

**Green Party Spring Conference 2008
Final Agenda
February 14-17, 2008 at Reading Town Hall**

ONE WORLD. ONE CHANCE.

Vote Green Party 

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Introduction to the Final Agenda

Welcome to the Final Agenda for the Green Party's Spring Conference 2008.

An electronic version is available on request as a pdf file (approx. 400kB) from the SOC Convenor, Dean Walton, email address *soc[at]greenparty.org.uk*. Paper copies are available from Green Party Office, 1a Waterlow Road, London, N19 5NJ, telephone 020-7272-4474

Content of the Final Agenda

There is 1 voting paper (Energy), 18 policy motions, and 6 organisational motions; 1 motion was ruled out of order and is included at the end of the Agenda. There are two Draft Voting Papers which are included at the end of the Agenda and will be discussed in workshops at this Conference. In addition SOC received 20 amendments to the Energy Voting Paper (Section 'B'), all submitted by the Energy Working Group; 4 amendments to the policy ('C') motions, 3 amendments to the organisational ('D') and a number of amendments to the Economy Draft Voting Paper. No amendments were received that were ruled out of order, one or two amendments were received by the Convenor with insufficient signatures and are therefore not included in this agenda.

Errors in the Agenda

If you notice any errors in the first agenda please notify the convenor of SOC.

Email signatures

SOC continues to accept e-mail signatures in line with procedures previously brought to Conference for discussion.

For information, to sign a motion by email please ensure you include your membership number (which you can get a membership card if you still have one, or your introductory letter or by calling Party Office), your local party and if you are the contact for a motion or amendment your address and email address that members can contact you on.

Please help SOC by only enclosing one motion or amendment in each email and by not forwarding transcripts of the debates that have been held by members prior to agreeing to a final version of the text- this also reduces the possibility of error.

Committee Elections

Elections will also be held at Conference for vacancies on a number of Committees. For information on these elections please contact the SOC Convenor.

Rules for Motions & Emergency Motions

SOC would like to remind everyone that although Standing Orders are suspended when an emergency motion is discussed, it is only Section A that is suspended. This is the section that deals with the requirement to submit motions by the First Agenda deadline.

The section of the standing orders that deals with reasons for SOC ruling motions out of order is NOT suspended. This is Section C9 of the standing orders, which states:

"Motions or amendments to motions shall be ruled out of order on grounds of being:

- contrary to the Constitution
- retrospective in their effect
- ambiguous

- vague
- trivial or requiring no consequential action
- substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation or seeks to amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than two years previously, or if it seeks to re-present a policy proposal which has been debated and defeated at a Conference less than two years previously except where it is proposed by Regional Council and agreed by SOC that the specific exception to that requirement shall be made in respect of an area of Party Policy for which urgent need to update or clarify the policy outweighs the normal consideration of procedure.

In addition, Section G1 of the Standing Orders states :

- Emergency motions shall only be accepted provided
 - the issue has arisen, or has substantially changed, since the deadline for motions
 - the motion is consistent with the MfSS and neither changes nor adds to the text of the MfSS
- No amendments to the Constitution or Standing Orders are permitted under this suspension.

Please bear these restrictions in mind when composing emergency motions.

Section A (Reports & Items Requested from Previous Conference)

Items in section A of the agenda are required by the Constitution or Standing Orders or at the request of a previous Conference.

A1. Standing Orders Committee

Part A – Order of Business and Out of Order Motion

Order of Business

The SOCC state that SOC must conduct a ballot to assist in the prioritisation of the motions. The precise format is not laid out. This time SOC has adopted a different process to enable a very straightforward on-line ballot to take place. Members were asked to vote for their top 3 motions in sections 'C' & 'D'. In addition to this, a prioritisation ballot form was included in the paper copy of the agenda sent to all local party contacts.

55 ballots were received, which 49 of these were via the online poll. This is comparable to other paper-based polls but much lower than hoped for turn out given the widespread promotion on the elists. However, this probably reflects the fact that a summary first agenda was abandoned this year due to very tight deadlines as noted in the main SOC report.

The motions have been proposed in the order set out above, on the basis of the prioritisation ballot except for the following changes:

Following a request from the Policy Committee, SOC decided to apply its discretion to vary from the order given by the ballot (covered under Section D (5)(e) of the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference). In particular, the Policy Committee advice was that the two enabling motions on Population and Gender and Diversity should be taken first in the section C policy motions. The Policy Committee opinion

was that the Population Enabling Motion calls for a 'much needed look at population and the connected area of immigration' whilst the Gender and Diversity Motion covers an area 'not currently dealt with systematically in the MfSS'. SOC agreed.

There were two motions concerning Israel & Palestine. It makes sense to facilitate the discussion of these two motions together at Conference since it is possible that some of the issues are common to both. SOC therefore applied its discretion to promote the 'Palestine and Israel' motion in the agenda, since the alternative of moving the 'Justice for Palestine' motion would not have reflected its 'popularity' in the ballot.

Out of Order Motion

SOC received a motion (printed in the agenda at O1) which it ruled out of order under section

9f) substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation or seeks to amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than two years previously, or if it seeks to re-present a policy proposal which has been debated and defeated at a Conference less than two years previously except where it is proposed by Regional Council and agreed by SOC that the specific exception to that requirement shall be made in respect of an area of Party Policy for which urgent need to update or clarify the policy outweighs the normal consideration of procedure.

In reaching its decision, SOC took the advice of the Policy Committee.

Motion Not Addressing Matters Relevant to Conference

A motion was received which SOC considered did not address matters relevant to the Conference and was therefore not considered.

The SOCC paragraph C8 states

"Motions shall be accepted which propose: change, deletion, addition or alteration to the constitution of the Party, Party policy as expressed in the MfSS, the Record of Policy Statements or its Election manifesto, or which commit the party to activities consistent with its philosophy and policies. Policy motions which do not specify that the MfSS is to be amended will be assumed to be proposing an addition to the RoPS.

It was the view of SOC that the motion did none of these – in fact it was considered to be in opposition to the clause "which commit the party to activities consistent with its philosophy and policies", specifically PB001 para 6 which states:

"6. We emphasise democratic participation and accountability by ensuring that decisions are taken at the closest practical level to those affected by them."

The particular motion was designed to take a decision out of the hands of the Target to Win group (if indeed such a group exists) and put it in the hands of a group of people who have no knowledge of the situation and are about as far removed from "the closest practical level to those affected by them as you can get.

Accordingly, SOC declined to accept it as a valid motion for Conference.

The SOC Convenor advised the proposers of the motion to contact the group directly.

Timing of SOC Reports

In addition SOC has made arrangements for the remaining part of the Standing Orders Committee Report to appear alongside other 'Section A' business in the relevant part of a later plenary session.

MOTION : SOC proposes that Conference accepts PART A of the its report.

Part B – SOC Report – Remaining Business

Outgoing Members of SOC and the Electoral Returning Officer

The new SOC thanked Aled Fisher & Francesca Richards for their hard work on SOC throughout their terms – Aled particularly for his work on restoring confidence in the proxy vote system, and Francesca for her unenviable task of drawing up the Referendum campaign rules in consultation with the campaign groups and others.

In addition, Jim Jepps, has resigned his post as Electoral Returning Officer, now that his work on the conducting the referendum has been done. SOC would like to thank him for his work in steering this referendum and his report.

Implementation of SOC Standing Orders

Immediately after the Autumn Conference, SOC agreed to adopt the standing orders it had prepared (and has now submitted for Conference approval – see item A5 of the agenda.

Summaries and Synopses

Conference Standing Orders state that all motions should be accompanied by a synopsis of not more than 50 words which will appear in the Agenda Summary.

If your synopsis was more than 50 words, it was probably cut by SOC.

GPEX Postal Ballot

The GPEX ballot was held late. There were a number of reasons, but principally this was due to sickness of the ERO.

As a consequence one of the first priorities of the newly elected SOC was to put in place a timetable for the postal election of GPEX. This was done within a few days and by 26 September all postal ballots were issued and the deadline for the receipt of these ballots was set at 8 October 2007. With an SOC decision that the results for the conference ballots be held over until the results of the postal ballot were known on the grounds that GPEX by its nature was a collective body and partial announcement of the membership of GPEX could influence votes of others.

However external events somewhat overtook the process – the general election that never was and a postal strike. In response to the postal strike SOC delayed the counting of the postal ballot until 15 October to allow properly posted ballots to work their way through the postal system. Turnout was up at about 20% showing that this decision appears to have worked.

However a consequence of this was that the Conference ballots would also be delayed a further week. At the request of the GPEX chair, the ERO & SOC reconsidered the decision to hold the results of the 'Conference ballots', concluded

that there was now little opportunity for partial results to affect the postal ballot and issued these results on 08 October 2007.

Rulings

WHEN NEW GPEX TAKES OVER
The results for the ballots for GPEX posts held at Conference will be announced on 08 October along with the postal ballot results and GPEX members will take office after being notified by the ERO in line with GPEX standing orders.

EARLY COUNTING OF GPEX CONFERENCE BALLOTS

As the threat of a General Election became more likely, at the request of the chair of GPEX, SOC reconsidered its recent In view of the new request from the Chair of GPEX, I would like to put the following proposal to SOC: SOC should make arrangements to count the ballots for the posts elected as a result of Conference as soon as possible and for the ERO to announce these results.

JOINT LISTS IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

SOC was asked to consider whether a joint list for a European Election with a different political party was contrary to section 4(vi) of the Constitution. Even though this part of the Constitution was written prior to the introduction of proportional representation into European Elections, SOC considered that this was clearly contrary to the Constitution.

Result of the Referendum

SOC worked closely with the Electoral Returning Officer (ERO) and in consultation with GPEX and the campaign groups to bring about the referendum. Key decisions taken not previously covered included

the wording of the referendum question and the layout of the ballot paper, response envelopes and related matters. With regard to the question referendum SOC referred to guidelines issued by The Electoral Commission. The guidelines list ten points to be considered when drawing up and assessing a referendum question. SOC considered that the question put to the members in this referendum met all these guidelines. With regard to the layout and similar matters SOC referred to standard practice adopted by Trades Unions (with particular regard to the Convenor's union, PCS) in similar ballots.

The ERO prepared a report on the referendum, the following is an extract from this:

"It is the ERO's view that the vote was free and fair and that the vote correctly reflects the views of the Green Party membership. The ballot was conducted on Friday, November 30:

The leadership motion has been passed by more than the 2/3rd majority required.

Votes for 2,634 (73%)
Votes against 963 (27%)

Spoilt papers 8

The turnout was 48.3% with 3,605 ballot papers cast. Therefore the 15% required turnout set by conference has been fulfilled (three times over)."

SOC is satisfied that the motion proposed by the referendum has been passed and the Constitution and Philosophical Basis have been amended to reflect this.

Implementation of the Referendum Result & Appointment of New ERO

The first stage in implementing the new Constitution is the appointment of a new Electoral Returning Officer (ERO). SOC is drawing up a detailed job description up but some of the main responsibilities will include managing the actual elections themselves, working with SOC on internal election campaign rules to ensure these reflect both the new constitution and new ways of communicating with the membership, and looking at ways of increasing turnout in internal elections.

An advertisement has been included in the Green World for this post.

Conference Timetable

The official notice for this Conference was published in the November edition of Green World, however this is after the deadline set out in the detailed Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC). Combined with the relatively early date for Conference in February, this meant that it was impractical to send a copy of the First Agenda Summary to all members as required in the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference.

Many of the reasons behind this lay in the fact the final arrangements for this conference were decided very late by the Conferences Committee. The SOC Convenor reminded the Conferences Convenor, GPEX Chair & GPRC Co-Chairs of the constitutional deadlines as stated in the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference. As it became clear that a Conference organised in strict compliance with the SOCC was going to be

totally impractical, SOC & Conferences Convenors considered the various options available. In reaching the decision to hold Conference on 14-17 February it was clear that the 'traditional' first agenda summary was not going to be available to the membership in time for it to be of any use. Therefore SOC put in place a number of measures to alleviate this: it considerably reduced the time between the deadline for the receipt of motions & amendments and the final publication so as to maximise the time available for members to participate; agreed with Internal Communications to publicise the timetable and arrangements through the members internal email bulletin; simplified the prioritisation ballot and set-up an online ballot: issued a copy of the first agenda to all local party contacts. The amount of business received for this Conference appears consistent with previous conferences and SOC is satisfied that the measures put in place significantly reduced the possibility that large sections of the membership could have been effectively disenfranchised by this decision.

Distribution of the Final Agenda

The final agenda was published on the Party's website on 16 January 2008 (some eight days ahead of the formal deadline) and circulated soon after on the party's email lists. Further, a link to the agenda was sent to all Local Party Contacts electronically to all local party contacts soon after. At the time of writing it was expected that a 'Conference Special' for those members who subscribe to the 'Members Bulletin' was due to be sent before 24 January (the

official deadline for publishing the agenda). Hard copies of the agenda have only been made available to Conference delegates or Local Party Contacts on application to Party Office. SOC acknowledges that this is not in strict compliance with the SOCC. However, this approach has the advantage of saving the Party some money and is simpler to organise without obviously leading to the problems for Conference delegates.

Submission of Emergency Motions

All Emergency Motions must be displayed at the Conference venue for at least one hour before the plenary session in which they are to be discussed. SOC would like to make the administrative arrangements for Emergency Motions clearer. To do this SOC has designed a form which will help members submit emergency motions and help SOC on the way! Please contact any member of SOC to request a form and to record your emergency motion with us.

Once an emergency motion has been accepted by SOC, we enter it into the formal record of Conference and arrange for it to be displayed.

There are sessions for Emergency Motions throughout Conference and these are in the timetable.

Finally, as a word of advice, keep your emergency motion short (fewer than 250 words) and if possible send the text electronically to the SOC Convenor.

Contacts for motions in this agenda

The names of those signing motions are included after each motion, up to a maximum of 4 names, although only 4 are

required. Where there are more than 4, then the first 4 are listed followed by "+ others". The principal contact for each motion is indicated by (**) after the name and contact details can be found at end of the agenda before the prioritisation ballot.

Future Priorities for the Standing Orders Committee

Partly as a reaction to the issues raised in the section 'Conference Timetable' above, SOC is looking to review the timetable for the notice of Conference. Additionally, in view of email, and other ways of communication not previously available, SOC will look at how formal notices concerning Conference is given to the members. Clearly this is likely to include further use of email, how this can be done without unnecessarily adding further complications or disenfranchising members will be important. This review will be conducted in consultation with the Internal Communications Co-ordinator.

Other important issues include bringing the Constitution up to date including removing inconsistent language, redundant references. This is intended as a tidying-up exercise not a review of the Constitution in itself.

MOTION : SOC proposes that Conference accept Part B of its report

A2. Policy Committee

This conference and the two conferences preceding it have seen respectively 18, 12 and 17 policy motions submitted, of which at the last two conferences 7 and 12 policy motions were actually debated and voted upon. We've also seen in recent conferences a number of substantial new Voting Papers and Draft Voting

Papers. These high volumes of policy business are in part welcome evidence of the vitality of the Party's policy community.

However, Policy Committee note with concern an increasing tendency for motions to be submitted with either no or very minimal consultation within the Party's Policy Groups or upon Party e-mail lists. Our Constitution says that every effort should be made to achieve consensus when making major policies, or at least to achieve the widest attainable agreement (Clause 11(iii)). Standing Orders Committee have the power to rule out of order motions which 'substantially change policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation' (Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference C(9)(f)). Usually SOC seek Policy Committee advice on applying this clause.

We have on the whole exercised this function very sparingly, suggesting that motions should be ruled out of order only when the policy issues are major and there appears to have been no consultation beyond the proposers. However, we hereby give notice that next conference we intend to give our advice on a rather more strict basis, in an attempt to ensure that fewer but we hope better prepared motions are put before conference. Policy Committee are always ready to assist members with the preparation of motions, and to help them get in touch with others interested in the same area. We will be updating the list of policy groups and lists at this conference for early publication in Green Activist.

We have at this conference two new Draft Voting Papers. The Culture DVP (with special thanks to Roger Creagh-Osbourne) completes the work on Culture, Media and Sport where we passed the Media and Sport Voting Paper at last conference. There is also a far too long (I can criticise it as the principal author) DVP on Economics making the first of what will probably be several appearances; this is a complex and central field of policy, and will require a great deal of hard work and consultation before we finally have a Voting Paper. Policy Committee particularly welcome the two enabling motions on population (including immigration) and gender and diversity, both of which cover areas where we need some policy development, and both of which show commitment to a proper policy making process involving consultation and debate. Finally, the Energy Voting Paper gives us the opportunity to define our policy on a number of emerging energy technologies. The policy pages on the website have been reorganised to include not only the MfSS and Policy Pointers, but also now links to other policy statements in the Record of Policy Statements at the end of each associated MfSS chapter. Most members will use the web to access this policy material, but we plan also to produce a standalone CD for local parties including printable files of all the policy documents. Now that printed copies are no longer available from Greentrade we will also be experimenting with supplying printed copies ourselves.

Brian Heatley
Policy Coordinator

A3. Disputes Resolution Committee

There has only been one dispute in this half year. This has been a long running situation, and I spent three evenings having meetings with both sides separately and then a joint dispute resolution meeting. Although this produced clarification on the subject of the request to DRC for action, it worsened other problems. A further DRC visit may be essential to restore harmony to the local party. An issue of a folded A4 leaflet to all England and Wales Green Party members is planned for 2008, so that everyone is aware of the Dispute Resolution Committee and what it can and cannot do.

Below is a list of members of DRC who can be contacted for confidential advice if you have problems with a disagreement that is felt to be damaging your local party. DRC have no powers other than persuasion, which produces a solution in about half the cases brought to our attention.

Owen Clarke Pontypool 01495 773 17; Wilf Hastings Connah's Quay 07981 704 676; Gill Parsons Abergavenny 01873 853 785; Tristan Smith London 02072 553 910; Daniel Lee Manchester 07900 111 025; Justine Hall Manchester 07729 460 148.

Owen Clarke

A4. Conferences Committee Report (deferred from Autumn 2007 Conference)

None submitted

A5. Standing Orders Committee's Proposed Standing Orders

Motion

Insert new Appendix to the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference

SOC Standing Orders

(1) Introduction

These Standing Orders are intended to set out basic principles that should shape the way in which SOC makes decisions. It is in addition to the rules & procedures established in the Constitution and the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference. Should there be a conflict of interpretation between these standing orders and the Constitution/SOCC then the Constitution/SOCC take precedence.

These standing orders will be agreed at Conference from time to time via the SOC report.

(2) SOC Convenor

Within a week of the end of each Autumn Conference SOC will appoint a convenor. In the event of a vacancy SOC must appoint a replacement within a week. Within a week following each Conference, the convenor must notify all members of SOC, the Conferences Committee Convenor, Policy Committee Convenor, the GPRC Co-chairs and the GPEx chair, of the time & place for meetings to discuss the first and second agenda for the forthcoming Conference. The Convenor will maintain a copy of these standing orders.

(3) Principles of Decision-Making

SOC will operate to the highest standards of accountability and transparency as regards

decision-making. The key principles (in addition to those set out in the Constitution are):

- (i) Decisions will always be in writing and make reference to the relevant sections of the party's Constitutional documents or other relevant principles;
- (ii) Where possible decisions will be taken by consensus of all members of SOC; where this is not possible (except where stated otherwise) all decisions will require that both a majority of members voted and that a majority voted for the proposal;
- (iii) co-optees to the Committee will be allowed to vote but their votes will not count towards determining if either of the required majorities have been reached;
- (iv) All decisions shall be taken with the knowledge of each member of SOC or one its sub-committees where possible
- (v) Some decisions must be taken at one of the two meetings in (2) above.

However it is recognised that there times when it is desirable to take decisions in other ways.

(4) Decisions That Must Be Taken at a Formal Meeting of SOC

- (i) The agreement of the final agenda
- (ii) The content of the SOC report
- (iii) Changes to these Standing Orders

All other decisions can be taken at either a formal meeting, by a discussion & vote on the e-list or by telephone conference. The procedures for these are below.

(5) Decision by E-list.

The SOC Convenor will maintain an Email list ('E-list') to which all SOC members can post items and any Green Party member can join on a 'read-

only' basis. SOC members must therefore ensure that the SOC Convenor has a current email address and telephone number for you.

The SOC Convenor will have the sole discretion to determine whether an item is suitable for decision by E-list. Before doing so the Convenor should consider the complexity of the decision to hand and the ability to have a proper discussion via the E-list. Generally, it is anticipated that prior to a request for a formal decision by email, a discussion about the issue had taken place on the E-list and this will assist the Convenor in reaching his/her decision.

Once the Convenor has decided to use the 'E-list' he/she should post a simple email covering each decision to the list stating in the subject 'DECISION BY XX/YY/ZZ ON [SUBJECT]'. In the text of the email the Convenor should explain the decision to be made, make the relevant references to the Constitution & SOCC and confirm the deadline for a response. The deadline for response should be no less than 24 hours. Further, if the deadline is less than 72 hours the Convenor should attempt to alert the SOC members of the vote by telephone.

Members of SOC should vote by simply replying to the list 'FOR' 'AGAINST' or 'ABSTAIN'.

In particular, once the draft first agenda has been compiled and circulated to SOC members and provided there is no other business to be considered, it will be acceptable to decide by E-list to cancel the meeting to consider the first agenda established in (2) above. This option does not apply to the

meeting to consider the second agenda.

(6) Decision by Telephone Conference

Notice of a telephone conference should be published on the SOC E-list along with a note of the business to be discussed during the conference at least 24 hours in advance of the telephone conference. SOC may invite relevant people to participate in the conference. Requests from members to 'listen in' will normally be accepted. However such members have no automatic right to actively participate in the discussion.

Minutes covering decisions taken, the reasons for them, and votes cast will be circulated by the Convenor (or a person nominated by the Convenor) on the E-list within 24 hours of the end of the telephone conference. So that a contemporaneous record is kept of these conferences, when the Convenor posts the minutes onto the E-list he/she will do so by invoking the 'E-list' on a proposal to accept the accuracy of the minutes.

(7) SOC Rulings

SOC will receive requests for rulings from time to time. SOC should refrain from issuing rulings based on vague & hypothetical situations since this could lead to the application of rulings out of context.

(8) Emergency Business - Suspension of Standing Orders

If all members of SOC agree, these standing orders can be suspended for the purposes of a particular decision. However specifically business covered by (4) above cannot be discussed

whilst these standing orders are suspended.

(9) Changes to these Standing Orders

These Standing Orders can only be amended at a formal meeting of the Committee.

