Scotland: A comprehensive green recovery

The Scottish Government is committed to delivering a green recovery that improves resilience to future crises, including those associated with the impacts of climate change, and drives the wellbeing economy through a just transition to net zero by 2045 and 75% reductions in emission by 2030.

Woven into this objective is a recognition that businesses must be provided with the conditions they need to innovate and diversify, and individuals must have the opportunity to retrain and upskill to thrive in a net zero economy – while protecting the environment that we all rely on.

The recent announcement to support a green recovery in the Scottish Programme for Government builds on the Scottish Green New Deal. Key commitments here include £1.6 billion to transform homes and buildings over the next Parliamentary term so that Scotland can build its supply chain, secure and grow jobs and skills and develop the marketplace it needs to meet its ambitious climate targets. The £100 million Green Jobs...
Fund will also support new and increased opportunities for green job creation. 

Alongside emissions reduction, Scotland’s commitments reflect the value placed on its natural economy as a vital asset in both mitigating emissions and adapting to climate change and biodiversity loss. An additional £150 million will therefore allow for new woodland creation to increase by 50%, from 12,000 hectares up to 18,000 hectares per year by 2024, £150 million will be put towards flood risk management, and £12 million will fund coastal management. The government will also continue to invest in enhancing biodiversity, with £3 million to be invested in 2021/22 in the Biodiversity Challenge Fund. In total, this represents over £500 million being earmarked to put Scotland’s natural economy at the heart of its green recovery.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown that globally we need to prepare for the transition to net zero to mitigate the risk of exacerbating inequalities through abrupt or unplanned shifts. Now more than ever the world needs a just transition that creates sustainable jobs and leaves no one behind. Scotland was one of the first countries to enshrine its commitment to just transition into law through its Climate Change Act and it set up an independent Just Transition Commission to advise Scottish Ministers on how to move to a net zero economy in a way that is both fair and leaves no-one behind.