

Green View

Liverpool Green Party Newsletter - Winter 2010



CREATE GREEN JOBS

DEFEND OUR PUBLIC SERVICES

INVEST IN THE FUTURE

Green Party 
Real Progress

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

GREEN PARTY POLICIES

OUR POLICY IS TO FIGHT FOR A FAIR, STABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY.



The Green Party believes that the loss of jobs due to the new coalition government's policies is a waste of talent and aspiration.

Our major and immediate priority is the creation of an extra million jobs and training places through **The Green New Deal**. These jobs will provide our country with the vital 21st-century infrastructure it needs, including an efficient public transport system, homes that are warm and cheaper to run and much lower energy costs for businesses. There is an economic crisis, there is an environmental crisis: we can tackle them both at the same time.

The gap between rich and poor in the UK continues to get bigger. We think it's unfair that the government has failed to do anything about it. We support the introduction of a minimum wage that is a 'Living Wage'. This will help ensure low paid workers earn enough to provide for themselves and their families and eradicate poverty in Britain for good.

The Green Party believes small businesses should be at the heart of our economic recovery. We therefore advocate a comprehensive range of policies that would benefit small businesses.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CREATING JOBS NOT DESTROYING THEM!



"GEORGE OSBORNE'S STRATEGY IS BASICALLY TO CLOSE HIS EYES, CROSS HIS FINGERS, AND HOPE THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL MANAGE TO PRODUCE THE JOBS THAT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR"

CAROLINE LUCAS, GREEN MP, ON QUESTION TIME.

For more information visit: <http://www.greenparty.org.uk/policies>

THE GREEN PARTY ALTERNATIVE TO THE CUTS

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

The Green Party strongly believes the spending cuts are unfair. We believe we need investment not cuts.

The Green New Deal is all about investing to create jobs and move towards a sustainable, zero-carbon economy.

The cuts won't work!

Some will tell you that 'green' issues are a luxury in times of economic hardship. Wrong. Green policies are essential if we are to get out of this mess and create a sustainable and fair economy. Cutting public spending now will tip the nation into a deeper recession by increasing unemployment, reducing the tax received and limiting government funding.



Members of Liverpool Green Party at the Liverpool Trade Union Council rally against the coalition government cuts

In order to tackle the 'triple crunch' of climate change, economic crisis and oil depletion, we need a Green New Deal.

The Green Party would invest to create a million new jobs and training places. We would create and train a 'carbon army' of workers in areas such as renewable energy to bring about a low-carbon future.

We should be tackling tax avoidance not cutting public spending

“Instead of axing public services we should be addressing the deficit by cracking down on the tax avoidance and evasion that costs the country billions every year. We should be increasing taxes for the very wealthiest, introducing a Robin Hood Tax on financial transactions and scrapping Trident. We should also be investing in job-creation to keep revenue up and benefits payments down”.

Caroline Lucas, MP

LIVERPOOL WINDFARM HUB PLAN

A group of private investors have revealed ambitious plans for the development of a multi-billion triple berth in Birkenhead that would be used by ships installing and maintaining windfarms in the Irish Sea. The investors say that this development could create thousands of jobs over the next 20 years.

Liverpool Green Party welcomes this initiative as an important step forward in our change to sustainability. The prospect of valuable jobs allowing local people to make their contribution to solving the climate crisis is very attractive.

Expanded wind power is only a part of the solution to meeting our energy needs, but it could be an important part. Wind blows only part of the



time; sun shines only part of the time; tidal energy is available only part of the time. Taken together these renewable energy sources become more resilient.

At the same time we need to look for wider solutions, finding ways to use much less energy in transport, industry and buildings.



Green Party councillor John Coyne has been appointed chair of the environment and climate change select committee

THE GREEN PARTY FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Everybody can make a difference in helping to fight climate change. However to support us we need the right politicians and the right local councillors to put in place the right policies. Policies which enable us to reduce carbon emissions and do it in a way that is fair. The Green Party is the only party with a strategy for dealing with climate change.

For effective policies to fight climate change we need more Green Party councillors!

THE GREEN PARTY SUPPORTS THE STUDENT PROTESTS

The Green Party opposes the cuts to Higher Education and supports peaceful student protest.

The ConDem coalition government says that universities should be able to increase tuition fees to as much as £9000 per year from 2012, transferring much of the cost of a university education from the state to the student.

