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*Butterfly Conservation Scotland*

*The Calyx*

*Community Food and Health (Scotland)*

*Eco Schools*

*Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens*

*Garden for Life*

*Garden Organic,*

*Greenspace Scotland*

*Grounds for Learning*

*Horticultural Trades Association*

*The Institute of Horticulture*

*ISPAL*

*Keep Scotland Beautiful*

*National Trust for Scotland*

*Plantlife Scotland*

*Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh*

*Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society*

*Royal Horticultural Society*

*Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society*

*Scottish Environment LINK*

*Scottish Gardeners' Forum*

*The Scottish Landscape Forum*

*The Soil Association*

*Scotland's Gardens Scheme*

*Slow Food Edinburgh*

*Trellis*



Scottish Allotments  
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## Growing Scotland: environment



Gardening contributes to the  
Scottish Executive agenda to improve  
the Nation's well being

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Pictures Courtesy Ernie Watt and Barbara De La Rue

# GARDENS AND GARDENING: ENVIRONMENT

## PROPOSED SUPPORTIVE CO-ORDINATED ACTIONS FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

### Climate Change:

Gardens can be used to develop and demonstrate practices that will mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

#### ACTION

*INCLUDE* representatives of the gardening community in consultations on climate change.

### Eco-build

Rain gardens, roof gardens and garden composting can alleviate the effects of flooding, air pollution and waste disposal.

#### ACTION

*FUND* research and development of gardens in eco-build programmes. As well as energy efficiency, incorporate eco-gardens in new developments and in regeneration schemes.

### Environmental Foot-print

The environmental, social and economic cost of food transport is about £1bn annually emitting 1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

#### ACTION

*DEVELOP* a strategy and action plan to support shops that source locally and to encourage people to grow their own food.

### Gardens for All

Many Scots do not have private gardens because of the Scottish tradition of tenement dwelling. In Edinburgh it takes nine years to get a plot on an allotment site. In Dunoon 35 people have been waiting three years for an allotment site. In Aberdeen half the allotment sites do not have water available so are not suitable for vegetable growing.

#### ACTION

*LINK* Councils, voluntary bodies and local land owners to give everyone the opportunity to garden productively.

*Gardens and gardening increase the overall well being of the Nation economically, physically and mentally. They could drive forward employment, health, communities, biodiversity, environment and education. This potential growth should be championed in a vision for Scotland's gardens.*

It is suggested that, within the time of this Parliament, **the First Minister** recognizes the importance of gardening to the well-being of the nation and instructs:

- a representative body to produce a strategy and action plan for a nationwide commitment to a gardening agenda.
- government agencies involved with employment and economic opportunities to assess the contribution the gardening sector could make to Scotland by improving the local environment, creating new business and making a real, practical difference to the urban and rural land-scape.
- the health service to recognise and promote the contribution gardening makes to health and well being.
- local authorities to make long term strategic provision for accessible gardening for local communities thus providing the means to implement the requirements of the planning regulations.
- councils, public agencies, professional bodies, education establishments, gardening societies to develop, in partnership, a range of policies which include the design and implementation of national and regional programmes of management, gardening skills and environmental research.