Scotland Government

Draft Climate Plan Consultation

The Vegan Society Response

About you

What is your name?

Alistair Currie

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

The Vegan Society Reg. Charity No: SC049495 (Scotland)

Organisation

Further information about your organisation's response

The Vegan Society is one of a group of organisations who last year endorsed a joint policy proposal to the UK Government regarding promoting plant-rich diets in its food strategy (Foodrise et al, 2025). The policy proposals in the document, Reaping the Benefits of Plant-Rich Diets: The Ten Point Plan, are also applicable to Scotland and form the basis for the policy recommendations in this submission.

The proposal has been endorsed by more than 50 organisations, and a full list is available on the document, reference as above. The signatories are drawn from a diversity of fields, including health, environmental and food non-governmental organisations, trade associations and commercial companies.

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A representative UK-wide opinion poll was conducted in support of the document in May 2025 and among other results majority support found among other results that 66% of people in Scotland stated they would like to eat more fruit and vegetables and 59% said they thought the government should do more to help them east healthier diets (only 28% opposed) .

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Consultation newsletter

Section 1: Delivering a Just Transition

Question 1

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What are your views on our approach to delivering a just transition for people and communities?

The Vegan Society commends the Scottish Government ambition in this Draft Climate Change Plan to "continue to play our role in delivering global climate justice by securing global change and fulfil the moral duty to protect and improve the lives of both current and future generations, both in Scotland and overseas." We support the just transition principles already established in the Plan.

However, The Vegan Society believes that a just transition must encompass more extensive actions and principles, as delineated in the 2025 EAT-Lancet Commission (EAT-Lancet, 2025). In particular, the Climate Plan must favour actions that meet climate objectives while also promoting the long term wellbeing and health of people in Scotland and beyond. Poor public health outcomes in Scotland are strongly associated with Scottish food production and consumption. These in turn are deeply entwined with the poor climate and biodiversity outcomes. In that context, the Draft Plan does not sufficiently recognise the value of promoting a plant-based agri-food system as a key means of achieving Scotland's climate, biodiversity and public health goals.

Despite the strong expert consensus on the role of more plant-rich diets in mitigating climate change (Climate Change Committee, 2025; EAT-Lancet Commission, 2025; IPCC, 2022; UKRI AFN, 2025), the Draft Climate Change Plan does not refer to plant-based diets. Only very brief references to diet are made at all, in the Agriculture section of the Annexes. Climate justice in Scotland as we approach and pass 2045 will increasingly depend upon an agri-food system which is both environmentally sustainable, and supplying culturally appropriate, nutritious food for Scotland (Harwatt & Hayek 2019). Thus, agri-food needs to become a specified sector for climate change action in a just transition. We note that such action will also help to meet the objectives of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act (2022) and Plan.

Measures which ensure that climate-friendly nutritious food is the most accessible, most affordable, and also the default choice for all people and communities in Scotland will help promote this just transition. The evidence shows that plant-based foods and well-planned plant-based diets are consistently the lowest climate impact for the nutrition they supply, having around a third the greenhouse gas emissions of well-planned diets using foods of animal origin, (Scarborough et al.

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2023). Evidence also shows that increasing consumption of healthy plant-based foods provides a range of health benefits (see Q9 and Q17). The Vegan Society therefore endorses, and calls on the Scottish Government to now accept the

Climate Change Committee recommendations for reduction of the numbers of animals in farming in Scotland, and for greater support for more plant-rich diets for Scotland (CCC 2025a,b).

Transition towards a plant-based agri-food system transition for Scotland can help fulfil the Just Transition Principle 3 of this Plan (p12). Expanding plant-based agri-food in Scotland will, as the Plan requires: develop and maintain social consensus; support environmentally and socially sustainable jobs; support low-carbon investment and infrastructure; create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce and overall economy; and contribute to resource efficient and sustainable economic approaches which help to address inequality and poverty.

Plant-rich diets offer a wealth of further just transition benefits, solutions and opportunities to Scotland. People in Scotland producing, processing, serving and eating more vegetables, legumes, fruit, nuts, seeds and wholegrain based meals will improve public health and food security, support economic growth, help agri-food achieve climate obligations, and help non-human animals too.

There is a rich tradition of Scottish plant-based foods upon which to draw. However, currently, half of Scotland's cropland is growing feed for animals in farming, which means none of the dietary fibre, and less than half the protein and calories in those crops, reach people's plates (Harwatt & Hayek 2019). Yet, Food Standards Scotland work shows that the majority of people in Scotland need to eat more plant-based foods to have a diet resembling the Eatwell Plate (Food Standards Scotland, 2024) Therefore, Scotland's productive arable farmland can and needs to be growing food for people, not feed for animals in farming. Current public subsidies supporting feed production and animal agriculture should be directed towards the transition to healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate, nutritious food crop growing. Working with the other UK Governments, Scotland must avoid environmentally harmful imports in the process.

Transitioning the agricultural workforce away from animal farming also brings just transition benefits. The Vegan Society notes that at least 10% of workers in Scotland are in the agri-food sector (NFUS undated). Scotland's current

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greenhouse emissions from the agri-food sector are estimated to be c. 25-30% of Scotland's total (CCC 2025b). Thus, on average, agri-food jobs are highly greenhouse gas intensive (across the major gases of methane and nitrous oxide as well as carbon dioxide). We also note that the mental health of people working in farming and killing animals is being damaged by their engagement in this industry, as confirmed by a recent study (see Q21). A clear majority of participants currently active in farming animals (63%) were open to reducing the numbers of animals they farm, provided accessible and viable alternatives are available (Stockfree Farming 2025a).

There must be targeted action to ensure that agri-food workers enjoy decent conditions of employment throughout the plant-based climate-friendly transition. The Scottish Government's Fair Work First Policy sets a decent minimum standard, which is to ": pay at least the real Living Wage; provide appropriate channels for effective workers' voice, such as trade union recognition." (ScotGov 2024c). Good employment in a good plant-based agri-food system, where everyone enjoys good plant-rich diets, are foundational to this just transition.

Multiple policy solutions are available. The Vegan Society is a leading partner in the 2025 joint policy proposal, "Reaping the Benefits of Plant-Rich Diets: The Ten Point Plan" (Foodrise et al. 2025). These practical and proven policies will increase the desirability, affordability and accessibility of healthy plant-based foods, especially for people currently facing significant barriers to healthy eating. Simultaneously, policies to support the production, sustainability and profitability of plant-based foods in Scotland will help increase healthy diversification in Scottish food, farming and hospitality sectors.

