

Green View

Liverpool Green Party Newsletter - Summer 2011

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE



IS THE COALITION GOVERNMENT THE
"GREENEST GOVERNMENT EVER"?
GREEN COUNCILLORS IN ACTION!
WHY DID THE TEACHERS STRIKE ON JUNE THE
30TH?

Green Party 
Real Progress

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally



30 SECOND INTERVIEW:

SARAH JENNINGS, LEADER OF THE LIVERPOOL GREEN PARTY AND COUNCILLOR FOR ST MICHAELS WARD.

GV: Hello Sarah. This edition of Green View focuses on climate change. This is obviously a key issue for the Green Party, how would the Green Party tackle climate change?

SJ: Climate change is the biggest threat the planet faces. Three things are almost universally agreed: that current human activity is largely responsible for climate change; that we must radically cut our greenhouse gas emissions to limit the damage; and that we must act right now. The Green Party has a package of practical policies that work simultaneously to conserve energy, cut consumption, and facilitate the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

GV: How does their stance differ from other political parties?

SJ: The three main neo-liberal parties' policies are inadequate to deal with climate change. Their piece-meal promises on renewables and energy

conservation are simply too vague and too weak. David Cameron promised the coalition government would be the "greenest government ever" but upon taking office, it abolished the Sustainable Development Commission, even though this body was able to save government more than it cost. The Green Party is the only party to recognise that climate change is not an isolated threat; business as usual by the three main political parties has led to linked economic, environmental and social crises.

"We need to move away from a focus only on economic growth. Only the Green Party understands the need for a new economic and environmental settlement, in which our economy and our environment work with rather than against each other, for the benefit of all".

GV: The Green Party is always going on about climate change and the environment but surely we should be focusing on getting the economy going first then we can tackle climate change?

SJ: Some will tell you that 'green' issues are a luxury in times of economic hardship. This is wrong. Green policies are essential if we are to get out of this mess and create a sustainable and fair economy. Climate change has and will continue to have serious impacts on economic development and evidence shows that not acting now could cost more in the long run. It is an easy argument to say that the Green Party is only about "Green" issues and in many ways our name under sells us. The Green Party has policies across a wide range of issues aimed at creating a fairer society.

GV: How would the Green Party create jobs and generate business?

SJ: Green targets are not barriers to business and will actually help to generate jobs, business and industry. Our Green New Deal aims to make Britain a world leader in terms of sustainability and green

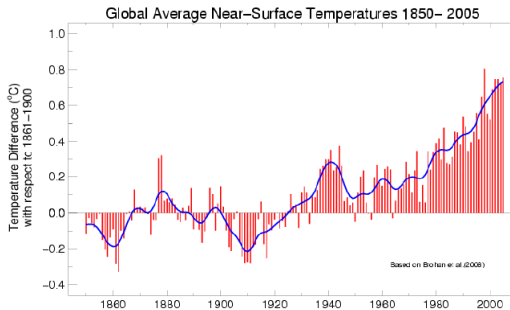
initiatives. A good example would be around the homes we live in which are responsible for a quarter of the UK's carbon footprint. Improving the energy efficiency of our homes not only creates jobs but is also one of the best and most effective ways to cut emissions.

GV: What about at a more local level here in Liverpool?

SJ: You are right, it is not just about setting national targets (although this is important) but is also about local communities and individuals taking responsibility. It is about thinking globally and acting locally. Tackling climate change can have positive outcomes for local communities. John Coyne, (fellow St Michael's Green Party Councillor) and I support the Twenty's Plenty campaign and in our ward, St Michaels, we have managed to introduce twenty mile per hour speed limits on streets where people live. This not only creates safer streets and reduces road traffic accidents but also encourages people to use their cars less and walk and cycle more, which is both good for our health and the environment. This is something we hope to see extended across the city.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND CLIMATE CHANGE

In order for life to survive on Earth, the sun's rays need to be successfully filtered through the atmosphere. This is a thin layer of gases around the Earth, which provides the oxygen needed and is critical in regulating the exchanges of heat between the surface of earth and the cold universe. Problems occur when gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and others) form a layer that can trap heat in the atmosphere and create a greenhouse effect, causing global warming.



The Earth has warmed 0.7°C since around 1900

© The Stern Report

Future projections

Climate change is a widely debated subject, however 97% of climate experts agree humans are causing global warming. Each decade since the 1970s has been clearly warmer than the one immediately preceding it.

Projections of future climate change suggest that:

- Globally averaged surface temperatures will be between 2.5 - 4.7°C higher by 2100 compared to pre-industrial levels. The NW could experience summer temperature rises of up to 5.9 °C within the next 70 years.
- The sea levels will rise, in Liverpool, it is predicted sea levels will rise by 15cm by 2040, increasing the risk of flooding. At the same time summer rainfall will decrease and periods of water scarcity will increase.

The time to act is now

Future climate change depends on whether we continue to emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere at the current rate, or whether we take effective steps to reduce our emissions. Climate change affects all aspects of our lives from our food and water security, health, risk of conflict, and economic development. The Green Party sees tackling climate change as the biggest priority at local, national and international level.

