

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Nature and Climate
Date Group Established
22 November 2022
Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)
07 November 2024
Date Annual Return Submitted
07 November 2024
Date of Preceding AGM
13 September 2023
Group Meetings and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 07 November 2024, 15:15-15:30 – AGM This agenda for this meeting was the AGM, which focused on reviewing former CPG meeting topics and re-electing office bearers.• 19 June 2024, 13:00-14:00 – Natural Capital Finance This meeting focused on a vision for nature-and-climate-friendly agriculture. It welcomed the following speakers: Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scotland’s Rural Collage (SRUC), and Bright Green Nature. There was an opportunity for members of the CPG to participate in the discussion and ask questions [Minutes].

MSPs in Attendance: Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party) and Maurice Golden (Scottish Conservative and Unionist party).

Non-MSPs in Attendance, included: WWF Scotland, Scottish Environment LINK, Marine Conservation Society, James Hutton Institute, ecus, UK Infrastructure Bank, Keep Scotland Beautiful, NatureScot, Scottish Forestry, John Muir Trust, Fife Coast & Countryside Trust.

- **28 February 2024, 18:00-20:00 – Bringing Communities Together in the Fight for Climate and Nature**

This meeting focused on ways we can bring communities together in the fight for climate and nature. It welcomed the following speakers: Community Land Scotland, Common Ground Forum, Restoration Forth, Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland, Wynford Residents Union, People's Plan for Nature. There was an opportunity for members of the CPG to participate in the discussion and ask questions [[Agenda](#)].

MSPs in Attendance: Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party) and Ariane Burgess MSP (Scottish Green Party)

Non-MSPs in Attendance, included: WWF Scotland, Scottish Environment LINK, RSPB Scotland, Keep Scotland Beautiful, ecus, Stirling University, ERCS, Plantlife Scotland, Wynford Residents Union, Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, Development Trusts Association Scotland, John Muir Trust, Fife Coast & Countryside Trust, Community Woodlands Association.

- **13 September 2023, 18:00-20:00 – Nature-Friendly Agriculture**

This meeting included an AGM and focused on a vision for nature-and-climate-friendly agriculture. It welcomed the following speakers: WWF Scotland, Nourish Scotland, Middleton Croft, and Ethical Dairy. There was an opportunity for members of the CPG to participate in the discussion and ask questions [[Agenda](#) and [Minutes](#)].

MSPs in Attendance: Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party), Finlay Carson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist party), Maurice Golden (Scottish Conservative and Unionist party), Mercedes Villalba MSP (Scottish Labour).

Non-MSPs in Attendance, included: WWF Scotland, Scottish Environment LINK, Nourish Scotland, Middleton Croft, Ethical Dairy, RSPB Scotland, Plantlife, Buglife, NFFN.

MSP Members of The Group

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party), Finlay Carson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Meghan Gallacher MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Maurice Golden (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Mercedes Villalba MSP (Scottish Labour), Monica Lennon (Scottish Labour), Beatrice Wishart (Scottish Liberal Democrats).

Non-MSP Members of The Group

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals	N/A
Organisations	Scottish Environment LINK, RSPB Scotland, WWF Scotland, John Muir Trust, Woodland Trust, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Plantlife Scotland, Buglife, Marine Conservation Society.

Group Office Bearers

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Co-Convener	Mark Ruskell MSP
Co-Convener	Monica Lennon MSP

Deputy Convener	Maurice Golden MSP
Secretary	Scottish Environment LINK
Treasurer	N/A

Financial Benefits or Other Benefits

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

N/A

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER

**COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT
(Please tick all boxes that apply)**

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Nature & Climate, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties	X
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	X
Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM	X
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	X
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings	X

Provided minutes of all meetings		X
Signed	Mark Ruskell MSP	
Date	07 November 2024	