



Green Party
for the common good



The Green Party

Manifesto 2015

Easy Read

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A government for the common good



The Green Party is a political party. We are asking people to vote for us at the General Election on May 7th 2015 and at local elections on the same day.



We believe people working together to get the best for everyone. We call this **the common good**.

The **Green Party** would work for:-



- Friendly public services
- Action to stop the climate and weather from getting worse
- Fairness for everyone
- Helping local people and local businesses

Things have been going wrong in our country:-



- We have been encouraged to compete against each other instead of working together



- The rich have been getting richer and the poor have been getting poorer



- We have been polluting our world so the climate is changing and the weather is likely to get worse and worse.



- To many of our public services have been given to private companies, so people don't have a say in how they are run.



We want a green and democratic country where people can have a say in how things are run.



We want a health service which is run by the NHS and not private companies.



A decent living



We are told that the amount of money and business in the country is growing. But it is not being shared properly.

- More than one in four children are growing up in poverty



- The bosses of the biggest companies earn more than 100 times more than their staff.



- Nearly 1,000,000 people have gone to food banks for food.



- The wages of the top managers have gone up very much faster than everyone else.



It's not just poor people.
Families on ordinary wages are
facing a real squeeze as prices
go up and wages stay the
same.



The Green Party believes that
how we share the money is
more important than just
getting more and more money
for the better off.

We don't have to cut services.

The Green Party believes that we don't have to cut services.

Instead we need to:-

- Create good jobs
- Make electricity in ways that does not harm the climate and weather
- Protect the natural world
- Make things fairer and safer for all people
- Health, education, and trains should be run as a public service, not by private companies
- Support people who cannot work to live in dignity



The Earth



We must protect the earth.
None of us can live without it.



The way we are living on the planet is causing:-

- Many types of living things to die out
- More and more pollution which is causing the climate and weather to change

The Countryside

We need to:-



- Protect and look after our countryside

- Stop building on green spaces



- Reduce the amounts of chemicals we put on fields

- Improve the quality of our water supply



Try to make sure that everyone lives within 5 minutes walk of a Green Open Space.

Animals

We need to look after animals better by:-

- Keeping the ban on hunting with dogs and banning any kind of hunting animals for sport or pleasure.
- Ending the Badger cull
- Stop experiments on animals except to find new cures for diseases



Food and Farming

We need to make sure that:-

- Good food is available at prices that people can afford
- There is enough food for everyone
- Farmers look after the countryside and treat animals well



Waste and recycling

We need to look after the earth better by being careful what we throw away. We should:-



- **Reduce** how much stuff we use



- **Reuse** things when we have finished with them



- **Recycle** or find another way to use things when we have finished using them

Energy and the climate



We have been creating energy like electricity and transport by burning coal, oil and gas for many years.



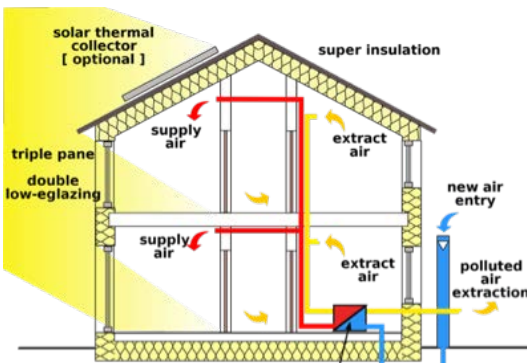
This has caused pollution which is now causing changes to our climate and weather.



We need to find new ways to create electricity and to power our transport that does not harm the planet.

The Green Party would:-

- Spend a lot of money so we can create the electricity we need from wind, the sun, the tides and from crops we have grown
- Provide free insulation to 9 million homes so they keep warm for less money
- Build new homes to a high standard that are cheap to heat
- Make it easier for people and communities to make their own electricity so they won't have to pay big bills to companies
- Give more money to local councils so they can protect communities against flooding



Equality



Equality is about being fair to everyone and giving everyone a chance to make the most of their lives.



Countries that are more equal are happier countries.