(10) The SOC Report

The SOC Report should contain the following:

- (i) Rulings made and the reasons for them
- (ii) a list of the decisions made by E-list and telephone Conference
- (iii) full details of any decisions made under (9) above

Proposed by the Standing Orders Committee

Section B (Voting Papers)

B10. Energy (submitted by Policy Committee)

Synopsis

This motion, proposed by Policy Committee, simply tables the section as it currently stands. Amendments to the chapter are invited for the final agenda. We are particularly concerned to seek amendments that address emerging energy technologies.

Motion

Delete the existing Energy section in the MfSS (EN100-EN811) and replace it with the following:

ENERGY

Background

EN100 Energy is fundamental to life and to the economy. Energy is neither created nor destroyed, but flows from "higher" to "lower" forms irreversibly. All living things, including people, survive by exploiting this flow.

EN101 Our world is bathed in energy radiated from the sun, but is also provided with stocks of fossil fuels in which energy is locked up. Our economic development has taken us away from using sun, wind and water power to a technology dependent on dwindling supplies of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels represent natural capital. Industrialism has been committing the fundamental economic error of using capital as income. As E.F. Schumacher has pointed out, the wealth generated from the use of capital energy resources must be directed towards making ourselves independent of that type of resource. (See [EN500](#))

EN102 Natural systems cannot safely assimilate effluents from the use of fossil fuels as fast as they are now produced, posing severe problems of acid rain and the "greenhouse effect". We must either wean ourselves off fossil fuels or risk increasing atmospheric pollutants leading to forest damage and changing global climate.

EN103 The primary solution to this problem is for us to radically reduce our need for energy by energy conservation measures and, in the long run, by reorganising our economy and built environment.

EN104 There will nevertheless continue to be a need for energy supply. Denied combustible fossil fuels in the long-term, the choice is between nuclear power and renewable energy sources.

Amendment 1: Replace EN102-EN104 with:

EN102 Our use of fossil fuels increases atmospheric pollutants and greenhouse gases, leading to forest damage from acid rain, impacting on health and causing Climate Change.

EN103 An important step in addressing this problem is for us to reduce our consumption of energy and, in the long run, to reorganise our economy and built environment.

EN104 There will nevertheless continue to be a need for energy supply.

EN105 The Green Party is fundamentally opposed to nuclear energy, which we consider to be expensive and dangerous. We consider its use, moreover, to be elitist and undemocratic. To a degree unequalled by even the worst of other dangerous industries, the costs and dangers of nuclear energy will be passed on to future generations long after any benefits have been exhausted.

Amendment 2: Replace EN105 with:

EN105 The Green Party is fundamentally opposed to nuclear energy, which we consider to be expensive and dangerous. The technology is not carbon neutral, and being reliant on uranium it is not renewable. We consider its use, moreover, to be elitist and undemocratic. There is so far no safe way of disposing of nuclear waste. To a degree unequalled by even the worst of other dangerous industries, the costs and dangers of nuclear energy and its waste will be passed on to future generations long after any benefits have been exhausted.

EN106 "Peak Oil"

[1] Fossil fuels are finite resources and their global rate of production will inevitably reach a peak and then decline (as suggested in [NR310](#)).

[2] In the case of oil and natural gas, the UK rate of production has peaked and the global rate of production will peak soon.

[3] The consequences of the declining rate of production of fossil fuels, or 'Peak Oil' and 'Peak Gas' as it is also known, will fundamentally affect the nation's economy and society:

a. International competition for increasingly scarce resources will lead to increased conflict and deteriorating cooperation between nations.

b. Increasing prices in the domestic market will lead to increasing levels of transport fuel poverty, heating fuel poverty, and food poverty in our society.

c. Declining availability of petrol and diesel fuel will have a serious effect on large swathes of domestic economic activity.

d. Declining natural gas supplies will lead to electricity shortages unless a vigorous programme of diverse alternative sources of electricity generation is implemented.

[4] To minimise the worst effects of Peak Oil on our economy and society, it is crucial that immediate steps are taken to reduce our dependence on oil and natural gas, through improved energy efficiency and development of renewable sources of energy.

Amendment 3: Replace EN106 part [4] with:

[4] To minimise the worst effects of Peak Oil on our economy and society, it is crucial that immediate steps are taken to reduce our dependence on oil and natural gas, through reducing our energy

consumption, improved energy efficiency and development of renewable sources of energy.

Long-term Objectives

EN200 A Green economy would reduce its demand for energy to a sustainable minimum, and obtain that energy from non-polluting renewable sources.

EN201 Energy would be generated, stored and distributed as close to the point of use as practicable, with maximum local control.

Amendment 4: Replace EN200 and EN201 with:

EN200 A Green society would reduce its demand for energy to a sustainable minimum, and obtain that energy from renewable sources.

EN201 As we have an abundance of readily available renewable resources, we will aim for England and Wales to generate a surplus of renewable electricity, both to help supply our European neighbours and to increasingly replace fossil fuels used for transport and heating.

Short-term Objectives

EN300 To reduce demand for fossil fuels as rapidly as possible by inducing industry, householders and the public sector to invest in energy conservation.

EN301 To reduce drastically and, if possible, eliminate the pollution caused by burning coal and oil.

EN302 To promote full use of currently available renewable energy sources for heat, electricity and transport.

Amendment 5: Replace EN300-EN302 with:

EN300 To enable industry, householders and the public sector to reduce their consumption of energy from fossil fuels as rapidly as possible.

EN301 To reduce drastically and, if possible, eliminate the pollution caused by burning coal, gas and oil. To trial the use of Carbon Capture and Storage with existing power stations.

EN302 To promote full use of currently available renewable energy sources for heat, electricity and transport and provide the necessary support for the relevant markets and industries to grow.

Policies

Organisation and Accountability

EN400 Energy supply should be managed on an integrated basis to eliminate wasteful competition between suppliers of different fuels (electricity, gas, coal and oil), and vigorously to promote energy conservation.

EN401 This integrated energy supply management should be administered by Regional Energy Authorities in England and a National Energy Authority in Wales, and should be subject to democratic public accountability.

EN402 These Regional and National Energy Authorities should together be represented in a Central Energy Authority which should act as a coordinating body with particular responsibility for the National Grid.

EN403 Energy use and supply planning should be undertaken on a local level by District Energy Authorities, which would have particular responsibility for promoting energy conservation and development of locally available renewable energy resources, and whose activities would be coordinated through the Regional and National Energy Authorities.

EN404 A majority of the members of the governing bodies of these District Energy Authorities will be directly elected by the consumers. The remaining members, other than non-voting co-opted members, will be elected by the employees.

EN405 The distribution mains for electricity and gas would be brought into, or kept in, a fully accountable public sector.

Energy production would be a mixture of public and private enterprise, with all producers paid on the same terms.

EN406 Professional Advisory Services to be available through the District Energy Authorities to advise on appropriate energy sources, efficiency and conservation measures.

EN407 District Energy Authorities to provide Public Advisory Services, responsible for maintaining and publicising authoritative information on all aspects of energy sources, efficiency and conservation measures.

EN408 New "Standards" to be introduced for Energy Performance Values for buildings; a National Energy Index to show per capita consumption from renewable and non-renewable sources; Energy Use standards to be set for all domestic and industrial appliances.

Amendment 6: Delete EN400-EN404, replace EN406-EN408 with the following, then renumber:

EN406 The Government will provide free professional advisory services to advise on appropriate energy sources, efficiency and conservation measures.

EN407 The Government will provide public advisory services, responsible for maintaining and publicising authoritative

information on all aspects of energy sources, efficiency and conservation measures.

EN408 A National Energy Index will be introduced to show per capita consumption from renewable and non-renewable sources.

Amendment 7: Add new policy EN409:

EN409 Dynamic pricing of electricity tariffs will help balance demand with renewable energy supply. To enable this we will introduce a system of electronic communication through the electricity grid to supply pricing data to 'intelligent meters'.

Conservation

Amendment 8: Insert new EN500 and renumber existing EN500 onwards:

EN500 The Green Party's system of tradable carbon quotas (see CC280) will be the main driver for individuals and businesses to reduce their consumption of energy from fossil fuels.

EN500 The Resources Tax (see [EC780-86](#) and [NR423](#)) would be applied to fossil fuels, making them relatively more expensive. The funds so raised would be used to subsidise energy conservation and renewable energy programmes.

EN501 To protect low-income householders from the worst effects of higher fuel prices, standing charges would be abolished, and tariffs would be tilted in favour of smaller consumers.

Amendment 9: Insert new paragraph after EN501 and renumber:

EN502 Household renewable energy grants will be replaced with low-cost loans, provided by

the government. These loans will be available to homeowners, businesses, community organisations, schools, hospitals and other public sector organisations, and will cover the complete capital and installation cost of a wide range of cost-effective renewable microgeneration, energy-saving and low-carbon technologies. Repayment rates will be set lower than the savings achieved on a property's energy bill, and repayments will be collected as part of the energy bill. Funding for loans will be released on a month-by-month basis, and proposals with the quickest payback time will be given first priority. This will place an emphasis on measures which have a high rate of energy return for energy invested, starting with insulation.

EN502 Incentives will be granted to private combined heat and power systems for large buildings, industrial estates, etc.

EN503 Heat distribution networks to be set up, enabling Combined Heat & Power stations (CHP) to under-cut electricity generated at "power-only" stations, and to facilitate the use of waste heat from industry and sewage and the efficient exploitation of solar and other energy sources which take power from the biosphere and therefore cannot contribute to a net global warming.

EN504 Building Regulations to be amended from simple insulation values to prescribed Energy Performance Values (EPVs) and applied to existing as well as new buildings; tenants to have the right to demand that their dwellings be brought into line with prevailing EPVs at their landlord's expense.

EN505 All sellers of buildings to provide a statement of the energy performance data for those buildings. Publication of energy and water use performance data on all appliances and machines to be made mandatory.

EN506 Incentives to be provided to incorporate best available technology, not merely the minimum standards in the Building Regulations.

Amendment 10: Replace EN502-EN506 with:

EN502 Building Regulations will be set to require excellent energy standards on a points-based system which will cover embodied energy of building materials, energy used in construction, energy consumption in use, on-site energy generation and use of heat distribution networks.

EN503 Heat distribution networks to be planned and facilitated by Local Authorities, enabling Combined Heat and Power stations (CHP) to undercut electricity generated at "power-only" thermal stations, and to facilitate the use of waste heat from industry and sewage and the efficient exploitation of solar and other thermal energy sources.

EN504 Building Regulations for energy standards to be applied to existing as well as new buildings, except where this would compromise listed buildings; Landlords will have a responsibility to ensure that their dwellings be brought into line with prevailing energy standards at their own expense.

EN505 All sellers of buildings to provide a statement of the energy performance data for those buildings. Publication of energy and water use performance data on all

appliances and machines to be made mandatory.

EN506 Energy efficiency standards to be enforced for all domestic and industrial appliances. Electrical appliances such as refrigerators will be required to incorporate dynamic demand technology where appropriate.

EN507 The National Energy Office to define best energy practice for all industrial processes and implement the necessary measures to encourage or enforce minimum energy use per unit of industrial output in all sectors.

EN508 The National Energy Office, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, to define best energy practice in agriculture, including the energy input of agro-chemicals, and to implement measures to encourage or enforce minimum energy use per unit of agricultural output.

EN509 The National Energy Office to encourage reduction in energy consumption in transport, in liaison with relevant ministries and regional and local agencies. Action to include: measures to penalise the use of large engines in cars; measures to discourage private and encourage public transport; measures to encourage non-motorised means of movement; measures to institute land-use planning arrangements that favour public over private modes and reduce the total need for motorised transport. (see [TR300s](#))

Amendment 11: In EN507 and EN509 replace "The National Energy Office" with "The Government". In EN508 replace "The National Energy Office, in

conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture," with "The Government".

In the first sentence of EN509 delete "ministries and". In EN810 replace "Regional Energy Authorities to be responsible for setting the levels of the funds and subsidies and managing the distribution." With "The Government to be responsible for setting the levels of the funds and Local Authorities will be responsible for managing the distribution."

EN510 We encourage the teaching of energy conservation in schools. We should enable teachers to attend courses in the principles of energy conservation on an 'in service' basis.

Nuclear Power

EN600 A deadline for phasing out nuclear power would be set when we come to office and all UK nuclear power plants phased out within this date.

EN601 All nuclear power stations and associated facilities for the production and reprocessing of nuclear fuel and the storage and disposal of radioactive waste shall be in public ownership to ensure the safest possible closure, decommissioning and long-term management of waste. Any such facilities found to be in private ownership will be returned to the public sector without compensation. Reprocessing at Sellafield and other installations will be ended as soon as possible.

EN602 No more uranium would be imported into the UK and no licences would be granted for the mining of uranium in the UK.

Amendment 12: replace EN602 with:

EN602 No more uranium would be imported into the UK and no licences would be granted for the mining of uranium or extraction of uranium from seawater in the UK, except for medical uses.

EN603 The unpredictable effects of climate change demand that the safety of UK nuclear power stations and other sites handling and processing radioactive materials require urgent review. Many nuclear plants are in vulnerable coastal locations which face flooding by a combination of severe weather, rising sea levels and spring tides. An action plan to protect these sites would be implemented and the most vulnerable nuclear sites would be closed down and decommissioned at the earliest practicable date.

Amendment 13: add new EN604:

EN604 It appears unlikely that research into Nuclear Fusion will bear fruit in the timescales needed to address Climate Change and Peak Oil, so in the short to medium term all research funding will be redirected for more immediate benefit (see EN802)

Existing Energy Sources

EN700 Any new fossil-fuelled power stations to be built in urban areas, where the waste heat could be used in a Combined Heat and Power system.

EN701 All major fuel users to be required to fit equipment which reduces pollution.

EN702 Coal and oil supplies to be graded for polluting effect, the cleanest being routed to small users not controlled under [EN701](#).

EN703 Incentives to be given for running vehicles on fuels

producing little or no harmful emissions such as LPG.

EN704 If sufficient supplies are available, an increased role to be sought for fuels producing less carbon dioxide, particularly natural gas.

Amendment 14: delete EN703-EN704 and replace EN700 with:

EN700 No new fossil-fuelled power stations will be built, but new biomass-fuelled Combined Heat and Power systems will be permitted to co-fire fossil fuels for the first five years.

Renewables

EN800 Positive tax and grant incentives to promote use of renewable energy sources to be introduced immediately.

Amendment 15: delete EN811 and replace EN800 with:

EN800 To support and develop the renewables industry we will adopt a simple framework of guaranteed prices for exported renewable energy: renewable energy feed-in tariffs (REFITs) paying premium rates for large and small producers of renewable electricity, with different rates for technologies at different levels of maturity. Onshore wind will continue to be supported with a tariff that matches or exceeds any pre-existing Government subsidy.

Amendment 16: insert new EN801 and renumber existing EN801 onwards:

EN801 An ambitious programme of Government and Local Authority investment in publicly-owned renewable energy projects to be introduced immediately, with an initial focus on onshore and offshore wind projects.

EN801 Bureaucratic interference with people seeking to use renewable

sources of energy to be reduced to a minimum.

EN802 Research and development funding on a scale of that formerly extended to the nuclear power programme to be made available for the development of renewable energy resources. High priority to be given to the means of storing energy, and to the improvement of the distribution of thermal energy.

Amendment 17: Replace EN802 with the following set of policies, and renumber:

EN802 Support will be given to the relevant industries and markets to meet the rapidly growing demand for renewable energy systems.

EN803 We will rapidly expand vocational training courses aimed at creating a work force for the emerging energy-related industries.

EN804 Research and development funding will be made available for the development of renewable energy technologies. High priority will be given to tidal and wave power, concentrated solar power, bio-energy carbon capture and storage, electric transport, energy storage and dynamic demand technologies.

EN805 In order to utilize renewable energy peaks and manage constantly varying electricity demand, dynamic demand and load balancing technologies will be developed, including the charging of battery-powered vehicles; charging large scale flow batteries; electric heating of district heating water; Combined Heat and Power and heat pumps.

EN806 Renewable electricity generators that can viably adjust their output on demand and are less than 50MWe in capacity,

such as Combined Heat and Power stations, will receive a higher rate of REFIT tariff for electricity they generate during peak demand periods.

EN803 Additional emphasis will be placed on the benefits of renewable energy projects that demonstrate significant new innovation towards achieving greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness, particularly those pioneering under-utilised energy sources such as biomass, wave power, tidal power and solar power.

EN804 Planning and building regulation law to be amended to ensure that active and passive solar features and other renewables are included in all new and existing buildings wherever practicable.

Amendment 18: Replace EN804 with the following set of policies and renumber:

EN804 Support will be given to Europe-wide initiatives such as the provision of large scale concentrating solar power plants in the North African Deserts and the building of highly efficient long-distance High Voltage DC power lines.

EN805 Expanding our grid interconnections with neighbouring countries will bring mutual benefits in the sharing of standby capacity, and provide for export of surplus renewably-generated electricity.

EN806 Planning guidance will be strengthened with a presumption in favour of renewable energy projects and made more specific, to ensure better consistency in local decision making. Comprehensive training and support will be provided for local councillors and planning officers to better assess renewable energy projects. The number of government planning

inspectors will be increased to ensure planning appeals can be held promptly. Planning permission will no longer be required for solar panels on buildings, except for listed buildings.

EN805 Biogas generation from biological decomposition to be utilised as widely as possible. (see [NR413](#))

EN806 The Green Party opposes the mass incineration of municipal, commercial and industrial waste because it requires large-scale plant and therefore a large-scale supply of waste over a long period to justify the investment, which discourages waste reduction and recycling. Incinerators produce harmful emissions, greenhouse gases and highly toxic ash residues that are dumped in landfill. The waste has to be transported over longer distances, almost invariably by road.

EN807 Energy will be recovered from the organic component of domestic waste treated by anaerobic digestion and by recovering methane from existing landfill sites. Encouragement will be given to energy recovery from the burning of energy crops, appropriate grades of agricultural waste and waste timber in small scale plants on farms, industrial sites or in district heating networks.

Amendment 19: replace EN805-EN807 with the following set of policies, and renumber:

EN805 Biogas generation from modern anaerobic digestion plants (incorporating first stage hydrolysis steps where appropriate to optimise efficiency) to be utilised as widely as possible, with heat

recovery where possible. (see [NR413](#))

EN806 The Green Party opposes the mass incineration of municipal, commercial and industrial waste. (see [NR414-NR416](#))

EN807 Energy will be produced by recovering methane from existing landfill sites. Encouragement will be given to energy recovery from the burning of energy crops, appropriate grades of agricultural waste and untreated waste timber in small scale plants on farms, industrial sites or in district heating networks. Energy recovery plants will be required to operate to high levels of efficiency, which will usually entail matching the plants with a suitable heat load.

EN808 We will significantly increase the amount of land used for forestry (see F200-F203) and timber will become an important energy crop.

EN808

1)The Green Party of England and Wales believes that it is appropriate to use the tidal energy potential from estuaries such as the Severn estuary, subject to satisfactory sustainability and environmental impact assessments.

2)The Green Party of England and Wales believes that any proposal for a single continuous barrage across the Severn estuary is not an appropriate means of harnessing the tidal energy potential of the Severn estuary.

3)The Green Party of England and Wales supports the use of tidal lagoons as a means of generating clean renewable energy.

4)The Green Party of England and Wales supports the use of tidal stream turbines as a

means of generating clean renewable energy.
EN809 There should be a presumption that wind energy schemes, whether small or large, and whether onshore or offshore, should go ahead unless there are overriding and substantial dangers to public health or safety or to wildlife, or it is in a nationally designated scenic area. Local ownership of wind power, by farmers and cooperatives should be encouraged.

Amendment 20: Replace EN808 with:

EN808 We believe it is appropriate to use the tidal energy potential from estuaries such as the Severn estuary, subject to satisfactory sustainability and environmental impact assessments. In particular we support the development of tidal lagoons and tidal stream turbines as a means of generating clean renewable energy, but reject any proposal for a single continuous barrage across the Severn estuary.

EN810 Renewable energy developers to provide a fund for the local community. The fund would primarily subsidise the energy bills of local residents and businesses, on a sliding scale according to proximity, and any excess would go into community projects of the local Councils' choosing. Regional Energy Authorities to be responsible for setting the levels of the funds and subsidies and managing the distribution.

EN811 When fossil fuels are required to bear their full environmental cost, we fully expect that renewable sources of energy will compete in the market with fossil fuels. However, transitional arrangements to subsidise

them directly may be required, and any such arrangement should meet these criteria: the target for renewables should be kept under review and increased ahead of known industry capabilities; proposals should be considered for support as and when they are submitted; Nuclear power, domestic and municipal waste incineration should be excluded; a simplified scheme should operate for smaller, community-owned developments where the majority of the equity is owned by at least twenty residents of the district in which the development is located, or of neighbouring districts, with holdings of at least £1,000 each; the environmental impact of larger schemes should be considered at an early stage in the process, so that environmentally damaging schemes can be weeded out before they become targets for popular opposition.

All amendments proposed by the Energy Working Group, and signed by Jon Hooper, Janet Alty, Roger Creagh-Osborne and Natalie Bennett.

Section C – Policy Motions

C01. Population Enabling Motion

Synopsis

The present Population Section of the MfSS is deficient in various ways. For example it does not link population and immigration with climate change, or discuss a target population for the UK. This motion instructs Policy Committee to prepare a new Population section and amendments to the Migration section.

Motion

This Conference instructs Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process intended to bring a proposal for re-drafted MfSS sections on Population and Migration to a future Conference. The policy development process should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with an interest or expertise in this field, as well as the views of outside bodies such as the Optimum Population Trust. The principal aim is to replace the existing Population section of the MfSS, but as net inward migration is currently the main contributor to population growth in the UK, changes to the Migration section will also be required to make the two sections consistent.

The present population policy was last updated in 2003. Since then the climate change crisis has become much clearer and alarming, inward migration has dramatically expanded, and few people dispute the apparent need for 3 million new houses in the UK. The existing policy does not adequately address these challenges. The policy review process should consider for example:

- setting a target population for the UK
- challenging the new housing need
- what measures the government might adopt to reduce population and their acceptability
- how the population target can be reconciled with immigration into the UK and the UK's responsibilities with regard to climate change refugees.

The intent is to bring a Draft Voting Paper to the Autumn 2008 Conference and a Voting Paper to the Spring 2009 Conference.

*Proposed by Derek Smith**, Roger Creagh-Osbourne, Chit Chong, John Hunt & others*

C02. Gender and Diversity Enabling Motion

Synopsis

The MfSS currently contains little on the issues of inequality associated with race, gender, sexual orientation. What items are included are scattered and not easily available to members or others seeking to understand the Green Party's approach to these issues. This motion instructs Policy Committee to initiate a process leading to a draft of a gender and diversity section.

