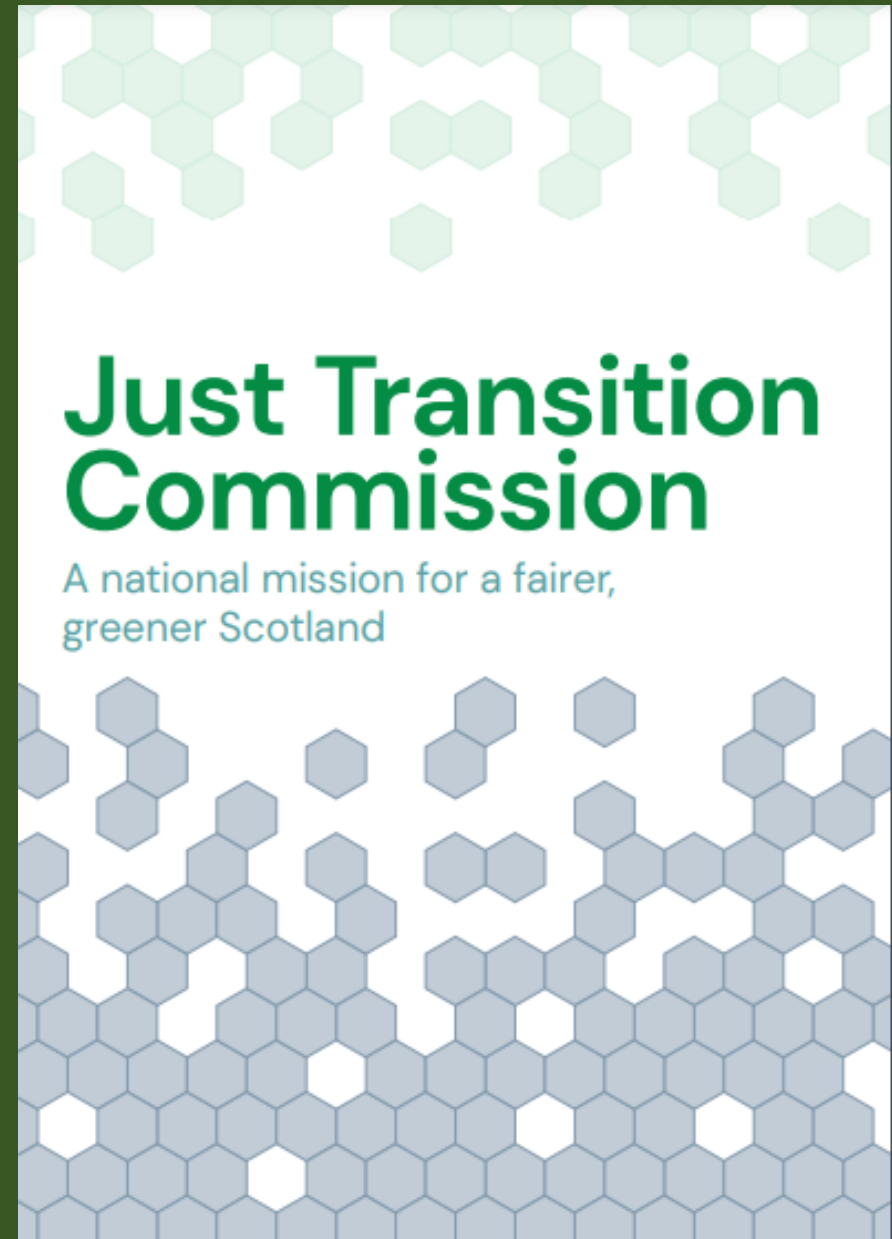


Professor Mike Danson

Just Transition
Commissioner

*NHS Lothian Sustainability,
27th May 2021*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-commission-national-mission-fairer-greener-scotland/>



The
challenge,
and what
we mean by
a just
transition:

"The imperative of a just transition is that Governments design policies in a way that ensures the benefits of climate change action are **shared widely**, while the **costs do not unfairly burden those least able to pay**, or whose livelihoods are directly or indirectly at risk as the economy shifts and changes."

Where we are now and so solutions

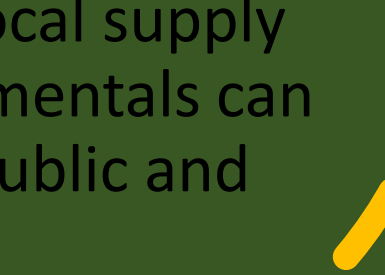
- Evidence from thematic sessions, invited representatives, surveys, open consultations, etc.
- Case studies
- **Energy efficiency in housing:** benefits the climate, improves the **health and wellbeing** of people, and can create and sustain jobs across the economy. How we pay for this is crucial, with public and private finance needed. But it is important to remember that improving **health and wellbeing** through better housing could lead to reductions in expenditure elsewhere
- **Transport system** that improves our **health and wellbeing**. **National Transport Strategy:** which is underpinned by four principles – reduced inequalities, improved climate, inclusive growth, and **improved health and wellbeing**

More than energy

positive opportunity to tackle existing **inequalities** and to build a society that prevents **injustice** from occurring in the first place. This vision of a just transition seeks to identify how climate action can build our **collective wellbeing**.

