



**Green Party**  
for the common good

**OUR**

**POLITICAL**

**PROGRAMME**



# FOREWORD

The Green Party has always dared to be different – and we've always known the power of good ideas.

This political programme isn't like other parties' manifestos, it has not been squeezed through focus groups and stripped down according to the latest polling. This programme is a vision of a better world – and it's one which is based on a politics and economics that would work not just for now, but for the long term.

What's special about the political programme is that it's the culmination of a grassroots democratic exercise. Our policy is set by our members – meaning that our leaders have no more voting power than our newest recruits – and the breadth of these transformative ideas reflects just how lucky we are to have such a dynamic membership.

Our plan is unique. Unlike others, we know that our planet has environmental limits, we understand that not everyone wants to live to work, that inequality is not just unfair, but damaging to everyone in society. And we have the bold solutions which allow us to offer inspiration in this age of uncertainty.

We are living through climate breakdown. We have an economy that prizes pointless jobs and condemns people to a lifetime of drudgery. We have an electoral system that excludes everyone outside of swing seats of a meaningful vote. Britain needs a party that makes the desirable feasible – that says what needs to be said, not what is deemed acceptable by the powers-that-be.

The Green Party must always be an insurgent force for good, consistently asking the big questions that matter. I have faith that our party will step up to the challenge that our increasingly febrile times present, and give the people of this country the bold alternative that is so desperately needed.



**Caroline Lucas MP**

Co-Leader of the Green Party, 2016 – 2018



# OUR POLITICAL PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION

A system based on inequality and exploitation is threatening the future of our planet. The Greens are the only political party in England and Wales committed to fixing this.

And this is how we are going to do it.

Traditional parties all set out their plans in the same way:

- ✓ Section on tinkering on with the current economic system?
- ✓ Section on spending more money on nuclear weapons than on international aid to the poorest countries?
- ✓ Section on how our democracy couldn't possibly evolve any further?

We are not a traditional party.

Our policy programme is founded on ten pillars, built from policies proposed and voted on by our members. It sets out what Greens are in politics to do: to end the system that keeps hurting the environment and all of us who rely on it – and to build a better alternative.

As other parties run out of ideas, and rely on dated clichés to address the fast changing and fragile modern world, we embrace the new and relish the bold.



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## Elected Greens will work to:

- > Save the environment
  - > Green our land
  - > Protect animal life
  - > Challenge privilege
  - > End discrimination
  - > Champion international friendships
  - > Liberate our working lives
  - > Unleash our creative power
  - > Embed collective kindness in our society
  - > Deliver quality of life for all
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**SAVE THE**

**ENVIRONMENT**



We live on an amazing planet, rich in resources and able to sustain an incredible diversity of life. But we cannot take for granted it will always be this way.

All around us are the warning signs of environmental crises. This century already has seen 16 of the hottest 17 years ever recorded in human history. We are in the midst of what scientists have called the sixth mass extinction. Hurricanes and wildfires are spreading, seas are rising and wildlife is in decline.

Whilst other political parties talk about the environment, they have repeatedly failed to make the urgent changes needed to protect our natural world, to safeguard us from climate breakdown and to preserve the future.

The Green Party are the only party that will look after the planet on which we all depend by:

**Strengthening international agreements on climate change:** Britain led the Industrial Revolution two hundred years ago – it falls to us now to lead the Green Response. We should lead the world in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement, made in 2015 to keep global temperature rises below 2 degrees – and show that we can go further and faster and keep rises to below 1.5 degrees. Global action can be taken to prevent the worst of climate

change, if the will and leadership is there.

### **Changing how we measure progress:**

Measuring whether an economy is growing isn't the same as measuring whether it's healthy. Using GDP (gross domestic product) as the main indicator of success doesn't leave space to consider people's wellbeing, the state of our natural resources or whether economic prosperity is being shared equally. We will develop alternatives to GDP that takes capital and environmental depreciation into account as well. This will allow us to build an economy that protects the environment rather than consumes it, and one which values social progress and wellbeing.

