

Platform Summary 2010



**GREEN PARTY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

About the Green Party

The Green Party of the United States is a federation of state Green Parties. The Federal Elections Commission recognizes the Green Party of the United States as the official Green Party National Committee. We are partners with the European Federation of Green Parties and the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas.

As the Green Party National Committee, we will devote our attention to establishing a national Green presence in politics and policy debate while continuing to facilitate party growth and action at the state and local level. We will become an important political force in this country and present candidates for election at every level of government.

Green Party growth has been rapid and Green candidates are winning elections throughout the country. In 2000, we nominated Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke for our presidential ticket; in 2004, David Cobb and Pat LaMarche; and in the 2008, Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente.

This platform summary is an abbreviated version of the Green Party's full platform.

SUMMARY OF THE PLATFORM

for the

Green Party of the United States

**As Adopted by the
Green National Committee
September 2010**



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Preamble

Never has our country faced as many challenges and crises as we do now. Levels of federal revenue are the lowest they have been since 1950 because of tax cuts and breaks for the very rich and for corporations. Government agencies charged with safeguarding public health and safety are operating with slashed budgets that paralyze their efforts. Jobs are being permanently relocated outside the country, while social and educational programs are being gutted. Our food, water, air, and soil are increasingly found to bear toxins and debilitating pollution. We ask how we can draw on the best of our traditions, calling forth a spirit of ingenuity and citizen participation to achieve a free, democratic, just, and responsible society, one that actively responds to the crucial ecological challenges of our time, rather than denying them.

We propose a vision of our common good that is advanced through an independent politics free from the control of corporations and big money, and strong and resilient in its core values:

- Participatory Democracy, rooted in community practice at the grassroots level and informing every level, from the local to the international.
- Social Justice and Equal Opportunity emphasizing personal and social responsibility, accountability, and an informing ethic of Nonviolence.
- Ecological and Economic Sustainability, balancing the interests of a regulated market economy and community-based economics with effective care for the ecosystems of the Earth.

We act in service to our children and the future generations of all our relations in the Earth community. The Green Party is committed to values-based politics as expressed in our Ten Key Values. These values guide us in countering and changing a system that extols exploitation, unsustainable consumption, and destructive competition.

10 KEY VALUES

1. Grassroots Democracy

Increase public participation at every level of government and create new types of organizations which expand the process of participatory democracy.

2. Social Justice and Equal Opportunity

Consciously confront the barriers of racism, class oppression, sexism, homophobia, ageism and disability, which act to deny fair treatment and equal justice under the law.

3. Ecological Wisdom

We are part of nature, not separate from it. Support a sustainable society which utilizes resources so that future generations will benefit and not suffer from our practices.

4. Non-Violence

Demilitarize without being naive about the intentions of other governments. Promote non-violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree.

5. Decentralization

Restructure social, political and economic institutions away from a system mostly benefiting the powerful few, to a more democratic and more local system.

6. Community Based Economics

Move to new definitions of work, jobs and income that reflect the changing economy, workplace democracy, and wealth created by those outside the monetary economy.

7. Feminism and Gender Equity

Replace the cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender.

8. Respect for Diversity

Many diverse elements of society should be reflected in our organizations and decision-making bodies. Respect life forms other than our own and preserve biodiversity.

9. Personal and Global Responsibility

Encourage individuals to act to improve their personal well-being and, at the same time, join with others to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

10. Future Focus And Sustainability

Make the quality of life, rather than open-ended economic growth, the focus of future thinking, by assuring that our policies are responsible to future generations.

I. DEMOCRACY

Our nation was born as the first great experiment in modern democracy. We seek to rescue that heritage from the erosion of citizen participation. The power of civic action is an antidote to the corporate control of so much of our lawmaking and regulating. We are committed to the strengthening of our civil society, including the many mediating institutions at the community level that have always characterized our democracy. We strongly feel that our country should view itself as a member of the community of nations, not above it. The United States could well play a leadership role in that community, but only if we become committed to an eco-social vision of peace, national self-determination, and international cooperation.

A. Political Reform

We propose comprehensive campaign finance reform, including caps on spending and contributions and full public financing of elections, significant lobbying regulation, sunshine laws, proportional representation, ranked choice voting such as instant run-off voting, and cumulative voting. We believe that a multi-party democracy will moderate extremist views and offer more fair representation. We would abolish the Electoral College, and form bioregional confederations based on natural boundaries.

B. Political Participation

We support decentralizing many state functions to the county and city level with expanded oversight and decision-making power of local governing bodies such as neighborhood boards and associations, citizen referendum and recall with a percentage of signatures from volunteer collectors, redistricting by an independent agency, universal voter registration and an Election Day holiday, binding none-of-the-above option on the ballot, statehood for the District of Columbia, felons regaining full citizenship rights upon completion of their sentence, and prisoner enfranchisement. We support non-violent direct action, children's parliaments, and a voter-verified paper audit trail for all voting machines with source code open for public inspection and verification.

C. Community

Community is the basic unit of green politics because it is personal, value-oriented, and small enough for each member to have an impact. Face-to-face interactions are essential to productive and meaningful lives for all citizens. We support expanding Head Start and pre- and neonatal programs, initiating universal federally funded childcare, increasing the earned income tax credit, and providing a living family wage. We oppose privatization of social security, support a community service alternative to the military, and a civilian conservation corps.

D. Free Speech and Media Reform

Independent, critical media are essential to an informed and healthy democracy. We seek to strengthen citizens' influence over the broadcast media, break up the dominant media conglomerates and boost the number of community and non-profit news outlets, to fortify the media's crucial watchdog function and to help create a more diverse and lively exchange of ideas. We would enact tough new anti-trust laws, require market-priced leasing of commercial use of the electromagnetic spectrum, establish substantial public interest obligations for broadcasters, support public, educational and governmental access TV, expand licensing of low power FM radio stations, provide broadband internet access for all, ensure internet neutrality, mandate free and equal airtime for all political candidates, provide public funding for public television and radio, prohibit advertising to children under 12 or in schools, parks, and government buildings, and reduce mailing costs for non-profit magazines.

E. Foreign Policy

Greens support sustainable development and social and economic justice across the globe. Restricting global corporatization, which concentrates greater power in the hands of fewer interests, and reducing militarism and reliance on arms policies are the keys to progress toward collective security.

1. Peace and Disarmament

The United States must support the United Nations and abide by its treaties and resolutions. We seek to repeal UN Security Council veto power, sign on to the International Criminal Court, declare no-first-strike and no-preemptive-war policies, reject invasion and occupation, abolish nuclear weapons and biological and chemical warfare, close

foreign military bases, close the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation formerly known as the School of the Americas, prohibit arms sales to other countries, and discontinue foreign aid used for military purposes.

2. Middle East Peace

We reaffirm the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in Israel. We call for suspension of aid to Israel until it withdraws from the Occupied Territories, dismantles the separation wall, and ends its siege of Gaza. We support UN, European Union, and Arab League initiatives that seek a negotiated peace, call for a UN peacekeeping force in the Palestinian territories, congressional hearings on human rights and war crimes in Palestine-Israel, and the implementation of boycott and divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We view a two-state solution as neither democratic nor viable in the face of international law, material conditions and “facts on the ground” and so advocate the creation of one secular, democratic state for Palestinians and Israelis with Jerusalem as its capital. As an integral part of peace negotiations and the transition to peaceful democracy, we call for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

3. Trade

We urge the government to re-formulate international agreements to protect the labor, human rights, environment and domestic industry of partner nations so that the growth of local industry and agriculture has the advantage over foreign corporate domination, and to replace the WTO, IMF, and World Bank with institutions that are democratic, transparent, and accountable to all. Until then, we need to re-structure the rules of the IMF/WB to end the debts of recipient nations, prohibit the use of loans to impose structural adjustment programs, and install strict standards to prevent fraud. We must guarantee citizens of nations receiving corporate investment the right to public ownership and control of their resources, require U.S. corporations that operate in other countries to adhere to labor standards established by the ILO Declaration of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, prohibit U.S. corporations evading taxes through offshore banking or charters, levy the Tobin tax of .05% on cross-border currency transactions, restore or initiate funding for family planning, contraception, and abortion in all countries that request it, and end the economic blockade of Cuba.

4. Corporate Personhood

Greens support the enactment of a constitutional amendment affirming that the rights outlined in our Bill of Rights are human rights, and do not apply in any way to corporations.

5. Women’s Rights

We urge the United States to pass CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women also known as the Women’s Bill of Rights. We support the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children.

6. Puerto Rico

Greens support the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with United Nations Resolution 1514(XV) of 1960, the release of all Puerto Rican political prisoners, and the cleanup of the islands of Vieques and Culebra, once used as firing ranges by the U.S. military.

F. Domestic Security

We call for an independent investigation of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; repeal of the USA PATRIOT Act; strict enforcement of rights of speech, assembly, association and petition; an end to torture; restoration of habeas corpus; ending the abuse of National Security Letters that force internet service providers, libraries, banks, and credit reporting companies to reveal sensitive information about their patrons; ending warrantless wiretaps; and ending faith-based initiatives and charitable choice programs, whereby public funds are used to support religious organizations. We oppose the death penalty in the United States and worldwide. We support students’ rights to free speech, seek to ensure that government actions towards immigrants comply with our Constitution and universal human rights principles, and support strict protections against illegal search and seizure.

G. Demilitarization of Space

The peaceful exploration of space has been usurped by the militarization of space. We call for the end of space militarization and oppose any form of space-based military aggression. We support only the peaceful and sustainable exploration of space, and advocate a reduction of human-staffed space flight due to high cost and risk.

II. SOCIAL JUSTICE

America historically led the world in establishing a society with democratic values such as equal opportunity and protection from discrimination. Today, however, our country is among the most extreme examples of industrialized nations that have a widening gap between the wealthy and the rest of its citizenry.

Quality of life is determined not only by material aspects. Our families are scattered; our popular culture is crassly manipulated by the profit motives of media conglomerates; and our sense of community is a pale shadow of what earlier generations knew. We support the separation of church and state, but also honor the various types of spiritual experience in our diverse society. A deep and broad embrace of nonviolence is the only effective way to stop cycles of violence.

A. Civil Rights and Equal Rights

We are committed to establishing relationships that honor diversity; that support the self-definition and self-determination of all people; and that conscientiously confront the barriers of racism, sexism, homophobia, class oppression, and ageism. We support Affirmative Action to remedy discrimination. We strive to secure universal and effective observance of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1. Women's Rights

The history of our civilization has been marked by oppression of and brutality toward women. The Green Party deplores this system of male domination in all its forms, from oppression, inequality, and discrimination to violence, rape, trafficking and forced slavery. We call for a safer world for women and girls.

We call for renewed efforts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, equal representation of women in Congress, passage of the 1979 U.N. Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, laws to achieve pay equity, ending poverty and returning dignity to all mothers, especially single mothers.

Women's reproductive rights must be protected and expanded. The option of a safe, legal abortion must remain available. The morning-after pill must be affordable and accessible without prescription. Contraception and abortion must be included in insurance policies and state govern-

ment must offer them free to women in poverty. We oppose cutting of family planning funds to agencies in foreign countries that offer or give advice on abortion. We encourage women and men to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

We support stronger legislation, programs and enforcement to address violence toward women. We have zero tolerance for the illegal international trafficking in humans. The large majority are women and children who are bought and sold as slaves for forced sex prostitution. Forced sex is rape, and is a serious crime. We call for new legislation modeled on the Swedish law relating to prostitution that criminalizes the purchase of services from prostitutes, pimps, and brothel keepers instead of criminalizing the prostitutes.

2. Racial Discrimination

We support reparations to African Americans whose ancestors were held in chattel slavery, including the right to recover inherited wealth derived from profits accumulated from the slave trade. We support vigorous enforcement of civil rights laws, aggressive prosecution of hate crimes, and strengthening of legal services for the poor; an end to official support of any remaining symbols of slavery and specifically call for the removal of the Confederate flag from government buildings; effective enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, including language access to voting; policies to encourage all citizens to be fluent in two languages, and oppose English-only pressure groups. We condemn racial profiling by law enforcement agencies and call for strong measures to combat police brutality directed against people of color.

3. Indigenous Peoples

We have great respect for Native American cultures, especially their deference for community and the Earth. We recognize the sovereignty of Native American tribal governments. The federal government must honor its treaty obligations, adequately fund programs for Native Americans, affirm their religious rights, and respect land, water and mineral rights within the borders of reservations and traditional lands. We urge reform of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to make it more responsive to tribal governments. We support the U.N. Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous peoples.

4. Justice for Native Hawaiians

Since illegal annexation in 1898, governments have cheated and neglected the native Hawaiian people, Kanaka maoli. We support protecting sacred and culturally significant sites, efforts to nurture native Hawaiian culture, immedi-

ate distribution of Hawaiian Homelands with government funds for the necessary infrastructure, return of ceded lands or fair compensation, prohibition of diminishment of the Ceded Land Trust, and Hawaiian sovereignty in a form that is fair to both native Hawaiians and other residents.

5. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The Green Party affirms the rights of all individuals to freely choose intimate partners, regardless of their sex, gender, or sexual orientation; and supports the recognition of equal rights of persons gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, intersex, or transgender, to housing, jobs, civil marriage, medical benefits, child custody, and in all areas of life provided to all other citizens.

We support laws that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity, characteristics, and expression; the right of intersex and transgender individuals to be free from coercion and involuntary assignment of gender or sex; and access to medical and surgical treatment for reassignment of gender based on informed consent. We support legislation against all forms of hate crimes, including those directed against people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, and intersex. We advocate cutting off foreign aid to countries that oppress their citizens based on sexual orientation. The United States should recognize all international marriages, and end the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy in its armed forces.

6. Rights of the Disabled

The physically and mentally challenged are people who are differently-abled from the majority, but who are nevertheless often able to live independently. The diminishing of funds to provide care for the growing number of mentally ill leads to homelessness and dependence on short-term crisis facilities and also increases the necessity of placing them in long-term, locked facilities.

We urge aggressive implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act; adequate funding for education and training, for community-based programs that provide outpatient medical services, case management services, in-home support services to hire personal care attendants, and counseling; and to provide a residential setting within the community for those who do not need institutional care but who are unable to live independently. We would make it easier for the chronically mentally ill to receive Supplemental Security Income, change Medicaid policy that forces many to live in costly state-funded institutions, mainstream the differently-abled in public schools and increase the training of teachers, discourage stereotyping

of the mentally and physically challenged by the entertainment industry and the media, and fund programs to increase public sensitivity.

7. Religious Freedom and Secular Equality

We call for ending discriminatory laws against particular religious beliefs and non-belief and use of religious symbols or statements on government property, websites, money, or documents; restoration of the Pledge of Allegiance to its pre-1954 version, eliminating the politically-motivated addition of "under God"; ending faith-based initiatives which use public funds to support religious organization that do not adhere to specified standards; ending school vouchers for religious schools and ending religiously-based curricula in public schools; ending governmental use of the doctrines of religions to define the nature of family or marriage, the rights and role of women, or the character of personal relationships between consenting adults; ending the use of religion as a justification to deny children medical care or to subject them to abuse; revocation of the Congressional charter of any private organization that practices bigotry against certain religious beliefs and classes of people and revoking their access to public property and funds.

