Report and Recommendations of the National Goose Forum as a consultative document
28/03/2000	Boyack announces six new protected environmental sites Sarah Boyack has announced the designation of six Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EC Wild Birds Directive.
01/06/2000	Boyack Announces Further Protected Environmental Sites
26/06/2000	Scottish Executive publishes report on economic impacts of a ban on fox hunting
28/09/2000	Boost for Scottish salmon as Conservation Bill takes a step forward - Home Robertson Salmon Conservation (Scotland) Bill
01/12/2000	Boyack launches plans to safeguard roadside biodiversity (The <i>Trunk Road Biodiversity Action Plan</i>)
07/03/2001	Tough new proposals to protect Scotland's nature - Galbraith Better rewards for land managers who look after Scotland's most special natural places and prison terms for persistent wildlife criminals are among tough new measures proposed in <i>The Nature of Scotland</i>
30/05/2001	Report on pesticide poisoning of animals for 2000 published
08/06/2001	Research finds harmony in deer and woodland management The research project at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Banchory was funded as part of the Scottish Executive's Rural Affairs Department's £50million per annum programme of agricultural and biological research.
23/08/2001	Brankin launches biodiversity and business awareness initiative Rhona Brankin urged business to Count Think and Act to protect Scotland's biodiversity. The Deputy Minister was launching a new initiative aimed at increasing awareness of what action business can take to benefit Scotland's biodiversity.
01/09/2001	New laws and cash to protect the capercaillie The last 1000 of Scotland's capercaillie are to benefit from a £700,000 funding package to pay for protection measures.
21/09/2001	Seabirds find sanctuary on urban edge The Firth of Forth is one of five areas where new conservation laws are to be applied.
5/10/2001	Biodiversity Network on the net A modernisation of the system of biological recorders makes data available through the web.
9/10/2001	Natural Care strategy launched Strategy to ensure the management and enhancement of our most special nature sites.
10/10/2001	Bill to ban fur farming New Bill proposed to outlaw fur farming in Scotland.

1/11/2001	Plans for Natural Heritage Bill Executive reveals plans to improve species protection and crack down on wildlife crime
02/11/2001	Hunting ban on capercaillie The statutory ban on the hunting of capercaillie will come into force from Sunday, November 4.
26/02/2002	Scottish Biodiversity Strategy needed Executive answers international call for nature conservation and sustainable development. Announcing the publication of <i>Biodiversity in Scotland, a progress report</i> Deputy Environment Minister Allan Wilson announced that the Executive intends to develop a Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.
04/03/2002	Tree preservation measures Research commissioned to simplify and improve guidelines for protecting trees.
18/03/2002	Proposals to reduce risk of animal disease Consultation on Biosecurity Code proposals to help prevent further animal disease outbreaks.
26/03/2002	Four biosphere reserves delisted 4 of the 8 Scottish biosphere reserves have been removed from World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
10/04/2002	Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 will come into force on 1 August 2002.
22/04/2002	Launch of wildlife crime fighting unit Executive joins forces in fight against wildlife crime at launch of UK-wide intelligence team.
05/06/2002	Fast track for wildlife crime laws Minister pledges Scotland will not be “easy touch” for wild bird egg stealers. As the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill is used to fast-track wildlife crime provisions.
10/06/2002	Tighter controls for reviewing mineral sites Proposals to close off loophole allowing delay of reviews of old mineral extraction permission.
11/06/2002	A1 gets £45 million greener upgrade Upgrade will add 16km of dual carriageway, and include planting of 400,000 native trees and shrubs.
23/08/2002	Guidance on conservation of fisheries
27/08/2002	Biodiversity Week Minister launches series of events to celebrate Scotland’s natural heritage.
28/08/2002	Conservation projects awarded £14.26m Funding for 196 projects to enhance nature in agricultural environment.
21/11/2002	Biosecurity code for animal health Publication of a Biosecurity Code that sets out practical steps to limit the risk of serious animal diseases taking hold in Scotland.
07/02/2003	Hebridean islands bid to join world elite St Kilda bids to extend world heritage status to include cultural landscape and marine environment.
11/02/2003	Sustainable Action Fund share out The Executive’s Sustainable Action Fund has allocated grants of £920,000 to help communities address the environmental impact of quarrying.
25/02/2003	Publication of the Biodiversity Strategy . The Strategy, which will shortly be issued for public consultation, creates a 25-year vision for biodiversity in Scotland.
07/03/2003	Moorland Management Schemes Launched. Deputy Environment Minister Allan Wilson stated the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) schemes in Ayrshire and South West Scotland – worth £2.34 million over five years – underlined the Executive’s commitment to protect the country’s wildlife and natural habitats.
11/03/2003	River salmon protection measures Proposed amendment to regulations to make it compulsory to ensure safe passage.
11/03/2003	Draft Nature Conservation Bill Proposals to give added protection to Scotland’s wildlife and natural habitats.
14/03/2003	Publication of Biodiversity Matters – Consultation on a Draft Strategy for Scotland’s Biodiversity

7.2.3 Fisheries, Fishing Industry

Date	Subject
04/06/1999	Ross Finnie says in-shore fisheries industry set for key role in new Parliament Proposals for the establishment of an advisory group on in-shore fisheries to provide a forum for new ideas to help the industry
19/08/1999	ISA controls lifted from salmon farms
19/08/1999	Formation of Scottish inshore fisheries advisory group provides a boost for the industry
27/08/1999	Government announces £1.1 million cash boost for fishing industry in the North A cash boost of £1.1 million to help build a new fishmarket building at Peterhead Harbour was unveiled by John Home Robertson today.
06/09/1999	Home Robertson announces £9 million funding package to assist salmon farming industry 1. The Scottish Executive will provide £3 million a year for the next three years to Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to assist back into production companies affected by the ISA
21/09/1999	Home Robertson grants first ever order to give local people control of shellfishery The first ever Regulating Order in Scotland which puts management of a shellfishery into the hands of local interests has been agreed by the Deputy Minister for Rural Affairs. The Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation will be given the right to regulate and manage fisheries for nominated types of shellfish round the Isles for 10 years.

1/10/1999 **Conservation measures for V-notched lobster and crawfish announced by Home Robertson**

07/10/1999 **Prohibition of fishing for nephrops by vessels 10 metres overall length and under in North Sea**

18/10/1999 **Home Robertson announces major boost for fishing in Orkney with approval of PO** Local involvement in Orkney fisheries has been given a major boost by John Home Robertson. The Deputy Minister for Rural Affairs announced that he has approved an application from the Orkney Fisheries Association to form a Producers' Organisation. It will come into effect on 1 January 2000

19/10/1999 **Home Robertson announces re-opening of nephrop fishery - but warns industry over increased effort**

29/10/1999 **Non-sector catch limits for November 1999 in the North Sea (Area IV), West of Scotland (Area VI) and Area VII**

29/10/1999 **Guidance on future development of fish farming published by Scottish Executive** Guidance on the future development of marine fish farming provides sound advice on sustainable development at an important time for the industry, John Home Robertson said today. The guidance – which is aimed at potential developers, those charged with regulation and bodies with an interest in the development of the industry – is published today after consultation with a wide range of interested parties.

04/11/1999 **Scottish Executive announces review of current control measures for infectious salmon anaemia**

15/12/1999 **Scottish Executive announces outcome of ISA review**

16/12/1999 **Prawn and shrimp ban on the Don**

01/02/2000 **Amnesic shellfish poisoning partial lifting of ban off the west coast of Scotland**

08/02/2000 **Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning - Partial Lifting Of Ban Off The West Coast Of Scotland**

18/02/2000 **Increased Protection For Shellfish Waters Around** Scotland's shellfish industry received a welcome boost today when Sarah Boyack announced the designation of 11 new protected waters

21/02/2000 **Redfish licensing arrangements - consultation letters issued to industry**

06/04/2000 **Fish stock conservation measures - consultation announced by Home Robertson** Moves to help preserve juvenile haddock in the North Sea took another step forward today when a consultation document on conservation measures

07/04/2000 **Working Group report on escapes from fish farms published by Scottish Executive**

25/04/2000 **Home Robertson Launches Major Review Of Scottish Freshwater Fisheries**

24/05/2000 **Home Robertson Unveils Package Of Scottish Executive Measures On Fish Disease ISA**

06/06/2000 **Increased powers to conserve salmon stocks unveiled by Scottish Executive**

26/07/2000 **Tougher Planning Regime Proposed For Fish Farms** The consultation paper seeks comments on the Executive's proposals to extend planning controls over marine fish and shellfish farming developments.