Motion

This Conference instructs Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process intended to bring a proposal for a draft MfSS chapter on Gender and Diversity to a future Conference.

The policy development process should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with an interest or expertise in this field, as well as the views of any outside bodies which Policy Committee feels would be useful.

The policy is conceived as being related, but not limited to, the subjects covered by the former Equal Opportunities Commission and former Commission for Racial Equality, now taken within the Equality and Human Rights Commission. (The Disability Rights Commission policy areas are already well covered in the

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MfSS chapter of that title, and it is not proposed that they be considered through this motion.)

Areas that might be developed include:

- equal pay and other employment issues, including pregnancy, parenthood and caring responsibilities.
- gender- and sexuality-related violence
- domestic violence
- access to health and social care services
- treatment in the justice and legal systems
- treatment in education and training
- discrimination on the basis of religion and belief
- discrimination on the basis of age
- access to transport, shops and services

Policy Committee may also propose to move some existing content from other areas of the MfSS if that seems appropriate.

*Proposed by Natalie Bennett**, Justine Hall, Brian Heatley & Priya Shah*

C03. Livestock Farming and Climate Change

Synopsis

This motion links our sustainable agriculture policies to the huge climate impact of livestock farming, which is revealed to be responsible for about 18 percent of the global warming effect, according to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Motion

The Green Party acknowledges the growing evidence of livestock farming's huge

impact on the Climate; a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations states "It currently amounts to about 18 percent of the global warming effect – an even larger contribution than the transportation sector worldwide."

In the Climate Change chapter, insert new section C9 as follows and renumber the subsequent sections and policies:

C9. Livestock Farming

CC280 The substantial contribution of livestock farming to greenhouse gas emissions (see AG206, AG102, CC208) makes it evident that, to achieve our climate objectives and emissions targets, such farming will need to be drastically and rapidly reduced.

CC281 A reduction in livestock farming will have implications for land use, agriculture and human diets. Our policies for sustainable agriculture (see 'Agriculture' as well as EU542, EC952, CY524, EN508, FD302) will achieve a transition away from the production of animal products towards production for predominantly plant-based diets and bring other opportunities for farmers to diversify. The Green Party will manage this transition sensitively, so as well as reducing direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation, it will bring benefits for farmers, consumers, the environment and animal welfare (see AR403).

*Motion proposed by Jon Hooper**, Emily McIvor, Mark Dawes, Dan Lyons & others*

C04. Abortion

Synopsis

This motion, while retaining support for sex education, for assistance for parents, and family planning, reflects medical developments, and addresses the fact the law makes it difficult for disadvantaged women to obtain an abortion. It seeks to reduce NHS abortion waiting lists. The total time limit for an abortion (24 weeks) is not affected.

Motion

To add to the start of H322 in the MfSS:
The Green Party will support a change in the law to remove the requirement for two doctors to approve a woman's decision to have an abortion, and will support a change in the law to allow the procedure to be carried out by appropriately trained nurses and midwives up to three months of pregnancy. It will support NHS provision of such nurses and midwives and will support a widening of the number of locations at which an abortion can be carried out. This should reduce delays in service provision and prevent access being obstructed by doctors with personal anti-abortion views.

*Proposed by Natalie Bennett **, Romyne Phoenix, Sian Berry & Caroline Lucas*

C05. Justice for the Palestinians

Synopsis

None provided

Motion

Conference believes that the plight of the Palestinians is an issue that is central to the ongoing instability and

violence in the Middle East. A just and durable peace in the Middle East is impossible without a just resolution to the dispossession of the Palestinian people.

For sixty years Israel has colonised Palestine while steadily ethnically cleansing the land of its indigenous population and for forty years has illegally occupied the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights.

Israel is in violation of dozens of UN Resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, calling for Israeli withdrawal from the lands occupied in the Six Day War.

There are more than 200 settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, all of them illegal under international law.

Approximately 400,000 settlers live in the West Bank, including over 220,000 in Occupied East Jerusalem.

Settlement areas, bypass roads and military areas account for more than 79% of the land in the West Bank. Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land and appropriation of water resources constitutes a theft without compensation for Palestinians. Settlements consume more than 80% of the renewable water resources in the West Bank and Gaza.

About one million Palestinians are citizens of a supposedly democratic Israel, but they are denied many rights of citizens, including the right to acquire land or property. 92 % of the land falls under the administration of the Jewish National Fund, and cannot be sold to non-Jews. As a result the Israeli Arabs who make up 19%

of the population own only 4% of the land.

Israeli law allows Palestinian areas to be designated 'state land'.¹ In all, there are 38 statutes in force enabling the Israeli state to expropriate Palestinian land.

In order to render already substantial facts on the ground¹ irreversible, the Apartheid Wall the Israeli Government is now building snakes deep into the West Bank to effectively annex the illegal settlement blocs into Israel. When finished, the separation zones could leave on the 'Israeli'¹ side up to 60% of the West Bank.

Amendment 1

Delete from "Conference believes that the plight of the Palestinians...up to 60% of the West Bank"

Replace with: "
"Conference recognises the complex historical and cultural forces which have led to the ongoing war and instability in Israel and Palestine. Palestinians occupied the land which today is constituted by Israel and Palestine for centuries under Ottoman rule, incorporating some Jewish communities as in other Ottoman provinces. The late 19th century saw a growing movement of Jews to the region following the pogroms of Eastern Europe and the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Europe. With the beginning of the British Mandate following the end of World War One and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, increasing numbers of Jews bought land in the area, inevitably disturbing the previous balance of communities in the region. The Holocaust saw this number of Jewish migrants increasing and was the catalyst for the UN resolution

recognizing Israel in 1948. This process of state formation was accompanied by atrocities by Jewish and Arab militias and then by a war initiated by the Arab League against the new state. Following further conflicts, Israel rapidly adopted an expansionist policy, in part because of the need to house growing numbers of Jewish settlers who were expelled from Arab countries during the 1950s. Its subsequent occupation of the West Bank and Gaza has caused a generation of Palestinians to grow up in impoverishment and hate. Its expropriation of Palestinian land and the use of the separation wall to enclose areas of Palestinian land have further added to the righteous outrage of Palestinians and their supporters across the world. The consequent use of violence from the Palestinian side has merely exacerbated a cycle of violence which must urgently be addressed.

Conference asserts that such historical antecedents in no way legitimise any acts of violence today carried out by the state of Israel or by Palestinian militants in Gaza or the West Bank. However, it recognises that these antecedents must be borne in mind by all parties to the peace process if a deep understanding of the cultural attitudes brought to the conflict by all sides is to be grasped and a process of dialogue leading to peace to be begun. Conference believes that all peace can ultimately only come through dialogue, and therefore that such an understanding is vital if the fundamental rights of Palestinians to a free and independent state are not to be impeded and if Israel's illegal occupation of West Bank land is to be reversed so that two viable and peaceful states may co-exist.

Proposed By Raphael Levy, Peter Sanderson, Toby Green & Jean Hill

Therefore we resolve to:

- * Work towards a just solution based on international law and an end to Israeli occupation of the Occupied Territories
- * Demand that the blockade on all Occupied Palestinian Territories be lifted and freedom of movement guaranteed
- * Campaign for the release all the elected Palestinian parliamentarians kidnapped by the Israeli Army
- * Reiterate our call on Israel to allow Palestinians and their families to return to their former homes, or to compensate those unable or unwilling to return.
- * Support the Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions made by more than 170 Palestinian civil society organizations and community groups.

Amendment 2

DELETE

“ Support the Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions made by more than 170 Palestinian civil society organisations and community groups.”*

INSERT instead

“ Support local and international NGOs who are building cooperation and understanding between Israelis and Palestinians. Examples of positive work include the Holy Land Trust (Palestinian NGO) which seeks to create comprehensive community empowerment programs to support non-violent approaches aiming to end the Israeli occupation and build a future founded on the principles of non-violence, equality, justice, and peaceful coexistence, the*

Abraham Fund Initiatives (Israeli NGO) which seeks to advance coexistence, equality and cooperation among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens, and the Parents' Circle, a group of around 500 Israeli and Palestinian bereaved families who have lost a first degree family member as a result of the Israeli-Arab conflict, and seek to solve the ongoing conflict through dialogue and mutual conciliation between the two peoples and through mutual consideration and respect of each others' national and legitimate aspirations.”

Amendment proposed By Raphael Levy, Graeme McIver, Jean Hill and David Wall

*Proposed by Sean Thompson **, Joseph Healy, Jim Mcginley & Andrew Collingwood.*

C06. Palestine & Israel

Synopsis

None provided

Motion

Insert new sections in the International Policy of the MfSS

*IP513 *

Although Zionism predated World War 2, the Nazi Holocaust motivated Jews to found a state for their people in Israel. The State of Israel has had an expansionist policy ever since its foundation, displacing Palestinians to an extent that could be characterised as ethnic cleansing, and has also denied human rights to Palestinians. In retaliation for displacement and repression, Palestinians have fought back with hijackings, stones, rockets, and suicide bombings. In retaliation, Israel has responded with ever-greater aerial bombings culminating with the unacceptable

bombing of Lebanon in 2006. The retaliatory, violence-based policy of both sides is causing immense human suffering to the peoples of both sides, particularly the Palestinians. Militarism is causing polarisation of opinion, and an escalation of violence that could lead to wider conflict in the Middle East and even global conflict, which could even escalate into nuclear war. In order to avoid this, all parties must focus on a peace settlement based on negotiation and compromise, with cooperation in the task of creating a sustainable economy in their arid land. This cooperation must therefore be based on water management solutions which must be innovative and intensive.

Our role as Green Parties is to conceive of a way for this situation to come about by dialogue with Green Parties and groups in Europe and the middle East. The case for peace is overwhelming from a rational point of view.

Amendment 1 – this is a Policy Committee Amendment

To delete proposed new paragraph IP513, and replace it with the original, simpler and shorter, paragraph

"The Arab-Israeli conflict persists owing to the failure to find a fair and humane solution to the problems of the Palestinian people and appropriate guarantees of security for a state of Israel."

Amendment proposed by Brian Heatley, John Norris, Alan Francis, Roger Creagh-Osborne & others

Objectives

*IP514 *
Mutual recognition of the rights of independent statehood and secure borders of Palestinians and Israelis; a rapid end to the violence and de-escalation of the arms build-up in the region; enforcement of UN resolutions 242 and 338; international assistance so that both the Palestinian and Israeli states can develop co-operative self-reliance in water management, food production and basic services and industries; long term exploration of the possibility of establishing a confederation with neighbouring states, with free and equal access for each state's citizens.

Policies

*IP515 *
The Green Party believes that all Israelis, Palestinians, and their families should have and be able to exercise full human and civil rights throughout Israel and the occupied territories. Israel should be subject to the Geneva Convention concerning the rights of individuals and communities.

*IP516 *
a)The Green Party calls for the implementation of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338.
b)The Green Party calls on the Palestinians to recognise the right of the State of Israel to exist within secure borders.
c)The Green Party calls on the Israeli Government and the PLO to unequivocally reject violence as a means of settling their conflict.

*IP517 *
The Green Party calls on Israel to repeal its present "law of return" because it is incompatible with the full

exercise of human rights and is implicitly discriminatory.

*IP518 *
a)The Green Party calls on Israel and the Arab states to recognise and comply with United Nations resolutions and instruments.

b)The Green Party calls on Israel to have direct talks with representatives of the Palestinians with a view to ensuring genuine religious, political, economic and other human rights for all people within Israel and the occupied territories.

c)The Green party calls on Israel to allow Palestinians and their families to return to their former homes and be offered full Israeli citizenship, or to compensate those unable or unwilling to return to their homes and/or property.

IP519
The Green Party calls on the Arab states to agree a mutual non-aggression pact, and a non-aggression pact with Israel. Such pacts must be guaranteed by the international community.

IP520
The Green Party calls on the United States government to use its special relationship with Israel to halt military and financial support until Israel enters the dialogue called for above.

*Motion proposed by Richard Lawson **, Jane Hart, Tom Hart, Howard Coles & one other*

C07. Fossil Fuel Production

Synopsis
Recent IPCC reports make it clear that the time for inaction is past. It will be far easier to

get 200 governments to agree to reduce production of fossil fuels than it would be to get 6 billion consumers to restrain their demand. The motion calls for the Green Party to vigorously pursue production caps and reduction as an urgent priority.

Motion

In the light of the November 17th 2007 IPCC Synthesis report this conference demands that the Government introduce supply side control measures to restrict the production, import, and consumption of fossil fuels in the United Kingdom. By taking control of the supply situation in this way, the government can then better manage the economic and social consequences than by attempting to directly influence millions of individual consumers.

Conference requests GPEx, all elected Green Party politicians, and all Green Party members to lobby vigorously for the introduction of caps on the production of all fossil fuels with immediate effect and a year on year reduction in availability of fossil fuels in the UK of at least 10% for the next 12 years - this will reduce emissions to 25% of 2007 levels by 2020, further reductions to be determined in the light of continuing monitoring of climate effects.

*Proposed by Roger Creagh-Osborne **, Janet Alty, Vivien Pomfrey, Dorothy Nelson & others*

C08 Implementation of the Citizens Income

Synopsis:

The MfSS is unequivocal in its commitment to a Citizens' Income as the main plank of its

policy on Social Security. However, many details of the proposed implementation of CI are unclear.

Motion

This motion mandates The Green Party Economics Working Group to draw up a comprehensive policy for the implementation of CI, in time for discussion at the Spring Conference 2009. This review would cover, without being limited to, the following issues:

- the definition of a "citizen"
- worked examples of the levels at which CI should be offered, and the associated rates of income tax.
- the redistributive effects of CI for different groups (by age, work status, earnings, the presence of children, etc)
- whether housing benefits should remain or be subsumed by CI
- the relationship between CI and pensions
- whether labour market changes would be needed in tandem with the implementation of CI
- the relationship between CI and the informal economy

Extra background:

A Citizens' Income is a flat-rate, non-means-tested benefit, payable to all citizens regardless of their income, employment status, or availability for work. It provides the dignity and security of a minimum income guarantee for all citizens, without the cost, complexity and stigma of means-testing. It eliminates the poverty and unemployment traps inherent in the current system, under which many people are no better off in work than on benefits.

*Proposed by Clive Lord **, Jonathan Essex, Brian Heatley & Maria Iacovou*

C09. Climate Change – adaptation and leadership

Synopsis

This motion condemns "adaptation" as a primary response to climate change, calls for clear leadership from citizens and the UK government.

Motion

In the Climate Change chapter of the MfSS – In section B, add new subsections after CC100 as follows

CC101 The Green Party vigorously challenges 'adaptation' as a primary response to climate change. Without targets commensurate with the scale of the problem, 'adaptation' becomes a 'get-out clause' to be used by any government committed to doing less than is required to stabilise temperatures at or below 1.8C warming. Beyond 1.8C warming, 'adaptation' becomes increasingly unlikely as positive feedbacks threaten to speed climate change much faster than our capacity to adapt, and with no identifiable stabilisation point in sight.

However beyond a critical examination of the ethics of 'adaptation' as a primary response, funding will be required for adaptation and resettlement by UNFCCC and is a key demand of many developing nations. It will be essential to ring-fence part of the North-South transfer of funds from Contraction and Convergence for this.

CC102 Leadership at all levels. It is clear that so far we have not been able to rely on strong

leadership from the UK government, the EU or from the UN. In the absence of a government committed to systemic environmental sustainability policies, the demand for meaningful action will have to come from citizens at every level. Governments can be relied upon to respond more fully when societal pressure leaves no other option. In short, there is now a moral obligation for each of us as citizens to show climate leadership in our own sphere of influence.

CC103 On a political level the Green Party advocates decisive leadership by the UK government, actively seeing revisions of the current climate framework with the EU and the UN ahead of the 2012 Kyoto Protocol end date. (See CC210–CC226)

*Proposed by Deepak Rughani**, Christine Way, Tony Cooper & Adrian Oliver*

C10. Economic Recession

Synopsis

In 2008 there is possibility that first the American, and then the global economy may move into recession and eventually depression. While this downturn will cause a welcome reduction in the global CO2 output, it carries political risks. In depressions, high unemployment causes poverty and disaffection,

SOC Note – this synopsis was cut.

Motion

Insert in the MfSS, Economics Chapter

Dealing with Severe Economic Downturns

Green Keynesianism

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EC860 One of the weaknesses of capitalism is its tendency to undergo periodic downswings, recessions and depressions, which cause widespread hardship through unemployment and poverty, together with the risks of political instability and war. J M Keynes held that it is the role of Government to mitigate these effects and restart the economy by creating demand in the system through state expenditure. In the next economic depression, Green Keynesianism can ensure that the economy is restarted in a green way. We can create a healthy and beneficial demand in the economy by addressing ecological needs (that is, the needs of environment and society) in a meaningful way, and at the same time introducing Citizen's Income gradually by turning unemployment benefits into a Green Wage Subsidy (GWS), in the following way.

EC861 Tribunals are set up in each local authority who are empowered to judge, systematically according to criteria laid down, whether the processes and product of public services or private enterprise who come before them are of net benefit to society and/or environment. These applicants would typically be operating in the following fields:

energy conservation
renewable energy technologies
energy efficient goods
manufacture
pollution control technology
waste minimisation
repair
recycling
water management
sustainable agriculture
forestry and timber use
countryside management

housing - new building and refurbishment
improvements to visual environment
public transport
education and training
counselling, caring and healing
community work
leisure and tourism
innovation, research and development
any business which passes a certain threshold in its environmental audit.

EC862. Businesses and public enterprises who think they might qualify go to the Tribunals seeking "Green Accreditation". If successful, they may take on new workers (i.e. in addition to their present establishment) from unemployment agencies, and the new workers are allowed to keep their unemployment benefit, just as in certain schemes presently operating. It can be seen as an extension of the present Earnings Disregard. In this way, "Job Seekers' Allowance" and other forms of unemployment benefit change from being a dead dole into a Green Wage Subsidy (GWS) which stimulates the green sector of the local economy.

A degree of flexibility in criteria might be permissible so that in areas of high unemployment, the criteria might not be set so high as in areas of low unemployment.

EC863 The employer would bring the remuneration of the GWS worker up to the going rate for the job. The result is that the worker has work and a better income, but that the employer in the green sector has bigger workforce at a small outlay. There is no time limit for this arrangement, so in this regard it behaves in the same way as a Citizen's Income, and

over the years, as the economy becomes greener, this arrangement will become universal, thus achieving a CI situation.

EC864 It will be illegal for employers to replace previous establishment with GWS workers, and if workers believe that they have been so replaced they can make a complaint to the Tribunals, who would be able to reinstate the worker or, in the case of repeated offences, revoke the offending company's accreditation.

EC865 The GWS money would otherwise have been given to unemployed people on condition that they do nothing, which is the present status of Unemployment Benefit (UB), and is the cause of the present notorious unemployment and poverty traps. Therefore, at first there would be little difference to public sector finances, since the money would have been paid out in any case, as unemployment benefit. Some of the GWS money would come back to Government in the form of taxes. Because the GWS is permanent (as opposed to being time limited, as is the case with similar benefits at present) there would be a long term cost analogous to that of CI. These costs are consonant with Keynesian doctrine of the state stimulating work in times of economic depression.

EC866 Keynes advocated borrowing from private banks to fund his schemes. Given that unwise lending by banks has brought about the current problems in the world economy, the Green Party is ready to look again at the question of private banks creating money from debt at interest, and to look at alternatives such as zero

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interest loans for green enterprises.

EC867 In economic depressions, money sometimes loses its meaning through hyperinflation and in other ways, and in this event, arrangement such as Time Banks or Local Exchange and Trading Systems (see WR634) can be of great help in getting the local economy running again. The Green Party will encourage such developments both locally through participation by local branches, and in central government by ensuring that the tax system leaves them well alone.

EC868 In economic depressions, the velocity of circulation of money can slow down to an extreme degree. In addition to the GWS laid out above, and other measures levies and incentives designed to help stimulate the green sector of the economy, in the event of a severe global depression, the Green Party will research the potential of currency systems with intrinsically high circulation velocity such as the depreciating money system designed by Sylvio Gesell and used successfully in Worgl, Austria, in the Great Depression. The town authority paid its employees in notes that had to have a purchased stamp added each month, so that it was better to spend it than to save it. In the middle of the depression, Worgl prospered until the experiment was ended by an alliance between the banks and the unions.

*Proposed by Richard Lawson**, Janet Alty, Vivien Pomfrey, Clive Lord*

C11. Preventing destitution for failed asylum seekers

Synopsis

There are c.200,000 failed asylum seekers in the UK; only c.5,500 are entitled to benefits or health care. An unknown number are denied support for failing to apply "appropriately". This motion addresses their lack of the right to work or basic support, or general lack of access to health care.

Motion

Insert into the MfSS in the refugees and asylum seekers chapter, after RA404 and then renumber: "The Green Party will oppose any person being left destitute after a failed asylum claim or if deemed to have not applied "appropriately". Any person in the United Kingdom should be entitled to the basic necessities of life, including but not limited to food, shelter and medical care, by legal means, whether this be achieved through employment rights or public funds."

*Proposed by Natalie Bennett **, Payam Torabi, Clare O'Regan, Adrian Windisch & Others*

C12. Conscience Clause for Armed Forces

Synopsis

Our Peace and Defence policy envisages a contracted set of armed forces under a Green Government. This addition is to update their role, formalise their contract, and to lessen the risk that they could be used to oppress the people they serve.

Motion

Insert new PD306:
Such standing forces as are retained will sign up to a formal contract, which will include the following points:

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1 In exchange for putting their lives on the line when necessary for the security of the country, or in the protection of civilians of other countries in pursuit of the UN Responsibility to Protect, the State undertakes to respect and look after injured service personnel, to give decent living standards, to them whether serving or not serving due to injury, and to their dependents in the event of their being killed.

2 All serving personnel will be required to sign a pledge that they will not obey any order which would entail any breach of international law or, in particular, require fighting against or firing on unarmed civilians of their own or any other country.

*Motion proposed by **Richard Lawson**, Carol Kambites, Charles Graham & Romyne Phoenix.*

C13. Income & Economic Security

Synopsis

The motion amends the Income and Economic Security paragraphs of MfSS. It links the ending of the British opt-out from the European Working Time Directive to a Minimum Wage set at the Council of Europe Decency Threshold and introduces a maximum income limit of 10 times the Minimum Wage.

Motion

WR360:
After 'large¹ in line 1 insert 'and ever increasing¹.
Insert new second sentence;
'The gap between the most prosperous and the poorest in society has not been as great since the nineteen thirties and
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it is this inequality that underlies and fuels most of the social problems confronting us in Britain today.'

