



A fresh parliament, a fresh government, a fresh start: Take sustainable development to the mainstream!

Forward Scotland believes that government policy and legislation needs to clearly encourage a shift in culture towards the acceptance of the principles of sustainable development across society. The Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament and local authorities all have a responsibility to the people of Scotland to provide an effective framework that achieves outcomes identifying Scotland as a leading sustainable nation in Europe.

Forward Scotland calls on parliamentary and council candidates to acknowledge that sustainable development must be brought into the mainstream for the benefit of Scotland's people, economy and environment. We ask candidates to commit to the following actions to bring about a culture shift towards sustainable development in Scotland.

Increase investment in our communities: provide increased, targeted, long-term funding that drives community projects towards greater social, economic and environmental outcomes similar to those being delivered by the funds available through the [Environmental Justice Fund](#) and [Community Environmental Renewal Scheme](#).

Introduce a new support programme for business: provide funding through grants and soft loans to support small to medium sized enterprises to invest in new, cleaner, more efficient technologies to go beyond the low/no cost actions at the heart of resource efficiency and thereby increase the potential for increased competitiveness.

Increase opportunities for learning and exchange: support efforts to encourage the identification and exchange of good practice in sustainable development with our European partners but also across the developed and developing world.

Encourage greater innovation: develop an investment programme to support academic, business and community groups to develop new project ideas, collaborations and partnerships to expand our knowledge and ability to meet future challenges.

Acknowledge and encourage leadership: develop a programme that recognises the achievements of individuals to inspire others to push the boundaries in society leading us to thriving, sustainable communities

Forward Scotland is striving to support these areas through its work including:

- Developing and delivering new grant schemes with community capacity building at the heart of projects providing new assets and services
- Delivering [GRADES](#), a graduate programme working with SMEs to identify, measure and improve corporate responsibility
- Developing a [Mutual Learning Platform](#) to enable the exchange of ideas and learning from across Scotland
- Championing innovations within Scotland developed by the community sector in support of local sustainable development, including the development of a [Scottish local food network](#)
- Developing a [Champions for Sustainable Communities](#) award scheme to recognise individual endeavours in communities

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