Priced out of university

This hike in tuition fees and withdrawal of government funding for higher education will mean higher education will become the privilege of the rich.

This will mean many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds will be denied access to elite professions that require a degree or university training: increasing the divide between the rich and poor.

“It is unacceptable that young people will be saddled with huge debts before they even begin paid work. Increasing the cap on fees will be socially divisive and risk a two-tier university system.”

Adrian Ramsay, Deputy Leader of the Green Party.



Students protest over tuition fees rise

© BBC

The green Party is now the only national political party that supports free education for all.

- **The Liberal Democrats have failed to honour their pledge to oppose increases in tuition fees!**
- **Labour introduced tuition fees in the first place!**

A more progressive policy to address the challenge of funding higher education would be a business education tax on the top 4% of companies. This would generate enough annually to abolish tuition fees.

Given that 90% of MPs went to university, mostly without having to pay tuition fees, it's completely unacceptable that the Tories and Lib Dems are getting away with this.

A LETTER FROM OUR GREEN PARTY COUNCILLORS IN LIVERPOOL

The Green Party campaigned at the General Election on a platform of honesty about the scale of deficit. We argued for redistributive reform of the tax system, a living wage of £8.10 per hour, a citizens pension of £170 per week and to create a million new jobs in Britain. Our first MP, Caroline Lucas, is continuing to fight for these objectives in Parliament.

Here in Liverpool, we were the only party in March to propose an increase in council tax, explicitly to provide additional funds as a reserve, given the scale of the expected budget cuts whoever would win the election. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats rejected our amendment at that time.

We currently hold just 2 out of the 90 council seats in Liverpool, which is a Labour administration with an outright majority. We will continue to use whatever influence we can within the council chamber to protect services for the most vulnerable in our city. At the most recent council meeting, we proposed an amendment stating the council would agree to consider reasonable rises in council tax in the future in order to mitigate some of the effects of the government-imposed financial restrictions.

The Labour Party accepted our amendment, while the Liberal Democrats did not. This is an example of the Greens doing what we can, even as a small minority, by arguing for rises in council tax to be considered to help protect vulnerable services in the future.

We will continue to campaign for what is fair and right, locally and nationally and we were present at the demonstration outside the Town Hall and at protests by students opposing these government cuts. Our political position is that these cuts are wrong and we will continue to oppose them whenever we can.

Yours Sincerely,

Sarah Jennings and John Coyne
Green Party Councillors for St Michaels Ward

GREEN COUNCILLORS CAMPAIGN FOR LOCAL IT SECTOR

The Green Party wants to see revitalised regional economies underpinned by locally owned and run small businesses.

Our national policies such as reducing corporation tax for small businesses to 20 per cent would encourage this. Locally Green Party councillors in Liverpool argue for a better deal for Liverpool entrepreneurs.

A recently leaked report alleged that BT, the council's majority partner in Liverpool Direct Ltd, had overcharged the council by as much as £19 million. Green councillors responded by asking whether we could get better value, and support local businesses



by terminating the contract with BT and procuring council IT from local firms using open source software.

Our motion tabled at the 10th November council meeting called on council to host a conference drawing together representatives of the local software community to discuss the viability of moving in this direction.

CITIZENS' INCOME

The Green Party has a long-term policy of Citizens' Income.

The Tories' new notion of a "Universal Credit" recognises that people are trapped in poverty because they lose state benefits when they take on a job. The Tories might let them keep just a bit of what they earn.

Citizens' Income is a radical proposal that replaces means-tested benefits

and is paid to all those in work as well as to the unemployed.

Freed from the "poverty trap", people would have a strong incentive to take up work or to take the risks of being self-employed.



Date for your diary

Our policy on Citizens Income is widely misunderstood - sometimes deliberately - and so we've invited an expert, using the government's financial models, to see how it could work in practice and how we could pay for it.

**"Universal Credit" or Citizens' Income?
Green Party Public Meeting
7.15 pm
Tuesday 25th Jan, 2011
Quaker Meeting House,
22 School Lane, L1 3BT**

Join the Green Party

The Green Party is growing fast in Liverpool but we need your support. We don't get any big donations from millionaires. We rely on donations from our members to fight elections. Our principles are worth fighting for. Find out more about the Green Party and join online:

<http://liverpool.greenparty.org.uk/>

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Green Party membership is up 50% since spring 2009