After 'The Green Party believes' insert 'a sustainable society has to be a just society, and that therefore the current trend towards increasing inequality must be reversed, that'

WR361:
Insert new paragraph and renumber following paragraphs accordingly;
'British people work some of the longest hours in Europe, with some 3.6 million people regularly working more than 48 hours a week, yet 7 out of 10 people working over 48 hours per week say they would like to work fewer hours. For many however this is impossible as they simply cannot afford to do so. Overwork is forcing working people into unhealthy lifestyles as they attempt to reconcile long working hours and family responsibilities.

WR362 [renumbered]:
In sentence one, delete 'To these ends' and insert 'Therefore'
In sentence two, after '... Citizens Income scheme, we support' delete the whole of section (a) and insert new '(a) the immediate ending of the British opt-out of the European Working Time Directive (b) a National Minimum Wage level in line with the Council of Europe Decency Threshold, which is set at 60% of net national average earnings (c) for a maximum personal income limit of 10 times the National Minimum Wage, Old section (b) becomes new section (d)

Amendment 1

Delete "(c) for a maximum personal income limit of 10

times the National Minimum Wage"

Replace with "(c) a new top rate of income tax to be levied on incomes over 10 times the National Minimum Wage"

Amendment proposed by Darren Johnson, Ute Michel, Sue Luxton & Jean Lambert

*Original motion proposed by **Sean Thompson ****, Sally Thompson, Rob White, Peter Murray & others*

C14. Civil Service

Synopsis

The Civil Service is to become responsible for its actions. As things stand, they can and do make recommendations that evade or distort the truth, and often their errors are paid for by Ministerial resignations, which insulates the civil service from responsibility

PA702

Civil servants will be responsible for their actions. If an error arises due to actions a government officer, that officer will be professionally accountable, according to guidelines laid down to match the magnitude of the error, up to and including dismissal. A code of ethics will be made available to every government officer, which will include guidelines for when the officer has a duty to act as a whistleblower.

PA703

Civil servants will be given a code setting out circumstances where they are not to obey orders. This will include conditions of invasion, or of military or other coup. The effect of this will be to help to make the country

ungovernable in the event of invasion or coup.

*Proposed by Richard Lawson **, Tom Hart, Howard Coles, Jane Hart & others*

C15. Disability rights

Synopsis

None provided

Motion

This party notes the fact that the 'earnings disregard' on Jobseekers Allowance has not been updated since 1988 whereas the top earnings disregard on some supervised permitted work placements for people on Incapacity Benefit of 16 hours per week rose to £86 in line with the national minimum wage. We note that this represents a government attempt to drive jobseekers into low paid work or workfare type schemes, which particularly impacts on disabled people, asylum seekers and single parents; some of whom are being made destitute as a result. Furthermore cuts to Legal Aid make it difficult for those in this plight to seek any legal redress.

We also note that private companies are moving into the field of workfare seeking to profit from some of the most vulnerable and needy sections of society.

Whilst recognising that this situation might, in the long term be solved by the introduction of a Citizen's Income scheme, we call on the government immediately to cease its attempts to financially coerce people onto workfare and to allow an 'earnings disregard' that is sufficient an income that is at least equivalent to that which can be

earned from a full-time job on the minimum wage.

*Proposed by Alan Wheatley**, James Caspell, Paul Cooney, & Nigel Rolland*

C16. Personal Care

Synopsis

Current policy states that residential care should be provided free and house owners would not be required to sell their home to pay for such care. However, there is no indication of how this care is to be paid for. The following policy proposes a way of funding this care.

SOC Note – this synopsis was edited from that provided, which was too long.

Motion

Following SW406 insert new policy SW407 as follows:

“Personal care for the elderly, whether living in their own home or in a care home, would be funded from a combination of inheritance tax receipts and a new 'care tax'. This new care tax would be set as a percentage figure no higher than the basic rate of income tax and would be levied on lifetime transfers and estates of the deceased, where their value exceeds a set figure.”

Proposed by Ann Were, Rebecca Were, Keith Ross, John Matthews & others*

C17. Addressing issues of gender in asylum claims

Synopsis

None provided

Motion

Insert into RA405 in the refugees and asylum seekers chapter of the MfSS after

"Convention": The Green Party further recognises that gender issues may be a rightful cause for an asylum claim, as where, for example, a woman or girl may be subject to female genital mutilation or forced marriage were she to be denied asylum.

((RA405 The Green Party supports the recognition of lesbians and gay men as social groups within the meaning of the Convention. We will adopt this approach in our treatment of such asylum seekers.))

*Proposed by Clare O'Regan **, Richard Murgatroyd, Paul Cooney & Lynda Pickersgill*

C18. Ammunition

Synopsis

The Peace and Defence section specifies our opposition to the arms trade. This motion strengthens that opposition by specifying how we can more effectively reduce the arms trade by concentrating on transfers of ammunition. Small arms are metallic goods that can be easily hidden. They have no distinctive smell, apart from the oil that coats them, which is indistinguishable from the smell of any other machinery. Investigators have to make a visual or X ray inspection to confirm that a package contains armaments rather than common machinery. On the other hand, armaments are no better than highly expensive clubs without ammunition, and ammunition has two give-away characteristics:

Motion

Insert new PD418 and renumber

PD418 The production, caching, and transport of

ammunition can be more easily controlled than that of arms as it has a distinctive smell. Sniffer dogs are routinely trained to identify the presence of explosives and ammunition. Countries and agencies that invest in more sniffer dogs can more easily prevent the transfer of lethal products across their borders. They could also use the dogs to lead searches for ammunitions caches in the interior, and for ammunition factories.

PD419 The other weakness of ammunition lies in its production. In order to produce ammunition, a manufacturer needs to obtain large quantities of certain chemicals. The Green Party will require that these chemicals to be put on a register, so that purchasers will have to give information about where and for what they will be used. In this way, the production of illicit ammunition will be made more difficult.

*Motion proposed by **Richard Lawson****, Charlie Graham, Joseph Healy & Tom Leimdorfer*

Section D (organisational motions)

D01. Eligibility to Stand for GPEX

Synopsis

This motion enables members to stand for election to GPEX after one year's membership of GPEW, with the approval of GPRC.

Motion

Replace 7(v)

Candidates for elected posts on the Party Executive shall have been a member of the Party for two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be

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required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Party.

with

Candidates for elected posts on the Party Executive shall have been a member of the Green Party of England and Wales for two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations and their nomination must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Green Party of England and Wales. Or, if they have been a member for a minimum of one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations, their nomination must be supported by a majority of GPRC members at an official meeting of that body.

Amendment 1

SOC Note – this amendment was called for by SOC to clarify the original motion, without changing the principles in the original motion.

Amend final clause to:

“their nomination must be supported by a majority of GPRC members IN ATTENDANCE at a QUORATE official meeting of that body.”

Amendment and motion proposed by Natalie Bennett, John Norris, Sian Berry, Noel Lynch & others

D02. Allowances for GPEX Members

Synopsis

This is a constitutional change below which explicitly states that GPEX may vote an allowance for a member.

Motion

In Section 7, add a new subsection:

xvi) By a simple majority of its membership eligible to vote the Party Executive may, at a properly constituted meeting of GPEX, agree to pay an allowance to a member of the Party Executive. The payment of such an allowance would cease in the event that the member receiving the allowance ceased to be a member of the Party Executive. The terms and expectations will be defined in the party bylaws. Payments may be revoked by GPEX in the case of extreme financial difficulties.

*Proposed by **Richard Mallender****, Jim Killock, Joseph Healey, Sarah Birch*

D03. When Constitutional Amendments Take Effect

Synopsis

There have been different interpretations of when changes to the Constitution take effect. This motion proposes implementing them at the end of the Conference when they were agreed.

Motion

17 (iv) Changes to this constitution take effect at the close of the Conference in which they were agreed. Or for changes that come about via a members' ballot when the result of that ballot is agreed.

Proposed by the Standing Orders Committee.

D04. Change Majority Required for Amendment to the Constitution

Synopsis

This motion reduces the majority required for a change to the Constitution to 60% in

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favour of the change whilst leaving the majority required for changes to the Philosophical Basis unchanged.

Motion

In SOCC and the Constitution, in relation to votes by Conference and of the membership in Membership Ballots, change all references to "a two-thirds" majority being necessary to a "60%" majority, except in the Constitution 10 ii) The Philosophical Basis of the Party may be changed only by a two-thirds majority at Conference.

*Proposed by Sarah Birch **, Quentin Tyler, Howard Jago, Matt Follett & one other.*

D05. New Posts on GPEx

Synopsis

This motion introduces two additional, voting members onto GPEx – a Women's Co-ordinator & an Equality & Diversity Co-Ordinator.

Motion

Insert into the constitution at 7.) (l) Women's Coordinator and (m) Equality and Diversity Coordinator so that section 7 reads

7. GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE

i) There shall be a Green Party Executive (hereinafter referred to as the Party Executive) which shall be responsible for the overall and day-to-day direction of the Party.

ii) The Party Executive shall consist of thirteen voting members with the following functional responsibilities:

- (a) Chair;
- (b) Campaigns Co-ordinator;
- (c) Elections Co-ordinator;
- (d) External Communications Coordinator;
- (e) Finance Co-ordinator;
- (f) Management Co-ordinator;
- (g) International Co-ordinator;

- (h) Local Party Support Co-ordinator;
- (i) Policy Development Co-ordinator;
- (j) Publications Co-ordinator;
- (k) Internal Communications Co-ordinator
- (l) Women's Coordinator
- (m) Equality and Diversity Coordinator

each of whom shall be elected annually

Amendment 1

Insert into the constitution at 7.)

(l) [DELETE CURRENT TEXT]

Equality and Diversity Coordinator so that section 7 reads

7. GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE

i) *There shall be a Green Party Executive (hereinafter referred to as the Party Executive) which shall be responsible for the overall and day-to-day direction of the Party.*

ii) *The Party Executive shall consist of [REPLACE "THIRTEEN" WITH] TWELVE voting members with the following functional responsibilities*

- (a) *Chair*
- (b) *Campaigns Co-ordinator;*
- (c) *Elections Co-ordinator;*
- (d) *External Communications Coordinator;*
- (e) *Finance Co-ordinator;*
- (f) *Management Co-ordinator;*
- (g) *International Co-ordinator;*
- (h) *Local Party Support Coordinator;*
- (i) *Policy Development Coordinator;*
- (j) *Publications Co-ordinator;*
- (k) *Internal Communications Coordinator*
- (l) **[DELETE "Women's Coordinator" AND RENUMBER FOLLOWING "(m)" AS "(l)"]**
- (m) *Equality and Diversity Coordinator*

each of whom shall be elected annually

Amendment proposed by Ute Michel, Natalie Bennett, Jenny Jones & Sue Luxton

*Motion proposed by Lesley Hedges **, Anne Power, Lynda Pickersgill, Ruth Bergan & others*

D06. 4 Year Limit on Referendum

Synopsis

Given the amount of the Party's time and energy that can be taken up by a party-wide ballot to amend the Constitution, this motion proposes a minimum period of at least four years before the same issue can be revisited.

Motion

In Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference, Section C (First Agenda), clause 9, which lists the reasons why motions should be ruled out-of-order, add extra point: "g) seeks to overturn, or fundamentally amend, the result of a party-wide ballot held under the provisions in clause 11(ii) or clause 17(ii) of the Constitution, or to initiate a new party-wide ballot seeking to do so, within four years of the result of the original ballot being announced. An exception to this should be allowed if the motion is submitted by GPRC, having been supported by a 2/3 majority vote at a properly convened meeting of GPRC, on the grounds that GPRC believe that exceptional circumstances render it is necessary to revisit the original decision in order to protect the well-being of the Party."

Amendment 1

Delete 'four years' and replace with 'two years'

Amendment proposed by Darren Johnson, Ute Michel, Sue Luxton & Jean Lambert

*Motion proposed by Jonathan Dixon, Keith Ross, Romayne Phoenix, Tim Turner** & others*

Section E – Draft Voting Papers

E51 Culture, Media & Sport Draft Voting Paper

Synopsis

This Draft Voting Paper (DVP) is not for formal debate at this Conference, but will be discussed in workshops. Members are invited to submit proposed amendments and additions in time for the Second Agenda so that the workshop can consider them. A final Voting Paper will be submitted to a future conference.

The DVP represents a new section to be inserted into the Culture Media and Sport (CMS) chapter of MfSS and which will then replace the existing Arts chapter.

It also includes material on Sponsorship in Sport and Media to be inserted into the relevant places in the CMS chapter. The paragraph numbering indicates the insertion point within the CMS Voting paper being presented to this conference.

This draft provides the basis from which a future voting paper will be able to fill policy gaps providing a Green approach to Arts, Culture and Heritage issues. Members are urged to join the CMS working group and to attend the workshop at this conference in order to progress this paper.

CULTURE, CREATIVITY & THE ARTS

Background

CMS400. For the purposes of this chapter 'culture' means all

forms of artistic expression, including entertainment, such as film, drama, dance, painting, photography, sculpture, crafts, architecture, design music and similar activities. It also includes the historical record of such activities.

CMS401. Culture is essential to human fulfilment. As a human need, it enhances the economy both directly and indirectly: where people are more fulfilled they are likely to contribute more to their work and to society. In a 'Green' society people of all ages and backgrounds would have access to participate in and enjoy all types of arts and cultural activities.

CMS402. The Green Party recognises that the 'creative' industries sector is growing significantly in the UK, and as we move towards a sustainable society we anticipate an increased role for artists and craftspeople.

CMS403. Arts and culture in the UK is currently structured and funded in a way that gives the 'bigger' players dominance over smaller community organisations and individual artists. A healthy and vibrant society does not see a necessary competition between creativity and purely financial business concerns. Indeed much commercial entertainment marries the two effectively. This needs to happen on the small scale and through community-based activities as well as the large and more commercial scale. Our aim is to rebalance the relationship between cultural superstars and ordinary people. The present imbalance amounts to a virtual deification of celebrity superstars, which mirrors the economic divergence between rich and poor.

Principles

CMS410. We value artistic expression for its openness, diversity, imagination and importance in education. We do not measure artistic value in economic terms. We believe that the state has an important role to play in supporting artistic activity in society.

CMS411. Arts and creativity play a fundamental role in education. All education should be as creative as possible, both to enhance enjoyment and to achieve greater success.

CMS412. Financial support does not entail a right to intervene in other people's self-expression. Arts policy-making, where it is needed, should be organisational in nature and empowering in character.

CMS413. Artistic activity has an important role to play in the sustenance of a society's culture. We believe that the UK produces some of the finest professional theatre, film, comedy and music in the world and that home grown entertainment industries need to be recognised for the value they add to society. If we want to maintain cultural diversity in the 21st century these industries, at national and local level, on large and small scale, need to be protected and promoted in the face of the homogenising influence of a dominating global artistic culture.

CMS414. The body of historical creative work forms the basis of our culture at national, regional and local level; the preservation of this culture is a responsibility of the state through support for cultural stores such as museums, archives, libraries, heritage and major performing arts venues and companies.

Objectives

CMS420. To enable people to participate both by extending opportunities to enjoy and participate in the arts and by providing support for non-commercial artistic organisations

CMS421. To develop more relevant structures of support for the arts, building on the work of the Arts Council and ensuring that vibrant regional and local arts cultures can thrive.

CMS422. To promote our shared cultural heritage.

Short to mid term Policies

CMS430. To encourage the growth of local arts associations made up of practising artists

CMS431. To require the representation of local arts associations, where they exist, rather than local government, on regional arts boards.

CMS432. To ensure levels of financial support for buildings housing cultural collections are such as to render admission charges unnecessary.

CMS433. To modify the licensing regulations to ensure that small scale live performance in pubs, clubs and similar venues is not stifled.

CMS434. To zero-rate live performance for VAT purposes.

Long term policies

CMS440. To shift responsibility for arts funding, where appropriate, from regional to local levels.

CMS441. To develop more autonomous and less dependent forms of financial support for the arts.

CMS442. We will explore the feasibility of a tax on superstar performances which is hypothecated to local cultural enterprises.

Culture and Commerce

CMS450. Sponsorship of the Arts: There may be a role for commercial sponsorship of any cultural activity. This should not be used to reduce the total state support for the Arts, but rather to allow state funding to be redeployed elsewhere.

To be inserted in sport section

g) Sponsorship in Sport

CMS890. Sponsorship of sporting teams or events should not be used to circumvent regulations on advertising.

CMS891. Sponsorship arrangements should not be allowed to restrict access to events deemed of national or regional importance. In particular where a national team is playing then public service media should always be allowed to offer free access to all UK citizens.

E52 Economy Draft Voting Paper

Synopsis

The Autumn 2005 Conference instructed Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process intended to bring a proposal for a re-drafted MfSS section on Economy, possibly also incorporating the Industry section, to a future Conference.

New areas that might be developed included:

- a brief critique of the existing economy and its unsustainability and inequity
- our attitudes to unbridled capitalism and globalisation, state socialism and relying entirely on voluntary action
- our attitude to the market
- gender and the economy

- macro-economic policy e.g. policy on growth, inflation and unemployment
- scope of the public sector
- regional policy
- enterprise law
- small enterprises
- information technology and intellectual property
- interaction of energy and economic policy

Drafts of this DVP have been discussed since July 2006 at two substantial face to face meetings of the Economics Working Group, at conference fringes and by e-mail, with a considerable number of contributions by a number of individual members of the Group. The Paper has no collective Economics Working Group endorsement as is normal for a DVP at this stage. This DVP will be discussed at a workshop this conference but not in plenary, and it is anticipated that there will be further discussions in DVP form at a subsequent conference or conferences.

A Background Paper, which consists of the DVP with extensive footnotes explaining choices made and pointing who has made what contribution is available by e-mail from [brian.heatley \[at \] btinternet.com](mailto:brian.heatley[at]btinternet.com).

Motion

Delete the Economy (EC100 – EC1052) and Industry (IN101 – IN720) chapters of the MfSS and replace with the following:

Economy

Part 1 – Background

EC*100 In the past 200 years, and especially in the last 50, material living standards in England and Wales have, as in most of the richer northern

countries, increased substantially, propelled by almost continuous economic growth. However, despite that apparent economic success, the basic economic problem of providing for our livelihoods has not been solved.

EC*101 First, continuous economic growth on a finite planet is unsustainable. Burning fossil fuels is leading to dangerous climate change. Finite natural resources, like oil, are becoming exhausted, while renewable resources, like fish stocks, are being over-harvested. Biodiversity is declining. In short our economy is no longer compatible with the wider ecosystem in which it is contained, and we face an ecological crisis.

EC*102 Second, the wealth that has been created is unjustly distributed. The gulf between rich and poor countries grows ever wider. Women are still generally poorer and have less economic power than men. And even in the rich countries too many people still live in poverty.

EC*103 These problems flow from the very nature of our economic systems, whose power structures propel the continuation of damaging economic growth yet seem incapable of distributing the products of the economy equitably.

ANTI-CAPITALIST AMENDMENT

Add a final sentence to EC*103. 'In particular we believe that continued unsustainable growth and growing inequity are inherent in global capitalism.'

AMENDMENT ENDS

SPIRITUAL AMENDMENT

Add new EC*104

EC*104 Moreover, we have lost and we seek an economy which respects and reveres both the natural world in which we are embedded and of which we are a part, and also the interconnectedness of all things.

AMENDMENT ENDS

Part 2 – Objectives

Introduction

EC*200 The previous paragraphs have described the global economy as it is. The purpose of the present section is to suggest the objectives that the economy should achieve.

EC*201 Green economic policy must therefore promote the emergence of an economic system which recognises the limits of, and is compatible with, both the natural systems of the planet and the aspirations of the whole of humanity. We believe that the objectives of an economic system should be, in order of priority, the following:

- to provide for our material lives in a way that is ecologically sustainable
- to distribute the products of the economy in a way that is socially and internationally equitable
- to do both the above in a manner which is efficient,

EC*203 These are only economic objectives; they are not an overall set of objectives for well being in a Green society. Other factors are important too such as family and community relationships, health, personal freedom, human rights and democracy and personal values. These are dealt with elsewhere in the MfSS (see Philosophical Basis PB and Rights and

Responsibilities Chapter RR in particular).

Ecological sustainability

EC*220 The requirement for ecological sustainability requires elaboration. The natural environment and the work that we do are the ultimate sources of all our economic wealth. We must manage the natural environment so that we don't take so much from it that its ability to reproduce that wealth is diminished. That is, we must only exploit the environment sustainably, efficiently, and without being wasteful of that which it produces.

EC*221 The natural environment not only provides us with material goods and necessities, it also meets the needs of our minds by providing recreation, relaxation, and adequate space for full lives. Its ability to meet these needs is also a part of its value as an economic resource.

EC*222 We should not normally exploit every natural resource to its maximum possible sustainable extent, because there will be, from time to time, unforeseeable changes in its productivity, or of our immediate needs. It is important to leave a reserve capacity that can be additionally exploited in the short term only.

EC*223 Beyond all of the above, human beings should not regard the whole world as existing solely for their benefit.

ENVIRONMENTALISM RATHER THAN ECOLOGISM

AMENDMENT

Delete EC*223

AMENDMENT ENDS

Social Equity

EC*230 The requirement for social equity also needs considerable elaboration. Social equity has three important dimensions

- the extent of differences in incomes and wealth, and their justifications;
- the extent of inequality of economic opportunity; and
- freedom from economic burdens like pollution or occupational diseases created by others

It needs too to be considered both in terms of equity within a country or community and internationally.

EC*231 Incomes and wealth are currently distributed very inequitably, and differences have grown in recent years. Currently our incomes depend on the market valuation of our work, and according to the market valuation of the contribution of any productive assets that we happen to own, tempered by the re-distributive effects of taxation and social security. We have several criticisms of this:

- the valuation is a market valuation, which often values non-necessities (like playing football very well) much more highly than necessities (like child care);
- wealth, especially if inherited, is not in itself a reason for securing income, although it is acceptable to acquire such assets through saving to provide an income in later life;
- the re-distributive effects of taxation are minor, and the results of the benefits system often haphazard, and in particular do not always ensure that everyone is provided with necessities;

- large parts of a market derived income in fact arise from the natural world (eg the supply of air) or from accumulated human culture, and so should belong to the community as a whole rather than to an individual.

EC*232 We would rather see a system which rewards us according to effort, including past effort which may be reflected in individual wealth, but tempered by redistribution through taxation and benefits. In particular we would not expect the highest incomes to be more than ten times the lowest incomes, and would prefer to see a wider distribution of wealth. There are likely to be greater differences in wealth than in incomes partly because young people may have had little opportunity to acquire any wealth, and also because in a green economy material things will be made to last longer and be correspondingly more valuable (see ref [economy of stock]).

