

Join the food revolution...



...for good, safe, local, fair food

We need a food revolution...

We need to change our food culture in Scotland. The big supermarkets are wielding increasing power over the high street, paying producers and farmers less for their goods and closing local businesses, while creating an illusion of choice. Food poverty is damaging the health of our people. Young people are growing up with no connection to the land we depend on for survival, addicted to sugar, salt and additives. Climate change is being fuelled by the unnecessary transport of food, which is increasingly polluted by chemicals from the environment, pesticides, antibiotics and genetically modified organisms.

Scotland needs some big ideas to tackle all the social and environmental problems of food. In short, we need a food revolution. We need you to help us make that happen.


Robin Harper MSP (Lothians)


Shiona Baird MSP (North East Scotland)


Eleanor Scott MSP (Highlands and Islands)


Mark Ballard MSP (Lothians)


Chris Ballance MSP (South of Scotland)


Mark Ruskell MSP (Mid Scotland and Fife)


Patrick Harvie MSP (Glasgow)

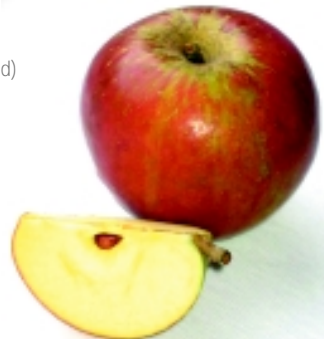




Photo: Jo Pittson

We need a food revolution...



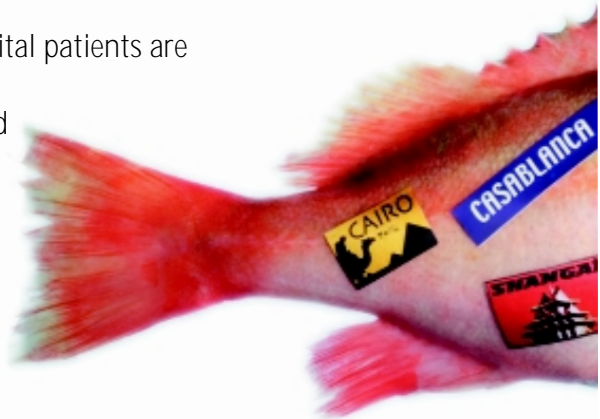
Good food

Did you know that...

- 33% of 12-year-olds, 54.2% of women and 62.2% of men are overweight or obese?
 - Breakfast cereals targeted at children contain up to 40% sugar.
- Scottish children eat only two of the five daily recommended portions of fruit and vegetables on average.

Green MSPs are campaigning to:

- Ban the Brands – take advertising out of schools to avoid manufacturers of foods high in fat, sugar and salt targeting young, impressionable consumers.
- Ensure long-term support for community healthy eating initiatives.
- Ensure school children and hospital patients are provided with healthy meals.
- Make food labelling accurate and easy to understand.



Local food

Did you know that...

- The ingredients of a traditional Sunday lunch could have travelled up to 24,000 miles before reaching your plate? The same meal using seasonal ingredients from a farmers market travels around 376 miles.
- 125 million litres of milk are imported into the UK annually, while 270 million are exported?
- 90p of each £1 spent in a supermarket leaves the area, whereas £1 spent in a local shop doubles its value to the local economy?

Green MSPs are campaigning to:

- Encourage local, small-scale, community-led shops, farmers markets and organic vegetable box schemes.
- Get public bodies to buy seasonal and local food, particularly for school and hospital meals.
 - Reduce food miles.



Do you know where your dinner was last night?

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Fair food

Did you know that...

- 70% of low income parents have to travel to buy food, at an average journey cost of £3.71 - an extra 23% on their weekly shopping bill.
- Healthy food is often more expensive than less healthy options and harder to find in deprived areas.
- Supermarkets' ability to drive food prices down means that both Scottish farmers and farmers in developing countries are receiving less for their goods.

The Executive says that it will support measures to improve the availability of affordable, healthy food in low income areas, but has not backed this up with any action. It has done little to ensure fair prices for farmers.

Green MSPs are campaigning to:

- Introduce free, nutritional school meals for all.
- Adopt Unison's 'Food for Good' charter, to ensure fair pay for public sector food workers.
- Ensure Scottish farmers receive a fair price for their goods.
- Ensure fair prices for farmers abroad too, by supporting the Fair Trade movement.



Safe food

Did you know that...

- Over 200 children each day are exposed to dangerously high levels of pesticides just by eating a piece of fruit.
- Almost 50% of fresh produce contains pesticides which are linked to reduced fertility and breast cancer. Long-term effects remain unknown.
- Food poisoning rates soared in England & Wales by 400% between 1982 and 1999.

Green MSPs want to make food safer for consumers and the environment. We are:

- Campaigning for organic farming to be put at the heart of Scottish agriculture.
- Calling for a ban on GM crops.
- Introducing a Bill to ensure that, if GM crops are grown, biotech companies will be held liable for any economic damage they cause.
- Encouraging fisheries and farmers to reduce reliance on antibiotics and pesticides.



What you can do...

Ask the right questions

- About the food you eat. Where does it come from? What's in it? Who grew it?
- About the Scottish Executive's food policies. Is your government giving you what you need?

Take action

- Buy seasonal, locally produced food from farmers markets, local shops and through box schemes wherever possible.
- Join your Green MSPs campaign for safe, fair, local, good food. To receive regular updates on activities and help us to put pressure on the Scottish Executive to improve policy and legislation on food:

Email - food@scottishgreens.org.uk

Phone - 0131 348 6360

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