

WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT SCOTLAND PRESS RELEASE  
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**Manifestos rated on climate justice**







- with campaigners calling on political parties to do much more
















With the publication of all the political parties' manifestos, campaigners, the World Development Movement (WDM) Scotland, have today (12 April 2007) rated them all on what they are doing to end climate injustice and in particular on three specific asks:

- a climate change bill for Scotland
- annual legally binding Scottish targets for cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- an end to the public funding of international aviation through the Route Development Fund

Results:

 = yes  = no

Political party manifesto	General overview	Scottish climate change bill	Annual targets to cut CO <sub>2</sub>	End to public funding of aviation
Labour	Labour call for Scotland to 'play a greater than equal part in the global effort to reduce carbon emissions' and promise to introduce a climate change bill. However, they fail to see the importance of annual targets – favouring annual 'reporting' to achieve a cut of 60% by 2050, a target itself lower than other parties'. They have good proposals to increase renewable energy to 50% by 2020, introduce carbon budgeting and for carbon free housing by 2016 but on aviation they are very much in favour of the Route Development Fund, contradicting themselves by wanting to increase international aviation while supporting 'support international moves to tackle it'.			
SNP	The SNP would introduce a climate change bill with mandatory 3% per annum targets and an 80% target by 2050, the strongest commitment of the larger parties. There are good proposals to help achieve this such as Community Energy Plans and support for greater energy efficiency and renewables. However some positive statements lack tangible measures for how they will be achieved. On transport, the SNP will continue to promote international flights and seem to focus more on reducing congestion than reducing car usage.			
Liberal Democrat	While campaigning strongly for a climate change bill and annual CO <sub>2</sub> targets at Westminster, the Lib Dems fail to do this, or see it as necessary, north of the border. This lets down their very good			

	border. This lets down their very good proposals to have renewable energy supplying 100% of Scotland's electricity by 2050, investing in local energy sources and micropower and introducing better train links. They would have four year targets but do not say they would cut the Route Development Fund.			
Conservative	The Conservative manifesto has some good points in relation to tackling climate change such as the promotion of energy saving and energy creating technology through their Eco-Bonus scheme but on the whole does not come close to matching even their own party's UK commitments on climate. They do not propose a climate change bill or targets for Scotland and are in favour of public subsidies for international aviation.			
Green	The Greens want a climate change bill with 4.5% year-on-year targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions to reach a 30% reduction (based on 1990 levels) by 2010, 70% by 2030, and 90% by 2050, the toughest of all the parties. Measures to achieve this include promotion of energy efficiency and increased funding for renewables. They would also end the Route Development Fund and halt all further Scottish airport expansion but they continue to support subsidies for flights to Scottish islands.			
Socialist	The Socialists have some innovative ideas such a free public transport, a carbon rationing scheme and making new buildings carbon-neutral by 2011 however their manifesto lacks concrete policy on how to achieve some of this. They call for 3% per year targets to cut CO <sub>2</sub> but don't say whether they would have a climate change bill to make these legally binding. Equally, while they would end airport expansion they are against flight surcharges.			
Solidarity	Solidarity accepts that "global warming is by far the most serious problem facing humanity today" and want a move to a "renewable energy economy" within a generation using the "most efficient and universally acceptable transition". However it is not clear what this means in terms of CO <sub>2</sub> reduction or what difficult decisions, if any, they might be prepared to take along that route. In particular, they are opposed to increasing taxes on aviation.			

Commenting on the results, Kirstie Shirra, Head of Campaigns for WDM Scotland said:

"In rating the manifestos, we've found many good proposals on tackling climate change but disappointingly the parties most likely to be in power come May 3 fail to make the necessary commitments to end climate injustice.

Rich countries, like Scotland, are responsible for climate change by emitting excessive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions yet it is the world's poorest countries, who hold none of the blame, that are suffering the worst effects. In Africa alone over 85 million people could die as a direct result of climate change by 2100 and one-sixth of the world population's water supplies are at risk from glaciers vanishing. We need to take on our responsibility, use our opportunity to be global leaders and take action now.

In the run up to the elections WDM Scotland is calling on all the political parties to support a Scottish climate change bill with year-on-year legally binding targets for reducing emissions and an end to public subsidies for aviation, the fastest growing contributor to climate change emissions."

ENDS

For more information or comment, contact: Kirstie Shirra, Head of Campaigns, on 0131 454 3802 or 07983 364 529

Notes to editors:

1. Today (12 April) the last of the main political parties' manifestos was published. WDM has rated each of the manifestos in general terms and against three specific demands: a climate change bill for Scotland; annual legally binding Scottish targets for cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; and an end to the public funding of international aviation through the Route Development Fund.

2. WDM Scotland is currently running an on-line campaign, enabling the public to ask their candidates about climate change:

<http://www.wdmScotland.org.uk/campaigns/2007elections.htm>

3. With excessive carbon emissions driving climate change, it is rich countries, like our own, that are responsible yet it is people in the poorest countries that will suffer most. Rich countries are responsible for 80% of the manmade increase in CO<sub>2</sub>. If we stand by and do nothing the impact on poor countries will be devastating:

\* diseases will increase - 185 million people in Africa alone could die as a direct result by 2100

\* water supplies for one-sixth of the world's population are at risk from glaciers vanishing

\* droughts will worsen threatening the food supplies of hundreds of millions of people

\* rising sea levels, erosions and agricultural damage could create between 150 and 200 million environmental refugees by 2050

For more information visit <http://www.wdmScotland.org.uk> or call 0131 454 3802

4. WDM Scotland is the Scottish branch of the World Development Movement (WDM). WDM tackles the underlying causes of poverty. We lobby decision makers to change the policies that keep people poor. We research and promote positive alternatives. We work alongside people in the developing world who are standing up to injustice.

WDM Scotland is a member of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland