

Cross-Party Group on Wellbeing Economy

Friday, 8th of December, 10:30-12:00 pm

Meeting topic: Building businesses for a Wellbeing Economy

Meeting will be held online via Zoom.

Agenda

1 Welcome and CPG business

Welcome from co-convener Emma Harper MSP

Appointment of Deputy Convener

2 Panel 1: The role of business in building a Wellbeing Economy

We will hear presentations by Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy, and Erinch Sahan, Business and Enterprise Lead at Doughnut Economics Action Lab, reflecting on the role of businesses in building a Wellbeing Economy. The presentations will be followed by questions and discussions with the audience.

Neil Gray is Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy in the Scottish Government. He was elected to represent Airdrie and Shotts Constituency in the Scottish parliament in 2021 after serving as an MP representing the same area in Westminster. Before being appointed to his current role, he served as Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and as Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine in the Scottish Government.

Erinch Sahan is Business and Enterprise Lead at the Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL). For over 10 years, he has focused on the transformation of the business world to make it regenerative and distributive by design – exploring governance and ownership models that embed social and ecological priorities. Erinch's background spans business, government, social enterprise and NGO, including the role of chief executive of the World Fair Trade Organization, roles at Oxfam and Procter & Gamble and being setting up a furniture business.

2 Panel 2: The potential of Social Enterprise and Cooperatives

We will hear presentations from Kirsty Thomson, Founder and CEO of The Circle, and Larke Adger, CEO of West Granton Housing Co-operative, reflecting on how we can build on the experience and learning from social enterprise and cooperatives in building a Wellbeing Economy. The presentations will be followed by questions and discussions with the audience.

Kirsty Thomson is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of The Circle. Kirsty is a serial social entrepreneur who has set up and now merged two social enterprises – ACK Third Sector Consultants CIC and The Circle. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience working in and with charities and social enterprises for over 20 years and has secured more than £13 million in funding. She helps them to become better businesses, to help communities thrive.

Larke Adger is CEO of West Granton Housing Association, Larke sets the organisational vision and is accountable for the success of the Co-op. She also oversees the long-term planning and strategic direction of the Co-op collaborating with community partners, consultants and external stakeholders. Larke is also the Company Secretary and has 22 years' service at WGHC. Larke is also a Board Director for SHARE.

3 Identifying policy priorities

We will discuss policy priorities for building businesses for a Wellbeing Economy in small groups.

4 Next steps and close of the meeting

Closing remarks by the Chair Maggie Chapman MSP.