

manifesto

for a sustainable society

ecology party

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The Ecology Party is a political party whose policies are based on the principle that mankind must learn to live in harmony with Nature within the limitations of the Earth's finite supply of resources.

Continued industrial expansion, requiring unlimited consumption of raw materials, is not sustainable and its termination on a universal scale is likely within the lifetime of someone alive today. The choice is stark. Do we let this happen through a succession of economic collapses, famines, wars and social and political crises, or do we start now to plan a series of changes which will lead society towards a humane, indefinitely sustainable way of life? The choice is ours.

A growing number of people, aware of this choice, are disillusioned and frustrated in their desire to begin the transition to a sustainable society by the short-sighted, inept actions of government and the traditional opposition.

The Ecology Party has been formed to show that there is a democratic political method of achieving an ecologically acceptable, sustainable and more satisfying way of life.

part one

the philosophical basis

1

INTRODUCTION

- 1010 When in 1814 Lord Byron wrote: "The fact is riches are power and poverty is slavery all over the earth and one sort of establishment is no better nor worse for a people than another," there was every expectation that an increase in material affluence promised by the beginnings of the industrial revolution would at least ease the poverty. It is a sad indictment of the last 160 years that little has changed. Some nations have become very rich, but within them there is still abject poverty and the poor nations, if anything, are poorer.
- 1020 The relentless pursuit of economic growth, accompanied by rising material expectations within an ever increasing world population has brought mankind to the brink of a disaster which is unprecedented in history and yet, still, so few people realise that we cannot go on indefinitely carelessly exploiting and wasting the natural resources of a finite world. The continuation of policies requiring unlimited consumption of raw materials will lead not to more riches, even for the few, but poverty for all.

1030 In Britain, as everywhere else, government has not yet recognised the danger society is in and by its actions it vindicates Byron's pessimism. Yet, if it were true that "... one sort of establishment is no better nor worse for a people than another," mankind would be doomed. There has to be some cause for optimism in man's actions. We cannot accept that the foolish muddlings of present governments is the acme of our development in the techniques of social management and it is the passionate belief that something better is possible that has led the founders of The Ecology Party and the writers of this document to devote their energy to seeking an improvement.

1040 The case against economic growth is presented in the next section. Here, it is sufficient to say that this Party supports the idea of a steady state economy, that is an economy of stock rather than flow. The earth is a steady state system, as are the organisms that inhabit it: thus the only natural and probably sustainable economic system is one that obeys the same laws. This challenges directly the traditionalist economic view that society's aggregate wants are infinite, that they can be met by making production infinite and that technology alone can solve the growth-induced problems.

1050 There is a body of thought in socio-political affairs, as in science, that says there must always be a prevailing opinion of the nature of things against which the truth of all new ideas is tested. Such ideas would be considered

premature if they could not be connected by a series of logical, simple steps to the generally accepted knowledge of the time. In this sense, the idea of a steady state economic system based on limited consumption of resources is premature: thus, this Manifesto is more than a statement of a new ideal and a list of steps by which it can be achieved, it is a challenge to the established view of the nature of our present social, political and economic system. It is such a radical challenge that it can only be borne by a new, independent political party, for it requires the existing political forces to change too much their basic philosophies. From henceforward the main political battles will not be between Left and Right in the traditional sense, but between the supporters of a steady state economy and growth.

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THE CASE AGAINST ECONOMIC GROWTH

- 2010 There is no doubt that in much of Europe, Japan and the English speaking world the level of affluence among the people is much higher now than in the early nineteenth century. In all cases it has been achieved by a dogged adherence by individuals and governments to policies designed to maintain economic growth.
- 2020 It is not disputed that this affluence has been accompanied by great benefits to the industrial nations and that economic growth would do much to alleviate hardship in Third World countries if they could achieve it. What is in dispute is the belief that the nations of the Industrialised World can expect to continue following programmes geared to economic growth indefinitely into the future, and if they attempt it that it will lead to an increase in wealth. The key factor is the relationship between economic growth and resource consumption.

