



Just Transition Commission

Professor Jim Skea



Aims of the Session

- *Share our current thinking on the just transition movement in Scotland*
- *Give you the opportunity to share your thoughts – we want to hear from you!*
- *Give you a forward look leading up to our report in March next year*

The Commission is to.....



... provide practical, realistic, affordable recommendations that will support Scottish Ministers take action that will:

1. Maximise the economic and social opportunities that the move to a net-zero economy by 2045 offers
2. Build on Scotland's existing strengths and assets
3. Understand and mitigate risks that could arise in relation to regional cohesion, equalities, poverty (including fuel poverty), and a sustainable and inclusive labour market

Just Transition Commission - Background



Work to date

NEWS

Home | Coronavirus | US Election | UK | World | Business | Politics | Tech | Science | Health | Family & Education

Scotland | Scotland Politics | Scotland Business | Edinburgh, Fife & East | Glasgow & West | Highlands & Islands

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Learn Longannet 'lessons' when cutting carbon emissions

By Kevin Keane
BBC Scotland's environment correspondent

© 27 February

Climate change

NEWS

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Electric buses call to boost green recovery

By Kevin Keane
BBC Scotland's environment correspondent

© 31 July

COVID-19



In context: Just Transition

The Just Transition Commission has released its interim report. What does it mean, and why is it important anyway?

Net-zero economy can help Scotland rebuild post-COVID

A report from the Just Transition Commission highlights four "hotspot" areas to focus on - young people, transport, oil and gas and the rural economy

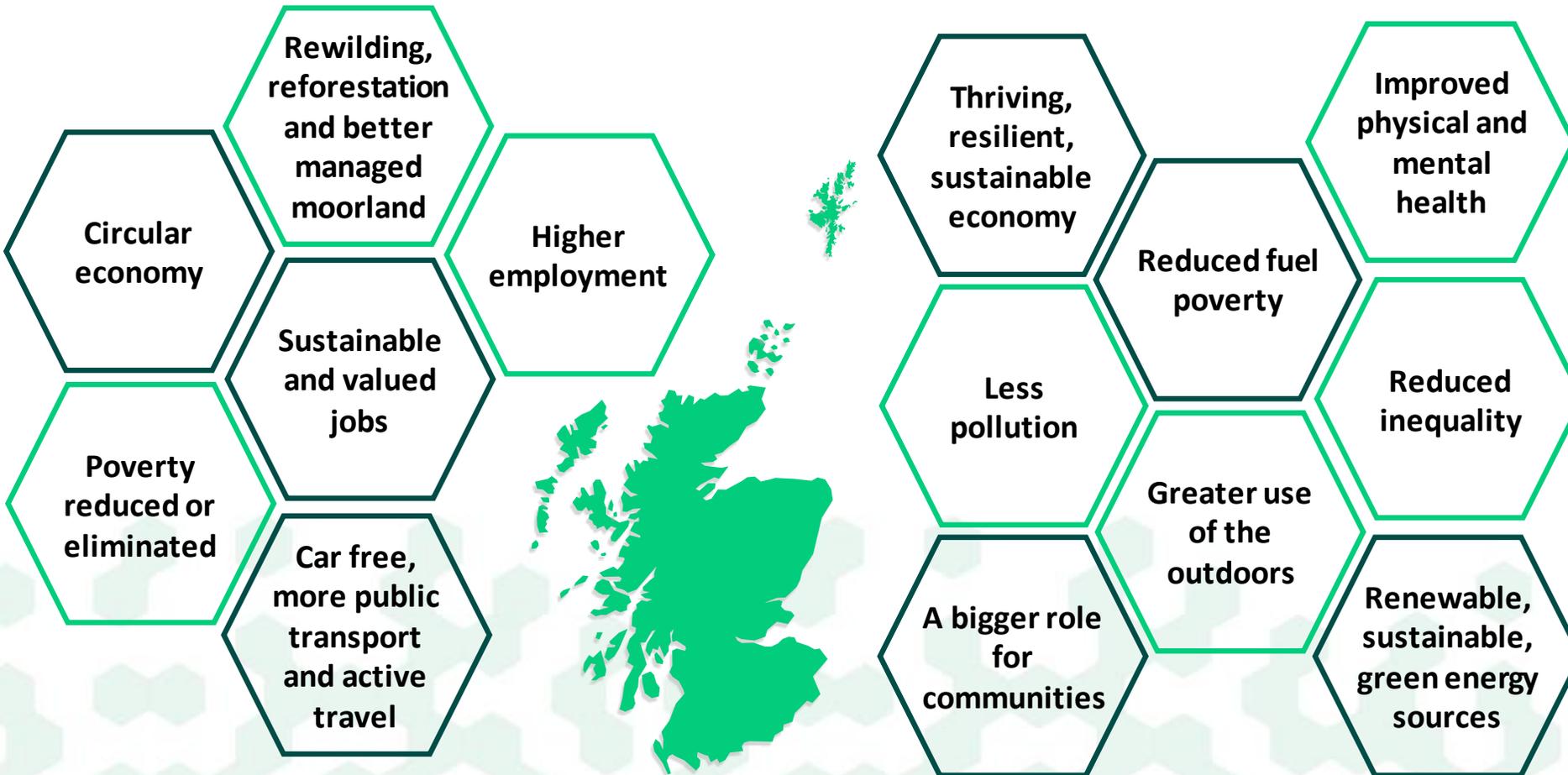
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By insider.co.uk
12:10, 30 JUL 2020