04/08/2000 **£985,000 Eyemouth Investment Will Boost Scottish Fishing Industry - Home Robertson**

31/08/2000 **Scottish Fishing Industry hooking Baltic trade links - Home Robertson**

01/09/2000 **Licensing Measures To Aid Scallop Fishermen Affected By ASP**

05/09/2000 **Scottish Executive Meet Scallop Fishing Industry - Joint Statement By Minister For Health, Susan Deacon And Scottish Fisheries Minister, John Home Robertson**

08/09/2000 **Review Of Fixed Quota Allocations Announced**

08/09/2000 **Home Robertson Backs Greater Regional Involvement In Review Of common Fisheries Policy**

21/09/2000 **New Code Of Practice On Infectious Salmon Anaemia Must Become Industry Standard - Home Robertson**

19/10/2000 **Record Levels Of Spending For Fisheries - Home Robertson Announces New £11 Million Boost**

21/12/2000 **Brankin announces Scottish Executive support for Fisheries Sector in the Highlands and Islands**

28/12/2000 **Non-sector catch limits in the North Sea (Area IV), West of Scotland (Area VI) and Area VII**

03/02/2001 **Licences For Redfish At Iceland**

12/02/2001 **Rhona Brankin Welcomes Publication Of Scottish Fish Processing Action Group Recommendations**

14/03/2001 **Brankin Announces Management Plans For Scottish Inshore Sandeel Fisheries**

16/03/2001 **Changes in fishing vessel licensing and capacity penalties**

19/03/2001 **Fisheries Minister calls for responsible fishing in Haddock fisheries**

20/03/2001 **Licences to fish for tuna**

27/03/2001 **Rhona Brankin announces revisions to inshore prohibitions**

02/05/2001 **Licensing Of West Coast Sandeel Fishery**

14/02/2001 **Brankin Comments On West Coast Cod Recovery plan**

06/06/2001 **Consultation on inshore fishing prohibitions begins**

11/06/2001 **Report into outbreak of infectious salmon anaemia (isa) published**

14/06/2001 **Fish Farming planning controls are welcomed**

22/06/2001 **Rhona Brankin Announces Plans to Protect More Scottish Shellfish Waters**

26/06/2001 **Brankin Announces Consultation on Aquaculture Strategy to Balance Environmental and Economic Concerns**

24/07/2001 **Brankin announces multi million pound boost for Scottish fishing industry**

25/07/2001 **Fisheries review will help sustain a prosperous Scottish fishing industry - Brankin**

08/08/2001 **Brankin proposes new moves to protect Scotland's freshwater fisheries**

17/08/2001 **Brankin endorses consultation on the future of Scotland's fishing industry**

23/08/2001 **Brankin endorses consultation on the future of Scotland's fishing industry**

03/09/2001 **New species proposed for Scotland's fish farms** The introduction of new species to Scotland's fish farms is being considered

27/09/01 **Sea fish landings 2000 published** Figures show that in 2000, Scottish based vessels landed 13 per cent less sea fish than in 1999.

27/09/01 **Response to European fisheries review** Scotland plays key role in UK response to the review of the Common Fisheries Policy.

02/10/2001 **Ban proposed on cockle gathering** Consultation begins after scientists warn of danger to Solway Firth cockles.

22/10/2001 **Consultation on 2002 fish quotas** Executive taking advice before deciding stance for EU Fisheries Council in December.

30/11/2001 **Closure of Solway cockle fishery** The cockle fishery of the Scottish Solway Firth is to be closed to hand gathering.

06/12/2001 **Aquaculture regulation** A wide-ranging consultation has produced proposals for a new regulatory system.

04/02/2002 **Fishing and aquaculture grant aid** Executive and EU provide £6.8 million to improve and modernise economy's fish sector.

13/02/2002 **Clyde closure to protect spawning cod** Closure of the mouth of the Clyde between February 14 and April 30 to protect cod.

05/03/2002 **Proposals to ban sale of rod-caught fish** Public consultation on proposals to ban the sale of salmon and sea trout caught by rod and line.

13/03/2002 **Views sought on location of fish farms** Review of the guidelines governing the location of fish farms in Scotland.

01/05/2002 **First Marine Stewardship report** Vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas.

10/05/2002 **New regulations on fish farm escapes** Requirement to notify escapes from fish farms introduced from today.

28/05/2002 **Common Fisheries Policy** Legislative proposals for the future of the CFP have been published.

01/06/2002 **Fisheries Departments announce catch limits** Announcement of non sector catch limits which will apply from 01.00 hours on Saturday 1 June.

10/06/2002 **Aquaculture Strategy Group Appointed** Aquaculture Working Group to look at sustainable future for Scottish aquaculture.

11/06/2002 **Use of malachite green to end** Use of common fungal treatment in fish farming to end following discussions between UK and EC.

02/08/2002 **Cash boost for Fisheries** £4 million in grants to develop sustainable Scottish fisheries and aquaculture sectors

06/08/2002 **Plans to strengthen controls on fish sales** Proposals issued to strengthen the monitoring and control of fish landed into the United Kingdom.

23/08/2002 **Guidance on conservation of fisheries** Executive clarifies interpretation of complex technical legislation.

26/09/2002 **Non sector catch limits for September** Catch limits which will apply to vessels over 10 metres from 00.01 hours on Tuesday 1 October 2002.

02/10/2002 **Ban on sale of rod caught salmon and trout** Minister introduces ban to help conserve freshwater fish stocks in Scotland.

11/10/2002 **New appointment to aid sustainable aquaculture** Environmental biologist to address common problems of farmed and wild fish.

15/10/2002 **Report on algal toxin closures** Analysis of economic impact of algal toxin closures on shellfish communities.

13/11/2002 **Inshore fisheries strategic review** Minister wants more proactive approach to management of inshore waters.

01/01/2003 **Report on compliance with ISA code** High levels of compliance with the Code of Practice on Infectious Salmon Anaemia reported.

16/01/2003 **Locational guidelines for fish farms** New guidelines governing the location of fish farms in Scotland published.

28/01/2003 **Strategy group for fishing's future** Minister welcomes proposals for group to look at options for long term future.

28/01/2003 **Aid package for fishing communities** Announcement of financial package worth up to £50 million to assist Scotland's fishing communities.

25/02/2003 **Non-sector catch limits for March 2003**

- 03/02/2003** **Funding boost for fisheries industry** Fifty projects across Scotland are to receive funding totalling £3.2 million.
- 24/03/2003** **Strategic framework for aquaculture** - The Executive's strategic framework for aquaculture was launched. Deputy Environment and Rural Development Minister Allan Wilson indicated that Ministers would bring forward legislation governing the aquaculture industry during the next Parliamentary session. He also announced annual investment from the Executive of up to £100,000 to support the establishment of a Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum, which would also receive funding from other sources.

FMD and CJD, etc

Date	Subject
02/08/2001	£10 million for tourism and agriculture foot and mouth recovery
27/09/2001	Government response to BSE report Draft contingency plan confronts risk of potential future outbreaks in sheep.
23/10/2001	Future set out for rural economy after FMD Rural Development Minister sets out way forward for rural economy in wake of Foot and Mouth.
15/07/2002	Foot and Mouth inquiry published Royal Society of Edinburgh publishes its inquiry into last year's FMD outbreak.
16/07/2002	Royal Society Foot and Mouth report Royal Society publishes report into dealing with outbreaks of epidemic disease amongst livestock.
22/07/2002	FMD Lessons Learned Inquiry report Minister welcomes inquiry report into Foot and Mouth outbreak.
06/08/2002	Foot and Mouth impact case studies Case studies cover tourism, transport and agri-food sectors, as well as four rural communities.



Appendix 2

The Contributors

Unedited Assessments

The Contributors

Ross Finnie MSP	Minister for Environment and Rural Development (LibDem)
Allan Wilson MSP	Labour Deputy Environment Minister
Robin Harper MSP	Scottish Green Party
Fiona McLeod MSP	Deputy Environment Spokesperson, SNP
Nora Radcliffe MSP	Environment Spokesperson, Scottish Liberal Democrats
John Scott MSP	Environment Spokesman, Scottish Conservatives
Lloyd Austin	Head of Policy Operations, RSPB Scotland
Kevin Dunion	Chief Executive Friends of the Earth Scotland (until February 2003)
Dave Morris	Director, Ramblers' Association Scotland
Jessica Pepper	Parliamentary Officer, Scottish Environment LINK
Simon Pepper	Director, WWF Scotland
Steve Sankey	CEO, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Ross Finnie MSP Minister for Environment and Rural Development (LibDem)

Section 1: Sustainability

The Scottish Executive made the challenging commitment back in 1999 to integrate sustainable development into all Government policies. In 2002, Sustainable Development Indicators were published, providing an essential benchmark for assessing progress made in policies over the long-term. Priority has been placed on tackling resource use, energy and travel. In the 2002 Spending Review, all spending divisions had to direct their spending contribution to sustainable development. Significant progress has undoubtedly been made in the first four years, with the level of transparency greatly improved and priorities established against which future Executives can and must be held to account. However, the challenge for the next and indeed all future Executives must be to embed even more effectively the process by which environmental issues inform public policy making. Embedding sustainability into government thinking through Strategic Environmental Assessment, for example, will make the policy process more open and can identify adverse environmental impacts before they happen.

Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act was a flagship bill of the first Parliament. The potential benefits of community ownership have been demonstrated time and again. The most recent community to charge of their affairs was Amhuinnsuidhe on Harris in February 2003. The task for Scottish Natural Heritage and the new Parliament relating to land reform will be to ensure that the code of responsible access is delivered and promoted to offer clarity and encourage people to enjoy Scotland's countryside and wilderness. With this Act, and the creation of two new National Parks, Scotland's natural landscapes have been recognised as a unique and invaluable asset for native and visitor alike to enjoy

Section 3: Waste and Recycling

The National Waste Plan and associated Area Waste Plans were launched in February 2003. Tackling historical problems in waste management and recycling in Scotland is not a simple or inexpensive task. However, the National Waste Plan – and the Executive's commitment of £230m over the next 3 years – is an ideal base for progress over the next two decades, increasing the level of recycling and composting of municipal waste to 55%. The challenge for the new Parliament in achieving this target will be four-fold:

- ensuring that kerbside recycling is widely available
 - waste should be seen as a resource, requiring a significant mind set change
 - markets are stimulated and developed for recycled products
- the growth in waste levels linked to economic activity is halted.

Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection)

Our tough new Air Quality Strategy has stricter objectives than the rest of UK. The focus is now concentrating on delivery. The Water Environment And Water Services Act is a major piece of environmental legislation, with Scotland leading the way across Europe in implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. The potential in this progressive legislation will be realised through sensible implementation, improving management and conservation of Scotland's waters on a catchment basis. The Executive's commitment of £1.8bn in modernising Scotland's water and sewerage system is delivering significant environmental – as well as health – benefits now, with more to come in the future.

Section 5: Energy

In 1999, there was no target for the amount of energy generated from renewables. We are now well on our way to meeting the 18% target set for 2006 and, in recognition of the massive potential of Scotland's renewable energy resource, the Executive is looking at a target of 40% of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020. However, it will be important that the next Parliament and Executive maintain pressure on the UK Government to deliver an improved national grid and genuine commitment to reassure potential investors that renewable energy will receive long term support. Meanwhile, the Executive has also made good progress in eradicating the scourge of fuel poverty. The challenge will be in maintaining progress in tackling the most intractable elements of the housing stock in the next 5-10 years.

Section 6: Transport

The Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 has given a framework for improved transport delivery across Scotland. New rail tracks have been laid in Edinburgh and trams are to be reintroduced. The rail network is set to undergo great expansion in the next decade, to the Borders, through Clackmannanshire and between Airdrie and Bathgate. With much of the preparatory work already done or close to completion, the challenge for the next Parliament and Executive will be to ensure that work is taken forward in time and on budget. Grants from the Executive have transferred over 21 million lorry miles from Scotland's roads to rail and canals.

Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation

Stricter penalties for wildlife crime were introduced as part of the Criminal Justice Bill. This has addressed the concern that wildlife crime was seen as somehow unimportant in the criminal justice system. The challenge for the next Parliament will be to develop and pass the Nature Conservation Bill to protect our biodiversity and guarantee the sustainable management of designated natural heritage land.

Allan Wilson MSP

Scottish Labour Party (Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development)

Section 1: Sustainability

Sustainable development has been placed by the Prime Minister and the First Minister at the heart of Government and Executive policy. Sustainable development is the basis of the Treasury Spending Review and the Scottish Budget and sits at the core of our spending priorities.

We ally this to environmental justice for individuals and communities, and the FM personally took that commitment to Johannesburg.

Because sustainable development cuts across every portfolio, the minister who leads on it is the First Minister. We believe this sends the right message.

Labour is fully committed to sustainable development because we recognise that sustainable development and social justice are inextricably linked.

All Bills before the Parliament have to include a statement on their relevance to sustainability – this system could be enhanced and improved.

All spending proposals have to be assessed against how they contribute to sustainable development.

The Executive has undertaken a sustainability audit by portfolio and has explicitly stated that sustainable development is not an optional extra. In changing the way large organisations think and operate, the Executive has taken on a huge leadership commitment and recognises that progress may be fast in some areas and slow in others. But the commitment in accepting that leadership challenge should not be underestimated.

Sustainability has become a major aim for curriculum development in schools and in the F&HE sector.

Sustainability indicators have been developed and are used to assess progress.

Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism

The historic Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 is one of Labour's proudest achievements in the Scottish Parliament. The Parliament created statutory public rights of access to land for recreational and other purposes and in doing so,

opened up Scotland for the people. The Parliament has also had a potentially huge impact on sustainable and responsible land management and use through giving crofting communities the right to buy the land they work.

The creation of National Parks in Scotland ties land access, tourism and education, and as part of this commitment, Labour has ensured that resources will be made available for the completion of a core path network covering 15,000km.

Labour's aim for farming and forestry is that both sectors should be sustainable. The Scottish Executive holds 40% of Scotland's forests through the Forestry Commission and we are proud that all these forests have been independently assessed and certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council as being sustainably managed.

The Labour-led Executive has published a Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture which places sustainable development at the heart of agriculture policy, while recognising that it is not possible to change everything that we might want to change overnight. Labour policy is based on the promotion of sustainable farming to sustain fragile communities and enhance the environment.

The Executive has also published an action plan on organic farming, to reduce the impact of agrichemicals on our environment and to reduce the number of food-miles travelled by organic produce consumed in Scotland

Labour piloted the Water Services & Water Environment Bill through the Parliament to ensure a sustainable future for Scotland's water resource, to tackle pollution, abstraction and flooding. This Bill takes sustainable development as its foundation, with due emphasis on consultation, partnership and integration.

————— Section 3: Waste and Recycling —————

Labour has taken a brave lead in establishing a National Waste Strategy ahead of the rest of the UK and recognises that resource use and waste in Scotland is too high and is not sustainable.

We have adopted the National Waste Strategy - the first part of the UK to adopt such a national plan. As a result local authorities, enterprise agencies, waste producers and the waste industry will work together to reduce waste.

We have invested in work to develop new markets to get the most out of the recycling market and funded a major facility in Glasgow for recycling household waste.

We have consulted on meeting tough targets to reduce waste sent to landfill under the EC Landfill Directive and have developed an innovative scheme to allow local authorities to trade landfill permits.

We have devoted an additional £16.5 million in grant-in-aid for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to help it implement European Directives, such as the Landfill Directive, which will mean stricter controls on landfill sites and the Water Framework Directive, which will safeguard and improve Scotland's rivers, lochs and coastal waters.

We have awarded a £3 million grant from the Strategic Waste Fund, distributed between local authorities for recycling and composting projects. From April 2001, the fund has a further £50 million (over three years) for local authorities to help implement their Area Waste Plans. It also has £400,000 from April 2002 (over two years) available to other bodies to promote sustainable waste management practices.

Labour knows, of course, that careless use of natural resources is not sustainable and through partnerships with local authorities and the UK Government is seeking to make waste reduction and then recycling the cheaper option.

————— Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection) —————

Labour is committed to protecting our environment by reducing pollution through effective regulation and management. This includes supporting SEPA in its work of regulating emissions to the air and water through Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and through recourse to the courts where necessary. In the year to March 2002 SEPA's core funding was increased by over 35%, demonstrating Labour's commitment to tackling pollution and protecting our environment.

The Water Environment & Water Services (Scotland) Act has brought integrated river catchment management plans onto the statute book. This will protect our rivers, lochs, groundwaters and coastal water from poor planning and from polluting discharges. We have also invested in tackling agricultural run-off – a major source of nutrient enrichment in our water resources.

We have instituted a National Air Quality Strategy to tackle local air quality issues and are committed to reducing climate change gases through energy efficiency measures and investment in the future through renewable generation.

Record investment in public transport and £20 million extra for cycling and walking initiatives demonstrate that we understand the importance of reducing car dependence – particularly in cities – in achieving clean air for everyone.

Labour set up the Scottish Coastal Forum to foster integrated coastal zone management and better protect our coasts and inshore waters and we are committed to sustainable fisheries management through reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, protecting our seas, and the communities who depend on fish for their livelihood.

Section 5: Energy

Energy is one of the three key aspects of sustainable development identified by the Executive, and has been a consistent theme in Labour's approach to sustainability. We recognise that a just and prosperous society has energy needs, and those needs have to be met.

As part of meeting our sustainable development commitments the Labour Party in Scotland is committed to reducing energy usage, to making usage more effective and to increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources.

To improve the quality of life of some of our most vulnerable communities, and to reduce the amount of energy going to waste, Labour has ensured that the Scottish Executive has invested heavily in home energy-efficiency measures for those in receipt of certain income-related benefits. The Warm Deal has improved the energy efficiency of 137,000 homes by 2001-2 and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 42,000 tonnes annually.

Labour has ensured the introduction of new Scottish Building Standards to ensure that all new construction work is energy efficient – the average dwelling should be 25% more energy efficient as a result. As an Executive we have insisted on improved environmental management in the public estate, ensuring greater energy efficiency in the NHS, prisons, and Executive buildings.

In addition to reducing energy waste, we have invested in the *Do a little, change a lot* advertising campaign to encourage people to think about their energy use.

The Labour-led executive has invested significant sums in renewable energy research. We have established a Marine Energy Test Centre in Orkney to work on harnessing the enormous potential energy resource of Scotland's seas and coasts and the Scottish Renewable Energy Grant scheme will invest £3.7 million over three years in householder and community groups' renewable energy projects.

Finally, we are consulting on whether a target of 40% of energy from renewables by 2020 is technically feasible; our responsible and realistic approach to sustainable development means that we are investing in getting it right, by understanding the technological challenges and making sure that they are met.

Section 6: Transport

Labour are fully committed to a sustainable transport policy and have committed substantial resources towards this aim. We set out in our Transport Delivery Report, *Scotland's Transport - Delivering Improvements*, a comprehensive vision for transport built on the principles of sustainable development. We are backing this up with significant investment: spending on public transport is set to increase by 70% between 2002-3 and 2005-6.