The Ten Point Plan Recommendations are:

1. Leverage Scottish public procurement and catering to source and provide more plant-based foods, normalising plant-rich diets and catalysing growth in the market.

2. Encourage Scotland's food supply companies to transition towards a higher proportion of sales of plant-based foods.

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3. Bolster Scotland's food security and economic growth through support for the farmers to produce more vegetables, legumes, fruit, nuts, seeds and wholegrains for food in Scotland.

4. Support Scotland's farmers to increase production of plant proteins for food in Scotland.

5. Make it easier and more affordable for people in Scotland to access and eat healthy food.

6. Raise public understanding in Scotland of the health and environmental benefits of healthy plant-rich foods and diets.

7. Collaborate to improve food labelling to raise public understanding of health, environmental and animal welfare impacts.

8. Collaborate to improve training for health and food professionals in regard to healthy plant-rich foods.

9. Collaborate to update, reform and apply the Eatwell Guide dietary guidelines.

10. Collaborate to increase investment in and support for healthy, sustainable alternative proteins.

Throughout our response, relevant policy proposals from the Ten Point Plan will be included in answer to specific questions.

Question 2

What skills, training and qualification provisions will be most important in a net zero future and what more could be done to support them?

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There is expert consensus that a transition towards agri-food systems with more plant-based foods and fewer foods of animal origin is essential to accelerate progress towards a stable climate (see Climate Change Committee, 2025; EAT-Lancet Commission, 2025; IPCC, 2022; UKRI AFN, 2025; and further details in our response to Qs 9, 13 and 15). It is therefore essential for Scotland to support and develop the appropriate skills and knowledge to effect and benefit from this transition.

The Climate Change Committee emphasises that people in Scotland need to eat more plant-based food if Scotland is to credibly achieve Net Zero by 2045. As the projected major source of greenhouse gases from 2030, Scotland's agriculture emissions need to come down 40% to c. 4.4 MtCO2e by 2045. The Climate Change Committee sets out how Scotland can achieve this by replacing 20-30% of foods of animal origin with climate-friendly plant-based equivalents, reducing cattle and sheep numbers by about one third, and avoiding imported animal products (CCC 2025b).

Additional support for farming communities to diversify their incomes and activities with agroforestry and other plant-based food production is consistent with Climate Change Committee recommendations for Scotland (CCC 2025a,b). Many people currently working in biosphere management feel they do not yet have the skills and training necessary for the transition to climate-stable plant-based methods (Stockfree Farming 2022, Adaptation Scotland 2023). Yet, there is a rich tradition of Scottish plant-based crops, foods and methods upon which to draw.

Everyone within the agri-food sector will require the skills and training to be able to confidently produce, source, prepare and serve climate-friendly, nutritionally balanced, culturally appropriate plant-based foods. Similarly, those working in the health sector who offer dietary support and guidance must be fully equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to support the transition towards more plant-rich diets.

An outlined in the "Reaping the Benefits of Plant-Rich Diets: The Ten Point Plan" referred to in Q1 (Foodrise et al. 2025) the skills, training and qualifications required include:

a. Plant-rich food modules in all hospitality, catering and food training at primary, secondary, tertiary, professional and continuing education and training levels.

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b. Improved healthy plant-rich diet modules in all healthcare – especially Dietetic and nutrition – and health training at primary, secondary, tertiary, professional and continuing education and training levels.

c. Plant-based farming modules in all farming and growing training at primary, secondary, tertiary, professional and continuing education and training levels.

These reforms are needed to: leverage Scottish public procurement and catering to catalyse growth in the plant-rich foods market; bolster Scotland's food security and economic growth through support for the farmers to produce more vegetables, legumes, fruit, nuts, seeds and wholegrains for food; raise public understanding in Scotland of the health and climate benefits of healthy plant-rich foods (Foodrise et al. 2025).

The Vegan Society thus calls for the current programme of reform of Scotland's post-school education and skills system to incorporate the relevant improvements. This needs to be part of the ongoing Scottish Government Programme to lead skills planning at the national level while strengthening regional approaches. The new Qualifications Scotland body has statutory responsibility to deliver and award qualifications in Scotland, including a wide range of health, social care and food professional qualifications. These expansions of the current programme of reform should be undertaken in partnership with NHS Scotland and other relevant bodies.

These measures will help to ensure that everyone within the agri-food and health sectors can confidently support the plant-rich, climate stable transition for Scotland.

Question 3

How can we best support employers across the private, public and third sectors to make the changes needed and seize the benefits of net zero?

The Vegan Society emphasises that employers need to support continuing professional development in climate-friendly, healthy plant-based food in all hospitality, catering, farming, growing, educational and allied agri-food settings. Therefore, the Scottish Government needs to incentivise and/or require food supply companies and other agri-food businesses to transition towards a higher proportion of sales of plant-based foods and report against appropriate targets, as

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the supermarket Lidl currently does (The Grocer, 2025). Climate-friendly plant-based food must also be integral to all procurement and catering contracts to accelerate progress toward climate stability.

A key way to foster economic growth during the transition is for employers to ensure their businesses and employees are producing, processing, serving and/or eating more vegetables, legumes, fruit, nuts, seeds and wholegrain based meals. Policy measures to achieve this include (Foodrise et al, 2025):

a. Scottish public procurement and catering to source and provide plant-based foods as the default, normalising plant-rich diets and catalysing growth in the market.

b. Enabling and encouraging agri-food, hospitality and catering employers in Scotland to invest in research, infrastructure, staff professional development and other changes that promote greater production and consumption of plant-based foods.

c. Healthcare employers to collaborate to improve training for all their staff, including Dietitians and other healthcare professionals, in regard to healthy plant-rich foods (see also our response to Q2).

Government policies to support the production, sustainability and profitability of plant-based agri-food in Scotland will help employers increase healthy diversification in Scottish agri-food, across farming, manufacturing and hospitality sectors.

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Question 4

What are your views on our approach to supporting places where the transition presents particular regional impacts?

No comment.

Section 2: Sectoral contributions, Policies and Proposals

The following questions concern the Sectoral contributions, policies and proposal sections of the Plan.

Buildings (Residential and Public)

Question 5

How can we decarbonise homes and buildings in a way that is fair and leaves no one behind?

No comment.

Question 6

How can clean heating systems (such as heat pumps) be made more affordable for everyone?

No comment.

Transport

Question 7

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Which of the following would be most effective in enabling you to transition your vehicle(s) to zero emissions alternatives? Please rank your choices from highest to lowest priority, where 1 is the highest priority. Please only give one ranking to each option:

If you're responding for an organisation: you may want to consider car fleets as well as HGV fleets.

