

Proposals for the Programme for Government 2026-2031

[Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#) is a coalition of over 70 diverse third sector organisations, which together represent over 1 million members of the public. **We recommend the policies below for inclusion in the Programme for Government for 2026–2031, because they will not only help tackle the climate emergency, but also improve ordinary people's lives** (e.g. reduced cost of living, improved health). Many of these policies are in the SNP manifesto, there is strong alignment with the Scottish Government's [Four Priorities](#), and they should help build support for further climate action amongst the public, press, and other parties. Contact: amanda@stopclimatechaosscotland.org

1. Warmer Homes

For 2026–27:

Introduce a Heat in Buildings bill with no watering down of targets:

- Minimum energy efficiency standards for all homes by 2033, with an interim standard for the private rented sector set out on the face of the bill.
- End the use of polluting heating systems in all buildings by 2045, and add a target for 40% of homes to be fitted with clean heating (including heat networks) by 2035 (as [recommended by the UK's Climate Change Committee](#)).

Launch an emergency insulation programme, focusing on neighbourhoods that need the most support, and those in older properties. As part of this, the budget must be increased for insulation, energy efficiency & clean heat programmes *targeted at people experiencing fuel poverty*. [IPPR report that](#) our net zero targets are at risk unless funding is increased.

By 2031:

- A **Warm Homes Guarantee** to ensure that every household that receives support for insulation actually sees their bills reduce (as developed by [End Fuel Poverty](#)). Scottish Government could work with people with lived experience of fuel poverty alongside retrofit and advice agencies to design this.
- Make it easier for people in shared buildings to undertake upgrades and improvements, following proposals from [Scottish Law Commission](#).

These proposals would advance all four of the Government's priorities. On the economy, the transition to clean heating is estimated to create 16,400 additional jobs by 2030 and increase GDP by nearly £5 for every £1 invested. Delivering healthier and warmer homes will improve our most valued public service, the NHS, by saving it £48m–£80m per year. Raising energy efficiency standards as proposed would reduce energy bills by at least 15% and keep them down, helping tackle poverty. Previous Heat in Buildings proposals would reduce annual carbon emissions from homes in Scotland by at least 30%. ([From WWF briefing](#).) We also support proposals from the [Existing Homes Alliance](#).

2. Better Buses

For 2026–27:

- **Extend the £2 bus fare cap across the whole of Scotland.**
- **Accelerate and simplify the bus franchising process to enable more public control**, by amending the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

By 2031:

- Free bus travel for all
- The majority of bus services are publicly controlled (en route to public ownership).
- Minimum service guarantee for bus routes in rural areas, set by local authorities.

These changes will reduce poverty and help with the cost of living, improve public services and value for public money, and deliver the Climate Change Plan. They align with commitments in several parties' manifestos, and there is strong public support. These policies are being championed by [Better Buses for Strathclyde](#) and other regional Better Buses campaigns, [Friends of the Earth Scotland](#) and the [Poverty Alliance](#).

3. Make it Scotland's Energy

For 2026–27:

- **We support the SNP manifesto commitments to increase community-owned energy and shared ownership of onshore wind.** Community ownership helps [reduce poverty](#) and [builds community wealth](#), and [increases public support for new renewables and the energy transition](#); a key part of tackling climate change.
- **We urge the Scottish Government to set a moratorium on new hyperscale data centres** until they have thoroughly assessed the impact on Scotland's electricity grid, carbon budgets and Climate Plan delivery.

By 2031:

- **We support the SNP commitment to establish a ScotWind Wealth fund.** As well as investing to support future generations, this fund should provide grants to community ownership projects – like community energy or transport – that help tackle poverty and climate change (See proposal from [Scottish Community Coalition on Energy](#).)
- **Scottish Government should take a public stake in future offshore wind projects, and invest in key manufacturers for offshore wind**, building on the £500m committed to invest in the offshore wind supply chain and ports over 5 years.

These actions will help grow Scotland's green economy, establish supply chains in Scotland and retain wealth locally. They align with asks from the [Our Power campaign](#).

4. Private Jet Tax

For 2026–27: Bring forward the introduction of a [private jet tax](#) to April 2027. The rate should be set at least 10 times above the higher rate of the current Air Passenger Duty. [Oxfam Scotland modelling](#) suggests this could generate approaching £30m extra revenue per year. This aligns with the Polluter Pays Principle and could help fund interventions that tackle climate change and poverty.