

# HIGHLAND Climate Change CONFERENCE



**CO-LABHAIRT  
Atharrachadh  
Gnàth-shìde  
NA GÀIDHEALTACHD**

**21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

# Welcome

## SPEAKERS

### **Joe Perry**

Event Organiser

Joe Perry is The Highland Council's Climate Change Coordinator and helps the Local Authority to reduce its impact on the environment.

One of his current projects is the exciting launch of a Green Impact Tool for The Highland Council, which will help schools and Council staff to reduce their emissions. Prior to taking on this role, Joe worked as Project Coordinator for The Flow Country World Heritage Site Project on behalf of The Peatlands Partnership. The Flow Country was successful in passing the first stage of the World Heritage Site process and will apply to UNESCO in Paris for full status in the next 3 years.



# Welcome

## SPEAKERS

### **Katie Andrews**

Event Organiser

Katie Andrews is one of the Council's Climate Change Coordinator and helps the Local Authority to reduce its impact on the environment.

One of her current projects is the River Ness Hydro, working with partners to develop the interactive content which will ensure there is a unique visitor experience. Prior to taking on this role, Katie worked as a GIS Officer within Amenity Services, mapping out Council assets including play areas and green spaces. Katie is using the @carbon\_CLEVER twitter to improve the two-way communication between the Council and individuals, communities and local businesses on climate action.



# Welcome

## **Cllr Margaret Davidson**

Council Leader,  
The Highland Council

Councillor Margaret Davidson is Leader of The Highland Council and has been an Elected Member for Aird and Loch Ness since 1995. Cllr Davidson is a member of Community Land Scotland and Abriachan Forest Trust; memberships which allow her to indulge her love of the wonderful Highland outdoors.

In May 2019, Cllr Davidson tabled a motion declaring a climate and ecological emergency, committing The Highland Council to leading on climate action and helping the region towards being a net-zero emitter by 2025.





# Keynote Speech

## **Drew Hendry MP**

Member of Parliament  
for Inverness, Nairn,  
Badenoch & Strathspey

Drew is a former Leader of  
The Highland Council and  
the current MP for Inverness,  
Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey. In addition, he  
currently undertakes the role of Shadow SNP  
Spokesperson (Trade).



# Energy

This section will explore the emerging technologies which will help our energy industry reach net zero in Highland.

Attendees will hear about developments green hydrogen, SSE Renewables, energy efficient school initiatives and much more.

# Energy

## Martin MacDonald

Project Manager,  
The Highland Council

Martin MacDonald is a Project Manager in the Council's Transformation Team. Martin manages the Council's £12m Salix Recycling as part of his portfolio (of which includes the River Ness Hydro). Martin will resenet on the River Ness Hydro project lifecycle and development.

The River Ness Hydro is a 92kW 'Archimedes Screw' hydroelectric scheme and interactive visitor experience on the River Ness, saving 142,000kg CO2e per annum, generating and supplying 50% of the electricity demand to Inverness Leisure Centre and providing a hub for STEM learning. Coming March 2022.



# Energy

## Energy Sparks

Working with Highland schools to save energy and fight climate change

Energy Sparks is an online programme that supports schools to tackle the climate emergency by empowering pupils and informing staff to cut carbon emissions through energy efficiency measures. This free, simple to use platform provides energy data, educational resources and advice to currently 160 schools across the UK, including 13 in the Highlands.



## Energy Sparks

Helping schools fight climate change

## Joanne Allday

Strategic Business Development Manager  
for the Port of Cromarty Firth.



# Energy

## Rachael Anderson

Sustainability Officer in the Climate Change and Energy Team for The Highland Council.

We believe it is important that regardless of rurality, all Highland residents are treated equally and have access to the provision of EV infrastructure. Installing EV Infrastructure within the Highlands is a challenging but rewarding project; and the decarbonisation of transport remains the key priority.

For further information or to look into the EV Infrastructure Vision, please visit:

[www.highland.gov.uk/electric-vehicles](http://www.highland.gov.uk/electric-vehicles)



# Energy

## **Lochaber Environmental Group (or LEG)**

We run a range of Environmental Projects in Lochaber. Currently our projects include a community hydro power scheme, an active travel programme, a community food group and an E-Bike share scheme.

Watch our video 'Invest in LEG Power' here:

**[www.bit.ly/LEG-Power](http://www.bit.ly/LEG-Power)**



**LOCHABER**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

# Energy

## Andy Sloan

Head of Consent Strategy at  
SSE Renewables

Andy's wide-ranging role encompasses renewable projects onshore and offshore including re-powering, as well as hydro and pump storage at scale in the UK and Ireland whilst also providing expert advice on land and consenting issues for divestment and acquisitions both in the UK and globally. Andy is a Chartered Surveyor and Town Planner and a member of both the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors as well as the Royal Town Planning Institute.





# Energy



## **Sarah Roberts**

Salix Technical Officer in the Infrastructure and Environment Team for The Highland Council.

## **Professor Susan Krumdieck**

Dr Krumdieck is Professor of Energy Transition Engineering at the International Centre for Island Technology at Heriot-Watt University's Orkney Campus.



# Keynote Speech

## **Arianne Burgess MSP**

Highlands and Islands,  
Scottish Green Party

Before becoming an MSP, my work focused on regenerative and sustainable community development. As part of that work, I wrote a book called "Life Design for Women: Conscious Living as a Force for Positive Change," published in 2020. I wanted to encourage more women to engage in the changes we must make to see a thriving future. I turned to this work twenty years ago when I realised the impact human activity has on the climate and natural environment. In my previous career, I moved from Scotland to New York to work in the film and music industry which was good fun until I realised the ecological problems created by the industry. I've always been involved in politics and community activism. When I lived in New York, I took part in a range of campaigns, including standing up for immigrant workers, stopping the development of an incinerator in a community where people already suffered from high levels of asthma, and preventing the bulldozing of hundreds of community gardens where people were growing

# Keynote Speech

their food. When I returned to Scotland, I joined the Scottish Green Party in was elected as Highlands and Islands Regional MSP in 2021. I want to use this position to support communities of place to start doing the urgent work of building their resilience and strengthening their ability to adapt and meet their fundamental needs more locally. And I want to work with national and local governments to do this too.



# Land and Sea

This section will take a closer look at how our lands and sea can help to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. Attendees will hear about The Flow Country World, the Highland Good Food Partnership, rewilding projects and much more.

# Land and Sea

## William Austin

Professor in Geography and Sustainability at St Andrews University

William (Bill) Austin is a Professor in the School of Geography and Sustainable Development at the University of St Andrews. He graduated from University College London in 1986 and holds a Masters in Micropalaeontology and Doctorate in Ocean Sciences. He has held research fellowships from the Royal Society of London, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the UK Natural Environment Research Council. After a Lectureship at the University of Durham, Bill moved to St Andrews in 1999 as Reader; he was appointed Professor in 2015. He also holds a visiting chair appointment at the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences (near Oban) and chairs the Scottish Government's Blue Carbon Forum.





# Land and Sea

## **Cllr Craig Fraser**

Councillor,  
The Highland Council

I am a Highland Councillor for Ward 9 Black Isle and live in Cromarty. I am the Highland Council species champion for the Solitary Bee and Bottlenosed

Dolphin. Like many people my environmental outlook was formed by listening to and being inspired by Sir David Attenborough, Jacques Cousteau, Sir David Bellamy, progressing to Chris Packham and team. Latterly Greta Thunberg, 15-year-old environmental activist Holly Gillibrand is Young Scotswoman of the Year for 2019, Finlay Pringle an 11-year-old schoolboy from Wester Ross. 22-year-old climate activist, writer, and global peace ambassador John Paul Jose. My sincere hope for the future is with young environmental activists.



# Land and Sea

## Steven Andrews

### World Heritage Project Manager

Dr Steven Andrews has come to World Heritage from a background in research and teaching (University of Aberdeen, CASP [Cambridge], University of Exeter, University of the Highlands and Islands). Having spent extensive periods investigating the past environments of East Greenland and northern Scotland he developed an affinity with wild and beautiful landscapes and the need to preserve them for future generations. Growing up on the fringes of the Flow Country, the World Heritage project coordinator role, which he took up in February 2021, has provided a great opportunity to raise awareness and help protect one of the very special environments that Northern Scotland contains.