1. Cost of new zero emissions vehicles needs to come down
2. Cost of used zero emissions vehicles needs to come down
3. Reliable infrastructure for vehicles (such as fuel or charging networks)
4. Noticeably cheaper running costs (including electricity, maintenance and insurance)
5. Convenient access to public charging infrastructure
6. Ensuring an adequate number of trained mechanics available to perform essential maintenance and repairs
7. Access to funding support /low cost finance
8. All of the above
9. Other (use box below)

No comment.

Question 8

How can the Scottish Government support communities to participate in planning of local sustainable infrastructure (such as, walking, wheeling and cycling routes)?

No comment.

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Question 9

What action by the Scottish Government would be most helpful in supporting you to live a more climate-friendly lifestyle?

The Vegan Society notes that this question is in the Transport section, but 'lifestyle' must include a far wider range of behaviours, including those related to food. What we eat is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions over which we have reasonably direct control.

The evidence shows that plant-based foods, and well-planned plant-based diets in the UK are consistently the lowest climate impact for the nutrition they supply. This includes so-called "nutrients of consideration", such as healthy protein, carbohydrates and fats, as well as dietary fibre, vitamins and minerals (BDA 2021). On average, the diet-related climate change emissions of people eating a completely plant-based diet in the UK are 15–40% of those of people who eat average or above average levels of meat (Scarborough et al. 2023).

The value of reducing the consumption of foods of animal origin as a climate mitigation measure is thus a matter of almost universal expert consensus:

- The Climate Change Committee calls for a 20% reduction in average meat consumption in Scotland by 2035 (compared to 2019 levels, CCC 2025b).
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that "Diets high in plant protein and low in meat and dairy are associated with lower GHG emissions (robust evidence, high agreement). … Where appropriate, a shift to diets with a higher share of plant protein, moderate intake of animal-source foods and reduced intake of added sugars, salt and saturated fats could lead to substantial decreases in GHG emissions." (IPCC 2022)
- The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change's policy recommendations for the UK include: "Develop and implement policies that promote healthy diets, high in plant-based foods, with an emphasis on significantly reduced consumption of red and processed meat and dairy products." (The Lancet 2023).
- The independent National Food Strategy of 2021 stated: "We simply cannot reduce methane emissions to a safe level, nor free up the land we need for

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sequestering carbon, without reducing the amount of meat we eat." (Dimbleby et al. 2021).

- A 2024 report by Natural England and the RSPB concluded: "Ambitious combinations of measures including … using arable land to grow crops for direct human consumption rather than livestock feed (and thus implying a dietary change) … could fully mitigate expected reductions in food production." (Finch et al. 2024).

- According to the global 2025 EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health: "We should eat more fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes and whole grains … Many in wealthier countries should also eat less red meat and dairy." (EAT-Lancet 2025).

- The 2025 UKRI-funded Agri-Food for Net Zero Network+ Roadmap for Resilience states "Reduced meat consumption is essential to free up land for carbon storage." (UKRI AFN 2025).

The Draft Climate Change Plan for Scotland is therefore significantly out of step with this expert consensus in making no reference to the value of dietary change as a climate mitigation measure. The Draft Plan contains neither policy proposals to facilitate plant-based dietary change, nor information to encourage it. Instead, the Draft Plan indiscriminately "call[s] on the Scottish public to continue to incorporate Scottish produce into their diets", with no reference to the nature of that produce nor its climate impacts. Being Scottish alone is no guarantee of being climate-friendly. For instance, in a report published in January 2026, the World Resources Institute concludes that "there's no such thing as climate-friendly beef, despite labels claiming otherwise" (Santo & Cho 2026).

The sole reference to "healthy sustainable diets" in the Draft Plan does not clarify what they should consist of. However, the Draft Plan specifically refers to foods of animal origin without critically examining the health and climate impacts of such items. The Plan instead needs to reflect the expert consensus that plant-based foods can make up a health and sustainable diet, and include specific measures to guide people towards such dietary patterns. The Plan also needs to be explicit about the climate and environmental, health and economic value of Scotland's plant-based agri-food sector, including current and future arable farming, horticulture, agroforestry and manufacturing and catering too.

In regard to supporting people in Scotland to make more climate-friendly choices, the Draft states (p6) that its actions will be "in line with the principles set out in

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our Net Zero Nation public engagement strategy". However, this Net Zero Nation guidance currently makes no reference to the climate impacts of different types of food and does not recommend or refer to any form of dietary change (ScotGov 2021-26) which is a significant omission given the expert consensus described above. Currently, the Net Zero Nation website also contains no specific information about the climate impacts of animal-based and plant-based foods and does not mention meat at all. Instead the 'Eating healthy and sustainable food' section, inaccurately and potentially harmfully claims that the Eatwell Guide recommends that people eat "a smaller amount of protein foods" (ScotGov 2021-26).

The Net Zero Nation engagement strategy must be specifically amended to give accurate advice about the potential health and sustainability benefits of moving towards plant-based protein. The Scottish Government NetZeroNation.Scot website also needs to be updated to reflect the expert consensus on plant-rich diets for healthy, sustainable, climate friendly living.

This avenue for emissions reduction must also be included in the final Climate Change Plan to be made consistent with the goals of the Scottish Government's own Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 and Good Food Nation Plan (GFNP), specifically:

- Outcome 2: Scotland's food system ... supports our net zero and climate adaptation ambitions.
- Outcome 3: Scotland's food environment and wider food system enables and promotes a physically and mentally healthy population.
- Outcome 6: Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation.

Indicators identified in the GFNP include: 1) mean portions of fruit and vegetables consumed by adults; 2) mean portions of fruit and vegetables eaten by children; and 3) proportion of adults meeting Scottish Dietary Goals on fibre, sugar and red and red & processed meat. The GFNP notes that currently average portions of fruit and vegetables are just 3.3 per day, well below the 400g (roughly, five or more portions) recommended; only 6% of adults meet the Scottish Dietary Goals for fibre intake; and 28% of adults consume more than the recommendation for red and processed meat intake.

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To provide people with the best advice on living a climate-friendly lifestyle, the Climate Plan must therefore state clearly that eating fewer foods of animal origin and more plant-based foods can reduce climate impacts. All public health information provided in other forums in Scotland must do the same, as well as the existing Net Zero Nation Strategic Guidance and website.