8. Youth Rights

Young people are one of the least protected classes of human beings, yet they represent our future. We must insure they have an upbringing that allows them to take their place as productive and self-actualized members of their community. Youth have the right to adequate food, shelter and comprehensive health care; to protection from abuse, harmful drugs, violence, environmental hazards, neglect, and exploitation; to develop in a safe and nurturing early environment, including affordable child care and preschool preparation; to an education that is relevant and that fosters their natural desire to learn.

Young people should be provided with sex education at the earliest appropriate time; be provided the opportunity to express themselves in their own media; be given skills in analyzing commercial media; and be kept free from coercive advertising at their schools, including that of military recruiters.

9. Veterans' Rights

Support for men and women in the armed forces must go beyond the rhetoric used to discredit the peace movement. We believe that the actions of the U.S. administration have unnecessarily put them in harm's way. The burden of fighting unnecessary wars is disproportionately borne by

families of lesser means. Those who are required to carry out militaristic policies deserve our respect and adequate compensation.

We recommend increasing pay levels, imminent danger pay, and family separation allowances for those in combat zones; restoring full funding for veterans' health programs; establishing independent medical oversight of forced vaccinations; honoring all laws concerning time limits on deployments; providing better care for wounded, sick, and injured soldiers; fully diagnosing and treating physical and mental health conditions resulting from combat service; thoroughly investigate Gulf War Syndrome and ensure that soldiers suffering from PTSD, trauma, and mental disorders be eligible for treatment by the VA, and receive disability benefits.

We support policies to ensure a smooth transition to civilian life by providing counseling, housing, emergency management, and job protection. We advocate a new GI Bill, including tuition grants, educational opportunities, low-interest loans for housing or business start-ups, and free medical care for ten years following separation; respect for conscientious objector status during all stages of the process and provision of a transparent process free of harassment, imprisonment, or deployment to war zones; and access by independent veteran organizations to military personnel to ensure they are being informed of their rights.

10. Consumer Protection

The Green Party supports strong consumer protections against fraud, dangerous products, and usury. We stand with whistleblowers, who are often the public's best protection against corporate crime, fraud and waste.

We recommend strengthening product safety standards, repealing federal preemptions that weaken state laws, and expanding labeling laws to ensure that consumers are fully informed about the origin, ingredients, and complete nutritional information about products.

We would expand class-action rights, protect whistleblowers from retaliation, oppose tort reform or malpractice reform that undermines the public's ability to seek redress, and protect personal information from commercial use.

We would cap credit card interest rates at 12%, prohibit price-gouging against women and the poor, restore Chapter 7 bankruptcy as a viable safety net, and ban mandatory arbitration clauses in consumer contracts. We support restoring the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs, and the formation of citizens utility boards to advocate for the public interest.

B. Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is the crossroads of environmental activism and the civil rights movement. It is founded on two fundamental beliefs: that all people have the right to live, work, learn, and play in safe and healthful environments; and that people have the right to influence decisions that affect environmental quality in their communities. We recommend the following actions:

Use pollution prevention strategies, including the Precautionary Principle, which requires industry to prove the safety of their products and practices before licensing. Strengthen the government's role in protecting the commons, including public health and the environment. Prevent discriminatory siting of toxic or noxious facilities in poor neighborhoods or communities of color. Ensure the public's right to know, promote community decisionmaking, and protect communities' right to redress. Enforce and strengthen the National Environmental Policy Act.

C. Economic Justice

We must take an uncompromising position that the care and nurture of children, elders, and the disabled are essential to a healthy, peaceful, and sustainable society. We should recognize that the work of their caregivers is of social and economic value, and reward it accordingly. Work performed outside the monetary system has inherent social and economic value. We oppose the privatization of Social Security, which would subject it to increased risk.

D. Welfare: Ending Poverty

We call for a restoration of a federally funded program to support children, families, the unemployed, elderly and disabled, with no time limit on benefits. All people have a right to food, housing, medical care, jobs that pay a living wage, education, and support in times of hardship.

E. Education and the Arts

The Green Party views learning as a lifelong and life-affirming process to which all people should have access. We cannot state more forcefully our belief that in learning, and openness to learning, we find the foundation of our Platform. We are strongly opposed to the dissolution of public schools and the privatization of education. We must stop disinvestment in education and instead put it at the top of our social and economic agenda.

We recommend the following: Free college tuition at public colleges and vocational schools; professional status and enhanced salaries for K-12 teachers; prohibit advertising in schools; healthy school menus, Farm-to-School programs, ban sodas and junk food; oppose military and corporate control of university research; expand lifelong learning opportunities for all; federal student loan forgiveness with public service option; repeal No Child Left Behind Act; include vigorous civics instruction in middle and high schools; expand arts and physical education opportunities; recognize home-based schooling; keep religious influence out of the science curriculum; and expand academic and vocational training opportunities for prison inmates.

We oppose military recruitment, JROTC programs, and ASVAB testing in high schools. We urge our nation to join the rest of the world in setting 18 as the minimum age for military recruitment.

Freedom of artistic expression is a fundamental right and a key element in empowering communities. The arts can only perform their social function if they are completely free from outside control. We oppose artistic censorship and support increased funding for the arts in schools and communities. We support public art projects and the development of alternative non-profit systems for the valuation and exchange of artworks and the financial support of artists.

F. Health Care

The Green Party supports single-payer universal health care and preventive care for all. We believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege. We support the inclusion of a comprehensive range of health care services, including preventive care, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse, hospice, holistic health approaches and alternative therapies, medical marijuana, long-term care, and expanded services for the mentally ill, differently abled, and terminally ill. We support the establishment of health policy boards of consumers and providers for oversight and evaluation and the establishment of a National Health Trust Fund.

The Green Party calls for comprehensive, humane, and competent care of all people with AIDS/HIV and other blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis. We support increased funding for patient care, comprehensive sex education that includes AIDS education, and increased funding for research on a cure, treatment, and prevention. We support

protection of confidentiality in testing, no mandatory screening, and lifting the ban on HIV positive visitors and immigrants.

G. Labor

The right to organize unions, bargain freely and strike when necessary is being destroyed by employers and their representatives in government.

We support the irreducible right of the working people, without hindrance, to form a union and to bargain collectively. The right of workers, without penalty, to inform other workers on the premises of a union being formed; repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, which permits the closed shop under state legislation; workplace democracy, including the right to elect representatives to sit equally with management on the board of directors and the right to fair and democratic elections of union officers; no forced overtime; flexible working schedules; required minimum pensions for all workers, fully vested and portable, that do not reduce Social Security benefits; mediation as the first available solution to labor/management disputes with an agreed-upon time limit; new unions having the right to submit a first contract to binding arbitration; requiring employers who merge with other companies to honor all collective bargaining contracts; protecting the workforce when their workplace is closed; allowing labor the first right to buy a company that is for sale, is going bankrupt, or is being outsourced; employees' right to stock ownership and oversight of the investment of their own funds in the company where they work; agricultural workers coverage by federal safety and labor laws; daycare service at or near every workplace; at least one month of vacation per year for all workers.

We advocate the following safety policies: protection and enforcement of OSHA laws; adequate testing of equipment and funding of enforcement procedures; informing workers of workplace hazards; full funding for worker safety programs at both the state and federal levels; agricultural practices that don't endanger farm workers. We oppose privatization and contracting out of public services.

H. Criminal Justice

Our nation's ostensibly color-blind systems of law enforcement have effectively constituted a policy of racially selective mass incarceration, a successor to Jim Crow as a means of social control, a policy that must be publicly discussed, widely recognized, and ultimately reversed. Our

priorities must include efforts to prevent violent crime and address the legitimate needs of victims, while addressing the socio-economic root causes of crime and practicing policies that prevent recidivism.