# Land and Sea

## **Dr David Hetherington**

Woodland Advisor, Cairngorms National Park Authority

Dr David Hetherington is the Woodland Advisor for the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA). He works with landowners, tenant farmers, crofters, forest agents, fishery boards and Scottish Forestry, to help deliver strategic woodland expansion across the national park. He also represents the CNPA on the project management group of Saving Wildcats, a new LIFE-funded project aimed at captive-breeding and releasing wildcats in the Cairngorms. Prior to working for the CNPA, he completed his PhD on the Eurasian lynx, and in 2018 published *The Lynx and Us*, a lavishly-illustrated book exploring the ecology of Europe's most enigmatic large carnivore and its relationship with people.

[www.cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/heritage/heritage-horizons](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/heritage/heritage-horizons)

## **Scottish Finest Woods**

The annual Scotland's Finest Woods Awards' Programme strives to reward and showcase all that is best in Scotland's forests and woods.



# Land and Sea

## Trees for Life & Rewilding Europe

Trees for life has a vision of a revitalised wild forest in the Highlands of Scotland, providing space for wildlife to flourish and communities to thrive.

## Professor Pete Iannetta

University of Dundee

Dr Pietro (Pete) Iannetta leads 'Ecological Food Systems', a sub-Group of Agroecology (Dept. of Ecological Sciences) at the James Hutton Institute. He is also an Honorary Lecturer at the University of Dundee.

Pete is a plant biologist and ecologist who studies the complex interactions which determine the sustainability of food- and feed-systems. His research is strongly focused on legume-supported systems, from production to consumption. This effort includes developing novel crops, and novel cropped systems, processing-innovation, and the provision of extension services to value-chain stakeholders, including policymakers.





# Land and Sea

## **Stuart Brooks**

Head of Conservation and Policy

Stuart Brooks is Head of Conservation and Policy at the National Trust for Scotland. Stuart is also Chair of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme and Co-Chair of Scotland's Landscape Alliance.

## **Highland Good Food Partnership**

The Highland Good Food Partnership is an initiative is driven by local people who are passionate about creating a sustainable, local food system and is jointly funded by the Pebble Trust and Transition Black Isle.

# Land and Sea



## **Kirsty Ellen**

Food Growing Coordinator,  
The Highland Council.

## **Scottish Association for Marine Science**

The Scottish Association for Marine Science is an independent non-profit membership organisation that conducts research into how marine environments work, how and why they are changing and how we can use and treat them better. They educate, communicate and promote their findings for the public good.

# Land and Sea

## **Cllr Trish Robertson**

Chair of Economy & Infrastructure and the Climate Change Working Group

As chair of the working group Trish is the spokesperson on climate change

Outside the council Trish has an active interest on gardening and conserving the resultant produce for home use. In 1995 Trish and her husband began the restoration of Applecross Walled Garden. This involved reclaiming the paths and installing services such as water, electricity, and gas to bring greenhouses back into production. Then followed a term in Romania which involved teaching and encouraging the uptake subsistence agriculture among the Romany community.



# Video Montage

## Day 1

John Muir Trust

Scotland: The Big Picture

ORION

SSE Renewables

Davy McKraken, Scotland's Rural College

John Muir Trust

Spey Catchment Initiative

Scotland: The Big Picture

Finance Lab

Dynamic Dunescapes

Forestry Land Scotland

The Southern Uplands Partnership

Sean Saul, UHI Student

Julianna Powell-Turner

Chloe MacDonald and Jennifer Scotson

Struan Primary School

Lairg & District Learning Centre

Freya Burns



# Keynote Speech

## **Màiri McAllan MSP**

### Minister for Environment and Land Reform

Mairi McAllan MSP was appointed as the Minister for Environment and Land Reform in May 2021.



Ms McAllan is a former lawyer and Special Adviser to the First Minister in Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform and was elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2021 to represent the constituency of Clydesdale.

She grew up and was educated in the town of Biggar in South Lanarkshire, before studying Scots Law at the University of Glasgow and European law at the University of Ghent, Belgium.

