

The Green Party - our policy on a page – for the Common Good

We face three connected crises:

- An unstable, unsustainable economy that is ruining the planet.
- Victorian levels of poverty and inequality.
- A squalid political system that has undermined our faith in even the possibility of change.

To help heal the planet we will:

- Make achieving international agreement on limiting climate change to within 2 degrees of warming a major foreign policy priority.
- Invest in a £85bn public programme of renewable electricity generation, flood defences and building insulation creating more than 250,000 good jobs.
- Support local sustainable agriculture, respect animals and wild places.
- Cut emissions by providing cheaper public transport, and encouraging cycling and walking.

To become more equal and support our public services we will:

- End privatisation in the Health Service, provide proper funding and free Social Care for the elderly, creating altogether 400,000 good jobs and combatting the loneliness of the elderly.
- Let teachers teach in properly funded democratically controlled schools, end SATS, league tables and academies and introduce free early education and childcare, creating 250,000 good jobs.
- Build 500,000 social homes for rent over the 5 year Parliament, control excessive rents and achieve house price stability.
- Increase public spending to almost half of national income.
- Make the very wealthy pay more; require the top 1% to contribute 2% of their wealth for the common good each year.
- Make the minimum wage a living wage for all, with a target of £10 per hour by 2020.
- Make the highest wage in any organisation no more than ten times the lowest wage.
- [Create jobs and help small business by abolishing Employers' National Insurance.]
- Eliminate fuel poverty.
- Bring rail back into public ownership.
- Ensure respect for everyone whatever their ethnicity, gender, age, religious belief or non-belief, sexual orientation, class, size, disability or other status.

We will renew our democracy, create a common citizenship and promote peace:

- Reform the benefit system. End workfare and sanctions. Double Child Benefit and pay a pension people can live on. In the longer term unite tax and benefits in a Basic Income system covering everyone.
- Fund local government adequately (creating another 250,000 good jobs) and set democratically elected local authorities free to decide how to run education, health, public transport and other local services and raise local taxes.
- Respect immigrants for the contribution they make and control immigration fairly.
- Decommission Trident and promote peace-making.