

Programme for Government: Organic target

June 2026

Key points:

- The Scottish Government should set a **new target to double organic land cover by the end of this parliament**, building on the success of this policy over the last five years.
- Increasing organic farming can help improve business resilience, reduce emissions, and help meet Scotland's nature targets.

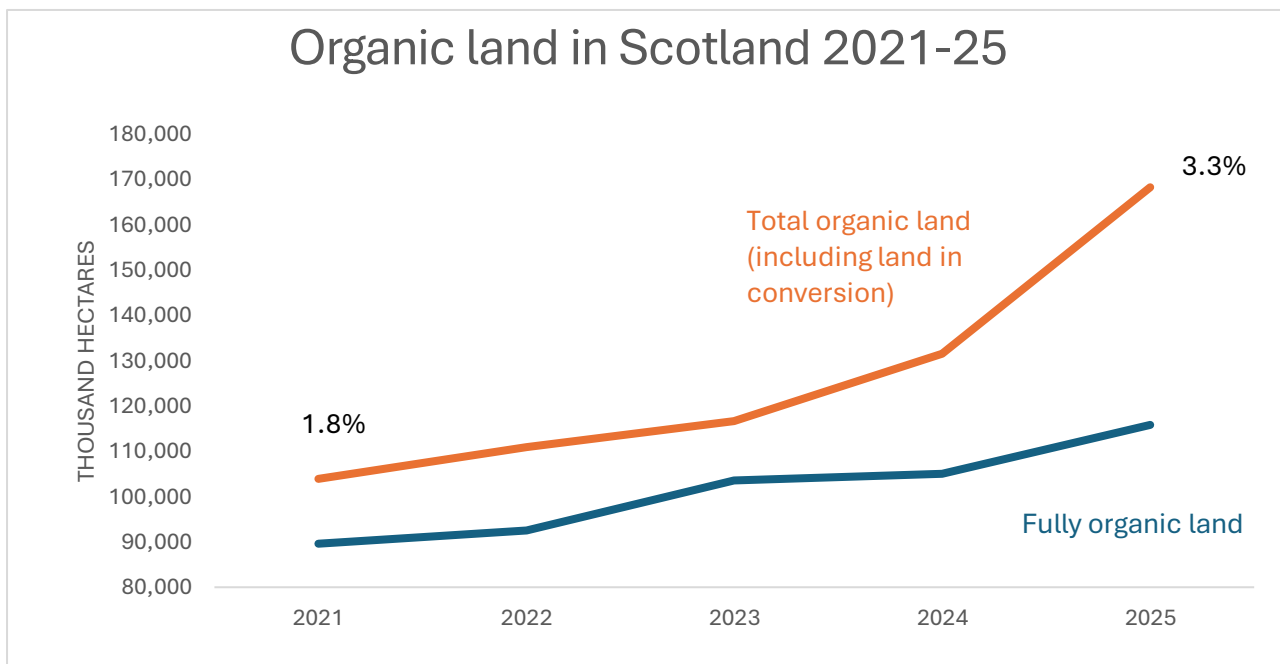
Background

In 2021 the Scottish Government set a target to at least double the area of land under organic management by the end of the 2021-26 parliamentary session.

Support through the Agri Environment and Climate Scheme has helped to increase the organic share of agricultural land from 1.8% in 2021 to 3.3% in 2025, just 0.3% short of the government target.¹ This reflects an ongoing trend of seven consecutive years of growth in organic farming in Scotland since 2018, with 2025 data showing the highest area of land in conversion since 2002.

However, Scotland still lags behind the EU average of 11%, and comparative countries such as Ireland have committed to reach 10% by 2030.²

Total organic land area (including land in conversion) for Scotland from 2021 to 2025.



¹ UK Government, 2026: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/organic-farming-statistics-2025/organic-farming-statistics-2025-united-kingdom>

² FiBL: <https://statistics.fibl.org/europe/area.html>



Scottish Environment LINK the voice for Scotland's environment



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The case for a new organic target

A target to double organic land cover over the course of the 2026-31 parliament would bring Scotland closer to the European norm and bring a range of benefits to farmers and crofters and Scotland as a whole.

A new organic target could help meet a range of government objectives including:

- **Supporting farm resilience** by lowering input costs and exposure to volatile global markets for artificial fertilisers
- **Reducing climate emissions** by replacing fossil fuel-based inputs with environmentally friendly approaches to improving soil health
- **Restoring biodiversity** by using fewer pesticides, a key driver of the nature crisis
- **Adapting to a changing climate** through using practices more capable of dealing with the projected conditions of 2045³
- **Strengthening “brand Scotland”** by supporting farmers and crofters to adopt recognised environmental and animal welfare standards

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 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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³ ClimateXChange, 2023: <https://www.climateexchange.org.uk/publications/organic-farming-net-zero-targets-and-the-impact-of-a-changing-climate-an-evidence-review/>