



**SCOTTISH  
POLICY  
GROUP**

BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SPRE

## AGENDA AND PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

The Scottish Policy Group (SPG) and the Scottish Policy Research Exchange (SPRE) have developed this joint policy training event: *Demystifying Policy*

Zoom, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 9.30-12.30pm

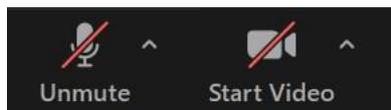
09:30	<b>Opening and Welcome</b> Ellie Wood (Event Chair)
09:40	<b>Introduction to SPG: Celebrating 10 Years</b> Chris Pollard (Scottish Policy Group)
09:45	<b>Introduction to SPRE</b> Nick Bibby (Scottish Policy Research Exchange)
09.50	<b>What is Policy? A Basic Introduction</b> Jeanette Hall (Scottish Policy Group)
10.00	<b>Writing Policy Briefs</b> Nick Bibby (Scottish Policy Research Exchange)
10.10	<b>Code Red for Parliamentary Scrutiny</b> Graeme Cook (Scottish Parliamentary Information Centre)
10.25	<b>Science in to Policy: Tipping the Balance</b> Chris Leaky (NatureScot)
10.40	<b>BREAK</b>
10.50	<b>Environmental monitoring and policy: A journey from Scotland's Highlands to the capital city</b> Lydia Niemi
11.05	<b>Lobbying</b> Stuart Housden
11.20	<b>Feedback</b> Ellie Wood (Event Chair)
11.30	<b>Event Q&amp;A</b> Ellie Wood (Event Chair)
12.00	<b>Further Materials and Next Steps (Optional Element)</b> Nick Bibby and Dave Bell (Scottish Policy Research Exchange)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

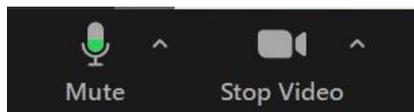
- Please keep your microphone muted and camera off.
- Please ask questions in the main chat box.

## MAIN ZOOM CONTROLS

Microphone and video off:



Microphone and video on:



## CASE STUDY INSTRUCTIONS

### Intended Outcomes

- To demystify the policy process, and show how it is accessible
- To undertake case study that has the aim of seeking to influence policy
- To practice writing the executive summary of a policy briefing

### What to expect

Read the case study below and work through the *hypothetical*:

- **who**: which colleagues or partners should you be reaching out to get involved with this?
- **what**: what exactly are you getting in touch about? Can you synthesise the case study into a sentence?
- **when**: can you create a timeline and thinking of the wider context, are any significant legislation changes happening or about to happen?
- **where**: are there events on the horizon that you could attend to ask questions or network with specific people?

- and **why**: this should be a constant question throughout your process: **Why** now? **Why** it is relevant to the person I want to reach out to? **Why** is it important to Scotland or the region or hypothetical town you are in? Think *context*.

Feel free to make up further contextual details for the case study, the accuracy of the details don't matter so much. Focus on your *process*. Conduct research online collate it into notes, then practice summarising into a policy brief.

You will have an opportunity to ask questions during the event. Even if you don't get a chance to look at the materials beforehand there will be a chance for further discussion on this at 12.00 when we get to the **Further Materials and Next Steps** with Nick and Dave.

#### Pre-Reading:

- **Scan** *Policy Briefs: A guide to writing policy briefs for research uptake* <https://blogs.lshtm.ac.uk/griphealth/files/2017/01/Policy-briefs-guide-2015.pdf>
- **Read** the attached case study
- SPRE resources <https://spre.scot/resources-to-engage-with-policymakers/>
- Examples of policy briefings: <https://moodle.gla.ac.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=1948967>

## CASE STUDY

TITLE	Changing the World One Garden at a Time
POLICY AREA	Local Government, Environment, Health
ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH GROUP	Your research group is a multidisciplinary team combining social psychology, environmental science, public health and urban studies. You are interested in how the public can be persuaded to use gardens and other outdoor spaces to contain climate change and tackle biodiversity loss.
FINDINGS OF YOUR RESEARCH	Your research suggests that introducing more wildlife to gardens - especially in place of decking or gravel - can help tackle biodiversity loss and play a role in addressing climate change. It has also suggested mental health benefits and opportunities for community interactions. However, polling data suggests that the

	public is unlikely to accept being told how to make use of their outside spaces.
POTENTIAL POLICY TARGETS	NatureScot, Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament Committees, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, individual local authorities.
CONTEXT	The UK's gardens form a web of around 4,300 square kilometres - more than a million acres. Within 'Gardenland', there are roughly 28 million trees and three and a half million ponds. That makes up around 350 hectares of pond habitat and 47,000 hectares of trees. That's eight times more pond space than exists in the countryside and a wooded area two and a half times the size of Glasgow.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	<a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/23460946?seq=1">https://www.jstor.org/stable/23460946?seq=1</a>  <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316020959_Wildlife_gardening_for_collaborative_public-private_biodiversity_conservation">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316020959_Wildlife_gardening_for_collaborative_public-private_biodiversity_conservation</a>  <a href="https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/05/070519084046.htm">https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/05/070519084046.htm</a>

## FURTHER READING

- ⇒ [Scottish Policy & Research Exchange guide on 'how to get started' with policy engagement](#)
- ⇒ [Pushing research evidence only gets us so far](#)
- ⇒ [Keep it complex](#)
- ⇒ [Science communication demands a critical approach that centres inclusion, equity and intersectionality](#)
- ⇒ [Welsh example of how evidence has been used for policy change: Nature Recovery Report](#)

## FURTHER LISTENING

- ⇒ [40 minute talk on 'Shaping policy with evidence'](#)
- ⇒ [34 minute talk on 'Why do policymakers seem to ignore your evidence?'](#)
- ⇒ [1 hour 34 minute panel discussion on 'Politics, power and the use of research evidence'](#)