

Submitted to Draft Environment Strategy
Submitted on 2025-09-25 09:41:15

Vision and outcomes

1 Do you agree with the vision of the Environment Strategy?

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

We agree with the statements within the vision but have a concern that the priority for a wealthier Scotland might be used to override the greener Scotland priority. We believe that a greener, fairer Scotland is the route to a wealthier Scotland

2 Are there any outcomes that you feel should be removed, added or changed in the Environment Strategy?

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

Outcome pathways

3 There now follow questions about the individual outcome pathways. Do you think that the outcome pathways considered together include the important policies, actions and future priorities to achieve the Vision? If not, what changes would you suggest?

No

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

Under the heading strengthen our connection with nature there are several other policies, actions and future priorities we would like to see included.

These are: create a nature-rich countryside as well as a nature-rich urban environment, create better/cheaper public transport to nature-rich countryside, especially for those on low incomes living in disadvantaged areas, create National and Higher exams in Ecology, boost adult education opportunities in Ecology and Natural History, create 3-year apprenticeships and full-time jobs in practical nature restoration, especially in complex systems such as temperate rainforest, Caledonian pinewoods and coastal marine ecosystems.

Under the heading Empower Scottish people to live well sustainably: support communities to grow food locally - in other words, support the growth of horticultural systems run by and for communities, including funding full-time jobs. Also create local food hubs where food can be brought in bulk and distributed, local surpluses can be made available and supermarkets can offer food which has reached its best-before date.

Outcomes on biodiversity, climate change and pollution

4 The pathways for the outcomes on biodiversity, climate change and pollution signpost to existing policies – how can we best address potential synergies and trade-offs across these outcomes?

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

Nature restoration of Scotland's ecosystems results in carbon sequestration as well as increasing biodiversity. Carbon sequestration reduces the impacts of climate change by drawing carbon out of the atmosphere. Note that though exotic systems (eg sitka spruce plantations) draw carbon out of the atmosphere they in no way help increase biodiversity - in fact quite the reverse.

Minimising pollution (particularly chemical - including the use of herbicides and pesticides) - and plastic) and reducing waste (we include agricultural run-off here as waste) will result in greater biodiversity and will also have the effect of creating fewer materials in the first place, which will mean less energy and materials extraction resulting in positive effects on Climate Change.

Scotland's global environmental impact is sustainable

5 What are the top priorities the Scottish Government should focus on to improve the environmental impact of Scotland's activities on other countries?

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

6 Do you have any further views on how the pathway outlined in the draft Strategy can help achieve the outcome "Scotland's global environmental impact is sustainable"?

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

Scotland's society is transformed for the better by living sustainably, in harmony with nature

7 To what extent do you agree/disagree that societal changes, including in our lifestyles and behaviours, are needed to help tackle the nature, climate and pollution crises?

Neither Agree or Disagree

7b If you agree, please explain in the text box below how you think the Scottish Government could most effectively support and enable these changes in ways that also help to improve people's lives and tackle inequalities. Or, if you disagree, please explain in the text box below why you don't think that societal changes, including in our lifestyles and behaviours, are needed to help tackle the nature, climate and pollution crises.

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

The public understanding of the climate crisis is complex. Most people understand what the climate crisis is and what needs to be done to address it, but at the same time they are not engaged enough to make significant changes to their lifestyle. It is generally seen as a long term issue which is happening so slowly as to be almost imperceptible, whereas we are programmed to deal with immediate crises. The government needs to commission more research to get a better understanding of the public's reaction to the climate crisis in order to get real engagement at grass roots level and one way to do this would be through re-instating the Climate Assembly. Without real public engagement it is unlikely there will be any meaningful change in public behaviour and thus progress towards the aims of the strategy would be in jeopardy.

There are many additional ways not mentioned in the outcome pathways that the Scottish Government can help us connect better with nature and to live more sustainably. Nature education should not just be aimed at children, but youth and adults as well. What you do not know about, you will not want to love and protect. Also, learning by doing is the best way for everyone to learn, so supporting children, young people and adults to grow some of their own food in both school and community settings should be a government priority. Similarly, apprenticeships and full-time jobs in nature restoration will also offer great learning opportunities for those of a practical bent.

8 Do you have any further views on how the pathway outlined in the draft Strategy can help achieve the outcome "Scotland's society is transformed for the better by living sustainably, in harmony with nature"?

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

In our opinion, the pathway is a way of achieving both a cultural and perceptual transformation across society both for policy-makers and the general public. It will create a sense amongst people that "Yes, there are solutions out there, and I want to be part of it."

Scotland's net zero, nature positive and circular economy thrives within the planet's sustainable limits

9 To what extent do you agree/disagree that a just transition to a net zero, nature positive, circular economy is needed to support Scotland's role in tackling the nature, climate and pollution crises?

Strongly Agree

9b If you agree, please explain in the text box below how you think the Scottish Government could most effectively support this transition in ways that create wider economic opportunities for Scotland, including for jobs and businesses. Or, if you disagree, please explain in the text box below why you don't think a just transition to a net zero, nature positive, circular economy is needed to support Scotland's role in tackling the nature, climate and pollution crises.

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

Scotland has a greater abundance of renewable energy than other parts of the UK and could therefore achieve more than just net zero in terms of energy emissions. For example, there are extensive resources of wave and tidal power which have not been fully developed.

10 Do you have any further views on how the pathway outlined in the draft Strategy can help achieve the outcome "Scotland's net zero, nature positive and circular economy thrives within the planet's sustainable limits"?

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

We build Scotland's resilience to climate change and other global environmental risks

11 Do you agree/disagree with the approach set out in the pathway for the outcome "We build Scotland's resilience to climate change and other global environmental risks"?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below. :

These transformations are achieved through a just transition and support climate and environmental justice

12 Do you agree/disagree with the approach set out in the pathway for the outcome "These transformations are achieved through a just transition and support climate and environmental justice"?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

Questions for the Impact Assessments

13 Do you have any views on whether there are likely to be any positive or negative environmental impacts from the draft Environment Strategy that have not been identified in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

14 Is there anything in the draft Environment Strategy which should be added or changed to strengthen positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts on people with protected characteristics?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

15 Are there any positive or negative impacts on protected groups (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) that have not been identified in the draft Equalities Impact Assessment?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

16 Are there any other protected groups, which have not been identified in the draft Equalities Impact Assessment, that will potentially be positively or negatively impacted by the Environment Strategy?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

17 Are there any positive or negative impacts on island communities that are different from the impacts on mainland areas from the draft Environment Strategy, that have not been identified in the draft Islands Communities Impact Assessment?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

18 Are there any positive or negative impacts on groups experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (such as income, low wealth or area deprivation) from the draft Environment Strategy that have not been identified in the draft Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

19 Are there any positive or negative impacts from the draft Environment Strategy that have not been identified in the draft Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

20 Are there any positive or negative impacts from the draft Environment Strategy that have not been identified in the draft Consumer Duty Impact Assessment?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

21 Are there any positive or negative impacts from the draft Environment Strategy on businesses that have not been identified in the partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

22 Do you have any further views on the partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)?

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

23 Are there any other positive or negative impacts on areas such as health in the draft Environment Strategy that should be considered?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box below.:

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Sarah Komashko

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Quakers in Scotland (Parliamentary Engagement Working Group)

Further information about your organisation's response

Please add any additional context:

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response only (without name)

Do you consent to Scottish Government contacting you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

What is your email address?

Email:

scottishpolitics@quaker.org.uk

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Where did you hear about this consultation?

Consultation newsletter, Social media/email of an organisation you follow

If other, please say where.:

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Please enter comments here.: