

real

change



Green Party
for the common good

Vote Green for the common good



We live in unsettling times.

Many of the securities that our parents and grandparents fought for – a functioning National Health Service, free education, and an affordable home – now look out of reach for most of us. Coupled with this, climate change is bringing unpredictable and threatening weather patterns.

People feel let down by politicians, and there has been an explosion in political activism. People want to do things differently and aren't afraid to be bold and challenging.

We're fed up with policies that tinker around the edges. We want real change that benefits people and the environment.

A real change: from austerity and welfare cuts to investment in decent jobs.

A real change: from privatisation for the benefit of the 1% to public management of essential services not driven by corporate greed.

A real change: from subsidies to fracking and dependence on fossil fuels to a sustainable world we can pass on to our children.

The Green Party stands for the real change we need. Real change for today and tomorrow. Real change to your life.

Real change for the common good.

Environment and climate change – safeguarding today and tomorrow



Molly Scott Cato and **Emily McIvor**, European election candidates for the South West, discussing the environment with a Devon farmer.



Photo © Jackie Damary

The recent floods brought home the human cost of man-made climate change. Houses were ruined, businesses shut, lives changed forever. These should act as wake-up calls.

We urgently need to wean our country and the world off its addiction to fossil fuels. Business as usual will only bring more flooding and other disasters – hurting us and our children.

The Green Party would:

- Tackle climate change faster and more effectively by moving Europe from a fossil fuelled economy to one powered by renewable energy. We need to leave fossil fuels in the ground.
- Prepare for increasing impacts on ourselves and our neighbours by investing in upland water conservation and flood defences, to shield us from extreme weather events.
- Protect our natural world from short-term corporate interests who invest in its destruction.
- End factory farming and animal testing, crack down on the illegal trade in wildlife, and introduce strong animal protection standards.

Green Party MEPs Jean Lambert and **Keith Taylor** successfully lobbied for a suspension of the sale of neonicotinoid pesticides which adversely affect the UK's bee population.



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Building a fairer society



Jean Lambert, MEP for London, listens to the concerns of asylum seekers.

These are tough times for many: falling wages and rising bills are hitting our standard of living today and the most vulnerable are hit the hardest.

We do not believe in blaming those on benefits, or in blaming migrants for our problems. Human rights are not a barrier to progress. Circumstances mean that some of us need more help than others and that help should be available to everyone who needs it.

We will end the race to the bottom on welfare: we will not kick people when they are down.

The Green Party would:

- Oppose austerity. There is an alternative – investment in a low carbon economy, creating real jobs of the future.
- Turn the national minimum wage into a genuine living wage so that everyone can put food on the table and pay the bills.
- Build truly affordable housing, and stop demolishing existing homes.
- Scrap the welfare cap to ensure that we can truly help the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.
- Enforce a cap on bankers' bonuses and reduce the pay gap between those at the top and those at the bottom.

Health and education – free for everyone



We believe that high quality public services should be there when you need them most and free at the point of use. The NHS should be kept in public hands, not sold off in bits to the private sector. A strong economy needs an educated population free from unsustainable debt.



Peter Cranie is campaigning against the privatisation of the NHS. He is the lead candidate for the North West in the European elections.

The Green Party would:

- Stop the privatisation of our National Health Service and where possible reverse public service sell offs.
- Scrap university tuition fees.
- Protect the pay, conditions and status of professionals in health and education – cutting back on their paperwork and freeing them to do their jobs.
- Bring Free Schools and Academies under Local Authority control and build the next generation of high quality local comprehensive schools.

Energy – permanently lower bills



Keith Taylor, MEP for the South East, raised questions that drilling for oil in the region could conflict with plans for renewable energy.

The Green Party plans for home insulation and renewable energy would give people the comfort and warmth they need in their homes. Energy bills must come down – we need an energy generating democracy that brings the power back into the hands of communities, not boardrooms. We will not force vulnerable people to choose between eating and heating.

We will make a major investment in energy efficiency and the renewable energy industry to create jobs, stimulate research, reduce emissions, and get people's fuel bills down permanently.

The Green Party would:

- Cut demand by encouraging European incentives for home insulation, reducing the amount of energy we need to heat and power Britain's homes, and providing much-needed jobs.
- Change the types of energy we use by speeding up the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy by voting for increased targets in Europe.
- Reject harmful long-term solutions. We would ban all fracking and stop building nuclear power stations.



Caroline Lucas MP demonstrating against fracking in the UK.

Transport – cheaper and cleaner

Public transport should be a service, not a business. Transport policy should be decided on the basis of public need – not for the benefit of corporate shareholders.

We will make walking and cycling safer – better for our health and the environment.



Rupert Read (centre), European election candidate for Eastern England, campaigns for the re-nationalisation of the railways.

The Green Party would:

- Bring the railways back into public ownership and build new local lines and trams.
- Restore local government control over buses to improve provision and give them preferential road space.
- Work to reduce petrol and diesel use.
- Scrap the pointless and hugely expensive HS2 – a train line for the 1%, not the 99% of rail users.
- Introduce a standard 20mph speed limit on residential roads to keep children and other vulnerable pedestrians safe.

Greens in Europe – making a difference

Green Parties in Europe and around the world are working to make life better for everyone.

We need a strong team of elected Greens to put Green policies into practice.

We need your help to stand up to destructive policies and make the transition to a more sustainable society.

Vote for the Green Party. Vote for the common good

Andrew Cooper, European election candidate for Yorkshire and the Humber, defending the NHS.





Green Party
for the common good

Join us! We depend on the support of our members for all the work we do – we don't get donations from big corporates or unions like other parties.

Annual membership starts from £5 for students, £10.50 concessions.



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