Key priorities include:

- increasing capacity and services on the rail network in Scotland - encouraging greater use; reducing congestion, stimulating the local economy and improving access to services;
- developing an effective, modern 21st century public transport system for Edinburgh;
- encouraging the use of buses by more of the Scottish population and tackling social exclusion;
- providing travellers with access to customised information - better quality, more accessible services;
- making it easier to use public transport in Scotland, helping everyone to make full use of public transport and reach key services.

We have already made significant progress in this area:

- In the four years from 2000 to 2004 the Scottish Executive has allocated over £21 million to cycling, walking and safer streets
- Public Transport Improvements: The Public Transport Fund, set up in March 1999, has now allocated £235 million to help deliver over 100 local projects from the Highlands and Islands to Dumfries & Galloway.
- Freight Facilities Grant Scheme: we have made awards that will transfer a substantial section of freight traffic off Scotland's roads to rail and water. The direct ferry service between Rosyth and Zeebrugge has received an award of £11 million.
- In December 2002, the Scottish Executive announced a major investment package of new trains, drivers and ticketing facilities for Scotland's rail passenger network. The initial £5.4 million package is the result of close co-operation between the Scottish Executive, the SRA and ScotRail, National Express and is likely to result in £100m worth of new trains.

—————Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation—————

Labour has made wildlife crime an imprisonable offence, meaning that the police will now have the power of arrest over suspects so they won't have the opportunity to destroy evidence. Making wildlife crimes imprisonable also increases the range of sentencing options available and sends a strong message to those who commit these crimes.

Labour has brought forward a draft Nature Conservation Bill which is intended to establish a new duty on Scottish ministers and all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity.

We are committed to ensuring the preservation of Scotland's and the world's biodiversity through a range of measures, including combating climate change – arguably the greatest threat to biodiversity, proper integrated planning procedures and through our wider commitment to sustainable development. In February 2003 the Scottish Biodiversity Forum published strategy proposals *Biodiversity Matters* taking forward our pledges on biodiversity, and aiming at getting protection and conservation strategy right. Scottish Natural Heritage has invested £20 million in biodiversity related work in this financial year.

Robin Harper MSP

Scottish Green Party

—————Section 1: Sustainability—————

I think without any doubt the water environment bill represents the greatest achievement. It is going to have long term benefits for the Scottish environment. It is going to put us ahead of the rest of Europe, not that is necessarily a good thing because when you lag behind you can benefit from other people's experience. I think in terms of attendant benefits from flood control and from water quality control, benefits to wildlife and a general enlightenment of all those who took part, I think it is a well crafted bill. It is still a bit poor on flood control. I would have liked to have seen some kind of overall body set up for flood control for the whole of Scotland and I think that as time rolls they will find that they need a central focus on this.

Overall, sustainability policy has all been a bit of curate's egg. Take the national parks. It was loose legislation and there wasn't sufficient guidance in it. You have a thoroughly good national park for Loch Lomond and a seriously flawed one for the Cairngorms: the wrong site of park, the wrong ethos and the wrong management system. I challenged Highland Council on the principles they were going to adopt and they didn't really reply. I think they are under the impression the basic principle that, when there is a conflict between environmental and developmental concerns that the environment should prevail, doesn't apply to them and they'll push on regardless.

In terms of the next four years, the one thing we are worst at at the moment is recycling and waste minimisation. There has been nothing but words on this all the way back to 1990. Midlothian has just slipped back to 4% recycling; Edinburgh from 6 to 5% recycling. 4 years of working on their area waste management plans, looking at all the things they need to do, and they haven't put any of their new found knowledge into practice at all. Those, like Edinburgh, who have gone down the wheelie bin route haven't helped. There's lots of evidence suggesting that enormous bins encourage people to create more waste, not less.

—————Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism—————

The land reform legislation has moved things forward. It is not going to produce a sudden change in land ownership but it will produce change over a period of time and that is the best way to achieve change. There is so much that could be done in terms of developing genuine green tourism. There is a mark now that hotels can apply for to show that they are conducting their business in an ecologically sound way but more could be done to promote that. An example is a little hotel near Forres where the ambition of the owner there is to say virtually which nest their eggs came from and which cow produced the milk for the cornflakes and these are things that will be of interest to any tourist to give them a feeling that really are linked into the local landscape and community. There is no excuse for any hotel in the highlands to serve milk in ghastly little plastic tubs.

—————Section 3: Waste and Recycling—————

We have a strategy coming but it is four years late. The Executive should have been able to sit down and work out a framework strategy within months and given councils a list of things to be getting on with straight away like allowing householders to separate waste. I am not aware of any particularly successful waste minimisation projects apart from what is EU law under the packaging directives and nearly all the work that has been done in this area has been done at local level by voluntary organisations like the Midlothian business environmental network which has done tremendous work. But these organisations are facing tremendous problems with their funding following the removal of category C landfill tax credits and the Executive is having to put in an emergency funding package to deal with this before these voluntary organisations start to lay off staff.

—————Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection)—————

I feel that the Executive and SEPA could be taking a more proactive and strict attitude. The whole business with the incinerator in Carntyne makes it clear that, irrespective of how efficiently an incinerator is run – all machinery is liable to break down and the difference here is that if your incinerator is in the middle of a residential area and it breaks down a lot of people are very directly affected.

Maybe SEPA was right in their original approach of working with people and encouraging compliance and seeking to educate people about environmental regulations, but I think we have got to the time now where our courts need to be encouraged to see how serious breaches in environmental regulations are. Slapping a £2000 fine on an enormous company for a serious breach of regulations is not acceptable any longer. We need to gear everything up and achieve higher standards and protect the environment better by a more vigorous attitude to environmental law breaking.

As far as our cities are concerned, air quality is also about transport and I have some serious issues with transport policy.

Section 5: Energy

I don't want to sound too mean but the approach seems to be "do a little to change a lot" in this area and I think government could be doing more to speed up wave and tidal research. It also seems to take a year or two to come to decisions which, if they were being committed about it, would be made in months. To take one example, we have Stephen Salter, a brilliant thinker and his wave tank designs are acknowledged to be the leading in the world. But when Edinburgh University wanted more space the loan he had had of space was taken away. Edinburgh was a centre for wave power research.

In terms of the next four years, there has to be an agreement with the electricity distributors and Westminster and the electricity companies to strengthen the Grid right throughout Scotland. It is a chicken and egg situation and the decisions have to be made soon. There is no point in investing in wind farms if you don't have the Grid and there is no point building up the Grid unless you are pretty certain there is the commercial interest in building the wind farms and the wave energy stations. We need a short term and long term commitment and plan from the Executive and UK government to strengthening the National Grid to prove that they are taking this development seriously. In terms of wind farms, I am relatively satisfied that the Executive has been allowing the development of wind farms and not getting in the way of their roll out.

I haven't commented on the lack of guidelines to build better buildings. I was really shocked when we passed a Buildings Bill that it was just about regulation. There was no room in it anywhere to add on anything about sustainability whatsoever. I have been campaigning hard on energy efficiency in buildings. It is all very well to provide people with boilers and insulation so they are nice and warm. The research that I commissioned suggested that the social aims are being well achieved and there are undeniable improvements to people's quality of living, but in terms of the savings in terms of greenhouse gases things are likely to be pretty static because people who once heated one room in their homes inefficiently now heat all of them efficiently. We need Scandinavian levels of insulation in new buildings and I don't see much of an excuse not to have them in all buildings. In the next parliament, if I see no sign of it coming from elsewhere, I would wish to produce a very short bill which will be just one amendment to the relevant planning act which will say that all houses at the point of sale must have an energy rating done as part of the selling process, provided by the seller for the sake of the purchaser so they can know how much it is going to cost them to heat the house in a year, and it must be expressed in pounds shillings and pence not some obscure rating which nobody understands.

—————Section 6: Transport—————

It is a complete mess – the priorities are completely upside down. The M74 should never have attracted the money but I suppose that is water under the bridge now. And I don't think the Aberdeen bypass should have been accepted either. It is appalling the Executive has given into a political lobby. It is Aberdeen saying "everyone else has a bypass we want one or we'll be left out". It wasn't judged properly on merits at all. I know Aberdeen fairly well and there are so many opportunities which the city is beginning to seize to improve local public transport and all they need to do is take those opportunities forward.

The fact that Waverley station in Edinburgh which really is the hub of the whole railway now looks as if the whole project to upgrade it has been postponed is a desperately bad decision. The Borders railway, considering the advanced stage of planning it has already reached, the Executive could have the project going ahead in months if they allowed the money to be spent, but instead they have placed it well down their list and are refusing to see the long term overall benefits for the people of Edinburgh and the Borders, and also for forestry and farming where it could be a significant heavy goods transport solution. There is a real lack of vision where this project is concerned. I believe it is the only area of Britain of its size without a railway and I would actually put the airport links a bit further down the list of priorities instead, even though I am very much in favour of them. You have to look at people's habits. Those who traditionally drive to Edinburgh airport are now in the habit and won't change. The airport is easily accessible from the road system from central Scotland, Edinburgh and Fife. I don't think you are going to get them onto trains. If they go by train they will drive to the station anyway and there is no parking problem at the airport. As the journeys are over a relatively short distance, there is not much difference between driving 5 miles into Edinburgh

to catch a train and driving 20 miles to the airport. I think the same level of investment – and it is a horrific amount involved in building the airport link because it includes building a tunnel – should instead go on a project like the Borders railway which will have a host of long term beneficial effects. And, of course, the airport link is all based on the idea that there is going to be more and more air transport. We should be trying to reduce air transport by making the railway system competitive to London and to Paris and all the technology is there to do it and most people travelling to London are doing it on some kind of business or other. My experience is that going down to London by air, which I occasionally have to do, is 4 to 5 hours completely wasted. If I travel by train I can read and I can work for almost the whole journey, very little time is wasted. I can get up and move around and have a choice of food and it is much more comfortable even in second class.

——Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation——

Promises promises. I cannot understand why they have failed to make room on the timetable for this legislation. I can't think that a wildlife crime act to bring us into line with England would have taken very much time. The other failing of course is that the councils haven't yet all completed their biodiversity action plans. The last time I checked on this, 6 or 7 months ago, about half of the councils still hadn't completed their action plans and I think 3 had made almost no progress at all. The plans that I have seen like the ones for Edinburgh and Dumfries and Galloway are absolutely excellent, but they rely on far too few people to make them work. It is all very well to produce the action plan but where are the resources? I see no sign from the executive so far that they will provide the resources to back the findings of the biodiversity action plans. I have this awful feeling that many of them will simply gather dust on shelves.

Fiona McLeod MSP Deputy Environment Spokesperson, SNP

——Section 1: Sustainability——

Well, at least sustainability is being talked about but not a lot more than that. Look at the tests laid out in the "Building a Sustainable Scotland" document and tell me any that are happening. The future must be about less talk and more action.

——Section 3: Waste and Recycling——

Finally we have recognition of the urgency of the situation with the 2002 funding. But we really have had three years of dithering – a classic example of a lot of pilots with nothing taking off, nothing being rolled out. Don't forget that the landfill tax increases were set at UK level. The first priority of the next parliament must be to ensure that kerbside collection for recycling becomes reality everywhere.

——Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection)——

The most positive achievement was in the Executive accepting the changes it did to the Water Environment and Water Services Bill on wetlands and sustainable flood management. But there is still no national strategy for sustainable flood management. The WEWS Bill was not all good by any means. The Executive told everyone that its funding of the implementation of the Bill was a key element in delivering sustainable management of our water resources, but the financial memorandum that accompanied it was severely criticised. The next parliament must ensure that tougher action is taken to tackle pollution and the degradation of our environment.

——Section 5: Energy——

The inclusion of hydro power in the Renewables Order Scotland was a significant achievement of the parliament as far as energy is concerned. But to fully support and develop the enormous potential of renewable energy sources the Scottish Parliament must complete its powers in this area by transferring those that are reserved to Westminster.

Nora Radcliffe MSP Environment Spokesperson, Scottish Liberal Democrats

——Section 1: Sustainability——

The Executive's commitment to its own building programme, for instance in investing in schools and social housing, being carried out in a sustainable way has been the most important achievement in policy terms during the first Parliament. But I am not sure that the Executive was entirely clear in how it went about satisfying itself that its objectives were being met. In building a sustainable future, we now need to see more work on developing new renewable energy technology, encouraging improvements in public transport, setting good environmental standards for buildings, covering such things as insulation, in building regulations.

—————Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism—————

The Land Reform Bill and the creation of National Parks sit together as significant achievements. On the downside, the Cairngorm National Park should have been given planning powers, and the area designated should have matched the SNH recommendation. The next parliament must be willing to allocate a larger budget for land management through the Rural Stewardship Scheme.

—————Section 3: Waste and Recycling—————

I was very encouraged by the Area Waste Plans created by the local authorities feeding into a National Waste Strategy. While the planning phase was necessary, action needs to follow – and the ‘action’ bit is just beginning. I now want to see a real drive to persuade the public to waste less and recycle more – and a significant extension of kerbside collection of recyclables.

—————Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection)—————

In terms of achievements I would highlight the Water Environment and Water Services Act and the funding being found for the setting up of the Pollution Inventory. I feel that not much was done on air quality. Perhaps that is understandable as our cities are nowhere near as bad as some. In the months and years to come, we need to see full and enthusiastic implementation of the WEWS provisions alongside continued replacement and refurbishment of the public water supply infrastructure.

—————Section 5: Energy—————

The ‘warm homes’ initiative that saw central heating being installed in people’s homes, alongside draught-proofing and proper insulation, was a real step forward in energy conservation. I also believe the setting of challenging targets for renewables and the creation of the Intermediate Technology Institute to move development along were also important achievements. The next parliament should get things moving on wave and tidal power; support investment in refurbishing aging hydro plants and raise building standards to improve energy efficiency. I also think it’s time to press Westminster to upgrade the National Grid and look seriously at a sub-sea cable to provide the infrastructure to serve renewable power generation.

—————Section 6: Transport—————

The Transport Act was a particular achievement of the first parliament, but it was also a disappointment in that it ducked the issue of workplace car parking charges. Some road building will still be necessary in the future years, but we have to see more of the transport budget transferred from road into rail improvement. There has to be investment in the Waverley upgrade and in decent Scotland to London and the Channel Tunnel links. No-one should be flying from Edinburgh or Glasgow to London.

—————Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation—————

There has been a raft of achievements including the Nature of Scotland consultation, the creation of bio-diversity action planning and the wildlife crime amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill. I am disappointed that we never got the Nature of Scotland Bill, which must be the priority for wildlife and conservation policy now.

John Scott MSP

Environment Spokesman, Scottish Conservatives

—————Section 1: Sustainability—————

Probably the water environment and water services bill was the greatest achievement. It is just going to have such a long term effect on Scotland’s environment in terms of water quality, and it will also have a, hopefully positive, effect on Scotland’s tourism industry. But it won’t come without expense and that is something which has been totally ignored. There will be huge cost for primary rural industries like farming and forestry.

My disappointment is that it all takes too long to deliver. The entire environmental programme is years behind where it should be. All these policies were started way back in the 90s or before. I clearly remember John Gummer putting forwards these ideas, but it seems to have slipped far down the agenda since then.

—————Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism—————

I cannot see a silver lining to the land reform cloud. Much of the land reform process was unnecessary – if not all of it. I don’t think there was a great need for most of it. Those areas where we were updating legislation, fair enough,

but we seemed to lose sight of what made sense so that we could achieve political objectives which are not going to be of long term benefit to the countryside in my view.

For the next parliament, depending where the agriculture holdings bill ends up, there may be some very important work to be done in terms of repealing parts of it.

————— Section 3: Waste and Recycling —————

The waste strategy that's coming this month will be the most positive achievement in this area but it has been so long in coming. How many years behind is it from where it was first promised? The key point is that this national waste plan was meant to be out last year. I will wait to see whether the goals are implementable. But I can't help remembering that target of recycling of 25% by 2006, I don't think that will happen.

The priority for the next parliament will be to deliver. That said we must move it forward as quickly as we can because we are still at the bottom of the European league table in terms of delivering recycling schemes.

————— Section 5: Energy —————

We should be seeking to reduce greenhouse gases but I am not sure any of the strategies the parliament has heard about are achieving that. For example road traffic growth is increasing and is likely to continue to rise and the ten year transport delivery plan is demonstrably another wish list which is not going to happen not in the way that it is being presented at the moment.

We have to do all we can to support renewables. I am 100% behind that but it has to be suitably sited. We cannot have Scotland covered in thousands of windmills where people don't want them. The second point is that we need to be able to connect them to the national grid which does not exist at the moment so that is the limiting factor. We will need to have a nuclear programme. In terms of CO2 emissions, I do not think we can deliver our Kyoto commitments unless we have nuclear power. But there are huge opportunities for renewable energy and we need to strike a balance between the different sources.

————— Section 6: Transport —————

The most fundamental failure was the lack of ability to deliver any road improvements for the first 2 years of the parliament. The Roads budget was hacked down to nothing and our roads decayed significantly because of that. We lost more than two years of investment after '97. It was after 2000 before anyone started thinking of the roads again. They are wearing out and there is a need for significant amounts of money to be deal with that.

We need to spend more on our railways but there is only so much money to go around so let's be sensible in setting the roads infrastructure as our priority. Obviously given my constituency, I am interested in low cost air travel as well, but I realise that's not hugely environmentally friendly.

Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation

We have done nothing about this. The fact remains that it is easier to come up to Scotland and steal wildlife, birds eggs and these sorts of things, than to commit such crimes in England. The bill which was going to bring us in line with England hasn't been brought forward yet. That legislation needs to be updated. We have had four years of the Scottish parliament, I don't know how many bills will have been passed by the end of March but we certainly have some totally irrelevant ones. While this may not be the bill of the maximum importance to Scotland, it would certainly have been more important for the Executive to devote its time to it than, for instance, the abolition of fur farming.

Lloyd Austin

Head of Policy Operations, RSPB Scotland

————— Section 1: Sustainability —————

RSPB Scotland has been impressed by the fine words on sustainability, for instance the First Minister's commitment to environmental justice and his chairing of the CSCSS. We have also welcomed the Executive's scrutiny of its spending plans in terms of their sustainability. On the other hand, we were disappointed by the Sustainable Development Forum, the remit for which was unclear, as were its objectives and structure. Too often, the indicators and targets for achieving sustainability were incomplete or absent (although there has been some, slow progress on this including on biodiversity). Overall, policy integration was poor – sustainable development has not taken seriously enough by some parts of the Executive – at least, not in terms of visible policy changes and/or resource allocations.