SIAN STRATEGY AMENDMENT
Delete EC*232 and replace with 'EC*232 We would rather see a system where all are provided with a sufficient basic income to secure necessities irrespective of their level of effort or participation, and where additional income or personal wealth, including income from assets, is determined by the market, subject to the taxation needed to finance the basic income scheme and other public expenditure.'
AMENDMENT ENDS

EC*240 Social equity is not just a matter of income and wealth; equality of opportunity is also important. This includes in particular no discrimination in

the labour market and equal access to education and training (See RR and WR).

EC*243 A major cause of inequity in our present society is that of gender, which in part stems from the different levels of participation of men and women in the market and non-market economies.

EC*244 Social equity also has a negative component. It is a feature of many kinds of pollution that the bad effects are spread over a large number of people, even though the benefits of the process leading to the pollution may only be gained by a few; excessive fossil fuel use and climate change are a prime example. Quite apart from the effect on the wider planet, we reject this as unjust.

EC*244 International social equity means that in the long run effort in one country is rewarded in much the same way as a similar effort in another country. It does not mean that all countries have the same material standards; the people of one country may simply decide that they want to work harder than those in another country, or conditions for production may be less favourable. This is discussed further in EC*764 below.
Efficiency

EC*260 Maximising efficiency is not the same as maximising the ratio of the money value of outputs to the money value of inputs, even with any externalised ecological costs added in. It seeks to minimise the amounts of irksome labour (whether direct or indirect, that is already embodied in other products, such as in capital equipment), use of natural resources and ecological damage required to achieve

any given output. We say 'irksome' labour to distinguish it from labour that contributes to human self-realisation and happiness (for example in the production of craft products), which need not be minimised. Similarly we want to see efficient, non-wasteful use of natural resources, and reduce any ecological damage to the minimum.

EC*261 Efficiency also implies a long term commitment to economic arrangements which encourage innovation. Without innovation for example in the renewable energy sector, we are unlikely successfully to build a sustainable economy. Hence part of this objective lies in designing an economic system that encourages innovation, an entrepreneurial attitude and to an extent financial risk taking.

Indicators
Background

EC*270 EC310 Conventional economic policy uses economic growth, inflation, balance of payments and unemployment as 'economic indicators', the normal criteria against which progress is measured. Although it is the most usually quoted indicator, gross national product (GNP) is a poor indicator of true progress towards the objectives set out above and does not adequately measure people's sense of well-being. It measures only the activity in the formal sector, regardless of what that activity is. Moreover it measures flows in the economy, whereas the quality of life in a sustainable economy would depend far more upon its stock of durable goods and infrastructure. In consequence, current economic theory fails adequately to reflect the real effects of human activity within a finite

ecosystem, and is used to 'validate' economic activities which are ecologically unsustainable and/or socially unjust.

EC*271 It is important to recognise however that many conventional indicators like profit are not just indicators of success but also, within the current organisation of the economy, motivators or determinants of whether activities take place. For example, firms cannot pursue unprofitable activities unless an investor is prepared to continue supplying funds. Thus while new indicators will measure progress towards our objectives, other policies are required to encourage the actions needed to achieve the objectives.

Policy

EC*272 EC311 The Green Party would therefore replace the conventional indicators with those that measure progress towards ecological sustainability, social equity and devolution efficiency, both locally and nationally, and include stocks as well as flows.

Neo-liberal economics and growth

EC*280 Our description of the economy and our objectives are very different from the prevailing paradigm of neo-liberal economics, espoused by the overwhelming majority of economists. We do not just concentrate on production for the market. We consider that the process of production is not just an abstract combination of capital, labour and natural resources, as it is treated in most economics texts, but must take account of all the effects of the production process. Thus economics is more than a

discussion about how scarce goods and services are distributed. We doubt if economies ever reach equilibrium, and once there do not consider that equilibrium is necessarily the best outcome from a social equity point of view. We believe that goods and services have a value that is different from their price. We reject the theory of comparative advantage that underlies the policy of free trade. Neo-liberal economics is an attempted justification for the policies of an economic elite rather than an accurate description of the world.

EC*281 In particular we reject growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the main aim of economic policy. The aims of policy should be to achieve the objectives above as a contribution to overall well-being. That may or may not change aggregate money incomes – certainly some things that currently generate money incomes will decline (building oversized vehicles, the arms trade) but other things will increase (building houses to better standards, growing better quality food, and the amount provided by the non-market economy). The new economy will simply not be comparable to the old, and to talk of growth or decline is meaningless. Abandoning growth as an objective is not a recipe for puritanism; we must de-couple well being from growth in GDP by for example making things that last longer, sharing more, and providing better public services. Nor is it incompatible with individual aspiration; it is perfectly possible for an individual's income to grow over their working life as the value of their contribution increases with experience within an

economy that does not grow in aggregate.

Part 3 – Policy Principles

Three broad policies we reject
Unbridled capitalism

EC*310 However, we reject the two dominant economic philosophies of the twentieth century. First, we do not believe that our objectives can be achieved by unbridled market capitalism and globalisation – the deficiencies of that approach have been set out in the Background above.

Centrally planned socialism
EC*311 Nor do we believe that our objectives can be met by the kind of centrally planned socialist economy exemplified by the former Soviet Union. While that economy did supply most of its citizens with necessities in a significantly equitable way, it did so inefficiently, and was not ecologically sustainable. It is arguable that it fell both because it could not command the democratic support of its citizens and because the eventual stagnation of the Soviet economy was caused by that economy reaching its ecological limits to growth.

Voluntary action
EC*312 While individual voluntary action is laudable and is to be encouraged in fields such as fair trade, ethical consumerism, restraint in unsustainable consumption, and addressing social inequality through charitable action, these cannot be adequate tools on their own for addressing the problems. For example, recycling requires goods to be designed for easy recycling, which in turn requires regulations. Businesses need to operate on a

level playing field against their competitors, something only government regulation can provide. Hidden environmental costs have to be costed and charged for through taxes and duties. These are all necessary roles of government. Over reliance on voluntary action produces unfairness, while failing to motivate important areas of the economy towards necessary change.

The non-market economy

Background

EC*320 The first aim of any economy is to provide the necessities of life, basically food, clothing and shelter to all its citizens. Even in modern market economies many of the necessities of life are provided outside the market and largely in the household. Examples include home food production and cooking, washing, making and mending clothes, caring for the old, the sick and other people not able to look after themselves, and much basic home maintenance. This work, housework or care, is carried out in the home, mainly by women, is a largely unrecognised and yet vital component of the economy.

EC*321 A second necessity is the reproduction of society, which largely means bearing, rearing and educating children, but also includes passing on culture, knowledge and infrastructure. Much of this is also done in the home, outside the market economy, and once again a much of it is done by women.

EC*330 The non-market economy also extends beyond the home, and includes many voluntary organisations. These play many extremely

important roles in the economy, including for example charities supporting many causes, and through their shops playing a major part in re-cycling, voluntary organisations who provide personal social services for the elderly and infirm and nature conservation associations. Also important is simple neighbourly support, gifts between friends and family members, doing odd jobs for each other, or simply sharing capital resources, such as car pooling. We see such activities as important and often more valuable than activities done within the market and for money, and will promote policies to encourage them. In particular, except insofar as domestic and community production is the site of much exploitation of women by men, domestic and community production is inherently more democratic and equitable than production for the market.
EC*331 We believe that the importance of this work of providing necessities within the non-market economy should be recognised. It is wrong to conceive of it as a cost, something to be set against the 'productive' money generating activities of the rest of the economy – those market activities cannot go on without it. Supporting and recognising this work is one of the motivations of the Citizen's Income policy set out below.

EC*332 However, since we are in and will remain in a market economy (see EC*350 below for our long term attitude to the market), people need money to obtain the necessities of life. We believe that it is right to ensure that necessities are provided as of right to all citizens from the community as a whole. That is a major reason

why we support the introduction of a Citizen's Income (see EC*620).
EC*333 We also believe that by cooperating over obtaining the necessities of life, we reduce the extent to which competition between us leads us to damage the environment. Thus both Citizen's Income and our emphasis on the non-market economy contribute to the ecological sustainability objective.

Policies

EC*336 EC403 Policies will be established to support the household as an important centre of economic activity including
EC404 Policies which support and encourage the personal and informal economies include initiating research and development into products and technologies specifically appropriate for use in the home-based economy; changing planning and building regulations to encourage home based enterprises;
providing grants for re-skilling, and for the necessary tools and technology necessary for home-based enterprises.
Reduce working hours to make a greater contribution to the domestic economy possible for both men and women (See WR343-47 for our policy on the Working Time Regulations 1998), but especially for men. Giving greater support to home and small scale food production (see [ref allotments])
Encouraging the home production and repair of clothing through training and re-cycling
Encouraging voluntary cooperation in childcare and the care of the elderly, and in particular ensuring this is not so burdened by regulation as to make it impossible

Encouraging people to build their own ecologically sustainable housing, possibly using collective voluntary labour, and introducing planning and building regulation concessions for single self built eco-houses in the countryside
Ensuring that the school curriculum equips children to contribute to the domestic economy (see [ref ED])

The market – general

EC*350 We accept a limited commitment to the market as the principal mechanism for deciding what quantities of goods and services are produced, and for determining prices. We do so partly because we accept that the market promotes efficiency (one of our objectives) and innovation, and partly because we reject the alternative of a system of central planning (even at a local level) which is often unenforceable over the longer term, leading to a hidden, criminalised and informal market economy.

EC*351 However, our commitment to the market is limited in three ways.

EC*352 First we believe that there are certain areas of the economy where the free operation of the market must be limited by regulation – these areas are in particular, and in a very wide sense to be explained below,
- natural resources, whether finite or renewable, and including land,
- labour (including its subsistence and reproduction),
- money (including other financial instruments) and concentrated control over large amounts of capital.
These areas are treated in specific sections below.

EC*353 Second, there are some areas of life where the market should not operate at all (adoption, blood transfusion and organ transplants, the process of political persuasion are examples), or where services should be provided under public democratic control (eg, health services, see EC*680-697 below).

EC*354 Third, our commitment is to markets when they work properly; that is markets with a reasonable degree of competition, with easy access by newcomers and where consumers have wide and accurate information. It is not a commitment to monopoly and oligopoly, to the false product differentiation of branding, to the fiction of competition between giant multinational companies or to the barriers to entry created for example by intellectual property rights (see EC*703 below).

Natural resources

EC*360 This section deals with natural resources, in particular with land and more widely with economic resources (not all of them strictly natural resources but it is convenient to deal with them here) that have one of the major characteristics of land, which is that it is possible (and sometimes unavoidable) that they are held and used in common. Examples of commons include the atmosphere, the radio spectrum, some kinds of intellectual property and the oceans.

Background

EC*361 Natural resources include
- renewable natural resources, like timber, sun light and water,
- finite natural resources, like fossil fuels and metals,

- sinks, that absorb and neutralise wastes
- services, like the climate itself.
This is not the same as all of nature, but it is those parts that are essential for our economy; we also have a separate and wider objective of defending the whole of nature for its own sake (see EC*220).

EC*362 Natural resources can be damaged by our activities, and that damage can in turn damage our economy. Renewable resources like timber or soil can be over exploited. Finite resources, like oil, can simply be exhausted. Sinks can be overwhelmed by the volume or nature of waste. And services, like the climate, can be changed adversely by our emissions of greenhouse gases.

EC*363 The total burden that we place on natural resources is essentially the product of three factors
- population
- how much each of us consumes
- the ecological efficiency of our production
Unfettered operation of the market in natural resources does little to prevent this damage, and that is why the market has to be altered and regulated in this area. In particular
- human population growth is determined by factors with little immediate connection to environmental impacts. Our policies on population are covered in the Population Chapter of the MfSS (but also see EC*401);
- the price signals that influence our consumption levels, the encouragement through advertising we receive to consume and the personal ethics of consumption have little connection with the

ecological damage we may be doing; and
- the wide prevalence of externalities in the use of natural resources means that financial efficiency is not lined up with ecological efficiency.

Policy
EC*364 Our major policy response to the problem of externalities is to introduce eco-taxes so that consumers of natural resources have to take account of the costs to the environment of using those resources. The details are set out in our taxation policy at EC*521 below.

EC*365 However, it is important to recognise the limitations of this approach, and of the need in many circumstances to adopt other measures in addition to eco-taxes:
- it is difficult to reflect in the tax level environmental damage associated with a particular activity, indeed the consequences of the activity may be unknown;
- the use of indirect taxes of this kind may have significant adverse effects on social equity;
- the tax does not directly compensate the people who suffer from the pollution or other environmental degradation unless there is associated spending designed to do so. Thus the adverse effects of pollution on social equity are not necessarily addressed;
- where the damage crosses international boundaries, governments tend to be unwilling to impose taxes on activities that only affect those outside their country;
- eco-taxes are one factor in driving environmentally damaging activities to countries where those taxes are smaller or do not exist (though

an exploited labour force, or low general taxation may be more important);
- some forms of pollution are so damaging they cannot be compensated for and simply need to be forbidden;
- where sustainability requires radical changes in lifestyle from everyone, social equity demands that the rich should not simply be able to avoid action because they can pay the tax. Thus for example in the case of carbon dioxide emissions and global warming we believe that carbon taxes are unlikely to be adequate, and favour a system of carbon quotas (see CC230-231).

The Commons

Background
EC*380 Many other natural and other resources share the characteristic with land (itself covered in the next section) that they can be or must be treated as commons. Examples include the atmosphere and oceans, the climate of a particular place, outer space, the interior of the earth's crust, the diversity of living creatures, the structures of many genotypes embedded in DNA, the radio spectrum, and many forms of intellectual property (for example the manufacture and uses of aspirin, the text of Shakespeare's plays or the source code for software). There are constant pressures both to create private property out of such commons where that is possible, as has happened with land, or to exploit and damage such resources while they remain commons, so that the costs fall upon everyone rather than lie with the exploiter, such as is the case with climate and burning fossil fuels. Both practices often damage

ecological sustainability and social equity.

Policy

EC*381 Our broad policy in the longer term is to seek to defend and extend the commons, resisting attempts to turn more of them into private property. Where commons exist, there needs to be appropriate regulation to defend them, as the market will not do so alone. This has specific implications for a large number of areas dealt with elsewhere in the MfSS.

EC*382 Detailed policies on land are in LD and LP, including the introduction of Land Value Tax. Detailed policies on animals are in Animal Rights, the climate and atmosphere in Climate Change, the oceans in Fisheries and Marine Industry, forests in Forestry, many other natural resources in Natural Resources, the protection by regulation of many commons, such as the atmosphere and water courses, in Pollution and the regulation of commons associated with transport, such as road space, in Transport.

EC*383 We would implement the following short term policies immediately
Prevent the patenting of human, animal or plant material (AG603, AR410, ST360)
Remove patent protection from some patents held by transnational corporations (eg AIDS drugs)
[Use modern technology to regulate much of the radio spectrum as a common resource]
[surely there is lots more here – some of what Jim Killock has been talking about under digital rights]

People and Labour

General Background

EC*390 Neo-liberal economics seeks to encourage ever freer labour markets, limiting the role of trades unions, and seeking to maximise the labour supply by reducing the amount of the economy in the domestic and voluntary sector. In the global south the labour supply within the market is constantly being reinforced by the destruction of subsistence agriculture, a process largely completed in the north during the industrial revolution.

EC*391 However, labour power has significant differences from other commodities. Crucially it is embodied in a real human being, who we believe has rights to subsistence, to family life and to an equitable share of other products of the economy, quite apart from basic human rights. This has profound implications for the labour contract, and for people when they have no formal contract of employment. In particular employment contracts need to be closely regulated (see our Worker's Rights policies) while the position of those not in employment must also be safeguarded (see in particular policy on Citizen's Income and Social Welfare).

EC*392 Moreover we see work, including paid work, as something far more significant than the exchange of some hours of the worker's time for a money wage. The creative actions we perform when working form not only the product of our work but also serve to create ourselves, both in terms of our self-respect and happiness and in forming many of our attitudes and even consumer tastes and desires. Our social position in the workplace is a major determinant of status, and the

sort of status goods to which we aspire. Accordingly we support policies designed to increase levels of creativity, participation and democracy at work, and to reduce the number of jobs that are boring or repetitive, or which are carried out in a competitive or authoritarian atmosphere.

General Policy

EC*393 [Need section here and in policies on skills and training, especially in sustainable technologies, based on following sections from the Industry Chapter]

IN614 Training is consistently important in the encouragement of sustainable industry, for example, in helping small business and local government. Yet training levels are far lower in the UK than in other industrialised countries.

IN615 The development of a sustainable industrial base requires the development of a workforce possessing both core skills that are transferable to new situations and the capacity for problem solving and creative thought. Effective training in a green society will therefore be inextricably linked with general education for personal development. Local government, employers, and local Community Colleges share the responsibility for ensuring opportunities for education and training are provided as required throughout an individual's life. Where appropriate, this will include opportunities for workplace based training where those experienced in a particular skill have a role in developing the skills of those seeking training.

IN616 The UK needs a comprehensive and fully

resourced national environmental training programme. This should include environmental impact analysis; resource reduction; waste minimisation; life cycle analysis; design for disassembly; and true cost accounting. Details of current best environmental practice and investigation of potential industrial crossovers are also important

EC*394 [need something to say aiming for high skills and wages not low]

EC*395 Need to take in main principles of Workers' rights here.

EC651 Promotion of small and more democratically structured enterprises. Reduction in size of inappropriately large companies.

EC652 All stakeholders (shareholders, workers, consumers, local community and environment), not just shareholders, to run companies.

[because of the formative aspects of work need something on the right of access to work]

[plus policies on welfare and pensions]

Women background

EC*400 In the rich north the main group of new recruits to the labour market in the last two generations has been women, while the domestic economy has declined. Greens are ambivalent about this process. While the increase in women's economic participation has probably been the single most important factor in improving their power within a still patriarchal society, the erosion of the domestic economy (which of course need not be almost exclusively the preserve of women) is greatly regretted.

Greens therefore support policies to ensure that women are treated equally at work, but equally support policies to allow both men and women to spend more time not in formal employment.

EC*401 Moreover, a major factor in our impact on nature, and so the long run ecological sustainability of our economy is our population (see EC*363 above). Population growth tends to decline in societies where women have a more equal economic position. Thus policies to promote equality in the market indirectly serve the objective of ecological sustainability as well as that of social equity. Our general policies on population are in the Population (PO) section. Women policy

EC*402 We support complete gender equality in the workplace, including equal pay, opportunity, promotion and pension rights. We also support positive action that compensates for women's greater role in child rearing.

NO POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT.

Delete the last sentence on EC*402.

AMENDMENT ENDS

Money

Background

EC*420 Money is needed to facilitate exchange, as a store of value and as a unit of account. While the growth of the non-market sector will mean that it will play a lesser role in a green economy, we accept that it will continue to play an important role. We accept too that reasonable interest on money loaned is a legitimate reward for deferred consumption and

an encouragement to long term investment.

EC*421 The crucial characteristic of modern money (that is money not linked to some other resource like gold) is that unlike other commodities the state is necessarily involved in its creation and control; the overall supply of money must be regulated to keep prices stable, avoiding both inflation and deflation. This regulation is normally achieved through regulation of interest rates. The creation of money is largely now carried out by privately owned and mainly very large banks making loans. The banks' criteria, for making loans are entirely financial and often very short term, and in total are regulated by interest rates set by the semi-independent Bank of England.

EC*422 These functions are carried out in the context of two major decisions that must be made about any currency system; what area is covered by the currency (eg. The £ versus the Euro) and whether its value relative to other currencies is determined entirely by the market (the currency floats) or is fixed in some way (eg. when the £ was within the European Currency Mechanism, or, for a long time from about 1870, fixed to gold.) The interests of large corporations are best served by currencies covering as large an area as possible, and by the most stable system of exchange rates. However, currencies operating over large areas often have to adopt policies on for example interest rates which are wrong for a particular sub-region or even country, while attempts to maintain parities often lead to the imposition of extremely deflationary measures, leading

to unemployment and business failures. Against this background we favour local currencies under local control, although we believe that it is entirely possible for more than one currency to operate in a particular locality.

EC*423 The final area for policy making about money is the availability of credit and desirable levels of debt. Levels of personal and household debt, mainly for house purchase but also for personal consumption are now (2008) higher than ever before, fed by the vigorous promotion of credit card and other lending. The easy availability of loans for house purchase is a contributory factor to the inflated level of house prices (other policies to reduce house prices include land value taxation (see [ref] and changes to the planning system (see [ref])). This mountain of debt increases the fragility and potential instability of the whole financial system. We accept that there are good reasons for sometimes borrowing money (though rarely for day to day consumption), but believe that overall debt levels are far too high and should be reduced.

Policy

EC*424 Because we consider that decisions on monetary policy are best made for the smallest area, we oppose UK membership of the Euro. Moreover, in order to retain the greatest possible control of our own affairs, we will not enter into any arrangement to fix or restrain exchange rates, although we will seek to stabilise foreign exchange transactions through the introduction of a Tobin tax (see para EC*533 below).

EC*425 Our main objectives in monetary policy will be low and stable inflation and [low and stable interest rates] (see para EC*511 below).

However

EC661 The emphasis in monetary policy will be to control and redirect the creation of money towards socially and environmentally sound areas of the economy, and away from unsustainable and consumption-driven areas.

EC*426 EC663 The banking system should be largely brought under democratic control, preferably at a local level. This will allow the process to work in the best interests of the community as a whole, rather than principally in the interests of commercial banks and their shareholders.

EC*427 EC664 The Bank of England will continue to be the institution for the regulation of the national currency and the setting of base interest rates. However, it will not focus on narrow economic indicators such as the rate of inflation, but instead will take a broader view on the impact of its decisions on the economy as a whole. Final decisions on the setting of base interest rates will be made by a democratically accountable committee made up of representatives selected from the different regions of the country.

EC*428 EC665 In order to help bring about the democratisation of the banking system, and in pursuit of our policies to support the growth of local economies, a network of local and regional Community Banks will be established. These will be democratically accountable

non-profit-making trusts, which will be able to provide low-cost finance both at district and regional levels. Any operating surplus arising from these Community Banks will be reinvested in their local communities. Community Banks will be empowered to create credit in the same way that commercial banks currently do, and will be given favourable conditions for doing so by the central bank. They will also be able to create their own local currencies, to operate alongside the national currency, where this is supported by the local community.

EC*429 EC666 In order to bring about a more socially equitable society, it is important that poorer citizens have access to affordable credit, which can give them an opportunity to increase their basic living standards. Alongside Community Banks, measures to help facilitate this will include the promotion and support of credit unions and micro-credit schemes in which small groups of people cooperate to provide guaranteed small loans to each other.

