



**The Scottish Green Party
19b Graham Street
Edinburgh
EH6 6ND**

**Dr Sam Gardner
Edinburgh Climate Commission**

Dear Sam Gardner

Many thanks for your letter from the Edinburgh Climate Commission asking political parties to renew their commitment to the city's net zero 2030 target.

Greens very much recognise, as you say, that the council election could be a turning point in accelerating action on the climate emergency in our city.

You will see from our manifesto that we are prioritising this work. The very first section of our manifesto is 'Leading on the Climate Emergency' and makes 23 specific pledges.

I would like to address in turn each of the five specific commitments that you ask about:

1. Renew their commitment to the City's 2030 net zero goal and the implementation of the 2030 Climate Strategy, the City Plan and the City Mobility Plan.

Our manifesto clearly states:

- 'We will commit to implement the council emissions reduction plan, the city's 2030 climate strategy and the city mobility plan, and strengthen the city development plan'

2. Deliver a low carbon transport system with a 30% reduction in traffic by 2030.

Our extensive manifesto chapter 'Connecting our city' includes a subsection entitled 'Tackle unsustainable car-centric culture and reduce car kilometres by at least 30% by 2030'. Under this subsection there are specific pledges intended to achieve this target including;

- Take measures to manage demand, including a commitment to no new road building, and a review of traffic modelling and analysis to favour a demand management approach instead of designing for current or forecasted increased traffic

- Draw up a circulation plan for the city, which will provide dedicated street space for sustainable modes of transport, taking inspiration from cities such as Ghent
- Consult on and introduce a congestion charging scheme
- Consult on and introduce a workplace parking levy, and lobby the Scottish Government to extend levy powers for councils to include other non-residential parking spaces
- Create an action plan to reduce overall car parking spaces in the city each year while extending the controlled parking zones, and support conversion of parking spaces to green corridors, green spaces, pocket parks and play areas
- Review the price of car parking, considering the true cost of the most polluting vehicles and the relative cost to park bikes and e-bikes
- Create a new air quality action plan to replace the existing plan which is over a decade old, including introduction of a zero emission city centre and local town centres within Edinburgh while pushing the Scottish Government for more urgent and bold action on air pollution frameworks for local councils
- Work with partners to integrate non-private car vehicle transport options in Edinburgh and to make them easier to access, including through the expansion of “tap tap cap” or other integrated charging

3. Champion and demonstrate the accelerated deployment of energy efficiency and zero carbon emission heating measures across the public estate and private housing of Edinburgh.

Our manifesto contains a chapter ‘Securing warm, safe homes for all’ and a subsection ‘Tackle fuel poverty and cut climate emissions in our homes’. There are seven specific pledges on this, the first of which is;

- ‘We will establish a comprehensive and fully funded “Edinburgh Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy” (EHEES), to assist and enable building owners and tenants to improve the fabric of their buildings and decarbonise their heating, with an aim of retrofitting at least 100,000 homes across the city by 2030, and continue to make the case to the Scottish Government that they must provide sufficient funding to deliver this.’

4. Work alongside partners to enable a Just Transition; one that ensures opportunities are available to all.

Our manifesto says:

- We will deliver a just transition by working closely with the Edinburgh Climate Commission and delivery partners so the council benefits from this breadth of knowledge and expertise

5. Highlight the importance of climate adaptation across the city and deliver a programme of investment to improve resilience for communities.

Our manifesto has a subsection under 'Leading on the climate emergency' entitled 'Make our city more climate resilient' with 5 specific actions including;

- Manage council land in a way that helps the city reduce climate impacts with more tree planting, creation of meadows and wetlands, and an end to the use of energy-intensive chemicals
- Understand the needs of local communities to be more resilient to climate change and support production of effective Local Place Plans that include climate positive measures
- Invest in a multidisciplinary team to work with Scottish Water to plan interventions in high-risk surface water flood areas

I hope the responses above make clear that our manifesto not only renews our climate commitments but considerably strengthens them.

As well as the above, our manifesto also includes many more proposals for action on the climate emergency, the full text of which can be found at www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/election/edinburgh-2022

You may also be aware that at the last Edinburgh council budget setting time in February, the Greens proposed a whole package of practical and affordable measures to address the climate emergency that were simply not matched by any other party. However, you can rest assured that if Green councillors are in a position to influence the council following the election that we will prioritise climate policies from our manifesto.

We very much appreciate the expertise and support of the Edinburgh Climate Commission in advising and encouraging the Council and its Councillors in this vital work.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steve Burgess

Steve Burgess | Green Councillor for Southside-Newington ward | Green spokesperson on Climate Emergency