We now need to see the rhetoric translated into action – with a “beefed up” sustainable development unit (possibly in Executive secretariat), the completion of indicators, the establishment of targets and the imposition of timescales for achieving them. And, the entire ‘machinery’ of the Executive has to really mean it. There must be further

integration through tougher and more transparent scrutiny of sustainable development memoranda attached to Bills. There must be more open and rigorous scrutiny of spending plans (including publication of the changes being made to progress sustainability) and regular examination of sustainable development practices by an appropriate committee of the Parliament, possibly the Audit Committee.

—————Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism—————

Now nearly three years ago, the National Parks (Scotland) Act was one of the Parliament's first achievements, and the subsequent designation of the first two Parks represent a success (although rather muted by the 'fudge' over the Cairngorms Park boundary and planning powers). Other achievements that RSPB Scotland would point to are the fact that access provisions in the Land Reform legislation now recognise conservation concerns, that a Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture was published and that the Executive's tourism strategy recognised importance of environment.

However, there has been a notable failure to turn the good intentions (rhetoric) of the agriculture and tourism strategies into policy changes, the commitment of the required resources or action. In terms of unfinished business, the access code that is such an important part of the Land Reform Act must now address conservation issues. The next Parliament must also triple the agri-environment spend and further reform 'mainstream' agriculture policy through the roll-out of integrated Land Management Contracts.

—————Section 3: Waste and Recycling—————

Insufficient resources for RSPB Scotland to work on this issue and, thus, no informed comment possible.

—————Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection)—————

RSPB Scotland particularly welcomed the inclusion of wetlands and sustainable flood management in the Water Environment and Water Services Act. Now secondary legislation and the River Basin Management Plans must turn the good intentions of the WEWS Act into action.

In terms of the protection of the seas, sustainability was not an over-riding factor in fisheries negotiations and we would call for the next Scottish Executive to genuinely embrace sustainability in its policy on fisheries. We also need a review of legislation affecting the marine environment, and progress on the designation of internationally and nationally important areas – possibly through the imaginative use of the provision for marine National Parks.

—————Section 5: Energy—————

While RSPB Scotland welcomed the increase in targets for renewables, we have been worried by the absence of strategic and spatial plans for on-land and marine wind farms. There has been a failure to invest in the research and development of wave and solar power generation, to develop other forms of renewables and to investigate and minimise their environmental impacts. What we want to see from the next parliament is the development of strategic and spatial plans for windfarms and investment in R&D into wave, solar, etc and ways to minimise their environmental impact.

—————Section 6: Transport—————

Insufficient resources for RSPB Scotland to work on this issue to date and, thus, no informed comment possible.

—————Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation—————

The inclusion of wildlife crime measures in the Criminal Justice Act was a positive achievement, but somewhat overshadowed by the delays in progressing other nature legislation. The publication of a draft nature conservation bill (on 11th March) marks the next step forward but it is unfortunate that this cannot be further progressed until after the election. The collective working on the Expert Working Group on SSSI Reform was a model for preparation of legislative proposals that could be replicated.

RSPB Scotland was also very disappointed by the shortage of resources and training for Wildlife Liaison Officers and Procurators Fiscal to enable the appropriate investigation, deterrence and prosecution of wildlife crimes, but this is balanced by the dedication and commitment of the few specialists there are in this field. Good progress has been made on the designation of terrestrial Natura 2000 sites (although there is still some more to do) but little progress has been made on marine sites.

Within the first year of the new Parliament, we want to see the introduction and real progress of the nature conservation bill. The next Parliament must increase resources for Wildlife Liaison Officers and Procurators Fiscal. There should also be an increase in funding for SNH's site safeguard and management schemes, as well as completion of the Natura 2000 network (terrestrial and marine).

Kevin Dunion

Chief Executive, FoE Scotland until February 2003

—————Section 1: Sustainability—————

I would list a number of achievements in terms of sustainable policy. The first was the First Minister chairing the Cabinet Sub Committee on a sustainable Scotland. The second the spending review requiring Executive departments to indicate what contribution their budget could make to sustainable development priorities and the publishing of those responses warts and all. The third achievement I would highlight was the adoption of indicators and a report on Scottish state of performance against those and the basis of their calculation. Then there was the First Minister's seminal speech on environmental justice and his decision to attend the World Summit on sustainable development. Where policy has not lived up to our hopes was in the fact that the Sustainable Development Forum has been rudderless; there has been a lack of connection between the Cabinet Sub committee members and the Scottish members of the UK Commission. And there has been no strategy to utilise the spending power of the public purse to influence market outcomes or to force ways to overcome the obstacles to sustainable consumption and production. Scotland's politicians must now identify particular initiatives which will make a significant impact and then draw together key players in Scotland to push forward voluntary or regulatory measures to achieve them. Examples might be to seek to achieve a significant improvement in standards of energy efficiency for new housing or stimulation of a Scottish market, and source, for recycled stationery.

—————Section 3: Waste and Recycling—————

I wouldn't point to any particular achievement during the first parliament in waste and recycling. The failure to allow incineration to remain an option in the area waste strategies has been a failing. If they are to make up for the first four years, Scotland's politicians must set a statutory requirement to meet the 25% recycling target, and recognise the cost of implementing household separation and kerbside collection schemes.

—————Section 5: Energy—————

Friends of the Earth Scotland believes the introduction of theSRO was a particular achievement. A climate of encouragement on renewables was created which has stimulated investment. The Garrad Hassan report on Scotland's potential from renewable sources has also encouraged a view that we can accommodate renewable schemes over large parts of Scotland whilst still protecting valuable landscapes and habitats. But we feel it has been a mistake to leave it to large companies to come up with schemes close to market without encouraging greater involvement with communities and small-scale schemes. There has also been a failure to make any headway on problems with upgrading the grid and also the price of grid connection, things that must be a priority for the next Parliament. On top of all that, there was the failure to set a target for cutting CO2 emissions in Scotland.

—————Section 6: Transport—————

The achievements in terms of Transport are in utilising multi modal appraisal studies for central Scotland transport spending and the commitment to stabilising traffic levels at 2001 levels by 2020. Against that, the M74 Northern extension and Aberdeen City bypass were both still backed without a multi modal study. The next Parliament must achieve a greater rebalancing of the transport budget towards public transport investment, coupled with congestion charging for the major cities. Politicians must stop linking plans for economic development with spending on roads

—————Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation—————

Dave Morris

Director, Ramblers' Association Scotland

—————Section 1: Sustainability—————

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of sustainability by the Parliament and Executive?

The decision of the First Minister to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg was a clear signal of personal commitment to sustainable development principles at the top of the Executive.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

The Scottish Parliament failed to provide an effective mechanism to properly scrutinise new legislation for its compatibility with sustainable development objectives.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

The next Scottish Parliament should establish a sustainable development committee as recommended by LINK in 1999.

Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of land reform, land use and tourism by the Parliament and Executive?

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 were major achievements that depended on the establishment of the parliament. The access legislation provides Scotland with a statutory framework for public access to land and water that is probably better than any other European country.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

The reform process of the Common Agricultural Policy has not been integrated with progress in access legislation so that some of the grant support available to farmers is now in direct conflict with the objectives for public access to land .

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

The establishment of new path networks around communities will be critical to the success of the access legislation. The Scottish Executive needs to establish a focal point within the Executive to coordinate the wide variety of public funding sources which are needed to support the network development.

Section 3: Waste and Recycling

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of waste and recycling by the Parliament and Executive?

The recognition that waste disposal and recycling are major environmental issues culminating in the setting of the local authority targets in 2002.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Not enough pressure has been applied to manufacturers to reduce excessive packaging.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Policy guidance should be issued to local authorities making it clear that there should be a presumption in future against the creation of any more landfill sites.

Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection)

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of air and water quality by the Parliament and Executive?

The passage of the Water Environment and Water Services Bill has provided a sound framework for the future management of water resources and the incorporation of recommendations from LINK, especially in relation to the protection of watland habitats, was very welcome.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

There was insufficient attention given to the control of air pollution, especially that caused by vehicular activity and agricultural activities.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

The environment brief should be separated from rural development and be recognised as a cabinet level post in its own right, with climate change responsibilities a key part of the post.

Section 5: Energy

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of energy by the Parliament and Executive?

The recent decision to concentrate future development effort on renewable energy sources rather than nuclear options.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Insufficient attention has been given to the impact of windfarms and hydro schemes on the landscape.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Much clearer guidance is needed on the best locations for windfarms and hydro schemes, with preference given to small scale developments near to communities rather than large scale developments in relatively wild areas. An overall energy strategy is needed.

Section 6: Transport

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of transport by the Parliament and Executive?

The Executive's support for the Physical Activity Task Force strategy and the strong commitment from Ministers to the principles underpinning healthy life styles will have a significant influence on attitudes to travel as people start to accept that the motor car should not rule our lives.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Too much acceptance of new road building.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

There needs to be a general acceptance of the principle that, wherever you live, there will be connections to adjacent communities, by foot and cycle, which are separated from vehicular traffic. Transport policy and resources need to be much more strongly committed to the walking and cycling strategies in the next Parliament.

Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of wildlife and conservation by the Parliament and Executive?

New measures on wildlife crime in the criminal justice legislation.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Continuing failure to tackle overgrazing in the uplands, especially by excessive numbers of red deer.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

New habitat protection measures are needed in the uplands, linked to landscape and biodiversity needs as well as river management. Problems of downstream flooding, related to climate change issues, need to be tackled through improved watershed management. A ministerial lead is needed for this work.

Jessica Pepper

Parliamentary Officer, Scottish Environment LINK

Please note: these comments do not represent those of the LINK network, but are informed by Jessica's working knowledge of LINK.

Section 1: Sustainability

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of sustainability by the Parliament and Executive?

The progress that has been made by both must be acknowledged. However, without underestimating the significance of progress on the land reform package, Scotland's first piece of sustainable development legislation – the Water Environment and Water Services Bill stands out. Rather than being regulatory, the Bill is forward thinking. It puts the people and communities who depend on the well being of the environment at the heart of it and is integrated in its approach.

The First Minister's personal commitment to mainstreaming sustainable development, illustrated by action such as establishing and chairing the Cabinet Sub Committee on Sustainable Scotland and attending the World Summit on Sustainable Development was strongly welcomed by many including the LINK network. Yet the gap between rhetoric and delivery remains.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

There are various examples of the gap between rhetoric and delivery. In his 'green' speech, Jack McConnell stated that the Sustainable Development Forum was up and running. In fact it took months to have its first meeting and after the second, the enthusiasm of participants is not being matched by that of the Executive. Although there are still great aspirations, unfortunately currently it is a source of frustration to many of those involved.

In terms of process, sustainable development is still marginalised. In legislation, for example, a statement of the impact upon sustainable development must be contained within the policy memorandum that accompanies any Executive Bill. Currently, this is treated as a tick box exercise with some Bills being introduced to Parliament with the statement 'The Bill has no impact on sustainable development'.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Ensure the Scottish Parliament holds the Executive to account.

Rhetoric is great, but without action is meaningless. The First Minister has indicated an intention to lead and Parliament must make sure that the Executive does so, by monitoring and auditing its progress.

It could do this with –

1. A committee, the Audit Committee perhaps, doing sustainable development auditing on legislation and policy that goes through parliament.
2. A statutory obligation for the Executive to lay in front of Parliament, and debate, an annual statement on progress.

Reinstate a minister for the environment rather than give it a bit part in an overcrowded and sometimes conflicting portfolio. Scotland needs the environment to be represented on an equal footing, alongside social and economic matters, at cabinet.

Complete a sustainable development strategy for Scotland, that co-ordinates all government action; is accompanied by a full set of indicators including global footprint and mainstreams sustainable development.

—————Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism—————

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of land reform, land use and tourism by the Parliament and Executive?

Progress on the **land reform** legislative package has been welcomed by LINK members. Most recently, establishing a statutory right of responsible access to land and water.

On **agriculture**, the organics action plan has been a positive development but would probably not have happened without the pressure from Robin Harper MSP through his Members Bill on organic targets. Perhaps the most positive achievement in this area was the setting up of a group on agriculture, involving a wide range of stakeholders, and the outcome of that working group – the *Custodians of Change* report which is comprehensive and forward looking.

Forestry - The publication of the Scottish Forestry Strategy that highlights sustainable development as its overarching principle has been welcomed, but the Scottish Executive signing up to the UK Forest Partnership for Action marks particular progress. This, amongst other things, includes a commitment to; *the establishment and management of protected areas, to ensure that all ancient woodland is adequately protected.*

Tourism - Reflecting one of the key recommendations of a LINK Tourism Audit, the creation of a Ministerial post for Tourism was well received by organisations within the LINK network.

In terms of **planning**, the *Strategic Review of Planning* and *Getting involved in Planning* have been welcomed.

For the **cultural environment**, perhaps the most positive achievement has been the creation of the Historic Environment Council – an example of the Parliament listening to stakeholders and reacting accordingly. In this case, redressing the void to be created in abolishing Ancient Monuments Board and Historic Buildings Council through the Public Bodies and Public Appointments Bill.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Agriculture – although the Executive set up the working group of stakeholders that produced *Custodians of Change*, the Ministers reaction to it has been extremely conservative and disappointing. It has been welcomed, but little has been done about it. The Parliament has had few opportunities to hold the Executive to account on agricultural policy, and has not been particularly pro-active in doing so.

On **forestry** - although the strategy's overarching principle of sustainable development is good, the detail is not so great. Also, the Executive has failed to develop indicators for the strategy along the lines of those that have been developed as the UK Forestry Indicators.

Planning - The consultation has been welcomed, however the Executive has failed to get to grips with third party rights of appeal. This means there remains an imbalance in the planning system.

Tourism - Scotland markets itself on the quality of its natural and cultural environment. Yet the Executive's tourism strategy neglected its value and importance to the industry. Sadly, the outcomes of the parliamentary inquiry on tourism also lacked acknowledgement of the significance of our environment for the well being of the industry. Indeed, the natural environment was barely mentioned, far from it being acknowledged that its well being underpins the long term viability of the whole industry or recommendations to safeguard its well being.

A particular failing in regard to the **cultural environment** has been the virtual exclusion of the historic environment, our cultural heritage, from the culture strategy.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Agriculture – The Parliament could do more to hold the Executive to account, particularly in this area where there is a need for more transparency in the development of policy. The Executive should be more forward looking, inclusive and positive in its approach – taking tax payers interests into account alongside the interests of the industry. There is a need to revise upwards support for rural development.

Forestry – Introduce incentives for land managers to gain certification through the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme. The Scottish Parliament should lead by example with procurement, and ensure that all other public bodies are buying timber products that are certified under the UK Woodland Assurance or Forest Stewardship Council scheme and produced in Scotland.

Tourism - The role, value and impact upon the environment must be factored into the evaluation of and forward planning for this vital industry.

Cultural heritage interests in LINK feel the Executive should be building capacity for more meaningful consultation with stakeholders, as advocated by Karen Gillon MSP in the Stage 3 Debate on the Public Bodies Bill.

On **planning**, the Scottish Executive should put more resources into strategic planning, review the system to redress imbalance and incorporate third party rights of appeal.

Section 3: Waste and Recycling

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of waste and recycling by the Parliament and Executive?

The National Waste Strategy.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

That it has taken this long to develop.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

The Waste Strategy should be implemented and significant funds directed into doing so. The emphasis should not just be on recycling but also on **reducing** the amount of waste that we produce. In terms of recycling, the facilities and infrastructure needs to be significantly improved to make it easier for people to recycle their waste.

Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection)

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of air and water quality by the Parliament and Executive?

On **water**, the transposition of the Water Framework Directive that will benefit people across Scotland.

Development of an **aquaculture** strategy.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Scotland has not yet committed to targets on emission reduction. Although committed to a climate change strategy, there is no designated goal for emission reduction. The Scottish Executive claims Scotland will make an 'equitable contribution' to the UK target under the Kyoto protocol, yet has consistently declined to state what that will be. Without a goal, how can we know where we are going and determine how we will get there?

Marine legislation is currently fragmented and piecemeal, with plenty of potential for unstrategic development and conflict in our oceans. As so graphically illustrated recently, our poor resource management continues to impact upon those directly dependent on them.

The **aquaculture** industry continues to develop in an ad hoc and unregulated environment without even knowing whether the carrying capacity of the industry has been exceeded.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

The Scottish Executive needs to come clean and state how we will play our part in **emission reduction**, what the target will be and exactly how we will meet it.

On **water**, the primary legislation is sound. Yet this is only the beginning, it is hoped that implementation and the secondary legislation will match the positive start.

The legislation that covers our **marine** areas needs to be overhauled and consolidated. With increasing and sometimes competing demands upon them, Scotland's seas need a champion. We need an Oceans Minister.

Section 5: Energy

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of energy by the Parliament and Executive?

The Executive is to be commended on setting and consulting upon more ambitious **renewable energy** targets for Scotland.

The Executive, and Ross Finnie in particular should be commended for resisting further **nuclear power** developments in Scotland.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

There is no strategic approach to **renewable energy** developments. Therefore these will continue to be ad hoc, generating confusion and conflict. Not enough is being invested in the potential of this burgeoning industry.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Invest in and involve stakeholders in working on a strategic plan for a diverse **renewable energy** mix, in order to make the potential work for Scotland's people and environment.

To reduce emissions, the focus must not be on renewable energy alone. It must be a twin track approach – with a reduction in our **energy consumption** along with a shift to alternative sustainable sources.

Section 6: Transport

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of transport by the Parliament and Executive?
(no response)

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Scottish Executive has continued to invest in large road building projects with far less emphasis on developing alternative and integrated public transport options.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

This balance must be redressed with serious investment in integrated public transport giving people a viable alternative to using the car. The environmental implications for commitments to increasing air transport must be considered.

Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of wildlife and conservation by the Parliament and Executive?

The National Parks legislation has been one of the most positive achievements of the Parliament. The establishment, particularly of Scotland's first national park, has been welcomed by everyone involved. All the recognition, such as the designation of further SACs, that value and invest in Scotland's precious natural and cultural heritage must be welcomed.