### **Rapidly accelerate the roll-out of renewable energy:**

Driving forward the renewable energy revolution presents incredible opportunities – to secure our power supplies, localise energy production and create high-quality jobs. We can shift the power to produce and supply energy to communities, and away from unaccountable big energy companies. Wind and solar power can make every home a power station, and every street a power plant! To seize these opportunities, and do our bit to keep global temperature rise to below 1.5C, we will end harmful fossil fuel industry tax breaks and subsidies. Instead we will invest in cutting edge renewable technology through a new

National Investment Bank with full borrowing powers, while expanding mature renewable technologies such as wind energy and solar PV. We can provide cheap, clean, green energy for homes and communities across the land.

**Reducing our energy consumption:** Everyone deserves to live in a warm home, and to have affordable energy bills. To help achieve this we will roll out a nationwide retrofit insulation programme, ensuring that everyone lives in a home that preserves heat and uses energy effectively, both homeowners and renters. We will require all new homes to be built to the highest energy efficiency standards.



A photograph of three people participating in a litter-picking activity on a residential street. The person on the left is a man in a blue jacket. The person in the middle is a woman wearing a high-visibility yellow vest over a dark jacket and sunglasses. The person on the right is a man wearing a high-visibility yellow vest, a green cap, and glasses, holding a long-handled tool and a green litter bag. They are walking on a paved sidewalk next to a road. In the background, there are brick houses, a white car, and other pedestrians. A sign for 'Cow Tower' is visible on the right. A chalkboard sign on the sidewalk advertises 'PESCA NIGHT' with details about food and drink. The text 'GREEN OUR LAND' is overlaid in large green letters at the bottom.

**GREEN OUR LAND**





The woods and hills, rivers and meadows, cliffs and beaches of England and Wales make up our green and pleasant land.

Yet the land is under assault – from greedy developers, from dirty technology, from a tide of plastic. It's an assault driven forward by corporations and the privileged few, putting profit over people and the places they love.

It's time for a counter-attack. It's time to not just protect forests, but to plant new ones, not just to fight fracking but to ban it forever, not just to tackle litter, but to eliminate all waste.

The Green Party will green our land, for us and for generations yet to come, by:

**Making it easier for communities to block the wrong type of development:** The planning system is based on a presumption in favour of development, which loads the dice in favour of speculative developers seeking high profits. We will repeal this presumption, and replace the current National Planning Policy Framework with spatial plans that preserve ecological habitats and prioritise council house building on brownfield land. A new developer's duty will ensure that a greater share of the profits that are created when new homes are built goes back to the local council, to be spent on planning new council homes and accessible

green spaces for the community. We will use the planning system to increase the amount of green open space – we want everyone to live within 5 minutes' walk of publically accessible green spaces.

### **Protecting land and seas for all**

**communities:** We will strengthen existing Green Belt, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Park planning protections, prohibiting all inappropriate development. Environmental protections will be expanded at sea through the creation and enforcement of new Marine Conservation Zones around Britain's shores. A new Office for Environmental Protection and an Environmental Court will be instituted to monitor and enforce new long-term goals for biodiversity, water and air quality.

**Moving towards a zero waste society:** We will make it easier for everyone to recycle and take tough action to reduce plastic and other waste. In some European countries over 90% of plastic bottles are recycled through Deposit Return Schemes – we want to meet and beat that target. Overall we aim to recycle 70% of domestic waste within 5 years, and to move towards a zero-waste system, with food waste and other organic material being banned from landfill.

**Planting more trees:** We will introduce a Forests Protection Bill to safeguard existing woodland and plant a new generation of forests. For the first time in four decades, more trees are being cut down each year on our island than are being planted – we want to reverse that trend and ensure everyone enjoys the many benefits of trees.

**Banning fracking:** With so much potential for clean renewable energy to be captured from the sun, wind and our coastline, there is just no reason to be fracking for shale gas. It's a dirty industry, it devastates our precious environment, is pushed through against the will of local communities and is incompatible with our climate targets. We will build an energy future that's frack free and rich instead in renewables.