- 2030 Under the present system economic growth is supported by unlimited consumption of both renewable and non-renewable resources. However, on a finite world there is not an infinite supply of natural resources. Limits to growth are likely, therefore, to be imposed primarily by resource depletion, but public demands for pollution control also impose a threat and if yielded to by industry and governments the resultant increases in costs would work against the trend towards increasing sales and, therefore, productivity and growth. Furthermore, land also is in limited supply. An expanding world population demands expanding food supplies. Land is required for this purpose, but it is also needed for dwellings, factories, airports, to cultivate forest products, to quarry and for recreation, many of which uses are required in increasing amounts to support a growth economy.
- 2040 Predictions about when various supplies of raw materials will be exhausted vary according to whether it is assumed that exponential growth of resource consumption is continued or consumption is stabilised at present rates. In either case consideration is usually taken only of the presently extant industrial nations. The expanding world population, however, requires extra consumer goods and many hitherto non-industrial nations are becoming industrialised to meet this demand. Under these conditions the trend inevitably must be towards continuing increase in consumption on a universal scale even if individual nations stabilise their *per capita* consumption.

2050 Depletion dates themselves are useful mainly in defining the degree of urgency with which any particular threat of resource depletion has to be tackled. What is more significant is that these predictions are made at all, for it shows that there is universal acceptance that we will exploit all our resources to the point of depletion. This means that society must accept that either we, our children or our grandchildren will have to live through times of gradually increasing hardship and scarcity of resources until, ultimately some are no longer available. In other words, whatever decisions to curb the consumption of resources are not taken by us will have to be borne by our descendants. For our generation to shirk the responsibility for these decisions is the ultimate in social cowardice.

2060 The development of a growth oriented industrial economy affected the whole of society. While it was happening, populations rapidly increased and there was a drift from the countryside to the industrial centres. The effect on both town and country was profound. In the country the dwindling manpower reserves plus the economic pressures brought about by the need for farmers to compete with other land users led to the development of a type of agriculture which measured its efficiency in terms of return on investment and production per man rather than production per unit of energy. The dependence on artificial fertilizers and machinery became high and the ecological balance, characteristic of early forms of agriculture, has been destroyed.

- 2070 In the cities the most profound changes arose out of the destruction of the small, stable communities and their replacement by large urban concentrations of people held together by very little in the way of communal or social responsibility. Attempts to mitigate the worst effects of the destruction of communal feeling, like the initiation of the Welfare State, have not succeeded.
- 2080 In Great Britain the pursuit of a growth economy has led the nation into a situation which, while not yet desperate, gives no cause for optimism in the future unless there is a dramatic change in course. Britain's problems lie in the need for her to import half the food consumed by her population, nearly all the metals used in her industry and at present most of her oil.
- 2090 Britain has not been self-sufficient in food since about 1840. The population was able to expand beyond the limit of self-sufficiency because the possession of an Empire and an industrial structure which was unique at the time enabled the country easily to export goods in exchange for food. As long as the country maintained its dominance of world trade the flow of imported foods could be expected to continue. But there are two factors which are likely to endanger the continuation of this supply within the next two decades or so. The first relates to the universal food supply. With the world population showing no signs of lessening in its rate of increase the most conservative estimates show that by the end of the century all the land that is available on

earth for cultivation will be needed to feed the population. It is unlikely that under these conditions Britain will then be able to obtain the food her population needs from abroad.

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The second factor relates to Britain's power as a trading nation. From the third quarter of the nineteenth century to the present Britain has moved from self-sufficiency in metals to nearly total dependence on imports. Thus the maintenance of our industry depends now on our ability to buy metals from abroad. The effect of resource depletion could be countered if Britain were competitive as a trading nation, at least for a short time. As we are not, the country theoretically could find itself unable to purchase metals from abroad to manufacture the exports needed to pay for food. The supply of oil from the North Sea serves only to remove the threat of our industry being crippled by our inability to pay for imported oil from the near future to a point in time slightly further distant, for it is unlikely that the British continental shelf will yield oil to last for more than twenty years.

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The conventional method of tackling the problem thus presented would be to call for more efficient industry, an increase in productivity and more exports, the intention of which would be to strengthen Britain's position as an international trading nation. As a means of increasing wealth under the conditions

of a growth economy this thinking was once valid; but the nature of trade has changed from being essentially exchange of one type of commodity for another, e.g. cars for food or guns for bauxite, to free competition among the manufacturing nations, each striving to increase its overall share in the sales of its produce to whoever will buy it. Now that most countries in the world are making their own manufactured goods competition is stiffening. The advantages are now all with the nations which own the resources and in the future fewer and fewer of them are going to be willing to export raw materials when it is to their economic advantage to export the finished product. Neither can any country, let alone Britain, claim to monopolise expertise in any specific field of manufacture any longer. The Japanese have shown how aggressive encroachment into the specialisations of other nations can be effective.