The progress on wildlife crime legislation in the Criminal Justice Bill is also welcome.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

The lack of progress on nature conservation legislation – moving forward the proposals contained within the *Nature of Scotland* - has been particularly disappointing, especially when the proposals were uncontroversial and met widespread support when they were published.

The political debacle that surrounded the designation of the Cairngorms National Park was one of the Parliament's most damaging exercises. A parliamentary committee forced to go against their own expressed will, for fear of losing the opportunity to create the long awaited national park in the Cairngorms. Rather than embracing the concerns of the Transport and Environment Committee on planning powers, or the results of Parliamentary, Executive and SNH consultations on boundary – the Minister bulldozed through the designation generating unease and disappointment – even within the Chamber itself. The reverberations of this will continue to be felt for some time.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Bring forward the legislation that was consulted upon in the Nature of Scotland as a matter of urgency.

Include the Highland Perthshire area, that was excluded without justification, in the Cairngorms National Park. Review how well the existing arrangements for National Parks are working and look forward to the next potential designations, including a marine national park.

Extend provisions to protect against wildlife crime to cover international wildlife trade being carried out in Scotland.

—————Section 1: Sustainability—————

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of sustainability by the Parliament and Executive?

The First Minister's speech in Feb 02, his attendance at Johannesburg and the publication of Meeting the Needs, along with a set (at last) of indicators. First stab at revising the Spending Review and publication of Building a Sustainable Scotland well received but disappointing process – little role for scrutiny and debate by Parliament.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

A continuing failure to achieve any realisation of the rhetorical commitment to placing SD 'at the core of its work'. Few resources, precious little commitment from anyone except the first minister, and no enforcement by him of his commitments to date. Economic policy and enterprise agencies failing to prioritise a Smart, Successful, SUSTAINABLE Scotland economic agenda.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

First, get better informed. These issues have been rising up the agenda for a couple of decades, and it's time for politicians in this representative democracy to take the long view and assist the strategic changes needed. Second, get stuck in; demand the establishment of a national strategy, and much wider engagement of society in these issues and their resolution. One of the biggest needs and opportunities is to create a Green Jobs Strategy for Scotland. A much stronger scrutiny role needed by Parliament of spending related to SD targets.

Education has a vital role to play in sustainable development progress – as acknowledged by the First Minister himself – but precious little attention paid to this following the National Education debate in Scotland. Global citizenship and sustainable development should be made a key purpose of education.

—————Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism—————

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of land reform, land use and tourism by the Parliament and Executive?

Land reform legislation, more symbolic than effective, but highly significant for all that, as an opener for future more far reaching reforms. Water Environment Bill, as a very far-reaching piece of legislation radically changing the principles of environmental protection in Scotland.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Agricultural reform. Scotland is stuck in a rut, falling further and further behind the rest of UK and Europe, due mainly to greatly conservative influence of the NFUS and the anti-reform culture of Pentland House. [Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department]

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Look to the public interest in Agricultural spending. Support the case for Scottish Ministers to use their available flexibility to drive the kind of changes which bring commodity production nearer to the market and use public funds to support genuine public goods for which the farmer receives no support from the market.

—————Section 3: Waste and Recycling—————

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of waste and recycling by the Parliament and Executive?

Good waste management targets and good funding (albeit to meet EU requirements).

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Slowness off the mark, only when forced by EU Directives.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Support major collaborative efforts to drive cultural change in Scotland on the question of sustainable production and consumption. Need to ensure doorstep recycling to meet the needs of public as identified in Executive attitude survey of 2002 where nine out of ten people said they would recycle if offered this service.

—————Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection)—————

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of air and water quality by the Parliament and Executive?

Good targets for energy production from renewables for 2020, but 2010 should be revised upwards.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

What about other uses of energy? Progress on transport pathetic. Scotland amongst the worst in the developed world.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Support investment in public transport options (and walking and cycling) as best for health, safety, economy, natural heritage, and climate change.

—————Section 5: Energy—————

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of energy by the Parliament and Executive?

Proposed 40% renewable electricity target for 2020 (see above) and commitment to eradicate fuel poverty. Also decidedly unenthusiastic comments about the future of nuclear power.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Failure to consider broader picture of energy use, particularly in transport.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

Develop Scottish targets for energy efficiency and climate change emissions, with a strategy to achieve them.

—————Section 6: Transport—————

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of transport by the Parliament and Executive?

Increased spending on public transport, enacting powers to introduce congestion charging.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

Increased spending on road construction, especially the Aberdeen Bypass, failure to provide central support for Edinburgh's congestion charging plans, pathetic traffic reduction target, lack of support for the environmental basis for the fuel duty escalator.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

(no response)

—————Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation—————

What do you believe has been the most positive achievement in the area of wildlife and conservation by the Parliament and Executive?

A near doubling of the number of proposed Special Areas of Conservation and the passing of the Water Environment Bill – both will be good for conservation but crucially for communities and the economy if handled well and fully resourced. Including an amendment on wildlife crime in the criminal justice bill is a well overdue step forward to provide a decent deterrent.

What would you say were the particular failings in this area and why do you think this was so?

The failure to manage the marine environment in a coherent way is a tragedy unfolding for wildlife and people.

What do you think needs to be done now in this area by Scotland's politicians?

A measure to include a deterrent against trade in international species in Scotland – we hope for this in the legislation promised to support the Nature of Scotland consultation. Resources needed to make special conservation areas operate effectively – involving local communities and promoting sensitive economic opportunities benefiting from natural resources. A Marine Minister to take charge of the seas!

Steve Sankey

CEO, Scottish Wildlife Trust

—————Section 1: Sustainability—————

For us the First Minister's intention that all Executive budget proposals should be tested against sustainable development criteria is a positive achievement, though it is too early to say if it's succeeding or not. We also welcomed the inclusion of the issue in the National Parks (Scotland) Act, and applauded the duties of sustainable development placed on SEPA under the Water Environment and Water Services Acts.

The downside is that nobody knows what goes on in the Cabinet Group on sustainable development; its proceedings are unknown and therefore impossible to assess. There has been a particular failing by the civil service to integrate

sustainable development into all areas of public policy. There has been a lack of adequate SD indicators in Scotland and inadequate attention to SEERAD Agriculture Department in particular in terms of sustainable development policy.

The next Parliament must ensure that it is better briefed about the issue. Members should become champions of sustainable development through the Parliament's Committees and other means.

—————Section 2: Land Reform, Land Use and Tourism—————

The Land reform Bill (Act) itself was an amazing achievement although the process was seriously flawed and delayed unnecessarily (especially through the inability of drafters to take on board hard won consensus points through the Access Forum). The environmental movement got there in the end. However the Scottish Wildlife Trust has been deeply disappointed by the way agricultural policy has been handled, especially the vastly under-resourcing of agri-environment programmes in Scotland. The agri-environment review in 2003 has been delayed and there are doubts over future of Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Scotland. We believe there have been inadequate Common Agriculture Policy MTR consultation procedures. We also believe there has been a failure on behalf of the Executive to commit to organic production targets in Scotland. The promise of an Action Plan as only finally secured after much pressure from NGOs and the Scottish Greens with a Private Member's Bill.

Scotland's politicians must now ensure that civil servants incorporate their wishes into draft bills! SWT believes there must now be complete reform and modernisation of the Agriculture Department to ensure that environment and sustainable development are thoroughly integrated in their thinking and processes. It is easily the least integrated department at the moment.

————— Section 3: Waste and Recycling—————

Scotland's National Waste Strategy is visionary and includes some tough targets which we support. What a pity that Departments of the Executive don't take such a positive approach – SEPA should be congratulated for leading this partnership process.

In addition politicians must recognise that peat extraction in Scotland should be halted by the encouragement of composting schemes, which will also help to save on landfill site space.

—————Section 4: Air and Water (pollution & protection)—————

The transposition of the EC's Water Framework Directive into Scots Law under the Water Environment Bill was a great achievement. But the final Act could have been so different had it not been for the input of environmentalists. There seemed to be a real problem getting the Scottish executive to accept fundamental points until they were challenged by Committee amendments following briefing by LINK NGOs.

It is essential that government Ministers and senior civil servants should be more sensitive to briefings issued by NGOs – something that would lead to a better product in the first place and save much lobbying effort and resources. Much secondary legislation is still required surrounding many functions in this Act – we will need champions to ensure that this is done correctly.

—————Section 7: Wildlife and Conservation—————

It has been a long time coming, and has required much lobbying and persistence, but publication of a draft Nature Conservation (Scotland) Bill in this Parliamentary session (anticipated March 2003) should prove to be a notable achievement. Also of huge importance was the establishment of an Expert Working Group including key LINK NGOs to advise civil servants and the Minister on the content of the Bill.

SWT would also list the inclusion of stronger penalties and custodial sentences in the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act as an achievement of the Parliament's first four years.

A significant failure has been the inability of the Minister to approve a beaver re-introduction pilot in Scotland. There has been a general lack of commitment to biodiversity targets and indicators in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, which also lacked clear direction, detailed actions and responsibilities.

The priority for MSPs in the second Parliament will be to ensure early delivery of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Bill. We also want early approval of the beaver re-introduction pilot in Scotland in the next session of Parliament. And parliamentarians must ensure that civil servants take a genuine partnership approach to the promotion of biodiversity conservation in Scotland – the current Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Working Group pays lip service to partnership ideas and suggestions.