

Scottish Independence

The Scottish Green Party supports Scottish Independence from the conviction that the urgent transformation needed in our society and our economy can best be achieved by Scotland as a small autonomous country. Bringing political and economic structures and decision-making closer to the Scottish people is a core Green principle and ambition.

Decentralization of Power

Independence is not just about devolution of power from Westminster to Holyrood. Greens want to see more power and accountability transferred to local authorities and communities, so that they have more control over how they raise and spend their own money. An Independent Scotland that believes in the talents and fair-mindedness of its people, and disperses power in a way that maximises participation, would reinvigorate our democracy at all levels.

Independence offers a radical opportunity to transform Scotland into a modern democracy with social justice, environmental protection and human rights at its heart.

Patrick Harvie, Scottish Green MSP

A Principled Constitution

Greens demand a written constitution for Scotland based on equity, human rights, democratic values, and ecological considerations. We call on the Scottish Government to outline a process and timetable for the democratic drafting and adoption of a constitution well in advance of the

2014 referendum vote. We believe any future Scottish constitution should be designed in direct partnership with the Scottish people. This has already been achieved in Iceland, where an assembly of 25 specially elected representatives and 950 randomly selected members of the public rewrote its constitution.

A hereditary monarchy is incompatible with Green principles of democracy, equality and fairness. We favour an elected Head of State.

A Resilient Economy

Scottish Independence offers a chance to reject the unsustainable economics of unconstrained market-driven

growth and to put the wellbeing of the Scottish people first. An Independent Scotland should seek to have as much control over its economy as possible, and so we support a timetable for transition away from

Sterling towards its own currency.

Greens would revitalise local economies in an Independent Scotland by shifting support away from multinationals and toward small and medium sized businesses. We would prioritise renewable energy, research and development, and manufacturing, and favour local production for local consumption over dependence upon export driven markets. We would promote agricultural diversification,

as well as reform and redistribution of land and asset ownership.

Our banking and financial services must serve local economies, not the forces of international capital. We would support a Robin Hood tax on the financial sector. We would support also more mutual saving and lending institutions.

Progressive Taxation

An independent Scotland would have the power to design a fairer and simpler system of personal and corporate taxation, free from loopholes and offshore havens, and intended to increase social justice. We would give communities and local authorities greater scope to raise income locally, replacing Council Tax and Business Rates with a Land Value Tax.

No Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are morally unjustifiable. Independence offers an opportunity to rid Scotland of the UK's nuclear arsenal, and to institute a constitutional prohibition on ownership or manufacture of weapons of mass destruction. We would seek withdrawal from NATO and campaign for a wider process of global disarmament and international non-violent conflict resolution. We would aim to repurpose the Scottish Regiments and defence industries with new skills for new challenges.

Future Energy

Without Westminster approval, the Scottish Parliament does not have the statutory teeth to deliver security of national energy supply beyond the next few decades while enabling us also to

meet urgent sustainability targets for greenhouse gases. By favouring gas, nuclear and coal power over clean, renewable energy sources, the current UK Government places the interests of major global energy corporations before the needs of people now, and in the future.

We demand a fairer and more transparent system of energy pricing, alongside intensive national and local investment in a new energy infrastructure, local authority energy companies, local community owned heating schemes and targeted support for micro-generation by individual households, businesses and community groups.

Citizenship

We believe Scottish citizenship should be open to everyone of Scottish birth, parentage or grand-parentage and to those who have lived here for five years. We want to see an asylum system for Scotland which is based on compassion and which treats people as human beings, instead of the brutal system currently operating in the UK.

Radical Independence

Independence is an inherently radical step. The referendum in 2014 offers a truly historic opportunity to effect systematic change, but independence is not an end in itself. Only a transformational vision for an Independent Scotland will be enough to convince people, as The Scottish Green Party believes, that a YES vote will lead to a fairer, healthier, more sustainable society and a better future for all Scots.



For more information:

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