For further information see:

<http://royalsociety.org/climate-change-summary-of-science/>

DO WE NEED THE NUCLEAR OPTION?

Can we meet our energy needs without resorting to nuclear power?

With global energy prices rising and the urgent need to find low-carbon alternatives to fossil fuels, the government is proposing a new generation of nuclear power plants. Although this may seem like a rational move by the government towards a low-carbon economy, we must be cautious about the heavy investment in nuclear. There are very serious reasons why these proposals are less than satisfactory:

Too Slow: The scientific consensus is that we need to reduce our carbon emissions dramatically in the next 10 years. The new nuclear power stations would not be able to become operational in that time, meaning that the investment would be pointless.

Dangerous: There still remains no solution to the problem of radioactive waste which

can remain deadly for thousands of years. We all saw the consequences of the explosion of the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan, the long term effects of which are still unknown. When nuclear accidents occur, the government is usually expected to pick up the bill, meaning that in the long run, nuclear will always be risky to our country both in health and wealth.

"NEIN DANKE"

Out dated: In Germany, where the Green Party has significant support, they have set a date to get rid of nuclear power, backed by huge popular support. In a recent referendum in Italy, the people called for the abolition of nuclear power in that country as well. It is clear that if Britain commits to investing in a new generation of nuclear power stations, we risk being left behind by European countries who will be finding renewable alternatives.

If we want to make a serious attempt at creating a low-carbon economy that is needed to deal with climate change, we need to have serious investment in renewable energy.

Renewables are safe, they can be installed quickly and will create many British jobs in the industries of the future.



GREEN COUNCILLORS IN ACTION

WORKING TO RESTORE A POST OFFICE FOR LARK LANE

Green councillor Sarah Jennings is leading efforts to restore a local post office.

There is a clear need. For example, older people and local businesses have difficulties without this facility.

Government policy has been unhelpful. We've seen creeping privatisation of all public services.

Green councillors have kept in touch with senior management in Post Office Ltd and negotiated a reduction in the franchise fee and clarified rate relief.

After several "near misses", we are hopeful that Carl in the Lark Lane Newsagents will be able to expand and run a commercial post office.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

It is very hard for a commercial post office to pay rent and employ staff so the Green Party has been working on a fall-back plan for a community run post office using a room at the community centre.

With enough volunteer hours and a part-time postmaster/mistress, the business plan may succeed.

Sarah Jennings said "We need to support our local shops and we'll back Carl if his plan comes forward. But in the mean time we need more volunteers to be ready to staff and run a post office as a social business."

For more information email sarah.jennings@liverpool.gov.uk or ring 727 7779 or come to the councillors' surgeries every Tuesday, 6.30 to 7.15 at SMLLCA, 80 Lark Lane.





PETER CRANIE ASKS WHY DID THE TEACHERS STRIKE ON JUNE 30TH?

Peter Cranie is a member of the Liverpool Green Party; he stood against Nick Griffin in the 2009 European Parliamentary elections.

On Thursday 30th June, 3 teachers unions and the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union were out on strike in a last resort measure to get the government to recognise the injustice of recent pension proposals. To put this into perspective in its 127 years in existence the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) has never been on strike before.

There were over 3,000 protestors on a march in Liverpool. The atmosphere was good, with the local media reporting that it had a very family feel to it, as many teachers and parents brought their children along. No one strikes because it is an easy thing to do. In these hard times, giving up £40-£70 in a day's lost wages really hurts families.

People in the public sector want an affordable and acceptable deal, that is what was negotiated, with full agreement on all sides, a few years ago. In direct opposition to recent

government claims the National Audit Office report of 2010 is clear about the affordability of teaching pensions long term. The costs of paying out these pensions will start a gradual and continued fall starting in 7 years time, thanks to the agreements already reached.

The Green Party supports the right of Trade Unions who have a democratic mandate to strike to do so. While we recognise that children and parents were affected, we agree that in this case, there really is no other course of action left for teachers, lecturers and other public sector workers, if the government continues to refuse to negotiate in good faith.



Thousands marched in Liverpool over pensions changes

© Liverpool Echo

TIRED OF BUSINESS AS USUAL?

Politics as usual, brought to you by the main political parties, has given us a series of linked economic, environmental and social crises, Why would you trust these same parties to sort the crises out? But there is an alternative the Green Party is the party of hope and radical change.

**To discover more about Green Party policy please visit:
<http://www.greenparty.org.uk/policies.html>**

MAY 2011 ELECTION REPORT

The Liverpool Green Party is a growing party that continues to go from strength to strength. We ran a successful local election campaign in May highlights of which include:

- * Councillor John Coyne was re-elected in St Micheals with over 50% of the vote
- * We performed well in Princes Park with Lewis Coyne coming second.
- * We continued to get strong support in Greenbank ward with Laurence Brown coming third.

Did you know? The Liverpool Green Party was the third most voted for party city wide!

Contacting the Liverpool Green Party

Visit our website: <http://liverpool.greenparty.org.uk/>

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Join our facebook group: Green Party - Liverpool

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