Providing accurate, evidence-informed advice on diet is essential but not sufficient. The Climate Plan must also ensure that practical and proven measures are taken to increase the desirability, affordability and accessibility of healthy plant-based foods, especially for people currently facing significant barriers to healthy eating. Those measures include (Foodrise et al. 2025):

a. Leverage Scottish public procurement and catering to source and provide more plant-based foods, normalising plant-rich diets and catalysing growth in the market.

b. Encourage Scotland's food supply companies to transition towards a higher proportion of sales of plant-based foods.

c. Make it easier and more affordable for people in Scotland to access and eat healthy food.

d. Raise public understanding in Scotland of the health and environmental benefits of healthy plant-rich foods and diets.

e. Collaborate to improve food labelling to raise public understanding of health, environmental and animal welfare impacts.

f. Collaborate to update, reform and apply the Eatwell Guide dietary guidelines to reflect the best evidence on sustainability.

Such measures will help ensure that climate-friendly nutritious food is the most accessible, most affordable, and also the default choice for all people and communities in Scotland.

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Waste

Question 10

Are there any additional proposals to support waste sector emission reduction that should be considered across the following 5 areas:

Strengthen the circular economy

Reduce and reuse

Modernise recycling

Decarbonise disposal

Other emission sources (including waste water and anaerobic digestion)

Reducing emissions associated with all the ways in which food is wasted is very important. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO) have found that if global food waste were a country, it would rank third in global greenhouse (GHG) emissions terms. They conclude, “efforts to reduce GHG related to food wastage should focus on major climate hotspots .. such as meat and cereals” (UN FAO 2015).

The Vegan Society further notes that the UN FAO calculation did not fully account for the food waste inherent in feed production for animals in farming whose needs cannot be met by grazing. The food lost to people in this feed system – largely diverting cereal calories, protein, dietary fibre and other key nutrients – is larger than the food wasted in residential situations, or any other food waste stream (UNEP 2009, CIWF 2025).

The use of brought-in feed even in so-called extensive farming – due to excess numbers of animals on inappropriate land – is an industrial-scale food waste system. Land used for feed could produce significantly more food protein, dietary fibre and calories as crops for our direct food supply (Harwatt & Hayek 2019). These measures could also help sequester around 1 Gt CO2 through woodland and other habitat regeneration, from reducing the numbers of animals in Scottish farming (Harwatt & Hayek 2019). Imported feed also “exports” climate impacts, generating emissions and inefficient land use abroad that would be reduced by growing foods there for human consumption.

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Policies which promote greater production and consumption of healthy, sustainable plant-based foods in Scotland, for Scotland's people therefore address this form of waste-related greenhouse gas emissions.

There are practical and proven policies to increase the desirability, affordability and accessibility of healthy plant-based foods, especially for people currently facing significant barriers to healthy eating. This in turn can help to cut GHG due to direct food waste – up to 40% of which can be vegetables and fruits, due to short shelf life (UN FAO 2015) – and also, indirect food waste, by reducing demand for products of animal farming.

Policy measures include (Foodrise et al. 2025; see Q1):

a. Support Scotland's farmers to increase production of plant proteins for food in Scotland. These are a much lower GHG alternative to products of farming animals, largely due to a more direct supply chain from field to fork (Scarborough et al. 2023).

b. Raise public understanding in Scotland of the health and environmental benefits of healthy plant-rich foods and diets.

c. Collaborate to improve food labelling to raise public understanding of health, environmental and animal welfare impacts.

Better understanding will help people to choose foods which involve less wasteful production methods, and encourage people to make better use of the food which they purchase too. Reducing all food wastage routes has the potential to also make major contributions to the Scottish Circular Economy, through local food supply and composting for example.

Energy Supply

Question 11

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What are your views on Scotland generating more electricity from renewable sources?

No comment.

Business and Industrial Processes

Question 12

What support do industries need to reduce their carbon emissions while remaining competitive?

No comment.

Agriculture and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

Question 13

How can the Scottish Government encourage sustainable land use, that is also productive for local communities?

The Vegan Society notes that Scotland has the capacity to produce considerably more than it currently does of the plant-based protein - and the dietary fibre that accompanies it - which is needed for climate-friendly, nutritious diets (see Qs 9 and 15). Currently, roughly half of Scotland's arable land is used to grow feed for animals in farming. Growing crops such as winter cereals and spring pulses, for direct use in food manufacturing, catering and home preparation for human consumption is a more sustainable use of land (Harwatt & Hayek 2019; Farmers for Stockfree Farming 2025b; Warren, Ramos Fonseca & Woodward 2026). These measures could also sequester around 1 Gt CO2 through woodland and other habitat regeneration, from reducing the numbers of animals in Scottish farming (Harwatt & Hayek 2019).

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Farming animals is simply an inefficient use of land. Calculations by Our World in Data showed that, on average globally, lamb and mutton and beef from beef herds respectively required 163.6m2 and 184.8m2 to produce 1kg of protein, where pulses and grains required only 7.3m2 and 4.6m2 respectively (Our World in Data, undated; Poore & Nemecek, 2019). Figures differ across different places and production methods but Poore and Nemecek conclude that in regard to ruminants, the "environmental impacts of [converting grass to human-edible proteins] are immense under any production method practiced today" (Poore & Nemecek, 2019).

In 2024, a survey of nearly 200 climate scientists about the proper role of agricultural and biosphere management transitions in restoring a stable climate found:

(1) An overwhelming majority (85%) considered it important to restore carbon sinks and native vegetation cover specifically on land currently used directly for the farming of animals. This is required as part of the Carbon Dioxide Removal needed to keep global average temperatures below the Paris Agreement range.

(2) A super-majority (76%) agreed that, where required, climate finance mechanisms should include assistance for farmers to convert their practices away from the farming of animals (Harwatt et al. 2024).

Repurposing land which was formerly under tree cover and now used for farming of animals for Carbon Dioxide Removal is essential to meet the United Nations Paris Agreement (UNFCCC 2015). Thus, transitioning away from the farming of animals, towards plant-based agriculture, is also essential. Scotland will be much more likely to achieve its legal climate commitments, and play an appropriate role in staying below 1.5°C global warming, by regenerating woodlands where animals in farming currently graze. All existing cropland can be kept for more and diversified production of legumes, grains, vegetables, fruits, nuts and seeds for people in Scotland to eat directly. (This transition is not a substitute for strong, rapid, immediate GHG emission reductions.)