The Green Party will tackle the problems of inequality like:-

- Hate crime against disabled people and people with mental health problems



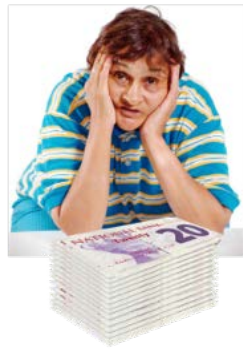
- The widening gap between rich and poor



- Racism



- Violence against women



- The pay gap between men and women



- Discrimination against people who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer

and many other issues.



For **disabled people** we will:-

- Get rid of ATOS and get doctors to decide if people are fit for work
- Increase the carers allowance by 50%
- Make sure disabled people get their rights in education, childcare, healthcare and in the benefits system



For **younger people** we would:-

- Double the money for young people's services
- Create 2000 Young people's centres where young people can meet and be creative
- Make public transport free for young people



For **older people** we would:-

- Provide free social care
- Provide free prescriptions
- Get rid of the TV licence



Health and well-being



The Green Party believes that health care should not be bought and sold.



We want the NHS to be:-

- Free for everyone
- Paid for by the government not by patients
- Run by the NHS and not private companies



We would bring local health services under the control of local councils, so people will be able to have a say in what local health services they want.



We would get rid of the way that one health trust pays for services from another health trust. This would save a lot of money in administration which could be used to pay for more doctors and nurses.



We would put a lot of money into the health service and then increase the amount of money year on year to take account of the increase in numbers of older people.



We would work to help people live healthy lives. We would:-

- Tackle air pollution which causes problems for thousands of people
- Make healthy food less expensive while making unhealthy food more expensive.



Mental Health

We will work to improve mental health services. We will:-

- Spend a lot more money on mental health services
- Make sure that no-one has to wait more than 14 days to see a mental health professional
- Make sure that everyone who is having a mental health crisis can get quick treatment



Education



Early years

The first few years are very important for the child and the parents.



The Green Party would build a free early education and childcare service for all children from birth to age 7 which would be the new age to start school.

Schools

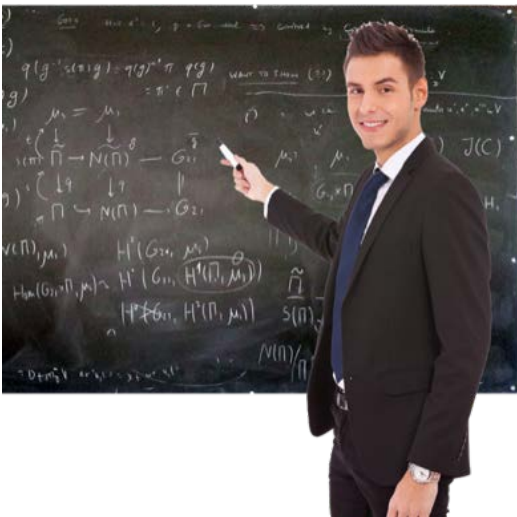


The Green Party thinks that children have to take too many tests which is boring for both the pupil and the teacher.

We want children to learn all subjects in a way that lets them be creative.



Instead of being in competition we would bring schools back within the local council so they can work together to provide the best education for all children.



We would get rid of SATS tests and League Tables. We would abolish Ofsted which puts too much pressure on teachers.

Colleges and apprenticeships

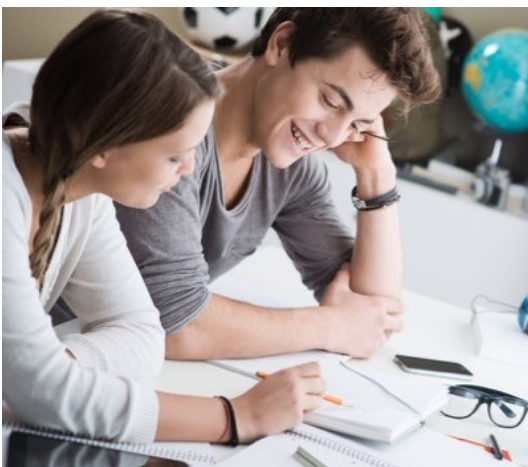


An apprenticeship is where people learn their skills partly while working on the job, and partly at college.



We would make sure that every young person aged 16 - 19 could have an apprenticeship if they wanted one.