Prisons should be the sentence of last resort, reserved for violent criminals. Those convicted of non-violent offenses should be handled by alternative, community-based programs including halfway houses, work-furlough, community service, electronic monitoring, restitution, and rehabilitation programs. We support the release of prisoners with mental disorders to secure treatment centers, and old or infirm prisoners to community-based facilities. We recommend the following:

Ensure prison conditions are humane and sanitary, separate facilities for juvenile and adult offenders. Ban private prisons and institute a moratorium on prison construction. Provide access to GED and higher education, allow prisoners to communicate with journalists, write, and publish. Prisoners should have the right to vote by absentee ballot in their home districts. Felons should have the right to run for public office after serving their time. Provide reentry programs upon release, including access to education, housing, treatment and family counseling. Abolish the death penalty and repeal “three strikes” laws. End the War on Drugs and legalize possession or use of marijuana. Expand legal aid and dispute resolution centers. Establish civilian review boards with subpoena power. Restrict police use of pepper spray, stun belts, tasers, and choke holds. Increase compensation and provide childcare for jurors. Consider forms of restitution for victims.

I. Population

Humans have a unique responsibility for stewardship of the Earth. Consumption-oriented lifestyles are as much a threat to the Earth’s carrying capacity as high birth rates in low-consumption countries. The industrialized world must end the habits of waste and over-consumption; remove political and economic barriers that prevent women from having all the resources necessary to become skilled family planners; expand scientific research into safer and more effective birth control; provide free birth control devices, information, counseling and clinics; provide family planning education for both genders and promote men becoming involved in the family planning process.

J. Immigration/Emigration

The Green Party stands firmly for social justice for all those living in this country regardless of their immigration status. We recognize that there cannot be any true solutions to the conflicts created by immigration until we are able to organize globally to overcome the power of multinational corporations, which are engaged in an unending campaign to drive down workers’ living standards everywhere. International cooperation and solidarity among labor organizations, to advance the rights of labor and raise such living standards globally, are essential to combat this trend.

Undocumented immigrants already residing and working in the United States, and their families, should be granted a legal status which includes the chance to become U.S. citizens. We call for permanent border passes to all citizens of Mexico and Canada whose identity can be verified, with work permits easily obtainable. Persons fleeing political, racial, religious, or other persecution must be welcomed and given permanent resident status. Residency should not be denied based on political views, racial or national origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, disability, etc., and special consideration should be given to refugees from countries affected by U.S. military actions or corporate economic policies. Those holding work permits should be able to come and go freely, and to become U.S. citizens if they wish.

Undocumented workers residing in the U.S. should be able to obtain drivers licenses, and undocumented high school graduates should be able to attend college on an equal basis with other students. We would end employer sanctions and vigorously enforce wage and labor laws. We oppose local police integration with federal immigration enforcement, “English-only” legislation, and the militarization of our borders. We call for the immediate dismantling of the border wall. We oppose a national ID or E-Verify.

We recognize the sovereignty of indigenous nations whose territories cross national boundaries. We call for stiffer laws to deal with human traffickers. Their victims should have the option of permanent residence in the U.S. or return to their home countries.

K. Housing and Homelessness

People have a right to a home and to be secure in their tenancy. The Green Party seeks to guarantee tenants' rights and enforce strong penalties for landlords who violate these rights. We support publicly funded counseling and legal assistance for renters, local rent control laws and rent stabilization boards, affordable housing initiatives, zoning for mixed-use development along transit corridors to locate housing near jobs and public transportation, enforcement of the Fair Housing Act and assistance for victims of discrimination, expansion of Section 8 to make higher opportunity areas accessible to voucher holders, and other measures to ensure and strengthen fair housing.

We support measures to prevent homelessness before it occurs through raising the income floor for the working poor, ensuring living-wage jobs, affordable housing and health care including mental health and substance-abuse services. We support strategies to move people rapidly into stable living arrangements and providing an array of necessary services to address the varied aspects of homelessness. We call for the repeal of laws that criminalize homelessness, for the inclusion of homeless people in decision-making about solutions, education for the homeless about their voting rights and increased voter registration. We support providing the resources to monitor discharges from hospitals, jails, and foster care to prevent discharging people to the street. We support increased job opportunities for the homeless who are able to work.

III. ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

The ideology of industrialism, in both capitalist and communist countries, insists that modern society should rightly use and despoil the rest of the natural world as we desire, because any loss of the ecosystems is merely an "externality" in economic thought and because any problems can be addressed later by a technological fix. We are now living through the painful consequences of that ignorant perspective.

Efficient ecosystems require a vital profusion of biodiversity. We support planetary efforts to slow the ever-increasing numbers of humans pressuring the ecosystems, and we especially support the reduction of consumption of raw materials by the industrialized Northern Hemisphere. We strongly oppose the recent attempts to roll back the federal environmental protection laws that safeguard our air, water, and soil. We strongly urge the U.S. to adopt an actively responsible position in the crisis of global climate change.

A. Climate Change

Climate change is the gravest environmental, social and economic peril facing humanity. Across the world, it is causing vanishing polar ice, melting glaciers, growing deserts, stronger storms, rising oceans, less biodiversity, deepening droughts, as well as more disease, hunger, strife and human misery. It is a tragedy unfolding in slow motion.

To return to a safe level of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere, we must reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases as quickly as possible to levels that existed before 1980, to 350ppm carbon dioxide.

We would: support a strong international climate treaty under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We should support at least a 40% reduction by 2020 and 95% reduction by 2050, over 1990 levels. Establish carbon taxes on fossil fuels, to reflect the environmental cost of their extraction and use and offset regressivity for lower income individuals. Eliminate subsidies for fossil fuels, nuclear power, biomass and waste incineration, and biofuels. Prevent perverse incentives arising from higher carbon prices; putting an increased

price on carbon makes all renewable energy sources more competitive including nuclear power, biomass and biofuels are all in that category. We must mandate genuine, clean solutions. We should repay our climate debt by paying for adaptation to climate change in countries with less responsibility for climate change.

We would stop “dirty clean energy.” Many of the “solutions” offered in climate legislation aren’t real solutions. Biomass incineration (trees, crops, construction debris and certain types of waste), landfill gas and many types of biofuels will dump massive quantities of toxic pollutants into the air and water. Natural gas is primarily methane, which is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. Consequently, when pipeline leakage is considered, the clean-burning characteristics of natural gas can be lost, resulting in a fuel with climate impacts as bad as coal. Biomass and biofuels will also increase deforestation, contributing to more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

We must convert U.S. farm and rangeland to organic practices. Chemical and industrial agriculture produces 35-50% of climate destabilizing greenhouse gases. Switch to local food production and distribution. Reduce methane, nitrous oxide and other greenhouse gases by rapidly phasing out confined animal feeding operations, and encouraging a reduction in meat consumption.

B. Energy

The United States has a high-energy-consumption economy based mainly on fossil energy. The extraction, refining, and combustion of fossil fuels are extremely harmful to the environment, and supplies are rapidly being depleted. Our civilization has become dependent on plentiful oil, coal, and natural gas.

Dirty and dangerous energy sources have generated an unparalleled assault on both the environment and human rights. Low income communities bear the greatest burden of health impacts due to exposure to emissions from power plants. Native American communities have been devastated by uranium mining, and the people of Appalachia are having their ancient mountains destroyed. Regional and global peaks in supply are driving up costs and threatening wars and social chaos.