Achieving this transition can be comprehensive, 'joined-up' policy across land use, climate change, biodiversity and public health – addressing multiple crises simultaneously. Policies to support the production, sustainability, profitability of and demand for plant-based foods in Scotland will help increase sustainable

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diversification in Scottish land use. Relevant policy measures include (Foodrise et al. 2025; see Q1):

a. Leverage Scottish public procurement and catering to source and provide more plant-based foods, normalising plant-rich diets and catalysing growth in the market.

b. Bolster Scotland's food security and economic growth through support for the farmers to produce more vegetables, legumes, fruit, nuts, seeds and wholegrains for food in Scotland.

c. Support Scotland's farmers to increase production of plant proteins for human consumption in Scotland.

d. Collaborate to increase investment in and support for healthy, sustainable alternative proteins.

The Scottish Government needs to support high added-value Scottish grown plant-protein foods made from Scottish-grown crops such as cereals and legumes. These supply chains should ensure a fairer deal to Scottish farmers, and support them to move towards more sustainable and climate-friendly land use practices, thus improving the rural economy in their local communities.

Question 14

What do you think about our proposals for planting trees and restoring natural habitats like peatlands?

The Vegan Society strongly supports the overall intentions and plans for habitat restoration, including woodland habitats. However, Scotland has been falling behind on their own peatland restoration, tree planting and regeneration targets (Woodland Trust 2025). More long-term support for tree planting and natural regeneration will support better, faster woodland growth. Reducing the number of animals in farming in Scotland will accelerate this process through freeing land used for grazing or feed production for these uses (see Q13). These measures could help sequester around 1 Gt CO2 through woodland and other habitat regeneration, from reducing the numbers of animals in Scottish farming (Harwatt & Hayek 2019).

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The full suite of policy measures available to support the transition towards plant-rich diets and plant-based farming in the UK is itemised in Q1. Those policies include revising and repurposing government financial support to promote the transition. Scotland's system of agricultural subsidies can help provide long-term support for habitat regeneration, by removing minimum farmed animal stocking densities, and increasing support for agroforestry, amongst other changes (Stockfree Farming 2025b).

Question 15

How can the Scottish Government support farming to become more climate-friendly while continuing to support food production and improve biodiversity?

Moving away from farming animals to produce food and towards farming more plant-based foods for human consumption will secure these goals.

In regard to becoming more climate-friendly, The Vegan Society believes that the Scottish Government is wrong to reject the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee that numbers of farmed animals in Scotland need to be reduced. The committee's recommendation is entirely consistent with authoritative expert opinion as detailed elsewhere in this submission (see Q9 and: Climate Change Committee, 2025; EAT-Lancet Commission, 2025; IPCC, 2022; UKRI AFN, 2025). In contrast, the government has provided no substantial climate change evidence for this choice.

The Climate Change Committee emphasises that we need to eat more plant-based food if Scotland is to credibly achieve Net Zero by 2045. As the projected major source of greenhouse gases from 2030, Scotland's agriculture emissions need to come down 40% to c. 4.4 $MtCO_2e$ by 2045. Scotland can achieve this by replacing 20-30% of foods of animal origin with climate-friendly plant-based equivalents, reducing cattle and sheep numbers by about one third, and avoiding imported foods of animal origin (CCC 2025b). The evidence shows that plant-based foods, and well-planned plant-based diets, are consistently the lowest climate impact for the nutrition they supply (Scarborough et al. 2023). A forthcoming study suggests that this will result in nutritional and health benefits, and no net rise in household food costs (Kennedy et al. 2026).

Reduction in emissions from agriculture in Scotland over the last 30 years have been driven primarily by a reduction in the number of ruminant animals in farming

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(ScotGov 2024b). In contrast, proposed measures in the Draft Climate Change Plan to reduce emissions from animals in farming further without the direct, proven measure of reducing their numbers rely upon significant unproven assumptions and as-yet unquantifiable potential innovations.

Transitioning away from animal farming will also enhance Scotland's food production. As noted in answers to Qs 13 and 14, animal agriculture is a profoundly inefficient form of food production because it is reliant on converting plant protein to animal protein. As noted by the landmark study by Poore and Nemecek:

"meat, aquaculture, eggs and dairy use [approximately] 83% of the world's farmland and contribute 56-58% of food's different emissions despite providing only 37% of our protein and 18% of our calories" (Poore & Nemecek, 2019)

Calculations by Our World in Data based on Poore and Nemecek's findings showed that, on average, lamb and mutton and beef from beef herds respectively required 163.6m2 and 184.8m2 of farmland to produce 1kg of protein, where pulses and grains required only 7.3m2 and 4.6m2 respectively (Our World in Data,). Figures differ across different production methods but Poore and Nemecek conclude that and in regard to ruminants, the "environmental impacts of [converting grass to human-edible proteins] are immense under any production method practiced today" (Poore & Nemecek, 2019).

Utilising land currently used for feed production to produce crops for human consumption will vastly increase the productivity of that land, while more marginal land currently used for grazing can be used for eco-forestry and rewilding, enhancing carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

The Vegan Society thus calls for substantial support to those biosphere managers who already want to move toward more climate-friendly techniques and to encourage others to make the transition. This can at the same time help increase Scottish-grown plant-based food supply in Scotland, which is needed for public health. Crops of particular interest for plant-based protein, dietary fibre and other nutrients may include winter wheat, winter oats, winter rye, and spring beans and peas, as well as Scottish vegetables, fruits and hazelnuts, for direct use in food manufacturing, catering and home preparation. Scotland can thereby improve the economic diversity and resilience of rural communities, and allow

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more woodland and other habitat regeneration for Carbon Removal and biodiversity recovery. These measures could also help sequester around 1 Gt CO2 through woodland and other habitat regeneration, from reducing the numbers of animals in Scottish farming (Harwatt & Hayek 2019, Farmers for Stockfree Farming 2025b).

Policy measures to increase the desirability, affordability and accessibility of healthy plant-based foods and support farmers both indirectly, through increasing the market for local plant-based foods include (Foodrise et al, 2025):

1. Leverage Scottish public procurement and catering to source and provide more plant-based foods, normalising plant-rich diets and catalysing growth in the market.

2. Encourage Scotland's food supply companies to transition towards a higher proportion of sales of plant-based foods.

3. Bolster Scotland's food security and economic growth through support for the farmers to produce more vegetables, legumes, fruit, nuts, seeds and wholegrains for food in Scotland.

4. Support Scotland's farmers to increase production of plant proteins for human consumption in Scotland.

5. Make it easier and more affordable for people in Scotland to access and eat healthy food.

6. Raise public understanding in Scotland of the health and environmental benefits of healthy plant-rich foods and diets.

