

The Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Green recovery

Submission From **Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

In most cases we will publish your written submission on the Scottish Parliament's website. What you send us may also be quoted in the Committee's report or in its Committee meetings. These are public meetings that are broadcast online.

Before making a submission, please read our [privacy notice](#) (section headed Parliamentary business – Committees) about submitting your views to a Committee. This tells you about how we process your personal data. If you are under 12 years of age, please read this 'Submitting Your Views to Committee: Young People' section.

The Committee would particularly welcome views on the following questions–

Do the principles of sustainable development (as set out in the annexe), and those for a resilient recovery, as proposed by the UK Committee on Climate Change, provide a comprehensive framework for guiding an effective green recovery in Scotland?

We welcome these principles and the framework proposed for the country.

What are the key barriers to delivering a green recovery (within your sector and / or community)?

Green, natural and sustainable resources and energy sources will impact on the renewal of communities in the Scottish islands facing challenges around changing population demographics. Clarity of vision around how the Green Recovery Plan will impact positively on these challenges will encourage and promote the revitalisation of these rural communities.

In addition we are seeing rapid growth in the development of Gaelic-speaking communities across Central Scotland. These new Gaelic-speaking communities are enriching the cultural landscape in cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh. It is crucial that the Green Recovery Plan includes action on cultural issues and identifies clearly the benefits to health and wellbeing.

The connection between cultural vibrancy, the Green Recovery Plan and improvements in Health and Wellbeing will be important principles to establish, along with a recognition of Scotland's Gaelic heritage as a key element in the framework. It is therefore essential that Scotland's indigenous Gaelic culture is part of an overall cultural renewal which will be promoted as part of the Green Recovery.

A vision for harnessing new technologies to deliver wider access to the rich cultural heritage of Scotland – including our Gaelic cultural heritage, will demonstrate how the Green Recovery Plan will dramatically impact on Health and Wellbeing across the country, in both urban and rural settings. Contextualising the Green Recovery Plan will enable wider understanding of how green technologies can impact positively on daily life.

What key policies, actions and immediate priorities are needed to deliver a green recovery (within your sector and / or community)?

As stated, the Gaelic-speaking communities are developing in both traditional Gaelic-speaking areas in the Scottish islands and the North-West Coast and in urban centres around, for example, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

In our new urban Gaelic-speaking communities connectivity and green transport will impact positively on the cultural and educational structures these communities are enriching. The Green Recovery Plan should identify clearly how green technology will support cultural renewal and innovation, benefitting Health and Wellbeing in both urban and rural contexts.

Traditional and Urban Gaelic communities have strong connections to the land and sea and have worked sustainably at a local level for centuries. It is imperative that communities can reengage with local markets to enable selling and purchasing of local produce. Implementation of fast broadband is needed now to allow for home and local working. Effective strategic intervention to support diverse working environments will impact directly on efforts to revitalise traditional Gaelic-speaking communities.

Green and regular public transport is required in both rural and urban communities to allow local working, which builds economic resilience for Scotland as a whole. The availability of affordable green housing will reinvigorate both traditional and urban Gaelic-speaking communities but the importance of affordable green housing in the Scottish islands and other rural parts of the country cannot be overemphasised.

How should the 2021/22 Budget support a green and sustainable recovery and avoid locking in carbon; and what funding is needed in the ECCLR portfolio to deliver a green and sustainable recovery?

Given the centrality of the Green Recovery strategy we would welcome clear budgetary commitments which adequately fund innovation and sustainable Green development.

General response

Gaelic language and culture connect us all more closely to the land, waters and seas across and around Scotland, through greater understanding and appreciation of our Gaelic placenames, folklore and history. Indeed, the Gaelic word "loch" resonates with everyone who either lives in Scotland or knows about our country, across the globe. Hundreds of thousands of people are learning and using Gaelic through apps, online, in school and in informal settings. There is mounting evidence of a much greater national consensus around the importance of ensuring that the Gaelic language and culture is available to everyone in Scotland and beyond. The Green Recovery Plan will be enriched by including wider perspectives such as culture and health and wellbeing and Gaelic will play a significant role in the successful delivery of the cultural components of a comprehensive strategy.

Gaelic-speaking communities can play an important role in demonstrating green, sustainable best practice. This is particularly relevant given that the current Gaelic-language renaissance links traditional island communities to urban centres, where the language is developing apace with the opening of new Gaelic-Medium schools.

This rich and vibrant Gaelic-language cultural contribution to Scotland's future should be recognised fully, as a context within which the Green Recovery Plan will actively impact on positive outcomes for diverse communities across our country and moreover, further enhance our international reputation.