EC*743 EC512 Policies to increase local investment and the circulation of local finance within the community, include the development of democratically accountable Community Banks, designed to encourage local people to invest in local economic activity and empowered to create credit at interest rates sufficient only to cover administration when channelling local savings into economically and environmentally sound community enterprises. They should include removal, where necessary, of national

restrictions. We will promote Credit Unions and skills exchange schemes, along with researching the best use of local currencies and encouraging their adoption. (see EC662)

CONSISTENCY (with EC*420)
AMENDMENT ON INTEREST
Delete 'at interest rates sufficient only to cover administration' in the first sentence of EC*743.
AMENDMENT ENDS

EC*430 We will introduce policies to reduce overall debt levels. In particular, advertising of credit cards and loan finance will be banned. Banks and financial institutions should be required to hold a minimum reserve of 20% of their lending as liquid assets in accounts with the Bank of England or Regional Banks, with at least 10% of this held by the Bank of England. Banks and financial institutions should be permitted to create such reserves over a period of 20 years. This would have the effect of protecting banks and customers from significant economic downturns and funds could be released from such reserves in times of recession under a formula agreed between the Bank of England and Regional Banks.

Institutional diversity

Background

EC*440 Our current economy lacks a diversity of institutional structures; we reject in particular the almost total dominance within the present economy of the privately owned limited liability joint stock company (whether a public limited company or a private company) as the principal vehicle for economic enterprises. We are concerned

that the public limited company disconnects the owners of capital from the effects of their investment, and in particular the company becomes a legal but essentially non-human person, without human notions of sympathy and morality. Small firms and the self-employed, mutually owned enterprise and social enterprise is marginalised.

Policy

EC*445 We will encourage a diversity of institutional forms, including a revived household economy, sole trading, small businesses, partnerships, worker and consumer cooperatives and other mutuals, local community ownership, trusts, traditional public ownership, the joint use of 'commons' and federations of such organisations, greater sharing of resources and reformed versions of both private and public limited companies. We seek such diversity partly for its own sake, and partly to encourage stability and innovation and to increase social equity and democratic control. But we also regard such a diversity as an important part of the transition to a sustainable economy; we are not dogmatic (unlike say neo-liberal economists or socialists) about what forms are most likely to encourage the economy we seek, and believe that it is important that a variety of forms are allowed to flourish, especially in the transition.

EC*446 The detailed sections below (from EC*677) on Types of Enterprise set out our policies for the various sectors of this diverse mixed economy.

Support for the local economy,
Self Reliance and Scale

EC*450 The next three principles, the local economy, self reliance and a preference for small enterprises, are connected.

Support for the local economy

EC*451 The first is the principle of support for the local economy ; on the whole we should produce goods and services for local consumption, and restrict the extent to which goods are traded over large distances. We accept that there will be some necessary international trade (see EC*770).

EC*452 The principal reason for promoting local production is that it is more likely to be ecologically sustainable. The main reason for this is the significant reduction in ecologically damaging transport, but there are other reasons. Most, but not all (the main exception is burning fossil fuels) production processes damage the environment or deplete resources in the area close to the site of production. Local communities are aware of and most anxious to protect their own local environment. If production and consumption occur locally, and are subject to local democratic controls, then it is far more likely that ecologically sustainable processes will be adopted. It is production for distant markets, under the direction of foreign capital, which is most likely to be environmentally reckless. Policies to promote the local economy are listed in EC*740 below.

Self-reliance

EC*453 The next principle for such localities is self-reliance - we should in particular ensure

that necessities are produced locally. This is to ensure both stability – the supply of necessities will then be less subject to disruption - and economic democracy, which is not possible unless the community has effective control of its own economy.

EC*454 Might add bits of EC910 Increased economic cooperation must be accompanied by much greater economic self-reliance for regions and nations. Self-reliance provides an alternative to the present level of unsustainable and inequitable international relationships. Strategies for self-reliance must be pursued at all levels of national and international economies.

Scale

EC*455 Finally, in this group of principles, is a preference for small enterprises over large ones. This is not because small enterprises are inherently more ecologically sustainable (though under the current organisation of the economy it does tend to be larger enterprises that do more harm – airlines, the steel industry, petrochemicals, but this is more to do with the nature of those businesses rather than their size). However, smaller businesses are individually less powerful, and far more amenable to local democratic control. Their owners are more closely connected to the effects of their activities.

EC*456 Moreover, having many small businesses promotes competition, increasing efficiency and innovation. Having fewer layers of management and status promotes social equity. Finally, small enterprises are more easily integrated with, and can

grow from and sustain, the domestic economy.

The connection between the local economy, self-reliance and scale

EC*457 These three principles are mutually reinforcing. Local production for local needs will on the whole be carried out by smaller enterprises than production for world markets. Small companies tend to serve more local markets. A local economy producing most of the things that it needs is more self-reliant, and a self-reliant locality or region can have a more complete economic democracy, since it will control more of what is going on. An economy made up of many small enterprises rather than fewer large ones is likely to be more stable and self-reliant.

Part 4 – Detailed Policies

Introduction

EC*500 The policies here range from short term policies, which we believe can and should be implemented now, starting from the economy we have, and which inform our immediate election manifestos, to longer term policies, which could only be implemented as the sustainable economy begins to develop. We have set out our policies very roughly in the order of implementation, though some aspects of later policies that require early implementation are identified.

Managing the economy

Background

EC*510 We are proposing a huge programme of change. We are very much aware that in the short term people are concerned about their jobs, their pensions, prices, the security of their savings and their ability to pay their rent or mortgage – that is their

immediate economic security. We are asking people to make substantial changes, but accept that that can only be done within a context of basic economic stability.

Policy

EC*511 While making the transition we would maintain most of the basic targets of current short to medium term national macro-economic policy:

- low and stable inflation
- low and stable interest rates
- a policy of low involuntary unemployment,
- sound public finances (that is government expenditure balanced over the economic cycle, with government borrowing only for investment, but recognising that government may need to use Keynesian deficit financing in a depression (see EC*822))
- a stable but floating international exchange rate (see EC*424)
- a balance in international payments over the medium term (see EC*807)
- avoidance of boom and bust

EC*512 We will not however keep a commitment to economic growth as conventionally measured (see EC*281 above.) We would not pursue, despite our commitment to low involuntary unemployment and given our commitment to the non-market economy (see EC*330 onwards), a high employment participation level as an end in itself.

Taxation

Principles

EC*520 EC700 Taxation is needed in order to fund government expenditure (see EC*511). However the raising of

funds is not the only purpose of taxation. The way that taxes are levied also has a vital role in bringing about a green society based on social equity and ecological sustainability.

EC*521 EC701 Direct taxation, in conjunction with benefits payments, can be used to create greater social equity and justice. Indirect taxation can be used to try to alter consumption patterns and create ecological sustainability. In particular, taxes can be used to include the environmental costs of certain resources or activities, effectively taking for society at large the cost of the externalities involved and ensuring that the polluter pays [see EC*365]. The purpose of a green taxation policy should not be to shift the overall relative burden of taxation either towards direct or towards indirect taxation. Instead, the aim is to alter our approaches to both direct and indirect taxation so that it is better suited to help bring about a green society.

SOCIAL EQUITY AMENDMENT
Delete the last two sentences of EC*521.

AMENDMENT ENDS

EC*522 EC702 In general, indirect taxation is regressive, i.e. it impacts relatively more heavily on the poorer members of society than those who are more wealthy. In this way, indirect taxation works against the creation of social equity and, therefore, against the aims of a green society. For this reason such taxes should not be levied unless their intention is to help bring about ecological sustainability or to address concerns about other social issues such as public health.

Direct taxation

Income Tax

EC*523 EC710 Income Tax is the instrument by which all citizens who are able to are required to contribute a proportion of their labours to the running of public services. It is also, when combined with benefits payments, the primary way in which wealth can be redistributed in order to create a fairer society.

EC*524 EC711 Personal tax-free allowances will be abolished, having effectively been replaced by the Citizen's Income (see EC730). Income Tax will be levied on all income above the Citizen's Income. Tax rates will be banded and will increase progressively so that those on higher incomes are paying higher marginal rates of tax. In particular, rates higher than 40% will be introduced for those on the highest incomes.

EC*525 EC712 In order that people are not penalised by paying high rates of tax in one year, whilst their income dramatically drops in the next (either through personal choice or for reasons beyond their control) income will be averaged over five years and the tax calculated on the rolling average figure.)

National insurance

EC*526 EC720 Employees National Insurance is a form of income tax in disguise. As it is only levied on "earnings" (i.e. wages and self-employment income), it means that "unearned" investment income is currently taxed at a lower rate than "earned" income.

EC*527 EC721 Under a green taxation system, National Insurance will be abolished as a separate entity and merged into general Income Tax. The distinction between "earned" and "unearned" income will no

longer be used to determine different methods of taxation.

Capital Gains Tax

EC*530 EC740 With the introduction of the Citizens' Income and the removal of personal tax-free allowances, Capital Gains Tax exemptions/thresholds will also be removed with the exception of a person's only or main home which will continue to be exempt. Tax would then be paid on all profits made on the sale of investment assets, but not on the sale of ordinary household items which would remain exempt.

EC*531 EC741 Capital gains will be added into a person's income for a tax year and be subject to Income Tax in the normal way. Similarly capital losses will be used to reduce a person's taxable income.

EC*532 EC742 The Green Party would tax all capital gains made on investment assets on the death of the owner, Capital Gains Tax will be levied on the unrealised Capital Gain on any investments which are still held as if they had been sold at the date of death. Similarly, tax will be levied on any unrealised gain on assets which are given during a donor's lifetime.

EC*533 EC743 Short-term speculative trading in stocks, shares and currencies has a de-stabilising effect on the economy as a whole. In order to discourage such trading, a small tax will be levied on the value of all stocks, shares, gilts, bonds, commodities and currency transactions. (see [ref Tobin])

Inheritance/Accessions Tax

EC*540 EC750 The principal purpose of Inheritance Tax is to

reverse and prevent the accumulation of wealth and power by a privileged class. With the taxing of unrealised Capital Gains at the point of death (see EC742), the size of inherited estates will already be reduced. Further taxes, in the form of Inheritance Tax, should be designed to re-distribute wealth without being so wide in scope that they become a financial and bureaucratic burden on most ordinary people.

EC*541 EC751 Inheritance Tax will be reformed so that it is calculated on a "recipient basis" (i.e. with reference to the circumstances of the person receiving the inheritance rather than the donor). It will also be extended to include gifts made during a donor's lifetime, rather than just those given as inheritances on death, therefore becoming an accessions tax.

EC*542 EC752 There will be an annual exemption/threshold for amounts received as gifts or inheritances. As with Income Tax, receipts of this kind will be averaged over a five year period. Any taxable amounts which remain above the tax-free threshold will then be assessed for Inheritance Tax. EC*543 EC753 Inheritance Tax rates will be progressively banded, with rates of tax increasing according to a recipient's total income/wealth. Recipients who only pay Income Tax at lower rates will not be subject to Inheritance Tax.

EC*544 EC754 The tax-free threshold will be sufficient to ensure that most ordinary gifts between members of families with moderate incomes will not be taxed, and, as gifts will be averaged over a five year period, it will also allow for

larger "one-off" gifts (such as those received on marriage, or given by parents to their offspring to help them buy a house).

EC*545 EC755 Private trusts will be taxed at a single uniform rate on all assets transferred into them and profits made by them. There will be no annual exemption/threshold for trusts. Distributions from trusts to beneficiaries will be taxed according to the recipient's circumstances, in accordance with the policies laid out above.

EC*546 EC756 As with Capital Gains Tax, a person's only or main home will be exempt from Inheritance Tax. If a person inherits a property which is already their principal private residence there will be no Inheritance Tax to pay. Corporation Tax

EC*550 EC760 Corporation Tax will continue to be levied on the net profits earned by companies. These will be banded, with higher rates payable by larger companies in order to encourage smaller businesses.

EC*551 EC761 The Corporation Tax rules should not encourage businesses to become incorporated in order to take advantage of favourable tax conditions. Therefore Corporations Tax rates, particularly the starting rates, should not give smaller companies an advantage over their unincorporated competitors.

EC*552 EC762 Some businesses operating within the UK do not currently pay UK taxes because they are able to transfer their profits abroad to have them taxed there. The Green Party would close any existing loopholes so that company profits earned in the UK were

taxed here, even where this would mean that profits of trans-national corporations may be taxed twice - once in the UK and again in a foreign country.

Indirect taxation

Value Added Tax (VAT)

EC*560 EC770 VAT is the largest revenue provider of all the current indirect taxes. It is often referred to as a tax on "consumption", whereas it is more accurately described as a tax on the spending of money. In conventional economic terms these might be seen to be the same thing, but to greens the word "consumption" implies the using up of the world's valuable resources and this is the type of consumption that we would wish to tax in order to encourage resource conservation.

EC*561 EC771 The current system of VAT is regressive and is not intended to bring about any ecological benefits. It therefore does not fit with the principles of green taxation laid out in EC702. It is also highly bureaucratic and a severe burden on many small businesses. For these reasons, the Green Party would phase out VAT over a period of time and replace it with a system of environmental taxation measures (eco-taxes and amortisation taxes). These will target specific products, production methods, resources used and pollutants produced in order to discourage ecologically unsustainable consumption. (See EC780, LP511 and EU414)

Eco-Taxes

EC*580 EC780 A system of environmental tax measures

("eco-taxes") will be introduced alongside the phasing out of VAT (see EC771) or to fund policies designed to increase sustainability. Such taxation is designed to encourage movement towards a sustainable economy, by increasing the prices of items or services produced using unsustainable or polluting practises. It will therefore be calculated to achieve the desired environmental effects, not to maximise revenue. It is acknowledged that environmental taxation can only be successful when integrated with a great many other policy measures, including regulation where necessary.

EC*581 EC781 Eco-taxes can be expected to decrease in their revenue raising power as their purpose takes effect. However, as much of the revenue from these taxes will be spent on measures to combat pollution and its effects, the need for such revenue can also be expected to decrease as we move towards a more sustainable society. Therefore, although the operation of all related policies will be continuously reviewed, it should not be assumed from the outset that a reduction in eco-tax revenues will result in a funding shortage.

EC*582 EC782 Eco-taxes will be levied as close to the point of production as is practical. Resource taxation will be charged on the use of raw materials, and will reflect their relative scarcity and the environmental disruption caused by their extraction. The raw materials which would be subjected to such resource taxes include fossil fuels, hardwoods, metals, minerals and aggregates.

EC*583 EC783 The principal way of reducing UK carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels will be through a system of tradable quotas (see CC230 and [ref section cc]). A resource tax on fossil fuels may be levied to reflect other environmental impacts of their production and use. In order to prevent taxes on fossil fuels from impacting too heavily on the poorest members of society through their domestic fuel bills, households will be given a tax-free (or cost-free) initial fuel allowance which will vary according to the season to reflect basic heating needs. Fuel suppliers will no longer be allowed to levy standing charges for fuel supply, nor to give price discounts for increased fuel use. In this way, the amount paid by the customer for increased fuel use will better reflect the environmental impact.

EC*584 EC784 Road fuel duties are important in encouraging drivers to become mileage conscious. As far as is practical the costs of motoring should rise in line with increased car usage, to make increase car use less attractive and encourage the use of public transport. Fuel taxes should therefore be increased to incorporate the Road Fund Licence ("tax disc").

EC*585 EC785 As well as taxing the use of resources which are input into a production process, taxes will also be levied on the outputs of those processes, depending on their ecological impact. This will include taxes levied on the desired products of manufacture if they are considered to be pollutants (e.g. pesticides or plastic packaging products) as well as taxes on waste products and emissions (e.g. toxic gases) which are discharged into the

surrounding environment. In the case of fossil fuels, CO2 emissions will be taxed in order to discourage their use and reduce their effect on climate change. This will be done by basing the level of taxation on the carbon content of the fuel. EC*586 EC786 Import duties will be levied on both raw materials and finished products which will reflect the ecological impact of the production, extraction and transportation of such goods where sufficient eco-taxes are not considered to have been levied in their country of origin. This system will include a re-introduction of duties on goods imported from other European Union countries where considered necessary (see EU443 and EC777). Enforcement procedures exercised by Customs and Excise must be sufficient to prevent a rise in the levels of organised crime in relation to smuggling and evasion of duties. Energy-intensive products imported from countries which have not entered an international contraction and convergence agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (see 'Climate Change' policy), or which are not meeting their obligations under such an agreement, will be taxed on import to reflect the greenhouse gas emissions produced during their manufacture and transport.

Amortisation Taxes

EC*587 In order to encourage the manufacture of durable goods, and to discourage that of disposable items, we will levy amortisation taxes on selected manufactured products and building and construction work. This tax will be proportional to the value of the item but inversely proportional

to its expected life. For example, an item expected to last three years might pay a proportion of one third of its value in tax, while an item expected to last fifty years would only pay the same proportion of one fiftieth part of its value in tax. Non-recyclable packaging would in particular attract a high rate.

Alcohol and Tobacco Duties

EC*565 EC775 In order to address concerns over public health, taxes will continue to be levied on alcohol and tobacco products. New taxes would also be levied on any other drugs which may be legalised by a Green government (see DU402). As with other indirect taxes, these taxes will be regressive in nature and will therefore be designed to encourage changes in behaviour rather than to provide increased government revenue.

EC*566 EC776 The effect of these taxes on the consumption levels of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs will be regularly reviewed. The effects of other regulatory and health promotion measures would also be reviewed, along with regular assessments of the harm done by such drugs in society. In this way, tax levels can be adjusted to the most appropriate levels to help reduce harm caused by drugs.

EC*567 EC777 When reviewing the effects of these duties on the consumption of alcohol and tobacco, particular attention will be given to the issue of the smuggling of these products from other countries in which duty levels are lower. Amounts which people are allowed to bring into the UK for their own personal use will also be

reviewed to ensure that they are not providing a loophole for a significant trade in black-market goods. Regulations should not allow different tax rates in other countries to undermine UK public health policy. (see EC786)

Land Value Tax

EC*590 EC791 A system of Land Value Taxation (LVT) will be introduced to replace the Council Tax and the National Non-Domestic Business Rates. LVT rates will be set at a local level, and will be based on the annual rental value of the land.

EC*591 EC792 Rates will vary according to the permitted use of the land, as determined by planning consents which have been granted. Agricultural land will be taxed at a low rate so that intensive farming is not encouraged or basic food prices forced to rise.

EC*592 EC793 There will be no reduction of or exemption from LVT for buildings or sites which are left vacant or which have been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. In this way, the policy will encourage full use of existing properties and discourage the practice of people speculating on the price of sites whilst keeping the properties empty or derelict.

Local Taxation

EC*600 EC550 As the economy becomes more decentralised, and inequalities in wealth between different districts are reduced, a greater proportion of taxation will be levied locally, and more expenditure decisions will be made and public services provided at local level by local government. Each local government must be free to decide its revenue and spending priorities, within the

limits of regionally, nationally and internationally agreed resource and environmental needs, and subject to the need to meet basic standards and requirements set by national government.

EC*601 EC551 As much as is practical, the revenue required to fund such expenditure should be raised through local taxation. However, the inherent inequalities between different areas of the country will require a redistribution of wealth and resources between districts and regions in order to ensure that public services can be fairly and adequately paid for across the whole country. This redistribution should be overseen by a commission, independent of central government (see PA403), to ensure that it is sufficient and that it is not squeezed in order to minimise either general tax rates of the local taxes in more affluent areas. The redistribution should take account of criteria such as net migration, poverty and social deprivation, industrial base, natural resources, and environmental damage as experienced by different districts and regions.

Carbon quotas

EC*610 We will set in place a system of individual tradable carbon quotas to combat climate change and share out the available carbon emissions equitably (see [ref]). The value of the individual entitlement will be taken into account when setting the level of Citizen's Income (see [ref] below).

Benefits

Citizens' Income

EC*620 EC730 A Citizen's Income sufficient to cover an

individual's basic needs will be introduced, which will replace tax-free allowances and most social security benefits (see EC711). A Citizen's Income is an unconditional, non-withdrawable income payable to each individual as a right of citizenship. It will not be subject to means testing and there will be no requirement to be either working or actively seeking work.

EC*621 EC731 The Citizens' Income will eliminate the unemployment and poverty traps, as well as acting as a safety net to enable people to choose their own types and patterns of work (See EC400). The Citizens' Income scheme will thus enable the welfare state to develop towards a welfare community, engaging people in personally satisfying and socially useful work.

EC*622 EC732 When the Citizens' Income is introduced it is intended that nobody will be in a position that they will receive less through the scheme than they were entitled to under the previous benefits system. Children will be entitled to a reduced amount which will be payable to a parent or legal guardian. People with disabilities or special needs, and single parents will receive a supplement.

EC*623 EC733 Initially, the housing benefit system will remain in place alongside the Citizens' Income and will be extended to cover contributions towards mortgage repayments (see HO602). This will subsequently be reviewed to establish how housing benefit could be incorporated into the Citizen's Income, taking into account the differences in housing costs between

different parts of the country and different types of housing.

Pensioners

The basic Citizens' Pension EC*630 EC800 Pensioners deserve a state pension which is sufficient to cover their basic needs and to enable them to live with dignity as of right, without the need for additional means-tested benefits. The Green Party will immediately introduce a Citizens' Pension to replace the current basic state pension and any additional top-up benefits. The Citizens' Pension will initially be set at a level no lower than the current minimum level of income then guaranteed by the government for pensioners, so that nobody will be in a position that they receive less through the system than they were entitled to under the previous state pension and top-up benefits system.

EC*631 EC801 The Citizen's Pension will replace an individual's Citizen's Income once they reach the specified pension age. This will not restrict an individual's right to continue working, and any additional earnings will be taxed just as they would for those below the pension age. Unlike the current system these payments will be unconditional, given as a right of citizenship and not subject to means testing. They will not be restricted to those people who have paid National Insurance contributions, which, for example currently leaves many women without a proper state pension due to having an incomplete payment record.

EC*632 EC802. The Citizen's Pension will be set at a higher level than the Citizen's Income. It will be up-rated annually in

line with the increase in either a) the price of basic goods and services, or b) average earnings, whichever is greater. There will be a supplement paid to pensioners living alone as well as for those with disabilities and special needs. This will include payments to cover the costs of residential care, should this become necessary. Elderly residents will no longer be forced to sell their homes in order to pay for such care, as these supplements will not be subject to means-testing.