Ms McAllan attended Glasgow University to gain her Diploma in Professional Legal Practice and, after qualifying as a Scots lawyer, specialised in energy and natural resources in a Glasgow, commercial firm.

Ms McAllan also cofounded the human rights organisation 'Reblaw Scotland'.

# Net Zero

This section will examine what net zero actually means and will explore how we can achieve it within Highlands.

Attendees will hear about The Highland Council's journey to net zero, financing net zero, a just transition and much more.

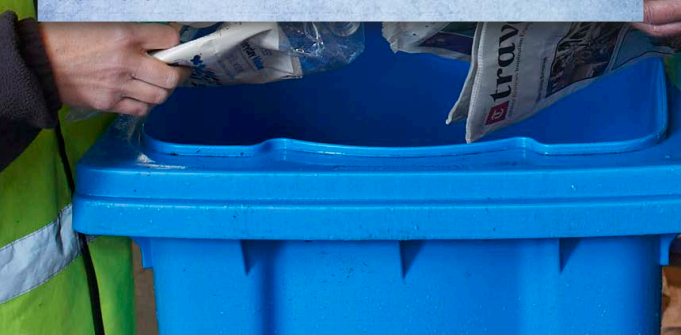
# Net Zero

## Keith Masson

Climate Change &  
Energy Team Manager,  
The Highland Council



Keith Masson is the Council's Climate Change & Energy Team Manager, and has been working to help decarbonise both the Council and wider Highland region for over 8 years. Keith originally trained in law, but very quickly realised it wasn't his true calling, so please don't hold it against him! Keith's team is currently working on a range of climate change and energy-related initiatives which you will hear about over the course of the Climate Change Conference, and he is firmly of the view that Highland is going to play a significant role in supporting the national drive to end our collective contribution to climate change no later than 2045.



# Net Zero

## Patrick Jean-Martel

Environment Green Finance  
Manager, NatureScot



Patrick has been Environmental Green Finance Manager at NatureScot since March 2021, currently living in Edinburgh, joined NatureScot after completing an MBA at the University of Edinburgh and after a 12 year career in corporate and investment banking. Patrick collaborated on the drafting and implementation of the first ESG and sustainability-linked syndicated loans on the French market. Now focusing exclusively on Green Finance, he is currently working on establishing and scaling up the ever-growing nature based solution markets in Scotland by helping co-design market mechanisms and supporting structures/vehicles that would facilitate more private investment in support of natural capital restoration projects.



# Net Zero

## Paul Chatterton

Leader of Landscape Finance Lab, NatureScot

Paul Chatterton is the founder and lead of the Landscape Finance Lab. During an extensive career with WWF, Paul has catalysed results including the first jurisdictional scale forest and climate (REDD+) programs on two continents, Europe's longest river protected area and the largest rainforest reserve in the Pacific. Paul is a co-author of the Little Sustainable Landscape Book and co-initiator of Landmapp, a mobile app to provide affordable land tenure to rural communities.

## Graham Neville

Area Manager for Northern Isles and North Highland, NatureScot

Graham is the Area Manager for Northern Isles and North Highland for NatureScot, the Scottish Government's Nature Agency. He leads the operational delivery of NatureScot's work across Shetland, Orkney, and the North Highlands, and represents NatureScot in the Highland Community Planning Partnership and on the Highland Adapts project. He is involved in a range of work across the area on how nature can help us tackle climate change and facilitate a green recovery.



# Net Zero

## Philip Shannon

Consultancy Manager with the Property and Facilities Management Team,  
The Highland Council

## Sonya Peres

Scotland Project Manager

Sonya Peres is the Scotland Project Manager at Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK), based in Glasgow.

She supports SOS-UK's programmes and campaigns in Scotland and works to deliver the Green Impact programme for the Highland Council. She is excited to see Highland Council staff and schools taking part in Green Impact and embedding sustainability into organisational culture.

