

The Scottish Greens – conference in Edinburgh

The Greens are looking ahead to major gains in 2011.

✘ That is the message from Edinburgh Green councillor, Alison Johnstone, as she opens the Scottish Green Party Annual conference at Napier University this weekend on 6th & 7th November.

Alison, who is also bidding to be Green MSP for Edinburgh and the Lothians next year, told the Edinburgh Reporter:

“We live in turbulent times and in such times normal party loyalties no longer count. The Scottish elections are only six months away and I sense a real appetite among the public for politicians who can recognise the stark reality of economic gloom but can also map a positive way out of it. Over the weekend we’ll be hearing about exciting ideas on green jobs and investment, on housing and on Scotland’s future.

“There are good foundations to build on. Here in Edinburgh, the group of Green councillors has had real influence over vehicle pollution, planning, energy efficient homes and social care, to name only a few. Thanks to the Green MSPs’ Climate Challenge Fund, over £3 million has been invested in the city on community projects which are transforming neighbourhoods in ways that are good for people and the planet.

“That is why I am so optimistic about the six months ahead.”

The conference also features Caroline Lucas, the Greens’ first MP in Westminster and Robin Harper, giving his last conference speech before standing down as an MSP in 2011. Dozens of Scotland’s best known charities and representative organisations are also taking part.

You can get more information about the conference on the Scottish Greens website.