EC*633 EC803. As with the Citizen's Income, housing benefit will initially continue to be paid. The situation will subsequently be reviewed to see how a housing cost element could be incorporated into Citizen's Pension payments. (see EC733)

Additional voluntary pensions EC*634 EC804. The Green Party recognises that people in paid employment may wish additionally to defer some of their income until the time that they retire, in order to ensure that their standard of living does not dramatically reduce when their employment ends. The usual method of doing this at present is to make contributions to privately administered pension schemes, which then invest those contributions in shares on the Stock Exchange.

EC*635 EC805. Although we do not envisage an end to the Stock Exchange, its future role in a green society will be significantly reduced as legislation is brought in to reduce the size of inappropriately large companies whose stocks are currently listed (see EC651). Concern that company decisions are made by those stakeholders most affected by

them, rather than by distant shareholders who only hold a speculative financial interest, also means that it is inappropriate for the Government to promote or encourage such investment in private pension schemes. Moreover, there have been significant problems with private sector schemes in recent years, including mis-selling and fraud, and this is coupled with the inherent uncertainty of returns from funds invested on the Stock Exchange to leave those who have contributed to additional pension schemes with far less financial security than they had hoped for.

EC*636 EC806. It is therefore necessary to introduce publicly administered pension schemes which will enable people voluntarily to provide for their retirement without recourse to the current private pension providers. People will be able to contribute to a national additional scheme in which they will get fixed rate pension investment bonds in return for their contributions. They will also be able to invest in Local Community Pension Schemes, which would be administered by local authorities/community banks and would re-invest the money paid into them within the local community. These could offer the options of either fixed rate local bonds, or an equity-based scheme which would give variable returns from investment in appropriate local businesses which satisfied various criteria concerning environmental and social standards. Those who have contributed to such publicly administered pension schemes should receive an annual statement detailing the current value of their pension fund,

and an estimate of the future level of an annuity purchased by that fund on retirement.

EC*637 EC807. Stakeholder pension legislation will be amended so that employers need only offer entry into such publicly administered schemes. There will no longer be any tax relief for contributions to additional pension schemes, whether privately or publicly administered. It would still be possible to use the accumulated pension fund to buy an annuity, but no longer compulsory to do so. A publicly run annuity scheme would be set up to offer a secure alternative to those which are privately run. Income received from annuities, whether public or private, would no longer be taxed on receipt.

Occupational pension schemes EC*638 EC808. Where companies run an occupational pension scheme, the scheme must only be run for the benefit of workers, former workers and pensioners whose representatives must form a majority on the Board of Trustees. We would immediately ensure that changes to existing occupational pension arrangements could only take place with the agreement of the affected workers, former workers, existing pensioners and their representatives.

Regulation

Regulation in general EC*650 A framework of regulation is required to run any advanced economy. Much of that regulation in a green economy – basic consumer protection such as weights and measures, product labeling and product safety, special regulation for financial

products like investments, pensions and insurance, fair trade and protection from monopoly, regulation of the professions – will in principle be similar to that now operated and will remain in place, with some specific changes consequential upon more local administration listed below. But larger changes will be required in two specific areas, pollution and advertising.

Local Regulation

EC*651 Much regulation will be carried out locally, and consumer protection in particular is easier when the customer is geographically closer to the supplier. With the reduction in international and long distance trade (see EC*771), the need for product regulation to be standardised to facilitate that trade will be greatly reduced. Thus for example localities will be able to ban particular ingredients in foodstuffs, or not accept offshore financial products or accept local or traditional weights and measures for the purposes of trade.

EC*741 EC510 Policies to promote reduced consumption and assist in appropriate consumer choices include ensuring openness in the workings of all public and private institutions; establishing a Green product labelling scheme; commissioning a register of ethical and Green companies.

Advertising

Background

EC*660 It is generally accepted that advertising should be banned or highly regulated in respect of products that are harmful to health, like drugs, tobacco and alcohol (see DU401), or which is aimed at

vulnerable groups like children (see policy statement passed at Spring 1996 conference.). We would also ban advertising of credit (see EC*430).

EC*661 However, while advertising by a particular producer is aimed at persuading consumers to buy their particular product or service rather than that from another supplier, the aggregate and cumulative effect of advertising taken together is to increase overall demand, foster a materialist and consumption driven culture, and persuade people that many things that are in fact non-necessities are necessities.

Policy

EC*662 The advertising of products that damage health (for example tobacco) or safety (for example hand guns), or which damage the environment (for example excessively large vehicles) will be banned.

EC*663 The overall volume of advertising (and related activities like sport's sponsorship) will be controlled and reduced (see CMS686).

Pollution

EC*670 Far stricter policies on pollution will be required than those currently in force. These are set out in the Pollution section (PL).

Types of Enterprise

Introduction

EC*680 As set out in EC*445 we seek a variety of institutional forms in the economy. The following sections set out our policy for each main type of enterprise.

Wider Enterprise law reform

Background

EC*720 EC650 The unaccountable exercise of economic power by large corporations has done much to destroy the environment and convivial social structures.

EC*721 EC651 Smaller and more democratically structured enterprises are more open to community regulation, ensuring that greater care is taken both of the people who work in them, and of the concerns and needs of the local community and the environment.

EC*722 EC652 The right of the shareholders to dividends must not be the single most important criterion for company policy making. Those with a stake in the company's decisions must have the right to make informed input into those decisions. These 'stakeholders' include the shareholders, creditors, the workers, consumers, the local community, suppliers, competitors, and advocates for the local and global environment.

EC*723 Many large companies now make much of the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility, and claim to be voluntarily taking account of the interests of a wider group of stakeholders. In a few cases these protestations are genuine, but too often they are not; in the final analysis the logic of existing law means that shareholders' and creditors' interests must come first. The Green Party believes that rather more is needed than these voluntary efforts.

EC*724 We regret the fact that many large mutual organisations – especially building societies and insurance companies – have transformed themselves into

public limited companies, thus reducing both social equity and diversity within the economy.

Policy

EC*725 We will reform company law, and the law covering other forms of enterprise such as cooperatives and partnerships to give stakeholders (including in particular employees) an increasingly strong statutory role in the internal government of the enterprise depending upon the size of the enterprise. Sole traders and small companies will carry on under the present rules, while large corporations will be governed by boards elected by not just the shareholders but by a wider group of relevant stakeholders (see EC*722 to list the stakeholders).

EC*726 We will repeal the laws that enable building societies and other mutual organisations to be changed into public limited companies. We will establish legal ways for companies to be transformed into mutual organisations, such as consumer or worker cooperatives in specified circumstances if a sufficient majority of the relevant stakeholders agree. Existing shares will be converted into non-voting debentures. One important circumstance when this might be done is upon the sale of a small business or upon the death or retirement of the owner.

EC*727 EC513 Policies to promote ecologically sustainable local economic development include developing the legal basis for private and public sector organisations to have an annual social and environmental audit of their

operations. They will then be required to submit accurate social and environmental accounts together with their annual financial accounts. These will be audited by independent experts and made publicly available: the penalties for misrepresentation would, as with annual accounts, be severe. (see EC651)

[IN630 Exclusion for smaller firms from the environmental requirements of their annual reports should be removed through the gradual reduction of the limit used to exclude them. Annual reports should be extended to reveal full ownership details. Environmental Impact Analysis should be included to ensure there are no hidden costs. Annual auditing should be carried out by an independent company and cover the full global activities of the firm.]

IN620 Share issue schemes literally give employees a stake in the business in which they work (see WR643). Tax exemption can encourage employees to keep their shares for a number of years. A percentage of annual company profits of all UK based operations should be required by law to be set aside for investment in ways to be decided by the UK employees through their trade union, Workers Council or other mechanism as decided by the workforce. This investment might take the form of training and education, welfare benefits, leisure facilities, discounted public transport passes, for workers and their families or other investment needed to secure the long term future sustainable development of the company, e.g. developing a more

environmentally product or service.

Public Services

Scope of public services
EC*681 We believe that there are some services that should be provided only by public bodies and the private sector excluded entirely. These include the armed services, policing, the fire and other emergency services, criminal justice and prisons, the railways (see TR230) and London Underground, the Post Office, the utilities (water and gas and electricity distribution (see EN405)), the National Health Service and regulatory services (for example bodies regulating the environment, health and safety, financial services and trading standards). We would aim to bring all such facilities that have been privatised back into public ownership as soon as possible. Public ownership would be national, regional or local, depending on the service.

EC*682 There is a second group of public services, like education, transport, social and library services, where there is a long and well established history of private as well as public provision and where citizens should have a right of access to a high quality public service which is publicly funded, often free at the point of delivery and publicly accountable. We would not however abolish the possibility of private provision in these areas.

Management of public services

EC*684 We are committed to the provision of high quality public services - which should be publicly funded, publicly accountable and publicly

owned. Public services must be run and managed effectively, be responsive to the needs of service users and the public generally, and respect the rights of the workforce. EC*685 Public services should be provided as locally as possible. Local provision and access to public services such as schools, hospitals, libraries, nurseries, post offices and public transport is essential for sustainable communities to thrive. Green Party policies will ensure high quality local provision of such services. In the meantime, we will campaign against closures and running down of these local services, and for greater public investment for service improvement.

EC*686 We condemn the promotion and fostering of a spurious concept of 'consumer choice' and competition between geographically dispersed, large-scale public service facilities, such as certain schools or hospitals. Such 'choice' hides the reality of poor and dwindling local service provision.

EC*687 Immediate accountability and the duty to see that public services are provided in a given locality must lie with the most appropriate level of government. In many cases this would be at a level lower than operates now. It must remain the responsibility of government: to ensure high quality and predominantly publicly owned services are provided over the long term; to retain full democratic control of those services; and to be held fully accountable to the electorate for service provision.

Financing of public services

EC*692 We believe that many of the problems of the public services result from long term under-funding by both Conservative and Labour governments. The Green Party would reduce the decline of public services by increasing public funding.

EC*693 The Green Party opposes privatisation of public services, including the Private Finance Initiative, Public-Private Partnerships, policies which lead to the depletion of local council housing stock - such as wholesale transfers to large national housing associations and the Right to Buy scheme - and mechanisms like the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which undermine public provision and accountability of public services.

EC*694 EC680 Using private finance to fund public services (through schemes such as the "Private Finance Initiative [PFI]" or the "Public Private Partnership [PPP]") is flawed. It is primarily aimed at providing services without large costs to taxpayers in the short-term. However, in the long-term this makes no financial sense as facilities remain in private hands, rather than being publicly owned assets, and government funds have to be paid over to private operators indefinitely. The requirement to provide a profit to private shareholders also adds to the overall cost to society.

EC*697 EC683 Our opposition does not extend to the buying of goods and services from suppliers outside the public service organisation itself, so long as control (i.e. finance, ownership and management) of the public services themselves remains in the hands of the community rather

than those serving the profit motive.

Trans-national and other large corporations

Background

EC*700 The overwhelming tendency in the economy is for business enterprises to get bigger and bigger, whether by growth or acquisition, and increasingly to expand beyond their original national boundaries and become trans-national corporations.

EC*701 All market economies have long sought in theory to have free and open competition as the single most effective way of securing financial efficiency, competitive prices and protecting the consumer.

As part of this most jurisdictions, the UK and the EU included, have laws to limit monopoly and anti-competitive behaviour like cartels.

However, these laws have rarely in practice prevented the development of oligopolies (dominance of the market by a few companies) not least because in an increasingly globalised world economy, countries are reluctant to act against TNCs based in their home country that are seen as champions of national economies in wider world markets. Moreover, competition legislation is often only designed to protect consumers, and has little effect on corporate domination of supply chains.

EC*702 Quite apart from the anti-competitive implications of the growth of large corporations, they have many other undesirable features :

- they are simply too powerful for bodies unaccountable to wider society, often more powerful economically than

some of the states, especially states in the poor parts of the world, and can in particular damage the environment and exploit the workforce with impunity

- TNCs can move profits between countries, sometimes through opaque transfer pricing so transferring resources from the poor world to the rich

- similarly, they can use transfer pricing to ensure that they pay tax low far as possible in low tax jurisdictions

- large corporations often monopolise intellectual property and patents (see [ref]), which hampers development in the poorer countries, and in the particular case of drugs damages health care in the south

- competition between large corporations to secure ever greater returns for shareholders fuels the process of unsustainable economic growth

- they dominate economies not just by their direct activities but also by their influence on smaller enterprises through the supply chain, and often by securing the best educated labour through their influence on the labour market; and

- they often have unreasonable and excessive access to government, through lobbying and staff exchange schemes.

Policy

EC*703 We would enforce UK anti-monopoly and merger legislation vigorously, and encourage the EU to do so at the European level. We would in particular break up monopolies or prevent mergers even where they were only monopolies in local markets. We would ensure monopoly legislation applied throughout the supply train, and in particular as effectively to

monopoly purchasers as it does to suppliers.

EC*704 In the long run we would break up large corporations into smaller units, to secure greater democratic control over the economy, but we recognise that because of TNCs' power this is not something that could be done by the UK alone. In the short run we would

- initiate research on TNC activities throughout the world
- set up national and seek international capital controls (see EC*807) to ensure profits made by TNCs are re-invested where those profits have arisen
- adopt 'site here to sell here' policies
- legislate against transfer pricing activities
- act in the UK against UK based TNCs engaging in environmentally damaging activities abroad
- allow smaller companies to benefit from patents and other intellectual property held by TNCs
- adopt a wider policy of company law reform (see EC*724) to give all the stakeholders in large corporations far greater powers
- to include in those reforms provisions that make directors personally liable, both civilly and criminally, for environmental damage or unsafe practices
- protect individuals who work for corporations who expose corporate practices which harm the public interest.

Small enterprises

Background

EC*730 The Green Party is the party of small enterprise. We value small organisations for their own sake (see para EC*455 above). Moreover, our policy of localisation (see para EC*451

above) will in itself encourage small firms.

EC*731 However, more has to be done than that to encourage small firms, and government has a special responsibility. A major thing small businesses complain about is excessive government regulation, and with good reason. Complex regulation places a disproportionate burden on smaller organisations, which have to devote the same effort to understanding and implementing a new regulation as a huge company spreading the cost over many outlets – it is simply not fair to place the same regulatory burden on small firms as larger ones. Equal regulation is not fair regulation.

EC*732 Moreover, competition policy in particular bears much more effectively upon small firms and the self-employed than upon large companies. Major corporations may effectively face only a very few competitors in a particular market, and their mutual competition is often more apparent than real. Moreover their size enables them to dominate smaller companies in their supply chain, and sometimes their local labour markets. Small firms by contrast are forced by a policy of rigorous competition to compete for customers and workers, while they are often exploited by much larger suppliers. As a result competition is often only on price rather than quality, training is minimal and real apprenticeship under pressure, and overall business stability is low.

Policy

EC*733 There will be a presumption, in making any regulation, that it will be made in a simpler and more straightforward way for small firms – in particular enterprises with less than 10 participants. - or that they will be exempt. In particular, small enterprises will generally be obliged only to follow broad principles in a particular area, and not to have to follow detailed rules or registration requirements. Where there is registration it will be free.

EC*734 There will be a Code of Conduct for Small Businesses of no more than 10,000 words, of which part will be generic material for any small business (covering matters like how employees and customers may be treated) and the rest will be specific to the type of business (for example covering food hygiene for restaurants). Such codes will not apply to small businesses like solicitors or providing financial advice where interpreting the law is at the heart of the business itself. The Code will not refer to other documents or be changed (except for things like tax rates) more often than every 5 years. Small businesses will not be obliged to follow the Code, but if they have done so then they will not be liable to prosecution under any other more detailed form of regulation or to civil action by third parties except that arising from contracts explicitly entered into by the business concerned.

EC*735 Competition law will be modified for small firms. Similar small businesses in a particular area will be permitted to make agreements between themselves on things like quality and environmental standards, the basic nature of contracts with customers, some

prices, the training, contract conditions and remuneration of apprentices, market entry, and, for businesses like plumbers, emergency service arrangements. Small firms may also collaborate on creating local codes of practice. Such agreements will be encouraged by local government through local organisations like Chambers of Commerce. Agreements will have to be approved by the local competition authorities and must pass a public interest test

EC*736 Many other detailed rules that damage small enterprises will be swept away, and other measures to help small business introduced. Examples include:

- we will abolish VAT (see para EC*561 (existing policy EC771) above) and the complex record keeping it involves
- we will abolish National Insurance (see para EC*427 (existing policy EC721) above), and the complex calculations imposed upon small businesses
- while we will retain PAYE, small businesses will not longer be responsible for administering many complex add-ons to the PAYE system such as Statutory Sick Pay, Maternity and Paternity Benefits, Adoption Pay and Student Loan Repayments
- we will abolish the Construction Industry Scheme which has done little to reduce the black market in construction
- Councils will treat waste produced by small firms (except for certain industries where waste is a major feature) in the same way as domestic waste, including allowing Councils to enjoy lower landfill tax when they re-cycle that waste

- while small enterprises will have to abide by broad data protection principles, most will no longer have to register under the Data Protection Act
- we will amend planning laws to allow small businesses to operate in residential areas (see existing policy LP404)
- we will introduce a Citizen's Income for everybody, making it much easier to become self-employed or start a new business (see EC*620 (existing policy EC730)).
- we will encourage local community banks specifically tasked with supporting small local enterprises (see para EC*428 (existing policy EC665) above)
- we will introduce legislation to outlaw late payment see (existing policy WR371 and IN503)
- we will provide affordable environmental and business training to small firms
- all government and local authority procurement will be encouraged to be through contracts of a limited size, in order to encourage small business procurement, and to derive a percentage of supplies from local sources, on ecological grounds.

Local and Regional policy

The Local Economy

Policy

EC*740 We have set out above our broad commitment to the local economy (EC*451). Many policies from elsewhere in this chapter will help contribute to this:

- reintroduction of protective safeguards such as tariffs and quotas for domestic economies (see EC*784 and EC*795);
- a site-here-to-sell-here policy for manufacturing and services

- domestically or regionally (EC*704);
- localising money such that the majority stays within its place of origin (see EC*422, 426, 428);
- local competition policy to eliminate monopolies from the more protected economies (see EC*703);
- introduction of resource taxes to increase environmental improvements and help fund the transition to localisation (EC*580 onwards);
- increased democratic involvement both politically and economically to ensure the effectiveness and equity of the movement to more diverse local economies (EC*724 and subsidiarity principle in PG)
- reorientation of the end goals of aid and trade rules such that they contribute to the rebuilding of local economies and local control.(see EC*780 onwards).
- encouraging small firms (see EC*730 onwards)
- localising energy supply (see EN201, 403, 809-810)

EC*742 EC511 Policies to promote local economic management and planning include creating Partnership Bodies to enable a wide range of local people to participate in the development of policy, strategy, projects and enterprise; undertaking a wide ranging audit of local social, economic and environmental affairs and concerns; drafting appropriate sustainable economic development strategies for the locality.

IN501 Each region has a unique industrial history and ecological profile. Local government in partnership with local communities and businesses, should use this profile to draw up Local Development Plans. These

would identify viable local industrial activity. For example, the UK's huge resource of un-worked coppice woodland could supply the 57,000 tonnes of charcoal which is imported each year. Other viable local activities include light engineering; textiles; food production; repair, reuse and recycling.

IN502 Local Government already influences local industrial activity using the current planning process. Strengthening this could encourage sound ecological design principles. Local Government must be given access to the environmental training it needs to provide a Comprehensive Ecological Planning System.

Regional Policy

Background

EC*750 It has long been the case that there has been too much economic activity in the south and east of the UK as compared with the north and west. At present government policy is simply to respond to that situation, permitting more development in the south east and doing nothing to promote it elsewhere. This has not always been the case – in the past governments have had regional policies designed to redress the imbalance.

EC*751 Moreover, climate change provides another reason to re-consider whether regional policy is required. Quite apart from action to prevent or minimise climate change, we need too to consider those economic policies that will be needed to respond to the climate change that we know is going to happen anyway.

EC*752 While the impact of climate change in different regions will vary considerably, the broad effects of climate change in the UK are likely to be increases in average temperature, increased annual rainfall but with drier summers in the south east, and sea level rise especially on the east coast. This will be accompanied by more extreme weather events: that is the incidence of flooding, storms and high winds, and, in the south east in particular, summers inducing drought conditions, will increase.
Policy

EC*753 We consider that on grounds of social equity, local ecological sustainability and climate change we should reverse the tendency for the population and for industry to become ever more concentrated in the South East. The pressure on water supplies in particular will become intolerable. We should revert to policies designed to assist the economy in other parts of the country. Such policies could include restrictions on further development in the South East (and in particular opposition to the proposed new towns in the Thames gateway), assistance to industry to locate and re-locate elsewhere, and movement of the national government and parliament to the north.

EC*754 Other policy responses to climate change should include strengthening certain parts of the transport infrastructure against extreme climatic events, assistance to move to new crops, livestock and agricultural practices and more ecologically aware policies to prevent the undesirable consequences of flooding.

IN612 There are many schemes which would generate useful local employment and improve the self reliance of regions. These could be targeted to generate major environmental and infrastructure improvements in regions that need them most. High quality environmental and community work training which people opt to join rather than being coerced by threat of loss of benefits would achieve this while raising the number of local people with appropriate skills (at limited financial cost since it would simultaneously reduce the national cost of means tested benefits / allowances for the unemployed).

Trade and Globalisation

Background

EC*760 We live in an era when the consensus in the rich countries is in favour of ever freer international trade and the process called globalisation, which includes the free movement of capital (though not generally of labour) as well as goods and services. The UK has traditionally been a country highly dependent on and successful in international trade, with an especially strong position in international finance, and has both supported this process of globalisation and seen it as inevitable.

EC*761 However, globalisation carries with it profound issues of global equity and global environmental sustainability. Because the terms of trade are overwhelmingly against the global south, the material gains from globalisation are mainly secured by the richer northern countries, while many people in the global south get poorer rather than richer. The global

south bears a disproportionate share of the environmental damage caused by the growing material economy; it is for example more vulnerable to climate change and suffers greater industrial pollution. Yet most countries in the global south are much closer to running sustainable local economies than countries in the rich north.

EC*762 Nevertheless, large parts of the global south, in particular India and China, are undergoing nothing less than a rapid industrial revolution, with huge global environmental consequences. There is a conflict between global economic equity – the very legitimate aspiration of these and other countries of the global south to improve their material standards of living – and global environmental sustainability, the fact that the planet simply cannot sustain everyone living at the standards of the richer countries.

EC*763 The primary aim of international economic policy must be to resolve this conflict between the legitimate need for material growth in the south and global environmental sustainability. Globalisation will not do so.