We must plan and prepare for the end of fossil fuels now, while we still have energy available to build the cleaner, more sustainable energy infrastructure that we will soon need. But to simply substitute renewable energy sources

is not enough, since there are no energy sources (renewable or otherwise) capable of supplying energy as cheaply and in such abundance as fossil fuels. Also, we have designed and built our infrastructure to suit the unique characteristics of oil, natural gas, and coal.

The energy transition cannot be accomplished with a minor retrofit of existing energy infrastructure. If we wait for the price of fossil fuels to reflect scarcity, forcing society to adapt, the lack of government planning will result in a transition that is chaotic, painful, destructive, and possibly unsurvivable.

We call for conservation including retrofitting building stock, adopting national energy efficiency standards. The energy efficiency standards adopted in CA have reduced per capita electricity-use over the past three decades, while electricity use in the rest of the U.S. has climbed. Technologies exist that, if widely implemented, can result in huge energy savings.

We advocate building an energy system based on solar, wind, geo-thermal, marine, and other cleaner renewable sources as the long-term solution. Policy tools to support the development of renewable energy sources, such as Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and Feed-in Tariffs, legislation that requires electric utilities to guarantee a price for the renewably-generated electricity fed into the grid, using “net metering.

Greens support research into advanced fuels when the purpose of the research is to develop a fuel that in its full cycle does not create more problems than it solves. We support the use of hydrogen as an energy storage medium; however we oppose the use of nuclear technologies or carbon-based feed stocks for hydrogen production.

We call for a ban on the construction of large-scale and inappropriately-located, hydroelectric dams.

We must end the use of dirty and dangerous energy sources. We call for a formal moratorium on the construction of new nuclear power plants and the early retirement of existing ones. The generation of nuclear waste must be halted and technologies that use or produce nuclear waste must be phased out.

Coal is the largest contributor to climate change. In the absence of commercially viable “clean coal” and carbon sequestration, which is many decades away, coal is neither an economically nor environmentally sustainable solution. We would ban mountaintop removal mining.

We must cease development of fuels produced with polluting, energy-intensive processes or from unsustainable or toxic feed stocks. We oppose further oil and gas drilling or exploration on our nation's outer continental shelf, on our public lands, in the Rocky Mountains, and under the Great Lakes. Due to serious impacts on food, soil, and water, we oppose biofuels production except for small-scale production such as that from used vegetable oils. We oppose the use of large-scale biomass because of impacts on forests, soils, and natural habitats. Biomass from landfills poses air pollution problems from incinerators.

We would create decentralized, bio-regional electricity generation and distribution. Decentralized power systems are more resilient in the face of power disruptions and will cut transmission losses, assure citizens greater control of their power grids, and prevent the massive ecological and social destruction that accompanies production of electricity in mega-scale projects.

We support "smart grid" upgrades, but they must not favor commercial utilities over municipal districts. Greens support tax-exempt bonds to finance public ownership of utilities and to finance conservation and renewable energy projects. We oppose deregulation of the energy industry.

We must electrify the transportation system. Our enormous investment in highways, airports, cars, buses, trucks, and aircraft is almost completely dependent on oil, and it will be significantly handicapped by higher fuel prices, and devastated by actual fuel shortages. The electrification of road-based vehicles is a must and will require decades to fully deploy. We must move to Earth-gentle electricity generation to charge the vehicles. Meanwhile, existing private automobiles must be put to use more efficiently through car sharing.

Enormous amounts of investment capital will be needed to accomplish the energy transition. The energy transition will be complex and comprehensive, and its various strategies will be mutually impacting. Community colleges should prepare workers for new job opportunities, e.g., sustainable food production, renewable energy installation, grid rebuilding, rail expansion, public transport construction, and home energy retrofitting. Grade school curriculum should include gardening programs in all schools and increased emphasis on energy conservation.

Leaders must instill a sense of collective struggle and of a long journey toward a clear goal. A series of challenging yet feasible targets should be set, with the ultimate goal—

complete freedom from fossil fuel dependency by 2050. Achievement of annual targets should be cause for public celebration.

C. Nuclear Issues

There is no such thing as nuclear waste "disposal." All 6 of the "low-level" nuclear waste dumps in the United States have leaked. Generation of additional nuclear wastes must be stopped.

We call for the early retirement of nuclear power reactors as soon as possible (in no more than 5 years); for a phase-out of other technologies that use or produce nuclear waste; and for an intensive campaign to educate the public about nuclear problems, including disposal, clean up and long-term dangers. We oppose the export of nuclear technologies or their wastes to other nations; public subsidies for nuclear power, including Price-Anderson insurance caps and stranded cost recovery bailouts; the development and use of new nuclear reactors, plutonium (MOX) fuel, nuclear fuel reprocessing, nuclear fusion, uranium enrichment, and the manufacturing of new plutonium pits for a new generation of nuclear weapons. We call on the military to clean up depleted uranium contamination and to fully compensate those who have been exposed to it.

D. Transportation

The Green Party supports greater use of mass transit and other alternatives to the automobile and truck. Upgrading streets to accommodate increased traffic generates new traffic because access is easier and people take jobs further from their homes or purchase homes further from their jobs.

We advocate the following: for pedestrians and bicyclists, make neighborhoods and commercial districts more pedestrian friendly; increase greenery on streets; use traffic-calming to promote safe speeds and safe interaction with pedestrians; create auto-free zones; develop bikeways, bicycle lanes and paths; include bike racks on all public transit; maintain free community bicycle fleets.

Increase public investment in human-scale transit options, so that they are cheap or free and are safe, accessible and easily understandable, including employer subsidies of transit commuter tickets; making mass transit market viable; and expanding our network of rail lines, including high speed regional passenger service.

Reduce auto use through a moratorium on highway wid-

ening. Mandate HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes on freeways, and lower tolls for carpools; eliminate free parking in non-residential areas well served by mass transit, and establish preferential parking rates for HOVs. Substantially increase the taxes on gasoline, but allow some compensation for low income drivers; carpooling programs, and telecommuting.

Make autos more efficient by increasing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to 60 MPG for cars and 45 MPG for light trucks by the year 2015; place a tax on new vehicles that get a lower MPG than the CAFE standards and offer rebates for vehicles that get a higher MPG; develop and market fuel efficient cars as well as solar and electric vehicles; government procurement of high efficiency vehicles; and buy-backs of the most polluting and least efficient vehicles.

Make airports accessible by local transit; legislate further reductions in airplane noise and air pollution; emphasize the use of rail for freight transportation. Get long-distance truck hauling off of our highways.

E. Zero Waste

A waste-free society is essential to public health and the integrity and sustainability of the biosphere.

The Green Party supports phasing out all avoidable production and sale of toxic metals, persistent organic pollutants, persistent bio-accumulative toxins, synthetic petrochemicals, and halogenated chemicals. Replace them with non-toxic alternatives. Make manufacturers responsible for the full life cycle of their products by requiring them to take back used products and packaging for re-manufacturing, reuse, or recycling. Implement the precautionary principle: when an activity raises threats of harm, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. Strengthen right-to-know laws so that all can discover what toxic chemicals are released in their communities and in products that they use. Hold corporations strictly liable for the consequences of the pollution they produce. Shut down existing waste incinerators, impose a moratorium on new waste incinerators, and phase out landfills.

We oppose the deregulation wastes containing toxic or radioactive contaminants significantly above background levels. They should not be allowed to be used as fertilizer, "co-products," or fuels; or by "recycling" them into con-

sumer products or disposing of them as municipal waste. Stop the exportation of chemicals that are prohibited in the US. Close, clean up and remediate national labs devoted to nuclear energy and weapons development and DOE nuclear production sites. Clean up depleted uranium contamination from testing ranges and battlefields, and generously compensate those who have been sickened by depleted uranium exposure.

