

# Scottish Budget 2026/27 – key asks

September 2025

## Key points

- The budget must protect key environmental spending commitments and the ability of public agencies and regulators to deliver.
- The agriculture budget must see increased investment in environmental outcomes, including an increase in AECS.
- The budget should include £1m to deliver the PfG commitment to deer management pilots.

## Protect environmental budgets

The Scottish Government has recognised the nature and climate crises and committed a range of policy actions in response. The budget must **protect environmental budget lines in real terms** including investment in peatland, forestry, and the continuation of the Nature Restoration Fund.

NatureScot, SEPA, and other key environmental actors including the Marine Directorate have crucial roles in delivery and any decline in their capacity would undermine their ability to deliver government policy and meet statutory targets. The budget should at a minimum **protect their current budgets in real-terms**.

## Deliver for nature and climate resilience in agriculture budget

Agricultural subsidies are a key driver of land use and the system needs to do more to support nature- and climate-friendly farming, as well as to support farmers and crofters to become more resilient in the face of climate change.

The Scottish Government must:

- Increase funding for the Agri-Environment-Climate Scheme from its current level of £30 million to increase the number of agreements and area of land enrolled (**£25 million**)
- Increase support for organic farming (as part of AECS) (**£6 million**) and fund implementation of the Organic Action Plan (**£2 million**)
- Provide additional funding for advice and training for farmers and crofters to support the transition to nature and climate friendly farming and continuation of the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund (KTIF) (**£5 million**)
- Create a new fund for third parties to facilitate collaborative action between farmers and crofters to deliver nature and climate outcomes at scale (**£5 million**)
- Increase funding for low density agroforestry and farm woodland (**£10 million**)

## Fund PfG commitment for national deer pilot

Improved deer management is an essential step in tackling the nature crisis, with the scope to deliver landscape-scale recovery in our native woodlands and peatlands. The Programme for Government included



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a commitment to develop local pilot deer management projects, including an implementation plan and funding models. The budget should provide funding to take forward these pilots in conjunction with the deer management sector. **(£1 million)**

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with 50 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

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