7. Collaborate to improve food labelling to raise public understanding of health, environmental and animal welfare impacts.

8. Collaborate to improve training for health and food professionals in regard to healthy plant-rich foods.

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Taken together, these policies will increase the market and margins for farmers to grow climate-friendly foods, and adopt agro-ecological techniques in doing so.

Section 3: Impact Assessments

The following questions concern the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA), Child rights and wellbeing impact assessment (CRWIA), Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment (FSD). The purpose of these impact assessments is to understand the effects of government policy on specific groups, including children and young people, island communities, business and equalities groups.

Question 16

Which groups or communities do you think will be most affected by the transition to net zero, and in what ways?

The Vegan Society has identified the following groups and communities:

1. Children and young people, as they have the longest time to live with the consequences of our actions. Children and young people have the right to grow up in a just society under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC 1989), which fully respects their philosophical beliefs (Equality Act 2010).

2. Impoverished communities, rural and urban alike, as they face the most barriers to adaptation and climate-friendly living including low greenhouse gas emission food.

3. Non-human animals. The Vegan Society believes that principles of justice extend to non-human animals and that protection of their wellbeing, freedom and lives must be considered in regard to the impacts of any policy. We recognise that the Scottish Government does not apply this principle but urge it to do so. The Scottish Government does, however, recognise the importance of animal welfare and there are policy implications for animal welfare from the Net Zero transition.

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The habitats of those living freely are currently severely degraded and remain under threat from long-term climate changes and extreme weather events. Animals on farms will also suffer further due to extreme weather events, and from any intensification of methods intended to compensate for diminished "productivity" arising from climate change effects (IPCC 2022a, IPCC 2022b, FAIRR 2022). Moving away from the industrial-scale farming of animals is necessary for a stable climate, to end these harms, and for a healthy, sustainable food supply.

Question 17

How do you think the Climate Change Plan aligns with existing local, regional, or national priorities that you are aware of or involved in?

The Draft Climate Change Plan does not align with the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 and Plan. In particular, the Draft Plan does not sufficiently recognise the value of promoting the production and consumption of plant-based foods as a means of achieving the health and sustainability goals within the Good Food Nation Plan, as well as the climate goals of the Climate Change Plan itself. The following goals of the Good Food Nation Plan are directly relevant to the approach to food taken in the Climate Change Plan (as detailed further in answer to Q9):

- Outcome 2: Scotland's food system ... supports our net zero and climate adaptation ambitions
- Outcome 3: Scotland's food environment and wider food system enables and promotes a physically and mentally healthy population.
- Outcome 6: Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation

Research commissioned by Food Standards Scotland shows that, as the majority of people in Scotland still do not have a diet resembling the Eatwell Guide, active support for people to eat more plant-based foods is very important (Food Standards Scotland, 2024). In particular, this research highlights the need for people to eat more vegetables and legumes. Along with increased intake of other plant-based foods such as fruits, wholegrains, nuts and seeds, this will help

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achieve the Scottish Dietary Goals. These Goals aim for average intakes in Scotland of: vegetables and fruit to rise, to over 400g per day per adult; dietary fibre to rise, to 30g per day for adults; and saturated fat to reduce to 11% food energy or less, to help lower dietary energy density to 125 kcal/100g (ScotGov 2016). The research also emphasizes that people do need support to eat healthier and balanced diets, such as NHS Scotland Registered Dietitians provide, at the same time as transitioning to lower climate change impact diets (Comrie et al. 2024).

Meanwhile, eating red and processed meat is associated with a range of health harms, including significantly increased risks of Type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease (Guo et al. 2022), kidney disease, various cancers, particularly colorectal cancers, and all-cause mortality (Charlebois & Pantopoulos 2023, Jin et al. 2024). This harm is "dose-dependent", meaning firstly, that eating any red or processed meat gives a measurably increased risk of potentially life-limiting disease, and secondly, these risks continue to go up the more we eat (Li-Hua & Bajinka 2025). The 70g average daily "limit" on red and processed meat in the Eatwell Guide must be seen as a maximum, not an objectively safe level or target intake.

For example, meeting our iron needs from plant-based sources including legumes, nuts, seeds, dried fruits, leafy green vegetables and fortified foods, is straightforward in our meals. People who eat no meat are at no higher average risk of iron-deficiency anaemia than meat-eaters. Eating meat for iron unfortunately adds to our disease risks, compared to getting our iron from plant-based and fortified foods (Luong et al. 2023). Evidence is growing that our bodies can quickly adapt to more efficiently absorb nutrients such as iron when we rely upon plant-based sources (López-Moreno et al. 2025).

Empowering people in Scotland to make food choices which are both more sustainable, and also healthier go hand-in-hand. Even the Climate Change Committee recommended reduction of just 10g of red meat less per person per day has significant benefits both for our health, and for meeting our climate change obligations (CCC 2025b).

The Scottish Government therefore has a vital role to play in promoting dietary changes which have proven benefits both for meeting our climate change duties, and for significantly improving the overall health of people in Scotland. Well-planned plant-based dietary patterns can be a major part of achieving a stable global climate, as well as more widely environmentally sustainable, culturally appropriate, appealing diets which can support healthy living for people at every age and life stage (BDA 2021).

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Practical and proven policies exist which will increase the desirability, affordability and accessibility of healthy plant-based foods, especially for people currently facing significant barriers to healthy eating. Simultaneously, policies to support the production, sustainability and profitability of plant-based foods in Scotland will help increase healthy diversification in Scottish food, farming and hospitality sectors.

Q1 lists a full range of policy options taken from the joint policy proposal endorsed by 50 organisations - “Reaping the Benefits of Plant-Rich Diets: The Ten Point Plan” (Foodrise et al. 2025: see Q1). We shall recap those here as all are relevant:

1. Leverage Scottish public procurement and catering to source and provide more plant-based foods, normalising plant-rich diets and catalysing growth in the market.

2. Encourage Scotland’s food supply companies to transition towards a higher proportion of sales of plant-based foods.

3. Bolster Scotland’s food security and economic growth through support for the farmers to produce more vegetables, legumes, fruit, nuts, seeds and wholegrains for food in Scotland.

4. Support Scotland’s farmers to increase production of plant proteins for food in Scotland.

5. Make it easier and more affordable for people in Scotland to access and eat healthy food.

6. Raise public understanding in Scotland of the health and environmental benefits of healthy plant-rich foods and diets.

7. Collaborate to improve food labelling to raise public understanding of health, environmental and animal welfare impacts.