F. Clean Air

The strict, comprehensive protections of the Clean Air Act must be maintained and enhanced. State and local clean air initiatives should improve on national efforts. Chlorofluorocarbons and other related ozone-depleting substances should be banned. (See separate section on Climate Change and greenhouse effect.)

G. Land Use

Unlimited growth on a finite planet cannot be sustained.

There is a fundamental difference between growth and development and between quantity and quality. Rather than exploiting the Earth for short-term gain, Greens believe in living in sustainable balance with it.

Land use practices must be founded on stewardship of the Earth, to honor the interconnected and interdependent nature of all life, to respect ecosystems and other species, while at the same time providing for human needs in a responsible and sustainable way.

Only an economics that is based upon environmental health is sustainable.

We insist that every property right carries an implied responsibility to provide for the common good of people, places and the planet. We encourage the formation of co-operatives, non-profits, land trusts, co-housing, and other forms of communal and public interest management of land and resources; promotion of livable urban environments to minimize urban sprawl, with affordable housing, mass transit, schools, jobs, health care, public spaces, bicycle and walking paths, community gardens, open spaces, parks, playgrounds, and urban growth boundaries.

We would: green our cities with green belts, energy-efficient infill, distributed solar and wind generation, gray water systems, under grounding of wires and pipelines, redevelopment of brown fields, closed loop, energy-producing sewage systems, watershed protection and urban

agriculture; consider the carrying capacities of the bioregions in which our cities are located and attempt to match urban populations to these natural limitations.

We must expand rural land use patterns that promote open space, healthy eco-systems, wildlife corridors and the ecologically sustainable agriculture. Protect and expand large continuous tracts of public and private land for wildlife habitat and biological diversity, to permit healthy, self-managing wildlife populations to exist in a natural state, and to promote complete ecosystems. Promote livable rural communities to minimize urban migration; and transition rural communities into sustainable relationships with ranching, agriculture, forestry and mining.

We would repeal the General Mining Law of 1872 and ensure public ownership of natural resources located on public lands. Halt federal resource giveaways. Enact mining reforms to better balance mining with other important public uses. Enact tough new environmental safeguards to protect against mining pollution and create a fund for clean up of abandoned mines.

We oppose the sale of any portion our national parks, forests or coastlines. Ban indiscriminate wildlife “damage control practices” and abolish Wildlife Services.

H. Water

We face a worldwide water crisis: more than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Cycles of intense drought and flooding require a sustainable water policy. Over-development has resulted in increasing rain-impermeable areas, which compounds flooding and pollution downstream.

We need strong laws to promote conservation, reclaim polluted water systems, develop water-supply restrictions, ban toxic and pesticide dumping, and to control transnational corporations that pollute water systems.

We would develop new forms of international, bioregional, and community organizations to monitor and equitably distribute fresh water and to oversee the enforcement of water quality regulations; promote watershed planning to mitigate the impacts of urban development on our streams, rivers, and lakes, storm water management, soil erosion and sedimentation control, the establishment of vegetative buffers, and performance standards for development. We should prevent efforts to privatize, export, and sell water for profit.

We advocate mandating water efficient appliances and fixtures in new construction and promote retrofitting of older buildings; promotion of native landscaping and other drought resistant/climate-appropriate plants; drip irrigation systems where irrigation is necessary; the reuse of the reclaimed “gray” water; passive and natural systems for wastewater treatment. We would eliminate water subsidies for corporate agribusiness.

I. Agriculture

Our current food system is dominated by centralized agribusiness that use unsustainable practices that threaten our food security and quality, degrade the environment, treat animals inhumanely; destroy communities; and squeeze out family farmers.

We advocate assistance to new and small farmers and ranchers to promote widespread ownership and revitalized rural communities; new farming opportunities and non-traditional crops; decentralizing our food system; producer and consumer cooperatives, community kitchens, urban agriculture, and community farms and gardens. We call for a Food Policy Council composed of farmers and consumers to oversee the USDA to put in place the highest organic standards and shift price supports to organic food products.

We would ban the use of sewage sludge or hazardous wastes as fertilizer, and of irradiation and the use of genetic engineering in all food production; phase-out man-made pesticides and artificial fertilizers; use integrated pest management techniques, and food prices that reflect true costs of food, including the health effects, soil erosion, water and air pollution.

World hunger is best addressed by increased self-sufficiency. We call for a moratorium on genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) until safety can be demonstrated; full-disclosure food and fiber labeling, including the presence of GMOs, use of irradiation, pesticide application and the country of origin; animal farming practiced in ethically and environmentally sustainable ways; and a phase out confined animal feeding operations and factory farms.

J. Biological Diversity

Ecological systems are diverse and interlocking. Nature’s survival strategy relies on biological diversity. Our continuing destruction of animal habitats threatens an ever-growing number of species with extinction.

The Green Party supports a strong, enforceable Endangered Species Act and the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity. We oppose: trade agreements which protect corporate “intellectual property” of genetic material and hybrid seeds; patent rights for genetic material, life-forms, gene-splicing techniques, and biochemicals derived from them. We support crop diversity (oppose monoculture), seed saving, local and fresh production; replanting indigenous plant life where it has been lost; education about animal behaviors to overcome our irrational fear of wildlife.

K. Ethical Treatment Of Animals

We reject the belief that our species is the center of creation, and that other life forms exist only for our use and enjoyment.

We advocate redirecting the funds by the National Institutes of Health away from animal experiments and towards biomedical research using non-animal procedures. We would phase-out the use of animals for consumer product testing, psychological testing, classroom demonstrations and dissections, and weapons development; mandate clear labeling of products if they have been tested on animals and if they contain animal products; and encourage greater public scrutiny of animal research. We would end the abuse of animals, including farm animals; ban the use of goods produced from exotic or endangered animals; prohibit large scale commercial breeding facilities; subsidize spay and neuter clinics to combat pet overpopulation that results in the killing of millions of animals; and ban the exploitation of animals in violent entertainment and sports.

L. Forestry Practices

Vast forests once covered much of the land, moderating the Earth’s climate and providing habitats for myriad species of wildlife and medicines for humans.

We call for actions to protect our forests. We would overhaul state and U.S. Forest Service rules and federal and state land-use policies; ban industrial timber harvest on public lands; ban all clear-cutting; stop building logging roads at taxpayers’ expense and reduce road building on public lands; ban the harvest of Ancient Forests; use work projects, goats, and other sustainable methods to control undergrowth rather than spraying herbicides.

We support the rights of indigenous people and their ecologically sound use of the forest. We would halt the de-

struction of rain forests; forgive the debts of Third World countries to help; end the importation of rain forest beef; protect wildlife habitats, fisheries, biodiversity, scenery, and recreation and develop labels that identify ecologically sound forest products. We would encourage public involvement in decision-making via active and well-funded resource management districts.

M. Ocean Protection

Our oceans must be preserved. We urge the following: Sign the Laws of the Sea Treaty that establishes the global sharing of ocean resources. Ban offshore drilling for oil and maintain existing bans. Ban drift-net fishing and “long-line fishing.” Phase out factory trawlers while promoting sustainable, community-based fishing. Map undersea toxic dump sites and, where possible, recover the toxic wastes. Ban on ocean transportation of nuclear and toxic wastes. Ban importation of coral products and the destruction of breakwaters that protect reefs. Maintain the ban on international whale trade. Accelerate research, including the effects of global warming, destruction of coral reefs, and depletion of fish populations.

IV. ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Green economics is rooted in ecological economics. Our economy should serve us and our planet. Our economy should reflect and respect the diverse, delicate ecosystems of our planet.