A close-up profile of a honey badger (Mellivora capensis) looking upwards and to the left. The animal has a distinctive black and white striped pattern on its face and neck. The background is a blurred natural setting with green grass and brown earth. In the bottom left corner, there is a white banner with green text that reads "PROTECT OUR ANIMALS".

**PROTECT**

**OUR ANIMALS**





Policy making around animals should be designed to protect them against cruelty.

All too often it isn't. Animal testing, hunting for sport, factory farming – all have flourished under successive Governments.

We don't think it's right to exploit the other species we share this planet with and are prepared to take on the vested interests that fuel animal cruelty.

The Greens will protect our animals by:

### **Ending the abuse and exploitation of companion animals:**

We will tighten the law regulating the breeding and sale of cats and dogs, with mandatory licensing of breeders and a ban on the sale of puppies younger than eight weeks, without the presence of their mother. We will also place controls on breeding certain breeds to prevent exaggerated characteristics likely to cause suffering and will outlaw cruel training aids such as electric shock collars.

**Reforming animal farming:** We believe producing food shouldn't go hand in hand with animal suffering. We will enforce tougher regulations on animal transportation, including a maximum limit of 8 hours travel for animals in transit and an end to live exports from our shores.

We will implement a complete ban on cages and close confinement of farm animals. We will help consumers choose cruelty free food with mandatory labelling of meat and dairy products to indicate method of production, country of origin and method of slaughter.

**Banning animal testing:** Animal testing is not only cruel, it's outdated and inefficient too. We will immediately stop the use of primates, cats and dogs in research and the importation of monkeys for use in labs, and work towards an outright ban on all animal testing. We will also end the use of live animals in military training.

### **Stop the badger cull and extend the Hunting Act:**

The Green Party will immediately end the badger cull that has to date killed thousands of badgers without effectively protecting cattle from disease. In its place we will follow the evidence and introduce a comprehensive badger vaccination programme. We'd also improve the conditions in which cattle and other farm animals are kept. We will tighten up existing legislation to ensure that the killing of wild mammals during a trail hunt cannot be passed off as an 'unfortunate accident' and will increase the punishments available to the courts so that the Hunting Act is brought into line with other animal-protection legislation.

We will end all commercial shooting, including grouse shooting, and will outlaw the use of cages to rear game birds.

A new Commission on Animal Protection will oversee these new protections for companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. This will ensure that the right of all sentient beings not to be subject to undue suffering, is always respected.





**CHALLENGE PRIVILEGE**





Privilege is power. The power of well-connected groups and individuals to dictate what happens in our society, and the power to keep things that way.

Privilege is all around us. From vested interests that use our broken electoral system and corrupt party funding process to steer policy in the direction they want, to politicians who feel they have a right to rule because of the school they went to.

Reducing privilege increases the power of ordinary people – of all of us. As the establishment shrinks, democracy grows.

The Green Party will challenge privilege by:

**Making votes matter:** Democracy should puncture the power of the privileged few. Our democracy fails to do this, being based on a First Past the Post voting system that ignores the votes of millions of people. This broken system entrenches the privilege of establishment politicians, who can use their resources to target the very small number of marginal seats that swing whole elections and keep Governments in power. We all deserve better than this. We will make every vote matter and give voters real choice by scrapping First Past the Post in favour of Proportional Representation, adopting the

Single Transferable Vote (STV) to make sure that everyone's vote truly counts, for the first time in British history.

**Retiring unelected politicians:** 791 unelected lords shape every law passed through Parliament, their privileged position conferred as a mark of favour from the establishment parties. 92 of these lords are able to shape every law simply because they were born into their title. Successive Labour and Conservative Governments have let this insult to democracy linger well into the 21st century. The Greens will finally and completely reform the House of Lords, turning it into a democratically elected body, chosen by Proportional Representation to promote its independence. Members will be elected for a maximum of 10 years with half of the house being elected every 5 years.

**Enabling diversity across politics:** In a dazzlingly diverse country like ours, politicians shouldn't all look the same. We want to break open the barriers that stop our politics from more accurately reflecting the society we live in. We will make it easier for women and disabled people to be elected to parliament by introducing job-share MPs. Our own Party has shown, through our 2016–2018 co-leaders Caroline and Jonathan, that this new way of doing politics is possible. We will work hard to encourage and support more

diverse candidates to stand for office. We aspire towards a gender balanced parliament by 2025, with non-binary identities also fully represented. We will introduce the right to vote and stand for election at 16 and will ensure that non-biased political education is in the school curriculum to inform and engage young people.

**Reforming political funding:** Money buys power in our current system, with donations from wealthy individuals and groups shaping the priorities of establishment politicians. We will implement a fair system of state funding for political parties to eliminate the need for large private donations, removing the undue influence large donations confer.



A photograph of four young women of diverse backgrounds smiling and holding a large green protest sign. The woman on the far left has long brown hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The woman next to her has dark hair and is wearing a white jacket with blue lettering. The woman on the right has brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue jacket. The woman on the far right is a younger person with a green headband, wearing a white shirt. They are standing in front of a background of green trees. A large white banner with green text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

**END**

**DISCRIMINATION**

IMMIGRATION DETENTION

SAFETY FOR SEX WORKERS





At the heart of the Green Party is a belief that everyone is equal, that all lives have intrinsic value and that personal life choices are deserving of dignity.

Whatever your skin colour, sexuality, ability or gender identity, our country should be a place where you feel at home.

We need a society that recognises the needs of all, that celebrates diversity and where people are supported when they need it.

The Green Party will end discrimination by:

**Starting in schools:** The values we are taught in school shape the society we contribute to as adults. We will make equality and diversity teaching mandatory in all schools and will provide training for all staff on diversity and inclusion. Sex and relationship education will also be mandatory, age-appropriate, LGBTIQA+ inclusive and immune from faith school opt-outs. Our curriculum will be expanded to teach more about global culture, and foster a better understanding of our shared history and future.

**Smashing barriers for BAME people:** We still have a long way to go to reach equality in the workplace, and in our wider society. We will make anonymised CVs mandatory so that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic candidates

are not excluded before the interview stage because of their identity and pursue stronger recruitment drives for BAME workers in the public sector. We will restrict police use of stop and search, which disproportionately targets BAME people. We will also make it easier for families to come together – we will abolish the requirement that a British citizen must earn at least £18,600 a year before their partner can come to live with them here.

**Tackling misogyny:** We will take immediate action to deliver real gender equality and to tackle violence against women and girls. We will make misogyny a hate crime and make it easier to challenge media sexism. We will fiercely protect and enhance women's rights – protecting long-term funding for Rape Crisis centres, decriminalising abortion procedures across the entire UK and making it illegal to stop nursing mothers feeding their babies in a public place. We recognise that the current economic system is patriarchal and commit to dismantling it, starting with a requirement for at least 40% of all members of public sector boards to be women. We will provide free sanitary products in schools.

### **Fighting for the LGBTIQA+ community:**

There is still so much to fight for to tackle the legal, political and social discriminations facing LGBTIQA+ people. We will immediately remove pension inequality for same-sex couples who are married or civil partners. LGBTIQA+ rights are fundamental human rights and must be protected as such.

**Improving trans rights:** Trans people are subject to ingrained prejudice; at school, in work, in society and in the media. The Green Party affirms that trans men are men, trans women are women and that non-binary genders exist and are valid. We will tackle prejudice against trans people, strengthening hate crime legislation and improving public education on the issue. We will take practical steps to make life easier for trans people, updating the Gender Recognition Act to allow trans youth and non-binary people to get legal recognition through self-declaration and enabling a x gender marker to be added to passports. We will legislate to ensure that young people get access to objective, evidence based information about gender and gender treatment, as well as full access to related medical services.



**CHAMPION**

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS**





Our country can be a force for good in the world – working with other nations to combat shared threats like climate change, and to build a more prosperous, happier future for everyone.

We want to build a country that is at ease with itself and its neighbours, which builds bridges not walls.

And we desperately need a Government that understands that closer global cooperation, rather than ever increasing spending on world-destroying weapons, is the best way of protecting its people.