EC901 Economic globalisation is integrating national economies and labour markets more tightly together as the flow of goods, services, and investment across borders expands. This is locking producers, both North and South, into an increasingly competitive and growing system, while lower social and environmental standards are increasingly being used to facilitate trade expansion. For poor countries, and for poorer people in the industrialised

countries, globalisation has meant marginalisation; and for the environment, it has meant increasing destruction.

EC*766 Trade policies have to be expressed against a complex political background, where many nation states have lost political control over their international trade. The main proponents of globalisation are transnational corporations, and in particular US based transnationals. US foreign policy largely supports these corporations and their efforts to buttress globalisation through the World Trade Organisation, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, despite some quite strong protectionist pressures within domestic US politics. The UK's position on trade matters is subsumed within that of the European Union, which is based very much on unsustainable free trade principles, but which is potentially the only grouping strong enough to be able to stand up to the United States. World trade is being revolutionised by the rapid industrialisation of a small number of states, primarily China and India. The large number of poorer nations struggle to gain access to markets in richer nations, while burdened with debt, and forced to open up their own economies.

Policy

General Framework

EC*764 There is in practice only one overall policy for the future of the world economy that combines international equity with global sustainability, and which has any realistic hope of being agreed to by the global south, especially India and China. That policy is a generalisation of the policy of

contraction and convergence for greenhouse gas emissions (see CC210-215) – the rich countries need to contract their material economies to the point where they use no more than their fair share of the planet's resources, while poor countries expand their economies to the same point. In practice, because there is at present a high degree of correlation between greenhouse gas emissions and the level of conventional economic development, contraction and convergence should itself tend to even up the use of other resources. But because of different levels of technical development, relatively more investment will be needed in the global south to achieve this end.

EC*765 Our policies on international trade and international finance are founded on the efficient achievement of such an equitable and sustainable world: they are no more and no less than the achievement of our original economic objectives (see EC*201) on a world scale.

EC*770 While as a matter of principle we would want each country and region to be more self sufficient especially for food and other necessities on both equity and sustainability grounds, there clearly is a case for some international trade. First, trade can increase efficiency, benefiting both parties in the exchange (for example trade in specialised products), even if this occurs in far more restricted circumstances than conventional international trade theory predicts, and proper account needs to be taken of the equity of the transaction and its

sustainability. Second, the use of energy for international may be justified by the principle of trade subsidiarity for two main categories of goods; that is trade in crops or resources that only grow or occur in some parts of the world (for example coffee or copper ore) or which are valuable relative to their bulk (for example many high tech items). Finally, most poorer countries have little prospect of improved material standards without some international trade since to develop they need to import goods they cannot make themselves and to do so must export goods in which they have some advantage.

EC*771 Thus we seek a world where there is far less international trade, and nations and regions are more self-sufficient, but there is still some necessary and beneficial trade. However, unlike the national and local policies outlined above (EC*300 – 754), changes to the pattern of international trade cannot be made by one country alone.

EC900 National economic systems operating in isolation cannot resolve the problems of trans-boundary pollution, exploitation of global resources and inequitable relationships between rich and poor countries. Resolution of the global economic and ecological crises requires a new order of cooperation between nations with the development of new international institutions and agreements, in which a green European Confederation could play an important role.

EC*772 Policy on international trade is divided into two sections. The first sets out how we would like to see international trade be

regulated in the longer term, and requires considerable international agreement. The second sets out some shorter term policies that can be implemented before a new international economic order is in place.

Long term policy

EC*780 We would seek international agreement to replace the World Trade Organisation by a new General Agreement on Sustainable Trade administered by a new world trade body. This would - be integrated into the UN system, answerable to the General Assembly - be an accountable, decentralised body - allow public access to all its documents and meetings

EC*782 The new Global Agreement on Sustainable Trade might incorporate the following rules (EC*783-EC*791)
EC*783 Provided it is not at the expense of domestic goods and services, states shall give preferential treatment (which may include quantitative restrictions) to goods and services from other states which respect human rights and score well on the index of human rights (see IP321-324), treat workers fairly and protect animal welfare and the environment.

EC*784 Trade controls that increase local employment with decent wages (for example by enforcing a reasonable minimum wage), enhance protection of the environment, foster a diverse range of economic institutions (see EC*445) and otherwise improve the quality of life would be encouraged. States can give favourable treatment to domestic products and

services which best favour these goals.

EC*785 States are permitted and encouraged to make distinctions between products and services on the basis of the way they have been produced in order to further the aims of sustainable development.

EC*786 Exemptions from the rules should be allowed for trade interventions that further sustainable development, for sanctions against human rights violations (see IP321-324), for tariffs for the maintenance of food, health and animal welfare standards, to ban trade in weapons with oppressive or aggressive regimes, and enforcement of treaties on environment and labour rights.
EC*787 Environmental and social standards, and laws and regulations concerning food safety should set a floor level for trade between countries (and not a ceiling as at present) and preference should be given to countries with higher standards. Poorer countries should receive financial aid to reach the floor standards.

EC*788 Global patenting rights should not override the rights of indigenous communities to genetic and biological resources that are held in common (see [ref commons]). Patent fees may only be levied for a limited timeframe to cover the cost of development plus a reasonable profit. Patents on life are prohibited.

EC*789 No individual investor may invoke international enforcement mechanisms against investment regulations of states, which shall not be constrained by trade rules.

EC*790 Protective barriers should be introduced to enable countries to reach maximum self-sufficiency in food, where

feasible, with long distance trade limited to food not available in the country or region.

EC*791 Certain goods should never be traded internationally. These include people (as slaves), human organs, nuclear technology, dangerous wastes and very polluting technologies.

EC*792 EC948 To incorporate into trade policy making the commitment given at the UN Beijing Women's Conference (1995) to mainstream gender analysis into all levels of policy making, and in particular to incorporate a gender impact assessment into all trade policy making and policy reviews. Transitional policy

EC*793 EC852 While the UK remains a member of the currently constituted EU, we will work to reverse the trends of economic centralisation in the EU and seek to replace them with economic devolution. At the same time, we will maintain the maximum possible freedom for unilateral action to implement Green economic policies.

EC*794 EC911 Green policies will be adopted which increase small-scale, local community import substitution, rather than export promotion, support local food growing in place of cash crops for the international market, and encourage forms of economic development which are consistent with the culture and aspirations of the people concerned - involving their effective participation in all areas of development and at all stages of the decision-making process.

EC*795 EC945 To introduce import and export controls on a national and/or regional bloc level, with the aim of allowing

localities and countries to produce as much of their food, goods, and services as they can themselves.

NO UNILATERAL IMPORT CONTROLS AMENDMENT

Replace EC*795 with EC*795 We do not believe it is feasible for the UK immediately, unilaterally and substantially to reduce its imports and exports (through either physical controls or tariffs) without provoking retaliation of a kind that would very seriously disrupt the economy, and quickly result in the government that carried out such a programme being removed from office. We would however press for such action at the EU level. AMENDMENT ENDS

EC*796 EC940 In the short to medium term, strategies to reduce the volume of international trade could have severe impacts on developing countries, many of which have become dependent on exports. We will work with them to design and finance transitional strategies to minimise these effects. Other Green policies, including debt cancellation, will also help to ease the transition to more self-reliant economies.

International Finance

Background

EC*800 Globalisation is not just about trade in goods and services. It also concerns the international financial system that underpins that trade, and liberalisation of international capital flows allowing investors to operate anywhere in the world.

EC*801 International trade is currently largely conducted in the international reserve

currencies, predominantly the US dollar, but also the Euro, the Japanese Yen and the £ Sterling. This gives these countries, especially the US, enormous power both in determining the terms of trade, and in controlling the world's international financial institutions, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In addition, countries that have reserve currencies can finance huge balance of payments deficits, and effectively exchange real goods and services for paper promises.

EC*802 EC960 The present international financial system also provides disproportionate benefits to banks, trans-national corporations and currency speculators. It must be replaced by a system in which money returns to its proper role as a medium of exchange, not a commodity in its own right. This requires international negotiation. The result could be a reformed World Bank and International Monetary Fund at the centre of a global economic system with commercial institutions playing a much diminished role. (see also IP3030-344)

Policy

EC*803 EC930 Current international bodies (e.g. the IMF and World Bank) have been dominated by the Western bloc. They are fundamentally undemocratic and outmoded in economic practice. They are more often arenas for international conflict than cooperation. To create the necessary ecological and accountable institutions, an urgent programme of reform and innovation based on existing bodies must be undertaken.

EC*804 EC931 Policies can include seeking commitment from the World Bank in the short term to end environmentally damaging projects and in the longer term to a complete overhaul of international financial institutions; providing creative alternatives to IMF austerity measures imposed on the world's already most impoverished peoples; legislating to make the decision-making processes of the financial institutions more open and accessible; establishing a World Environmental Agency to administer a Global Environmental Agreement

EC*805 EC970 To make progress towards a global economy which resolves inequitable relationships between rich and poor nations, and which eliminates the exploitation of global resources, the international debt crisis must be tackled. A programme to eliminate international debt must be accepted which adopts wholesale writing-off and writing-down together with the selective use of 'creative redemption' and limitation of the banks' right to create credit at high interest rates.

EC*806 EC971 In advance of such agreements, we propose cooperation with other like-minded countries in bilateral arrangements; an audit of the debt world-wide and its implications for the debtor countries; effective local management of any debt-environment swaps.

NEW GLOBAL CURRENCY AMENDMENT

Add the following para after EC*806
EC*807 To replace the dollar and the other current reserve

currencies, we would seek the establishment of an International Clearing Union (ICU) operated within a reformed World Bank, which would issue a new global currency (as proposed by Keynes at Bretton Woods in 1944), independent of any particular nation state. All international trade would be in this global currency and national accounts kept at the ICU. [International capital movements would also be in this global currency.] If countries built up a surplus in their account (ie their balance of payments were in surplus) then a proportion of the surplus would be placed in the ICU's reserve fund, encouraging surplus countries to balance their accounts. If a nation had a deficit, then its national currency would be devalued in relation to the global currency to bring it back into balance.

AMENDMENT ENDS

CARBON LINKING

AMENDMENT (ONLY IF PREVIOUS AMENDMENT PASSES)

Add the following paragraph
EC*808 The global currency in EC*807 shall be linked to national greenhouse gas emission rights created under the contraction and convergence policy (see CC210-215).

AMENDMENT ENDS

EC*809 We do not believe that trade alone will be sufficient to end poverty in many of the poorer countries, and to allow all poorer countries to develop in sustainable ways. Many countries will need considerable help to establish renewable energy infrastructures. This will better be achieved by international aid financed through international taxation rather

than by the present system of often self-serving bilateral aid.

EC*810 EC920 Both taxation and public expenditure are currently necessary at the global level. Taxation levied by global institutions, derived from present agencies, may be revenue-raising, redistributive or regulatory in purpose. Tax revenue is required by the international community both to fund transfer payments to poorer countries, to replace 'Aid', and to finance the necessary international resources and pollution inspectorates.

EC*811 EC921 Possible taxes include taxes on the exploitation of the global environment (e.g. sea-bed mining, unsustainable management of all forests, including tropical rain forests); taxes on activities which pollute the global environment, including transboundary pollution, international transport and release of gases that cause global warming; international trade tariffs; a uniform tax on currency exchanges. The last two could provide national economies with a degree of protection against domination by external economic forces and against economic perturbations caused by decisions made elsewhere.

EC*812 EC990 In the short term, policies to reduce the damaging effect of 'self-serving' "Aid" must be adopted. These could include the abolishing of tied Aid, including the aid/trade provision ; permitting Aid project formulation to be under the control of local communities; giving priority to small scale sustainable projects based on local self-reliance and low environmental impact technologies and on adopting energy technologies that

minimise climate change ; encouraging international community linking projects to develop a greater sense of global responsibility; replacing interest-bearing loans by grants (gifts) and interest- free loans. (see also IP250-266)

Converting the Economy

Introduction

EC*815 The economy has been transformed by technology several times in the past 200 years. In the nineteenth century the major drivers were the use of coal, the railways and the steamship. The twentieth century was dominated by oil, chemicals, electrification and the motor car. We are now in the midst of a revolution driven by information and communication technologies. The current century must see a switch to a lower energy economy based on renewable energy, and increased conservation and re-cycling of materials.

Digital Technology

Background

EC*816 Since the 1980s technologies based on the micro-processor have begun to transform the economy. Apart from a plethora of manifest effects from mobile phones and personal computers to digital broadcasting and the internet, the effect has been pervasive in less obvious ways, such as the growth of robotics in manufacturing, the possibility of reducing travel through home working and the ability to put some intelligence into the simplest products.

EC*817 While this has clearly led to many efficiency gains, the effects on ecological

sustainability and social equity have been mixed:

- the manufacture and disposal of digital hardware creates environmental risks since many toxic substances are involved
- internet trading, by making it easier for people to trade with people far away may encourage long distance trade - yet improved communications can encourage home working and reduce travel
- social equity can be damaged where some people cannot access the technology, and particularly government services provided over the internet, whether because of location, costs or lack of skills
- the industry is in particular dominated by a few very large companies, yet paradoxically offers great scope for the extension of commons regimes.

Policy

EC*818 Our general policies on trade (see EC*770) and on manufacturers being responsible for re-cycling goods (NR424-425) cover the first two of the problems concerned with ecological sustainability.

EC*818a [a right to teleworking]

EC*819 On the social equity issues

- The dominance of a few very large international companies in both the software and hardware markets should be reduced by calling for and supporting action by the EU Commission and the US Anti-Trust authorities.
- Open access software and standards should be supported, particularly through their use and acceptance by all levels of government, and by removing any restrictions on non-commercial peer to peer

copying. The internet should remain an open and non-proprietary network.

- Reasonable access to computing power and internet connection should be available to all by providing free access in libraries and encouraging free access in schools and offices outside normal hours. Free information technology training should be available in all areas.
 - While on-line access to government services should continue to develop, alternative means of access – by correspondence, on the telephone or face to face – should continue to be available. Local government should ensure that local services fully represent local businesses and groups to help develop the local economy.
- Low carbon energy policy

EC*820 The next major change to the economy will come about because of changes in the energy sector, which will have pervasive effects throughout the economy. This will be driven by two factors

- the policy response, which we believe to be urgent, to climate change (see CC), and the need to move to renewables and not rely on fossil fuels or nuclear energy (see EN). In particular, we believe the world should aim for a stabilisation level of carbon dioxide equivalent of 450ppm, and that this requires a 90% reduction in the UK of greenhouse gas emissions starting from a 1990 base by 2030,
- the exhaustion of some fossil fuel reserves, in particular oil (see EN106) (though we recognise that there remains a great deal of coal), which will anyway make energy scarce, particularly for oil based transport.

EC*821 Economically there will be three main effects

- energy will become much more expensive and its use will have to be reduced, having a huge deflationary effect on the present oil based economy
- there will have to be a massive programme of investment in renewables, and in energy conservation, such as better insulated houses (see EN500 onwards)
- the increased cost of transport in particular will disrupt international trade, car based suburban living styles and give an impetus to localisation, require investment in public transport (see TR200 onwards) , and the recreation for example of a network of local shops (see LP414 onwards) and hospitals (see H301).

EC*822 It is impossible now to foresee the economic circumstances of the next two generations in which this transition will need to be completed. However, while early and substantial investment in renewables now might reduce the deflationary effects of the decline of oil, we believe that faced with a major depression the correct policy would be huge government spending, possibly without balancing the budget (see EC*511) on renewables and the other infrastructure required to create a sustainable energy economy. During this difficult period, which as we say could probably be avoided with a switch to renewables now, consumption overall in the economy is likely to go down, while, under our policy, investment, mainly government led, will go up in order to maintain aggregate demand and prevent so far as possible substantial unemployment.

Transforming the rest of the economy

EC*830 It is not just the energy sector and the things that depend upon energy that will need to undergo transformation. Agriculture and manufacturing (where localisation will imply some revival of manufacturing in this country) in particular will need to be transformed. Policy on how to do so is elsewhere in the MfSS, including

- for the transformation of food production see the Agriculture (AG), Fisheries (FI), Forestry (F) Food (FD) and Pollution (PL) sections
- for Manufacturing see the Industry (IN) and Pollution (PL) sections
- for extractive industries see the Natural Resources (NR) section
- for waste management see the Natural Resources (NR) and Pollution (PL) sections
- for the defence industries see the Peace and Defence (PD) section [exact ref]

EC*831 However there are some generic policies (apart from energy reduction and conservation) that will need to be applied across the whole supply side :

EC*832 EC603 The transitional stages will require judicious use of national public expenditure to guide and support the development of a Green society

But

EC*833 EC602 That in the long term national government intervention will reduce to a 'safety-net' in support of local services.

EC*834 EC610 Appropriate national public expenditure

will be necessary for the regeneration of the supply side of the economy to achieve the green objectives. Extensive investment is required to repair the damaged natural environment; to restore infrastructure; and to develop re-skilling and retraining in socially- and environmentally-friendly production and services .

IN401 A shift to green industrial activity will not happen overnight. There will be a transition during which the costs to industry of our common resources will rise relative to the costs of direct labour. This will encourage environmental and infrastructural improvements which are commonly labour intensive. This in turn will bring useful work, in areas such as energy conservation, to all regions including those which are being neglected.

EC*835 EC611 Restructuring of the supply-side will be achieved through precise targeting of pump-priming and development funding, not through long term commitment of large-scale public finance. Comprehensive environmental accounting procedures will play a significant role in this development (see EC513 [rejjg ref]). Particular emphasis will be laid on local community involvement in the decision-making process.

EC*836 EC612 Priority will be given to those industries which have minimum environmental impact and production methods that are consistent with ecological sustainability. The conversion programme for the defence, energy and chemical industries will be tackled as a matter of urgency;

excessive production of short-life, throwaway products will be strongly discouraged [ref to amortisation tax].

IN305 To draw on the many examples of good practice which exist around the world. For example, adoption of materials reuse techniques from the Netherlands could achieve reductions of up to 30% (source: FoE).

Amendment

After EC*101, insert new EC*102 and EC*103 and renumber.

EC*102: Second, the policy of 'planned obsolescence', promoted first in the USA at the end of the last World War, and now almost universally adopted, in order to avoid market saturation and consequent failure of businesses and growth of 'unemployment', causes gross waste of materials and effort.
EC*103: Third, desperate competition for market share has resulted in a gross waste of both human and material resources on persuasive advertising.

In EC*420, in last sentence, after 'money loaned' add 'from savings'. Add at end 'however, interest charged by banks on money loaned which they have created out of nothing gives them excessive profits – and power.'

In EC*423, in first sentence delete 'and desirable levels of debt'; insert 'whether this should continue to be created by private banks, or by a State institution; and whether it should enter circulation as loans, or be spent into circulation, without the creation of debt'.

In EC*425 (EC661), after 'creation' add 'and spending'.

In EC427, in the first sentence, after 'for the' add 'issue and'.

Delete 'and the setting of base interest rates'. In last sentence, delete 'setting of base interest rates' and insert 'adjustment of the volume of money needed in circulation'.

In EC*428, in penultimate sentence, delete 'currently'.

In EC*743 (placed after EC*429!), after 'administration' delete 'when channelling'; insert 'or to channel'.

In EC*430, in 4th sentence, delete 'create'; insert 'accumulate'. Add new sentence at end 'Since these restrictions will reduce the money supply, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will be empowered to create such additional money as needed to maintain the supply at the level needed by society for purchase of goods and services, saving and investment, and government spending, and pass such new money to the Treasury's account, to form part of Government revenue.'

In EC*511, delete from 'sound public' to 'depression'. Insert 'but the maintenance and adjustment of the money supply will be the responsibility of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (see EC*430).'

In EC*822, delete 'possibly without balancing the budget'.

Section O – Out of Order Motions

01. Migrant Workers

MG204 delete 'b)The recipient area is owned or controlled by indigenous peoples (eg Australian aboriginal people) whose traditional lifestyle would be adversely affected by in-comers;

After MG208 insert 'MG209 the main aim of immigration control will be for monitoring

migration into the UK so that appropriate facilities can be made available to new immigrants and changing demographic areas can be appropriately supported. We believe in freedom of movement.'

MG400 delete 'It will not aim to allow increased net migration to Britain other than for humanitarian reasons or as a result of other Green Party policies. We will consult widely with affected groups to ensure that features of the current law which are of concern to them are addressed.'

Delete MG402

MG405 delete 'unless they pose a serious danger to public safety.'

After MG405 Insert MG406 We will end all deportations because these cause an externalisation process turning countries on the edges of the EU into holding camps.MG407 We will ensure that all workers have full labour rights, independent of their migration status.MG408 We will end the unfair system of benefits, healthcare, housing and legal representation and the current policy which deliberately causes destitution for asylum seekers whose cases have been refused.MG409 Rape and torture will be officially recognized as a form of persecution.'

MG412 replace 'other than in the most exceptional circumstances, eg a prospective migrant who poses a serious danger to public safety.' with ' - Moving country is not a crime. However, migrants will be subject to the criminal laws of the UK in the same way as any UK citizen'

Delete MG413	migrate. Such an application should not be affected by the illegal nature of the trafficked person's original residence in the UK.'	without having passed through the agreed process of consultation'.
MG454 delete 'temporary', delete 'It should also recognise the right of those who have been trafficked to apply for a longer term or permanent immigration status, and should treat such an application on the same basis as others seeking to	SOC Note – This motion was ruled out of order under SOCC 9f) – ‘substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas,	SOC was advised by Policy Committee in reaching this decision.

END OF AGENDA

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Green Party Conference Proxy Form Spring 2008

Bring this to the front desk at Conference

This form has been created and approved by SOC in response to worries about the accountability of the Proxy Vote process. Although not fail-proof, it creates a better standard of accountability and an informal contract between the person giving a proxy and the person carrying it.

Name of proxy donor (Caps)

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

I give this proxy vote on the understanding that I shall not be attending the forthcoming conference myself. I recognise that no policing of the use of my proxy will occur and I trust my proxy holder to exercise this vote in line with the wishes I have expressed to them. I would like this vote to be exercised in relation to any card votes (procedural, suspension of S.O.s, amendment or substantive) under the following sections or motions (tick or complete one of either 1 or 2 or 3):

1. All conference business Y/N

2. All conference business under the following sections only:

Reports (incl SOC)	Y/N
Section A motions	Y/N
Section B motions	Y/N
Section C motions	Y/N
Section D motions	Y/N
Emergency motions	Y/N
Other	Y/N

3. Specific motions only (named below)

Proxy donor's signature..... Date.....

Name of proxy holder (Caps)

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

I undertake to the proxy donor to exercise this proxy vote in line with their wishes-

Signature..... Date.....

Bring this form to the front desk at Conference

This proxy form gives the proxy holder an extra card vote to be exercised at the forthcoming Reading Green Party conference. Vote holders and givers need to be *national* Green Party members