Greens support strong local economies and regional trade. The best model of economic security is for a community and region to be largely self-sufficient in the production of its necessities. We support not the corporate control of “free trade”—which, through the machinations of the World Trade Organization places the enrichment of multinational corporations above the level of national laws—but “fair trade,” which protects communities, labor, consumers and the environment. Local economic vibrancy and regional trade keep more money in the community and the region, rather than going to distant corporate headquarters. This is the most sensible model for economic security.

Greens are defenders of the commons—the vast trove of wealth owned by the people, the social and tangible assets we inherit from generations past. Most people living in this country yearn for a more vibrant and lively commons, such as a richer community life, more parks and protected wilderness, clean air and water, more silence, better access to information and knowledge, and a more nourishing culture. We must stop big business from undermining and stealing our common wealth, such as our public forests and minerals, the fruits of federal research, the public airwaves and the Internet.

A. Ecological Economics

To create an enduring society we must devise a system of production and commerce where every act is sustainable and restorable. We believe that all business has a social contract with society and the environment—in effect a fiduciary responsibility—and that the concepts of socially responsible business and shareholder democracy can be models for prospering, successful business.

The Green Party supports community-based economics as an alternative to both corporate capitalism and state socialism. Greens advocate that economic relations become more direct, more cooperative, and more egalitarian.

Greens view the economy as part of the ecosystem. There is an absolute limit to economic growth based on laws of thermodynamics and principles of ecology.

The Green Party supports methods, such as the Index of Social Health Indicators, the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare, and the Genuine Progress Indicator, that take into account statistics on housing, income, and nutrition.

B. Measuring Economic Health

Economic growth has been a primary goal of the American policy. Corporations, politicians beholden to corporations, and economists funded by corporations advocate a theory of unlimited economic growth stemming from technological progress. Based upon established principles of the physical and biological sciences, however, there is a limit to economic growth.

Economic growth, as gauged by increasing Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is a dangerous and anachronistic American goal. The most viable and sustainable alternative is a steady-state economy. A steady-state economy precludes ever-expanding production and consumption of goods and services. However, a steady-state economy does not preclude economic development—a qualitative process not gauged by GDP growth and other measures that overlook ecological effects.

One way to measure the economy is to assess the value of non-monetary goods and services and measure the rate of infant mortality, life expectancy of people, educational opportunities offered by the state, family stability, environmental data, and health care for all people. Another measure is to quantify human benefit (in terms of education, health care, elder care, etc.) provided by each unit of output. Measuring the gap between the most fortunate and the least fortunate in our society, for example, tells us how well or poorly we are doing in creating an economy that does not benefit some at the expense of others.

For many nations with widespread poverty, increasing per capita consumption through economic growth or through more equitable distributions of wealth remains an appropriate goal.

C. Curbing Corporate Power

Greens want to reduce the economic and political power of large corporations, end corporate personhood and redesign corporations to serve our society, democracy and the environment.

Unelected and unaccountable corporate executives are not merely exercising power in our society—they are ruling us. Greens will reduce corporate powers and privileges, including stripping them of artificial “personhood” and constitutional protections. The Green Party supports strong and effectively enforced antitrust laws and regulation to counteract the concentration of economic and political power that imposes a severe toll on people, places and the planet.

Greens believe the legal structure of the corporation is obsolete. At present, corporations are designed solely to generate profit. This legal imperative—profit above all else—is damaging our country and our planet in countless ways. We must change the legal design of corporations so that they generate profits, but not at the expense of the environment, human rights, public health, workers, or the communities in which the corporation operates.

We would end corporate personhood; enact federal chartering of corporations that would include comprehensive, strict and enforceable social responsibility requirements; strengthen the civil justice system to ensure that it holds corporations strictly liable for corporate crime; revoke the charters of corporations that routinely violate safety, health, environmental protection or other laws; and empower shareholders to stop abuses by the managers they hire through a structure of democratic governance and elections.

D. Livable Income

We call for a universal basic income. This would go to every adult regardless of health, employment, or marital status, in order to minimize government bureaucracy and intrusiveness into people’s lives. The amount should be sufficient so that anyone who is unemployed can afford basic food and shelter. State or local governments should supplement that amount from local revenues where the cost of living is high.

The growing inequities in income and wealth between rich and poor; unprecedented discrepancies in salary and benefits between corporate top executives and line workers; loss of the “American dream” by the young and middle-class—each is a symptom of decisions made by policy-

makers far removed from the concerns of ordinary workers trying to keep up.

A clear living wage standard should serve as a foundation for trade between nations, and a “floor” of guaranteed wage protections and workers’ rights should be negotiated in future trade agreements. The United States should take the lead on this front - and not allow destructive, predatory corporate practices under the guise of “free” international trade.

E. Fair Taxation

We can afford to cut taxes for most people if we make corporations and the super-rich pay their fair share. Then we can cut them even more when we halt our nation’s wasteful spending on wars, weaponry and militarism.

We would exempt people earning less than \$25,000 per year and families earning less than \$50,000 per year from federal and state income taxes.

We call for an end to corporate welfare, such as the bailouts for Wall Street, the big banks and the automobile industry; subsidies for agribusiness, Export-Import Bank loan guarantees; tax abatements for big box stores; the tax loophole for “carried interest” from private equity and hedge fund managers; tax deductibility for advertising and business entertainment; offshore tax avoidance schemes; giveaways for new sports stadiums and casinos.

We would impose a financial transaction tax on trades of stocks, bonds, currency, derivatives, and other financial instruments. Block financial transactions with tax havens, to stop tax evasion. Restore the estate tax. Apply the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (Social Security and Medicare) taxes to investment income and to all levels of income, not merely the first \$106,800 earned.

We call for a system of carbon taxes on all fossil fuels, to begin to reflect the real environmental cost of their extraction and use. We would eliminate tax subsidies for the oil, gas, coal, nuclear and timber and mining industries; enact a Green Tax Shift that shifts from taxing people and work to taxing natural resource extraction, use, waste and pollution; and enact a system of True Cost Pricing for goods and services that would include all costs in the price of a product, and charge extractive and productive industries for the immediate or prolonged damage and diminishment of natural resources caused by their acts.

F. Local Economic Development

Greens support decentralization, and call for a community-based economics whose aim is local prosperity and self-sufficiency. We support local production, local manufacturing, local sales, local recycling wherever and whenever possible. We encourage face-to-face relationships with local business owners and shopkeepers.

Successful local Green communities nurture everyone of all ages, generate good jobs and housing, and provide public services; creating cities and towns that educate everyone, encourage recreation, and preserve natural and cultural resources; building local governments that protect people from environmental hazards and crime; and motivating citizens to participate in making decisions.

We would support incentives for co-operative enterprises such as consumer co-ops, worker co-ops, credit unions and other institutions that help communities develop economic projects; allow communities to set environmental, consumer, human rights, labor, health and safety standards higher than federal or state minimums; and local currencies such as Time Dollars, Ithaca Hours and Berk-Shares, to strengthen local economies.

G. Small Business & the Self-Employed

Greens support a program that counteracts concentration and abuse of economic power. We support many different initiatives for forming successful, small enterprises that together can become an engine of job creation, prosperity and progress. Small business is where the jobs are being created. Over the past decade and a half, all new net job growth has come from the small business sector.

The Green economic model is about true prosperity. Our goal is to go beyond the dedicated good work being done by many companies and to present new ways of seeing how business can help create a sustainable world, while surviving in a competitive business climate.

We believe that conservation should be profitable, and employment should be creative, meaningful and fairly compensated.

The present tax system acts to discourage small business as it encourages waste, discourages conservation, and rewards consumption. Big business has used insider access to dominate the federal tax code. The tax system needs a major overhaul to favor the legitimate and critical needs of the small business community. Retention of capital

through retained earnings, efficiencies, and savings is central to small business competitiveness. Current tax policies often act to unfairly penalize small business.