8. Collaborate to improve training for health and food professionals in regard to healthy plant-rich foods.

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9. Collaborate to update, reform and apply the Eatwell Guide dietary guidelines.

10. Collaborate to increase investment in and support for healthy, sustainable alternative proteins.

These policy actions will bring the Climate Change Plan into better alignment with the Scottish Dietary Goals, and the Eatwell Plate, and the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.

Question 18

If you identified there could be negative impacts of the Climate Change Plan, are there any ways you think we could reduce that negative impact and if so, what would you recommend?

The Vegan Society emphasises that, by failing to support greater consumption of healthy, plant-based foods, the plan risks delaying progress towards the health goals established in the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 and Plan (see Q9 and Q17).

The Scottish Government should therefore adopt the measures of support for increased consumption of plant-based foods outlined elsewhere in this submission.

Question 19

Please share any other quantitative data, or sources of this, to assist in developing the impact assessments:

No comment

Question 20

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Are there any previous examples or case studies we should consider when assessing potential impacts?

No comment

Question 21

Can you think of any further positive or negative impacts, that are not covered in the impact assessments, that may result from the Climate Change Plan?

The Vegan Society notes the evidence that a climate-stable, plant-based agri-food system will have extensive positive impacts upon the physical and mental health of everyone living in Scotland. Through not addressing diet or the reduction of animal farming in Scotland, the Climate Change Plan may contribute to impacts not addressed in the assessments.

Climate change is already severely impacting the physical and mental health and well-being across the world, especially for young people whose future is under threat. For example, youth non-profit organisation, Force of Nature, found that over 70% of young people feel hopeless, over half feel there are no solutions, and only a quarter 26% feel empowered to contribute to stabilising our climate and ecosystems (Force of Nature 2021).

The evidence shows that plant-based foods, and well-planned plant-based diets, are consistently the lowest climate impact for the nutrition they supply (Scarborough et al. 2023) contrasted to foods from animals. At the same time, the more we eat red and processed meat, the more our risk rises of a range of health harms including Type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease (Guo et al. 2022), kidney disease, various cancers, particularly colorectal cancers, and all-cause mortality (Charlebois & Pantopoulos 2023, Jin et al. 2024, Li-Hua & Bajinka 2025).

The Food Standards Scotland have shown, increased active support for people to eat more vegetables, legumes and other plant-based foods is very important, so they can meet and exceed Eatwell Guide intakes. Along with fruits, wholegrains, nuts and seeds, this will help achieve the Scottish Dietary Goals (ScotGov 2016, Comrie et al. 2024). For example, meeting our iron needs from plant-based sources including legumes, nuts, seeds, dried fruits, leafy green vegetables and fortified

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foods, is straightforward and significantly reduces these risks (Luong et al. 2023, López-Moreno et al. 2025).

There is also a growing body of evidence that being involved in a plant-based agri-food system can promote better mental health, as our ethical values and our daily behaviours come more into mutual alignment (Stockfree Farming 2025a). There is a strong shared ethical value across Scotland, as in most societies, that it is wrong to cause harm unnecessarily. This is particularly strong when relating to suffering, which is harm to sentient beings including non-human animals as well as other humans.

The well-being of all residents of Scotland and beyond, are deeply inter-related with climate stability, ethical agri-food supply, and wider ecological health. Our food directly connects us, three or more times each day, to other people, non-human animals, and our shared biosphere. Knowing we are part of an ethical, climate-stable plant-based Scottish agri-food system can thus support better mental health for everyone in Scotland (The Vegan Society 2022).

Meanwhile, the current deeply flawed animal-based Scottish agri-food system (ScotGov 2019, 2024, 2025) is severely damaging the mental health of people working in farming and the killing of animals. With young people desperately needed to entre biosphere management, a shocking 90% of young farmers cite mental health as the biggest hidden danger facing UK farming today. A recent study specifically examined the ethical concerns, emotional distress, and openness to alternative farming models of animal farmers in Scotland and beyond. Many participants reported ethical dissonance and emotional suppression, including guilt, trauma, and distress in raising animals to be killed. A clear majority of participants currently active in farming animals (63%) were open to reducing the numbers of animals they farm, provided accessible and viable alternatives are available (Stockfree Farming 2025a). Removing this source of mental health harms is vital to the wellbeing of farmers in Scotland.

Thus, a climate-stable, plant-based agri-food system will actively contribute to physical and mental health in Scotland. The opportunities of “The Scottish Government’s commitment to ending our contribution to global emissions by 2045

at the latest, as agreed by Parliament on a cross-party basis” which apparently, “remains unwavering” (introduction) should include the tangible benefits for people across Scotland of more sustainable, healthier, more resilient, more just food supply for Scotland. This can also make a very significant and immediate contribution to people in Scotland living longer, healthier, more fulfilling lives.

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Section 4: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The following questions concern the SEA. There is a legal requirement to consult on the SEA Environmental Report (Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005). The purpose of the SEA is to assess the likely environmental effects of government policy, considers how negative impacts can be avoided or minimised and ways that positive effects can be enhanced.

Question 22

What are your views on the accuracy and scope of the environmental baseline set out in the environmental report? Are you aware of further information that could be used to inform the assessment findings?

The Vegan Society calls for a clearer, transparent presentation of the known greenhouse gas burdens and other environmental impacts of the biosphere management sector, including food, textile, construction material and other raw material production. The reports of the greenhouse gas emissions due to Scotland's farming and food, particularly by individual gas (e.g. methane and nitrous oxide, not just carbon dioxide), including the global feed supply chain, are not straightforward to access nor interpret. The data already collected for Scotland's full agri-food value chain should be re-analysed and re-presented as a specific industrial sector.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment should also pay due regard to the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022. This is because the evidence shows that plant-based foods, and well-planned plant-based diets, are consistently the lowest climate and other environmental impact for the nutrition they supply (Scarborough et al. 2023). This includes the nutrients of consideration such as healthy protein, carbohydrates and fats, as well as dietary fibre, vitamins and minerals (BDA 2021).

In particular, actions that meet climate and other environmental objectives, whilst also promoting the long term wellbeing and health of people in Scotland and beyond, should be made clear in this work.

In our view, the Draft Climate Plan, and the Strategic Environmental Assessment based upon it, do not yet sufficiently recognise the value of promoting the

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production and consumption of plant-based foods as a means of achieving Scotland's environmental and public health goals.

Question 23

What in your view are the most significant environmental effects which should be taken into account as the Draft Climate Change Plan is finalised?