NEWS



People see huge opportunity for the net-zero transition to bring about a more prosperous, healthier, and fairer Scotland



The impact of Covid-19:

- Many responses referenced the impact of Covid-19 and the implications for Scotland and a just transition
- A few respondents suggested that Covid-19 has provided an opportunity for people in Scotland to experience some of the changes that would feature in a successful transition, demonstrating how lives could be improved by adopting such changes permanently

And there was no shortage of suggestions for how to bring this vision about



Energy

- Decommissioning plan for oil and gas
- More targeted goal of achieving a 90% reduction in carbon emissions by 2035
- Addressing practices which undermine net-zero such as peat extraction and subsidies for oil and gas



Innovation and investment

- Research and funding to support the development of renewable energy systems technology and enhance Scotland's energy infrastructure



Land, agriculture and food

- Wide ranging suggestions in relation to land use and agricultural practices
- Focus on sustainable approaches, including frequent references to food waste with calls for an end to schemes which encourage excess food purchasing



Transport

- Development of an electric transport system
- National ownership of public transport services
- General discouragement of car use
- Nurture and promote a cycling culture



Awareness raising

- Engage in an information and awareness campaign to garner public support and understanding for the transition



Public sector activity and expenditure

- Divest public sector pensions from any investment in fossil fuel companies
- Direct procurement systems to increase the spend on local, sustainable businesses
- Positive view of Scottish National Investment Bank



Local communities

- Role in supporting the public to change
- Arguments for devolved decision-making forums



Sectoral adjustment

- Need for sectoral adjustment plans
- Support investment in workforce training and development
- Encourage innovation to support the transition

But there was also recognition of the risks the transition may bring to different groups



Those with jobs in, or linked to, carbon intensive industries

- Need for job opportunities in green industries
- Structured transition plans
- Financial assistance and support to acquire skills
- Need to avoid impact on wider supply chains



Lower income households

- Concern over cost of making changes and increased cost of living
- Consider impact and mitigation
- Community engagement and public information campaigns



Car users

- Concern over additional taxes, restrictions on car use and switching to electric vehicles
- Recognition of the need for cars in rural areas
- Expansion of rail and bus networks and for public transport to be subsidized / free at point of use



Vulnerable groups and those with protected characteristics

- Better design of social welfare and support systems including education, housing, health and transport
- Equality impact assessments and consultation with communities with protected or specific characteristics



Farmers and land owners

- Research, education, training, and financial support
- Close engagement with agricultural communities
- Investment in small scale, local initiatives including crofts and community growing initiatives
- Need for varied land use including repurposing of land for recreation, conservation, or rewilding



People in rural or remote rural areas

- Poor infrastructure exacerbating inequalities
- Need for specific strategy to support rural communities through a transition, considering economic growth, energy, infrastructure, transport, employment, healthcare and access to essential services

Looking ahead....

Effects of pandemic will widen inequality, report finds

Accelerating economic downturn will have significant public health consequences, warns IFS



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Bills and laws ▾

Chamber and committees ▾

Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill

The complex battle over the BiFab yards



Douglas Fraser
Business/economy editor, Scotland

2 November

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UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE

2th NOVEMBER 2021



Final thoughts

“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.”

Just Transition Commission