The Green Party will champion international friendships by:

### **Holding a People's vote on the Brexit deal and campaigning for a reformed Europe:**

The full impact that leaving the EU will have on us is now clear – jobs lost, hard won rights eroded, historic ties sundered. Given the facts that have now come to light, we believe that the public deserves a chance to vote on the final deal with all the information about what this might actually mean, with the option to remain if they choose. Whatever the outcome or terms of Brexit, we will continue to stand in fellowship alongside our European neighbours, healing the scars of centuries of conflict through sharing and collaboration.

### **Standing up for migrants and refugees:**

We are proud to stand up for free movement and migrants' rights. Migrants are our friends, our neighbours, our work colleagues, and our families. We value the skills migrants bring to boost our economy and public services, we value the diversity they bring to enrich our society, we value the lives they make here – and we value the ability of UK citizens to in turn migrate to other countries. We will create a humane immigration and asylum system, where migrants have access to legal advice, childcare and subsistence allowance, and reintroduce Legal Aid for immigrants. We will immediately end the indefinite detention of all refugees and asylum seekers for immigration enforcement purposes, and will ensure no-one is detained or criminalised for seeking sanctuary in our country.

### **Abolishing nuclear weapons and curbing the arms trade:**

We believe in waging peace not war, and are the only Party in England to unambiguously oppose all nuclear weapons, with their potential to end all human life. We will immediately cancel the renewal of Trident, saving at least £110 billion over the next 30 years and will initiate international negotiations on a universal nuclear abolition treaty. We will also promote treaties and laws to stop the development and deployment of

other devastating weapons, including chemical weapons. We will diminish dependence on arms sales by ending all government subsidies and will introduce strict licensing regimes to stop military equipment being sent to regimes that violate human rights.

### **Transforming lives through international aid:**

We are one of the richest countries in the world, we can and should take the lead in sharing the world's wealth more fairly. We will increase the international aid budget by a third and will increase the proportion of aid given directly to families and communities, putting the best aid tools in the hands of those best qualified to use it.



**LIBERATE OUR  
WORKING LIVES**





The economy is there for our benefit – not the other way round. It doesn't always feel like that though and we need to take action to get things back in balance

We can build an alternative to the current system, an economy which delivers for the people who make it. An economy that delivers more free time to spend with friends and family, which ensures greater financial security for everyone, alongside the opportunity to live larger lives.

The Green Party seeks to liberate our working lives by:

### **Phasing in the four day working week:**

More and more evidence shows that people in full time work are more productive when the working week takes place over four days, rather than being stretched out into five days. Even more importantly people on a four day week say they enjoy their work more! Trials of the four day week in a range of countries, including the Netherlands and the USA, have shown that a four day week increases productivity, does not result in cuts to pay and that people relish the time freed up to do other activities. The Green Party will act on that evidence and will phase in a four day working week. We can break open the week and grow the weekend.

### **Introducing a Universal Basic Income:**

Everyone seeks financial security, for themselves, for their future, and for their families. We are a rich country and we can afford to guarantee this security – through giving every citizen a basic income. This would replace the current complex, divisive and hugely expensive system of benefits and tax allowances. It would mean that everyone could meet their basic needs, have more choices and the space to make mistakes, try new things and build more fulfilling lives. We will work towards creating a universal basic income, addressing the causes of poverty by giving everyone financial security.

**Creating more high quality jobs:** A New Green Deal, founded on investment and support for expanding new technologies will create new jobs; jobs which will make a positive impact on both society and the planet. This investment will halt – and reverse – public sector cuts, restoring jobs lost to the long years of austerity and creating new ones. We will also help small businesses to create new jobs; reducing the proportion of National Insurance contributions small businesses have to pay.

**Ending workplace exploitation:** Every workplace, including in the gig economy, should be a place of safety where every worker's rights are upheld. We will improve working conditions by introducing a real living wage for all – not just those over a certain age – and will make it easier for workers to challenge exploitation. We will ban exploitative zero-hour contracts and exploitative unpaid internships.