Universities



The Green party would:-

- End tuition fees
- Give students enough money to live on while they are studying

Housing



Housing has become too expensive. People can't afford to buy a house or to rent. The Green Party would work to reduce the cost of housing.



We would get rid of the bedroom tax and make it easier for people to rent out a spare room if they want to.



We would build 500,000 affordable socially rented homes.



We would give more rights to homeless people. We want to end rough sleeping completely.

Work and tax



The Green Party would increase the minimum wage so it is a living wage.



We want to increase the minimum wage to £10 an hour by 2020. We would end zero hour contracts.



We would make sure that the highest paid person in any organisation earns no more than 10 times the lowest paid worker.



The Green Party would work to help small businesses.



Tax

Tax is an important way that we all help to provide money for the services that everyone needs.



In Britain we are paying less in tax than other similar countries in Europe.



We think that there are many people who could afford to pay more so that we can we can have good health and other local services.



The Green Party would:-

- Make sure that rich people and big companies pay the tax that they should
- Introduce a wealth tax on the very richest people
- Introduce a Robin Hood Tax on the sale of company shares and bonds
- Increase the amount of tax on large companies



Benefits



The Green Party thinks that the benefits system is unfair, costs far too much to run, and stops people from finding work.



We think the time has come to think again about the whole tax and benefits system.

Basic income



The Green party would plan to make a complete change to the tax and benefit system. We would pay every woman, man and child who is legally allowed to be in the country a **basic income** which is enough to cover basic needs.



Children will receive a reduced basic income: **Child benefit**.



Pensioners will receive their basic income as a **Citizen's pension**.



The basic income would:-

- Save the country lots of money in administration because it is cheap and easy to run.
- Allow people to earn money without worry about losing their benefit



The government and local councils

The Green party would make some changes to the way that we choose our government.

We would:-

- Make people who want to be in the house of Lords stand for election
- Change the system of voting so that everyone's vote counts
- Move towards equal numbers of men and women in parliament by 2025





Local Councils

The Green Party would give a lot more money to local councils so that they can restore the local services that have been cut.



We would also:-

- Make local councils control schools and health services in their area



- Allow local councils to run public transport and other services like bin collection if they want

Culture media and sport



The Green Party would encourage people to take part in arts, music and sports.

We want more people to be involved, not just watching or listening to it.



We would get rid of the television licence and pay for the BBC out of general taxes.



We would work hard to encourage disabled people and people from minority groups to be able to take part in culture and sports.

Transport

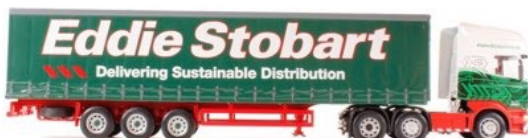


We need to move away from people using cars so much. There is too much congestion and pollution.



The Green party thinks that the priority should be:-

1. Walking and disabled access to all other forms of transport
2. Cycling
3. Public transport - buses, trams and trains
4. Small vans and taxis
5. Cars
6. Big lorries
7. Aircraft





The Green party would:-

- Bring the railways back into public hands



- Work for affordable public transport accessible for all



- Free local transport for pensioners

- Free public transport for young people



- Make streets healthy and safe for walking

Working with other countries



We all live in one world and we need to work together.

The Green party would:-

- Work with other countries to help everyone cut down pollution that causes climate change
- Increase the work we do to help people in the very poorest countries overcome deep poverty
- Work with other countries to find peaceful ways to solve conflicts.





Defence

A green government would not threaten any other country but we would make it clear that we would fight back if we are threatened or attacked.

NO
TRIDENT
REPLACEMENT

We would save £100bn by not having nuclear weapons.

Crime and punishment



Many people end up in our prisons because they have other problems.

Many people in our prisons have learning disabilities, mental health problems and drink or drug problems.

We would work with people who have committed crimes so they can quickly overcome their problems and get back to being law abiding, responsible citizens.



We would provide more education in prisons so people are ready for work when they get out.

It all adds up



This document explains many of the things that the Green Party says it would do if we get elected to form the next government.



We want to do a lot but we have checked and we can afford all the things that we say that we will do.



You can find more information from the Green Party website www.greenparty.org.uk

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