[www.sos-uk.org](http://www.sos-uk.org)

[www.forgood.nus.org.uk](http://www.forgood.nus.org.uk)

[www.teachthefuture.uk/scotland](http://www.teachthefuture.uk/scotland)



# Net Zero

## Audrey MacIver

Director of Energy  
Transition & Net Zero, HIE

As a graduate of Aberdeen University (BSc Hons in Agricultural Economics), Audrey has dedicated her career to economic and community development of the Highlands and Islands. Earlier roles in HIE included community development, economics, tourism, skills and energy. In June 2017 she was appointed as HIE's Director of Energy & Low Carbon, and following a recent re-organisation became HIE's overall lead for Net Zero.

Sustainable economic growth across the Highlands and Islands is HIE's core purpose, and energy is a priority sector, offering distinct competitive advantages. In addition to securing maximum economic and social benefits from large scale offshore developments and stimulating innovation across emerging technologies, HIE is committed to the deployment of local energy systems, noting the region's rich energy resources, and the community benefits such an approach can bring. Audrey is confident the transition to Net Zero will offer exciting prospects, firmly believing the Highlands and Islands is a region which can punch well above its weight in contributing to the ambitious targets being set.



# Net Zero

## Nathan Chaplin

Energy Engineer,  
Climate and Energy Team,  
The Highland Council





# Keynote Speech

## **Richard Lochhead MSP**

Minister for Just  
Transition, Employment  
and Fair Work



Richard Lochhead was appointed  
Minister for Just Transition,  
Employment and Fair Work in May 2021.

Richard Lochhead MSP was elected to the Scottish  
Parliament in 1999 and 2003 via the North East regional  
list. During the second session of Parliament he  
stood down from his regional seat and was elected as  
constituency MSP for Moray in the by-election in April  
2006.

Mr Lochhead lives with his wife Fiona and sons Angus  
and Fraser. In his spare time he is a keen cyclist.

He was previously the Cabinet Secretary for Rural  
Affairs, Food and Environment and Minister for Further  
Education, Higher Education and Science.

# Resilient Communities

This section will celebrate the amazing work already being done across Highland to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. Attendees will hear from community groups and organisations already taking action such as, The ROSE Project, Thurso Community Development Trust and many more.

# Resilient Communities

## **Simon Middlemass**

Management Consultant, Thurso

Simon is currently engaged on building sustainability credentials for Caithness and Sutherland with a vision of creating a Region of Sustainability Excellence (ROSE), supporting the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership.

## **Anna Patfield**

Planet Sutherland and  
Future Communities  
Highlands and Islands

Anna Patfield moved from Perthshire to Ardgay about ten years ago. About three years ago climate anxiety struck and something had to be done, culminating in the formation of Planet Sutherland. Anna firmly believes that we need to work together, to put aside our differences and find ways to talk about (and do) climate change action. Thus, a significant part of her work is to network, form new networks, and to thus encourage every one to talk about climate change. Anna is also a dog behaviourist helping people change their dog's behaviours through positive motivations. She is therefore fascinated with the psychological issues that are preventing us all making the necessary behavioural changes required for the climate crisis. It can be fun!





# Resilient Communities

## Martin Sherring and Penny Edwards

### The Pebble Trust

After a career in accountancy and business management, more recently Martin has involved himself in issues of community development and sustainability. He has been a director of Transition Black Isle since 2009.

In 2014 he and his wife, Penny Edwards, set up The Pebble Trust, a small charitable trust offering grants to sustainability projects in the Highlands & Islands, and also commissioning work of its own where the Trustees feel there is an opportunity for a modest expenditure to make a positive impact. It has a vision of a more sustainable, equal and low-carbon society, where constraints on fossil fuels lead to a more localised economy with stronger, more resilient, communities, and where human activities take account of climate change and the wider environment.





# Resilient Communities

## Becky Shaw

Rural Development Advisor,  
Nature Scot

Becky Shaw leads work for NatureScot on skills for net zero in nature-based sectors. An initial analysis of jobs and skills for net zero was undertaken in 2020

and follow-up work has resulted in the publication of an Action Plan to address skills needs in this growing sector.

Becky is Rural Development Adviser for NatureScot and has worked across land use, tourism and food & drink sectors. She is based in Sutherland.