**Tackling wage inequality:** Pay ratios across the economy are deeply unfair, making a mockery of the idea that your pay is linked to the contribution you make. We will tackle this inequality by ensuring that the maximum pay ratio in an organisation is 10:1 between the best and worst paid. We will also work to end the gender and race pay gaps.





EDUCATION  
IS A  
PUBLIC  
GOOD

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UNLEASH OUR  
CREATIVE POWER





The creative urge in all of us builds businesses, upholds communities and enriches all our lives through the arts.

Nourishing that urge, and the small business owners, artists, students and professional pioneers that embody it, will build a better future for our country.

For other parties supporting creativity is afterthought – for us it is a priority. Creativity is key to building an economy that works for individual and communities, not just huge corporations.

The Green Party seeks to unleash the urge in all of us to be creative, to be innovative, to be brave by:

### **Widening access to university and**

**adult education, for people of ages:** The Greens have consistently backed the right to free higher and further education for all, whilst successive Conservative and Labour governments have attacked it. We will fully fund every student and scrap undergraduate tuition fees, as well as writing off existing student debt. We will restore access to lifelong learning by supporting mature students and their families and restore local adult education programmes across England and Wales.

**Delivering genuine localism:** Genuine localism, devolving well-funded powers to communities, allows the people most affected by local decisions to shape those decisions. We will give voters the power to force referendums on local government issues (if more than 40% of the local electorate call for it), and will empower local government to do more than ever once they have community support, granting new tax and revenue raising powers to authorities. We will give fuller voice to local identities, creating a Cornish Assembly and increasing the role of the current National Assembly for Wales. Our kind of localism is about trusting people and sharing power – we don't agree with the Conservatives that it's a way to wash your hands of the impact of spending cuts, nor do we agree with Labour that a bigger state is the solution to everything.

### **Giving small businesses a competitive**

**break:** Small businesses will benefit from a new community banking network, with a people's bank for every city and region tasked with lending at fair rates to small businesses to help them grow. These banks will help fill the gaps that have been left by large banks pulling out of many towns, and provide financial services to keep local money in local economies. A sovereign wealth fund will be created to capture some of the financial

gains that large corporations make from their entrenched economic power, and will be used to fund further investment in small businesses and in sustainable job creation. Business rates will be abolished and replaced by our proposed developer's duty, which will reduce bills for small businesses.

### **Making high speed broadband a right:**

Operators, especially BT, have benefited from years of Government support – it's time now for them to give back. We will give BT and other public telecommunications operators an obligation to provide affordable high-speed broadband-capable infrastructure to every business and to every household.

### **Increasing funding and tax cuts for the arts and independent media:**

The arts have been hit hard by years of austerity, hindering the ability of individuals and communities alike to access music, theatre and art. We would restore this access by increasing arts funding by £500 million a year, and by removing VAT from tickets to live performances. We would increase funding for small-scale, local independent media organisations, both in print and online, helping them to break up the current concentration of our media in the hands of the few.



**EMBED COLLECTIVE**

**KINDNESS IN OUR SOCIETY**





## OUR POLITICAL PROGRAMME - EMBED COLLECTIVE KINDNESS IN OUR SOCIETY

Our schools, hospitals, rail links and bus routes aren't merely services; they are the roots that sustain our society. They are roots that need to be nurtured so that they in turn can nurture us.

We envision a country underpinned by well-funded, locally led public services providing care and support for all – a society rooted in kindness.

The Green Party would embed collective kindness in our society by:

**Restoring the NHS:** The awe-inspiring original vision for the NHS has been chipped away by successive Governments; it is time to turn the dream of comprehensive care from cradle to grave into reality. We will enable the health service to do more, for more people, than ever before. We will invest at the level required to do so, while tackling at source the causes of increased pressure on our NHS – through a crackdown on unhealthy food and alcohol advertising, improved mental health training in the workplace, and a Clean Air Act fit for the 21st Century. We will ensure that services are always publicly provided, funded and free at the point of access, and will expand the NHS to include comprehensive free access to dentistry, prescriptions and mental health treatments. The costs would be more than recuperated from the wider benefits of a healthier society.