The Vegan Society believes that populations of free-living animals, including those which are currently extinct from Scotland, and those who are 'near threatened', 'vulnerable' and 'critically endangered', are bellwethers of environmental health in their natural habitats. There are plans at various stages of development to re-introduce species back to Scotland, which have survived elsewhere. The health of the habitats upon which all these species in vulnerable situations rely, should be taken into account as a vital sign of Scotland's environmental recovery.

Question 24

What are your views on the predicted environmental effects as set out in the environmental report? Please share any other useful sources.

The Vegan Society notes that the loss of productive agricultural land for woodland and peatland restoration can be significantly reduced by moving away from high 'stocking densities', and the large-scale growing of feed to permit this, in the farming of animals. This will free up the large proportion of Scotland's croplands currently used to grow feed, and the uplands currently prevented from regenerating tree and other diverse plant cover by large numbers of grazing farmed animals. The net effect will be that more productive agricultural land is made available, especially when measured in terms of people fed per hectare.

These measures could also help sequester around 1 Gt CO2 through woodland and other habitat regeneration, from reducing the numbers of animals in Scottish farming (Harwatt & Hayek 2019).

Question 25

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What are your views on the proposals for mitigation, enhancement and monitoring of the environmental effects set out in the environmental report?

The Vegan Society notes, Strategic Environmental Assessment p47 SS 4.6.2 “Shifts in land use can affect wildlife habitats and impact water pollution levels, particularly through diffuse sources., The agriculture industry was the third largest source of emissions in Scotland in 2023, with annual emissions of 7.5 MtCO2e (19% of all emissions), mainly releasing nitrous oxide (N_2O) and methane, with smaller contributions of carbon dioxide (CO_2).”

The reports of the changing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental harms due to Scotland’s farming and food need to be clearer and more transparent. In particular, this should be set out by individual gas (e.g. methane and nitrous oxide, not just carbon dioxide), including the global feed supply chain, and other activities which support farming of animals. Where other harms, such as water pollution from crops grown to feed animals in farming, these should be transparently allocated to Scotland’s farming of animals. The Strategic Environmental Assessment should include more detail about how aquatic habitats and water quality will be monitored, and pollution e.g. from biosphere management decisions is mitigated.

As data continue to be collected, Scotland’s full agri-food value chain should be re-analysed and re-presented as a specific industrial sector.

Section 5: Monitoring emissions reductions

Question 26

What are your views on the proposed approach to reporting annual emissions output and how this could support public understanding of Scotland’s progress towards achieving our Carbon Budgets?

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The Vegan Society believes that the people of Scotland need more clarity on the main non-carbon greenhouse gases (GHG), nitrous oxide and, methane, alongside carbon dioxide and the other main GHGs. Scotland must also transparently account for net imports of GHG emissions, clearly reporting nitrous oxide and methane emissions embedded therein. The full greenhouse gas budget, should be plainly reported each year, with a full life-cycle analysis of Scotland's farming of animals as far as possible and practicable.

Question 27

How useful do you think reporting emissions statistics at a more detailed level (including at the sub-sectoral level), would be in helping people understand key sources of emissions, and our progress in reducing them?

The Vegan Society believe that more detailed emissions statistics will be a useful tool to counter misinformation from potentially vested interests in media and other sectors.

There is still a lot of work to be done on Scope 3 emissions across all supply chains. For most businesses using products of farming, Scope 3 emissions from their supply chain significantly exceed their emissions from direct operations (by as much as a factor of 20). This translates to significant business risks. EcoVadis estimates suggest a Scope 3 liability of an estimated £500 million annually in climate change liabilities for Scotland's businesses by 2030. However, investing in climate action throughout Scotland's supply chain now could achieve over £3 return for every £1 invested (Ecovadis 2025).

As data continue to be collected, Scotland's full agri-food value chain should be re-analysed and re-presented as a specific industrial sector. This will reveal the true distribution and level of Scope 3 emissions, including in Scotland's use of the products of the farming of animals in Scotland and via imports.

Question 28

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How might the use of timely indicators, as proposed, help people to understand what needs to be delivered to achieve our Carbon budgets, and to understand whether progress is on track?

The Vegan Society agrees that timely indicators - of nitrous oxide and methane emissions alongside the better known carbon dioxide levels, where the data are available or can be collected - will be important to help the people living in Scotland. These timely indicators will help show which sectors are playing their full part, and which sectors need to do more, to secure a stable climate for current and future generations.

As data continue to be collected, Scotland's full agri-food value chain should be re-analysed and re-presented as a specific industrial sector. This will reveal the true distribution and level of Scope 3 emissions, including in Scotland's use of the products of the farming of animals in Scotland and via imports.

Section 6: Monitoring Just Transition

The following questions concern the following 14 proposed indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the Climate Change Plan.

1. Participation in decision making
2. Community energy
3. Community benefits
4. Changes to places
5. Fuel Poverty
6. Transport affordability
7. Socio-economic impact on oil and gas communities
8. Impact on household finances in oil and gas communities
9. Access to training for offshore oil and gas workers
10. Green jobs
11. Impact of energy prices on small businesses
12. Air pollution
13. Woodland creation

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14. Peatland restoration

Question 29

Please detail any specific changes that would improve any of the 14 proposed indicators, including any data sources not currently included within this framework that could provide a useful indicator of progress towards a just transition in Scotland on an annual basis.

The Vegan Society proposes the following additions:

Community health benefits: What proportion of income do different communities and socio-economic groups including households on benefits, have to spend to enjoy diets in line with the Eatwell Guide, Scotland's Dietary Goals, and other healthy eating guidelines for Scotland?

Green food jobs: What proportion of green jobs are specifically in the climate-friendly agri-food sector?

Woodland creation for plant-based agro-forestry: what area of Scotland is being managed for agro-forestry, including food production, distinguishing woodlands which include or exclude farmed animals?

Question 30

What are the most appropriate indicators for judging whether we are achieving meaningful public participation in decisions related to the climate? This includes both the quality of the participatory process itself, and the impact of that participation on the decision-making process.

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No comment

Question 31

What indicator would provide the best measure of the impact of net zero development in local communities across Scotland? For example, the impact of the installation of renewable energy infrastructure or other land use changes (e.g. through peatland restoration or tree planting).

No comment

Question 32

What specific data or indicators could we use to monitor the extent to which workers in high-carbon industries are securing alternative employment?

No comment.

Question 33

What specific data or indicators could we use to meaningfully monitor the impact of the transition to net zero on the environment and biodiversity across Scotland on an annual basis?

No comment

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