H. Work and Job Creation

There is plenty of work to do that does not jeopardize our future, does not widen the gap between the richest and the poorest in our society and that can enrich our communities. We must encourage the creation of these opportunities.

The Green Party proposes that we provide everyone a sustainable livelihood. The need of our times is for security, not necessarily jobs. We need security in the knowledge that, while markets may fluctuate and jobs may come and go, we are still able to lead a life rooted in dignity and well-being.

We will also promote policies that have job-increasing effects. Many people will still need jobs for their security. We need to counterbalance the decline in jobs caused either by new technology, corporate flight to cheaper labor markets outside our borders, or the disappearance of socially wasteful jobs that will inevitably occur as more and more people embrace a green culture.

The Green Party proposes to create alternative, low consumption communities and living arrangements, including a reinvigorated sustainable homesteading movement in rural areas and voluntary shared housing in urban areas. We support universal health care for all. We support job creating measures such as reducing taxes on labor, adopting a reduced-hour work week, subsidizing renewable energy sources to create new jobs, supporting small businesses by reducing tax, fee and bureaucratic burdens.

I. Banking and Insurance Reform

Greens will overhaul the financial industries to end their culture of impunity and to prevent them from committing fraud or malfeasance so severe as to drive our nation into a massive recession or depression.

Since finance, banking, and insurance institutions occupy a privileged position of power at the center of commerce, this special advantage brings with it special social responsibilities. We must ensure that the institutions chartered for these roles take that responsibility seriously and serve the public interest.

Greens aim to reform the financial industries to eliminate

usury (exorbitantly high interest rates on loans) and ensure that they meet their obligations to taxpayers and local communities.

We will break up our nation's largest banks and financial institutions so that none is "too big to fail," regulate all financial derivatives, ban any predatory or gambling use of derivatives, and require full transparency for all derivative trades, re-enact the Glass-Steagall Act, which prohibited bank holding companies from owning other financial companies and engaging in risky economic transactions, ensure that low and middle income people have access to banking services, affordable loans, and small-business supporting capital, especially through credit unions.

The crisis in our financial system makes it imperative that we restructure our monetary system. The present mis-structured system of privatized control has resulted in the misdirection of our resources to speculation, toxic loans, and phony financial instruments that create huge profits for the few but no real wealth or jobs. It is both possible and necessary for our government to take back its special money creation privilege from the Federal Reserve and spend this money into circulation through a carefully controlled policy of directing funds, through community banks and interest-free loans, to local and state government entities. We would create a new Monetary Authority Board within the U.S. Treasury which, with assistance from the FDIC, the SEC, the U.S. Treasury, the Congressional Budget Office, and others, will redefine bank lending rules and procedures to end the privilege banks now have to create money through the fractional reserve system.

We would clean up the insurance industry. Eliminate special-interest protections, collusion, over-pricing and industry-wide practices that too often injure the interests of the insured when they are most vulnerable. Prohibit bad-faith insurance practices, such as avoidance of obligations and price fixing.

J. Pension Reform

Working people—who own over \$3 trillion in pension monies, should have financial options in where their money is invested apart from the current near-monopoly exerted by a handful of managers, banks, insurance companies, and mutual funds. Pension funds should not be used for corporate mergers, acquisitions and leveraged buyouts, corporate decisions that undercut workers rights, employment, and retirement while generously rewarding non-productive speculation. The current system

has allowed vast amounts of American workers' hard-earned money to be squandered on job-ending, plant-moving, corporate downsizing.

Pension funds are gigantic capital pools that can, with government support, be used to meet community needs and benefit workers and their families directly.

Corporate sponsored pension funds should be jointly controlled by management and workers. Prudent pension fund investing should both make money and do good work.

K. Anti-trust Enforcement

The Green Party supports strong and effective enforcement anti-trust regulation to counteract the concentration of economic power that imposes a sever toll on the economy. The anti-trust division of the Justice Department has had its scope and powers reduced. An explosion of unregulated mergers and acquisitions, spin-offs, and leveraged buyouts has overwhelmed the federal government's capacity to provide effective oversight. Financial and trading markets have become particularly vulnerable to insider trading. Securities and Exchange Commission regulation of these markets has seriously fallen short. Overall, what we see in unchecked market power is self-serving abuse of the democratic political process, price gouging, loss of productivity and jobs, reduced competitiveness, and of predatory and monopolistic practices.

The Federal Trade Commission must vigorously oversee mergers where the combined sales of the companies exceed \$1 billion. The Justice Department must redefine "relevant market share" in assessing mergers. The Congress must enact its calls for competitiveness by stopping illegal monopolistic practices.

L. Technology, Defense Conversion

The Green Party supports defense technology transfer towards a peacetime technology-based economy, particularly new industrial applications and developments in the areas of advanced communications, alternative energy, non-toxic battery technology and waste management.

Advanced telecommunications technologies (many of which came originally from defense applications), such as fiber optics, broadband infrastructure, the Internet, and the World Wide Web hold great promise for education, decentralized economies, and local control of decision-making. We believe we must move toward decentralization in

these efforts, carefully protecting our individual rights as we go forward.

Open-source software is necessary to achieve personal, cultural, and organizational security in the face of technological threats brought by corporations and individual criminals.

Nanotechnology—the science of manipulating matter at the molecular level—is poised to provide a new industrial revolution with vast social and environmental consequences. Like nuclear science and biotechnology, nanotechnology is being pursued largely outside of public debate, risking great harm and abuse in its use and application.

The Green Party calls for a halt to nanotechnology development until there is a full and open public debate about the implications of nanotechnology and the fusion of nanotech with biological materials and information sciences. We call for expanded research into the environmental and health consequences of exposure to nano-scale materials.

M. National Debt

Greens will reduce our national debt.

Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama have irresponsibly expanded our national debt by trillions of dollars to finance tax cuts for our wealthiest citizens, war, corporate welfare and bailouts of Wall Street and the automotive industry. This debt and the interest that must be paid on it is not sustainable.

Working people and the small business community are bearing a disproportionate amount of the federal debt burden. Yet the federal debt is, to a large degree, the end product of tax cuts for the wealthy and big business, and the military-defense industry buildup.

We will reduce our national debt by increasing taxes on large corporations, the super-rich and pollution; and decreasing expenditures in some areas, especially for war, armaments and corporate welfare. We oppose the privatization of Social Security. We will increase funding for green jobs, Social Security, public housing, higher education, public transportation, environmental protection, renewable energy and energy conservation.

THE GREEN PARTY IS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

In 38 years, the Green Party has grown from humble beginnings in three countries to a global movement spanning more than 90 countries and every continent.

There are statewide Green parties in 47 states and local Green organizations in the other three. As of 2005, more than 220 Greens in 27 states and D.C. hold elected office. In November 2001 the Federal Election Commission recognized the Green Party of the United States. Today, 45 state Green parties are members of the GPUS.

Internationally, the first Green parties were formed in 1972-73, in Tasmania, New Zealand, and Great Britain. Today there are Green parties in Western and Eastern Europe, North and South America, the Commonwealth of Independent States (the former Soviet Union), Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Many thousands of Greens have been elected on municipal and state levels. Greens hold office in the parliaments and congresses of Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Taiwan, and many European countries. In 2009, Greens won 46 seats in the European Parliament.

International cooperation among Green parties is accomplished through such organizations as the European Federation of Green Parties, the Federation of the Green Parties of the Americas, and the Federation of African Green Parties.

The first planetary meeting of Green parties was held in Brazil in 1992, in conjunction with the historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Global Green meetings were held in Canberra, Australia in 2001 and Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2008. The next meeting is scheduled for Dakar, Senegal in spring 2012.

You can find information about the Global Greens at <http://gg.dev.fuzion.co.nz/>.