**Freeing schools from the current test-led regime:** Education should mean liberation, empowering children through acquisition of knowledge and tools to enable self-expression. Yet our current system places unacceptable pressures on both teachers and pupils, draining the joy out of learning. We will abolish Ofsted and restore local authority control over education, ensuring that control and inspection of our schools rests with their communities. We will abolish SATs and league tables and encourage creativity and outdoor learning for all pupils.

**Bringing railways and buses into community hands:** We will bring railways and bus routes back into public ownership, reducing fares and giving rail workers, passenger groups, and local authorities a far greater say on how services are run. We will scrap HS2 and use the money to invest in the much needed upgrade of regional services, creating new rail links in rural areas and better integrating existing transport options in our towns and cities. We will give local authorities the support they need to restore lost bus routes and create entirely new ones, to better connect people in rural areas.

**Investing in community renewal:** Councils have a key role to play in providing caring, high quality services to local people; a role that has

been undermined by savage short-termist cuts inflicted by austerity governments. We will restore local government budgets, creating good quality local employment. We will give Councils new powers to set local charges and access borrowing, allowing them to spearhead the renewal of their communities and restore invaluable services lost during the long years of austerity. Community centres will re-open, libraries will be revitalised and essential childrens' and pensioners' services will be reinstated.

**Supporting disabled people:** We will restore access to meaningful networks of support for disabled people, access that has been threatened by years of austerity. We will increase disability benefits, and will restore the independent living fund in full, to give people more resources to lead fulfilling lives in their communities. We will increase housing options for disabled people and ensure more houses are built to lifetime home and mobility standards over the next 5 years. Carers need increased support also, including increases to the Carer's Allowance and the creation of carers leave rights for those in employment.



**DELIVER**

**QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL**





The water we drink, the air we breathe, the grass our children play on, the homes we live in – they determine our health and wellbeing.

Our current system allows vested interests and corporations to degrade that wellbeing in the name of profit. Increasingly communities are fighting back – standing up for their right to breathe clean air, to enjoy green space, and to live in warm, affordable housing. We don't think that it is too much to ask. We want to build a future where these are accepted rights, not distant hopes.

The Green Party seeks to deliver quality of life for all by:

**Tackling air pollution:** Air pollution is emerging as one of our biggest health crises, causing an estimated 40,000 premature deaths each year in the UK. We will tackle this by publishing a new Clean Air Act fit for the 21st century, cracking down on dirty diesel engines and reducing the need for private car usage. We will also bring forward the phase out of petrol and diesel car sales from 2040 to 2030 and implement an expanded, rigorously enforced, network of Clean Air Zones across England and Wales.

**Localising energy provision:** We will build democratic, locally owned networks for energy supply, taking utilities out of the hands of big companies and into community ownership. We will require grid operators to give priority access to community energy projects, and pioneer a new Community Energy Toolkit to empower local communities to create energy and municipal heating projects, so we can all reap the rewards of renewable energy.

**Insulating our homes:** The number of insulation projects in UK homes has fallen by 70% since 2010. This means that too many people are still living in cold homes. We will tackle this by a national Warm Homes programme of insulation and retrofitting – bringing two million people out of fuel poverty, insulating nine million homes, and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

**Boosting access to green space and outdoor exercise:** We will amend planning legislation to stipulate that everyone lives within five minutes' walk of a green open space, and our uplift to local authority funding will ensure they have the resources they need to extend and improve local parks. Immediately on taking office we would increase annual spending on measures to encourage walking and cycling from £6.50 to £30 per head, paving the way to

a pedestrian and cycling revolution.

**Making council housing accessible again:** After years of sell-offs, and a collapse in new building, council housing has become a scarce commodity. We would reverse these trends by instigating a mass programme of new council housing, building half a million new socially rented homes in five years, with secure tenures and affordable rents for residents.

**Giving more rights to private sector renters:** We will introduce a living rent to control rip-off rental prices, and will reduce costs further for tenants by banning license fees. We will implement mandatory licensing for all landlords, and will support the development of a renters union to stand up against landlord abuses.