Our call to action in four simple messages

Key Message 1.
Pursue an orderly,
managed
transition to net-
zero that creates
benefits and
opportunities for
people across
Scotland. Delivery
of this must be a
national mission

- **Fundamental changes to the way we live, work and do business** could have a positive impact on Scotland's overall economy. The impact will differ widely across **sectors and regions**. Just transition roadmaps will give direction and **confidence**, driving investment that **brings jobs, skills** and value to Scotland; **stakeholders** will work together on robust plans; government business support will be more explicitly linked to emissions reductions, stronger local supply chains and **Fair Work**. These fundamentals can be a catalyst for action across the public and private sectors.
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Orderly, managed
transition:

Particular
recommendations

- 1 Ensure sufficiently developed **roadmaps** exist for the net-zero transition in Scotland, including for key technology options.
- 2 The **public sector** must be more prescriptive and strategic in its use of funding streams to build strong and resilient local supply chains
- 3 All **levers** should be used to achieve increased **local content**
- 4 All public funding for climate action should be conditional on **Fair Work** terms

Key Message 2.

Equip people with the skills and education they need to benefit from the transition

- We need a flexible and accessible skills and education system that can meet the needs of a net-zero economy and address **inequalities**. Specific interventions will be needed for some, such as those in carbon-intensive industries, farmers and land managers and small businesses, particularly in construction and transport.
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Skills and education:

Particular
recommendations

- 8 Lay the groundwork for a **flexible, accessible skills and education system** that can meet the needs of net-zero while addressing existing **inequalities** in the labour market.



Key Message 3.
Empower and
invigorate our
communities
and strengthen
local
economies


- A just transition is shaped by Scotland's **citizens**, not imposed on them. It energises **social partnerships** and local democracy and develops places and communities that are designed for net-zero **and improved wellbeing**. It **empowers consumers** to choose local products, such as sustainably produced food and drink.
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Communities and local economies

Particular recommendations

- 12 Conclude the Local **Governance** Review at the earliest possible date
- 13 Implement Green **Participatory** Budgeting with agreed target levels of funding
- 15 Apply the lessons learned from Scotland's **Climate Assembly** across the development of all policies for tackling climate change
- 16 Empower and resource local authorities to deliver a **just and green recovery**
- 17 A new "Sustainable Scotland" brand should be created to support Scottish agriculture deliver climate action and to empower **consumers** to choose sustainably produced food and drink
- 18 Scottish Government, local authorities and developers must commit to creating communities that embed low-carbon lifestyles, while improving our **health and wellbeing**

Key Message 4.
Share benefits
widely and
ensure burdens
are distributed
on the basis of
ability to pay.

- A just transition **refocuses** on **wellbeing**; it uses the power of government intervention and public finance (such as the Scottish National Investment Bank and public pension funds) to drive action; it explores new funding methods for local projects; it fully explores the **distributional** impact of taxes; it ensures new technologies and services are delivered in a way that works for people, and **improves the lives of the most vulnerable in our society**.
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Benefits and
Burdens:

Particular
recommendations

- 20 Decisive action must be taken to ensure that **all consumers** are able **to benefit** from the increasing availability of new ways of buying and selling electricity
- 21 Any additional costs for consumers associated with emissions reduction must be linked to **ability to pay**.
- 22 The power of **public sector pension funds** and business support funding must be directed towards ensuring companies align with the just transition to net-zero
- 24 We must **move beyond GDP** as the main measure of national progress. Scottish Government must champion frameworks that **prioritise wellbeing**. [The recent Strategic Transport Projects Review is a sign that this is moving in the right direction, but **updated** guidance outlining how to **balance the objectives of net-zero, wellbeing and health** should be produce]

Next speaker

Dr Margaret Douglas

Look to the future

1. Deputy First Minister or a Cabinet Secretary responsible for a just transition to net-zero. (partly under Kate Forbes, split across several portfolios and Ministers)
2. Scottish Government must establish capacity for **independent scrutiny and advice** on the just transition provisions in our Climate Change legislation. (also for NHS Lothian?)
3. The Scottish Government should launch a **national call for action** at COP26, that brings business, trade unions, and civic society together in a commitment to support just transition principles in Scotland. (focus and action)