[www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/social-and-economic-benefits-nature/nature-based-jobs-and-skills](http://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/social-and-economic-benefits-nature/nature-based-jobs-and-skills)



# NatureScot

Scotland's Nature Agency

Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

# Resilient Communities

## Colin Simpson

Principal Tourism Officer,  
The Highland Council

After studying Geography at Aberdeen University (where in the mid 80's we were some of the early people to study "global warming"!), I moved to Inverness to begin a career in Tourism. I've lived in the area and worked in tourism ever since – for a total of 33 years. Approximately half of that time was spent in the tourist board network where I had posts as an Area Manager and also led on a national walking marketing initiative which fitted well with my own interest of walking and mountaineering. The second half of my career has been spent with the Highland Council in a largely tourism focussed role but also touching on other aspects such as our work with the film industry and European engagement.



## Veni Kojouharova

Policy Lead with Scottish Cities Alliance

# Resilient Communities

## Jane Morrison

Wellbeing Economy  
Alliance Board Trustee

Jane is a biologist who grew up in the Highlands, she currently works in environmental protection and is a Trustee at WEAll Scotland.

She has previously worked in conservation, climate change, ecological research and youth empowerment. She was one of the cofounders of 2050 Climate Group and also took part in the Young Women Lead programme forming the first all-female parliamentary committee made up of women under 30. In 2017 she joined the UN Human Rights Youth Council in Geneva where she contributed to environmental justice policy development. In 2018 she was recognised with the 30 under 30 inspiring women in Scotland award. She is passionate about protecting nature and helping create a more equal society.





# Resilient Communities

## Hamish Trench

Chief Executive,  
Scottish Land Commission



Hamish Trench is Chief Executive of the Scottish Land Commission, a public body stimulating fresh thinking on how we own and use land in Scotland. The Commission advises Scottish Government on land reform and works in practice to support culture change in land rights and responsibilities. It's current focus includes work on land ownership, housing, natural capital and the land market. Hamish has experience of land policy, management and research in the public and private sectors, with previous roles at the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Deer Commission for Scotland, and in private land management practice.



SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN FEARAINN NA H-ALBA



# Resilient Communities

## Helen Lavery

Regional Engagement Partner at Zero Waste Scotland

## Joan Lawrie

Development Manager

Thurso Community Development Trust formed in 2018 embedding climate action into their Strategic Plan. The Trust runs Thurso Grows, The Sharing Shed and now in the process of opening a Zero Waste Shop & Commercial Greenhouses social enterprise. The Trust are operating a Scottish Government pilot Regional Climate Action Hub focussing on assisting communities in Highland & the Northern Isles to design, develop and deliver their own climate action projects. Presenting on behalf of the Trust and Hub is Joan Lawrie, Development Manager, and Bethany Lawrie, Climate Hub Development Officer.



**[www.thursocdt.co.uk](http://www.thursocdt.co.uk)**

**– [info@thursocdt.co.uk](mailto:info@thursocdt.co.uk)**

**[www.nhclimatehub.co.uk](http://www.nhclimatehub.co.uk)**

**– [enquiries@nhclimatehub.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@nhclimatehub.co.uk)**

# Resilient Communities

## Emma Whitham

Principal Project Manager

Emma Whitham is the Principal Project Manager for Highland Adapts – an initiative that aims to bring our communities, businesses, land managers and public sector together to facilitate transformational action towards a prosperous, climate-ready Highland.



# Video Montage

## Day 2

Green Hive

Highland Tenants & Community Groups

Plastic at Bay

Extinction Rebellion

Friends of the Earth

HiBike Fort William

Velocity

Ian Matheson

The Selkie Collective

Rodney Lovie

Take One Action – Film Festival Trailer

Our Natural Health Service

Visit Inverness Loch Ness

My Climate Path

# Production

## **Joe Perry and Katie Andrews**

Event Organisers,  
Climate Change Coordinators,  
The Highland Council

## **Keith Masson**

Climate Change and Energy Manager,  
The Highland Council

## **Duncan McKenzie**

Videos, Promo support, Social media.  
Corporate Comms,  
The Highland Council

## **Kirsty Foster**

Graphic Designer - Agenda, Speakers booklet,  
Webpage, Logo and branding.  
Corporate Comms,  
The Highland Council



**HIGHLAND  
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