



the green party

In creating a sustainable future for our country, our priority is the protection of the environment. We recognise that forests, rivers, minerals and energy resources fuel our economy, but we also recognise that natural resources are finite. To maintain a healthy ecosystem we will curb the unsustainable consumption of the earth. Based on the principles of social justice and participatory democracy, our policies promote ecological wisdom and respect for diversity.

To create an inclusive country we believe in renewing our parliamentary democracy. A fairer electoral system based on the principle of mixed member proportional representation would promote inclusive decision making and democratic accountability. Such reforms would also better reflect the multicultural diversity of our country. Specifically, political parties polling more than five percent of votes cast or winning at least two constituencies by a relative majority should be represented in Parliament. One half of Parliament should be elected by the relative majority in each of the constituencies and the other half named from party lists in such a way that the total representation of a party in Parliament is proportional to its share of the votes in the country.

The creation of a comprehensive domestic environmental policy, focused on the full implementation of the Kyoto protocols, will be complemented by a radical agenda designed to create a green economy. Through reforms of the tax system, we would encourage citizens and businesses to make environmentally and socially conscious decisions. For example, by rewarding companies who trade their carbon emissions, we would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase efficiency through market-based solutions. We believe in a democratic Europe and a reformed European Union. The Green Party advocates a European Union based on the principles of social justice and ecological protection rather than the present elitist organisation which promotes the interests of large corporations and financial institutions. In recognising the contribution made by immigrants and refugees who come to our country in search of a better life, we would work to create a tolerant society that respects the diversity of different cultural communities.

Since the possession of weapons of mass destruction only increases the potential for aggression, we will encourage our NATO allies to dismantle their nuclear, biological and chemical weapons capability and renounce all military action unless explicitly authorised by the United Nations. We believe in an inclusive criminal justice system with an emphasis on restorative justice rather than prison. By bringing together those who have been affected by crime, both perpetrators and victims, we will encourage people to show greater respect towards one another. In adopting an open minded and fair approach concerning recreational drug use, we would regulate marijuana as a product similar to alcohol and tobacco.

Believing that our reliance on fossil fuels is unsustainable, we are committed to a transportation policy that utilises clean, renewable fuels. Where practicable, we will encourage people to walk or cycle to work. We would increase taxes on company vehicles and make employee parking a taxable benefit. Any additional revenue raised from this scheme would be invested in improving the public transport infrastructure. Recognising the importance of agriculture, we would seek to reform the Common Agricultural Policy to promote a sustainable food economy based on small-scale organic agriculture rather than the industrial food production we witness today. We would restrict the use of harmful chemicals and pesticides and government subsidies for biotechnology research and genetically modified crops would cease. Together, through a comprehensive programme of environmental and economic sustainability, the Green Party is committed to the fulfilment of our collective responsibilities.