- 2120 The nations of the Third World, envious of the Industrialised World's affluence, resentful of past imperialism and exploitation cannot be expected to be magnanimous when given the choice between their own economic survival and ours. Inevitably, when the effects of resource depletion begin to bite, the industrial importing nations will suffer most and to pursue tactics now which require increases in resource consumption will only hasten this day.

3

THE QUEST FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

- 3010 In the search for an alternative to economic growth the relationship between no-growth, of limited consumption, and the existing social structure is being explored and, while this investigation is still in its infancy, certain basic principles have been identified.
- 3020 One of these is the importance of long term planning. It is no longer valid to follow conventional political planning practices, which tend to consider time in packets of 5 years or less. The long term consequences of any activity must always be considered and ideally any planned action must either be in a form which can be continued indefinitely or will lead to a situation which can be indefinitely sustained.
- 3030 Also, it will aid the transition if relatively small communities can be self-sufficient in basic necessities. There are different opinions within the ecological movement both as to the ideal size of such communities, and as to the importance of the concept of self-sufficiency, but it would seem practical in

the first instance to treat Britain as the effective unit. It would be consistent with the principles which follow for the World ultimately to be the unit of self-sufficiency, in which case the concept would become superfluous.

3040 The overriding, unifying principle is that all human activities must be indefinitely sustainable: they must either be within the limits of known technology, neither using resources faster than they can be replaced, nor creating effects or products which cannot be assimilated indefinitely by the environment, or they must be of a strictly defined temporary nature as part of a plan leading to a situation which can continue indefinitely. An integral part of this principle is that mankind should take care not to damage the ecological equilibrium of nature. This need not imply a return to a pre technological existence: applied in conjunction with the principles which follow, it merely acts as a restraint on the type and scope of any future development.

3050 Secondly, and essential to the foregoing, is the principle of stability: in the absence of a specific reason to the contrary, all constituents of the environment and all activities under human control should be maintained in equilibrium. Two factors which have a dominant influence on all others are population, and material expectations as expressed through economic activity. The levels of each and the ratio of the two will be set in accordance with the values of each community. They may be revised and adjusted as the advance of technology creates new options.

3060 The third important principle is that of conservation. All input and output rates should be kept to a minimum. In a self-sufficient society conservation of resources is vital, although it does not follow that all conservationists wish to aim for self-sufficiency. Conservation of land is necessary so that most of it can be used for its prime purpose of providing food: conservation of energy derived from non-renewable resources is necessary in order to eke out the Earth's supply of coal, oil, natural gas and uranium until such time as alternative, non-destructive methods of generating electricity are available; conservation of materials is necessary because of the threat that resource depletion imposes on man's material expectations.

3070 Fourthly, a critical examination of the management of a growth economy and its effects on society has revealed that the trend towards centralisation of industry and government, while apparently necessary for the maintenance of the system often works against the interests of the people in general. It follows that decentralisation in all forms plays an important part in the scenarios presented for a sustainable society. The intention is to put industrial, technological and social development and the control of the land into the hands of the people they affect by decentralising government and both the ownership and location of industry. The essence of decentralisation also contains an element of population dispersal from large towns, one of the aims being to re-establish a balance between the rural and urban communities.

- 3080 There is however a complex, and in some respects an uneasy relationship between the ideal of decentralisation and the fifth principle of overall democratic co-ordination, which must be world-wide if an ecological, sustainable way of life is to be a reality. Neither small, autonomous units nor the libertarian ideal can be allowed to imply localised or independent decision making in certain matters, in particular the two crucial areas of resource use and pollution, otherwise a minority who did not observe ecological constraints could simply abuse and squander the benefits secured by those who did.
- 3090 The sixth principle is that society should guarantee access to basic material security for all and should provide a wide range of opportunities for personal fulfilment in both a material and non-material sense. If hardship is even a possibility, a sense of insecurity will prevent individuals from acting in accordance with ecological constraints. A guarantee of security will not ensure voluntary ecological behaviour, but it is a necessary precondition.
- 3100 In summary, the main requirements of a sustainable society are based on those that have been given in "A Blueprint for Survival" by the editors of the Ecologist: (i) minimum disruption of ecological processes; (ii) maximum conservation of materials and energy – or an economy of stock rather than flow; (iii) a population in which recruitment equals loss; and (iv) a social system in which the individual can enjoy rather than feel restricted by the first three conditions.

4

SOME FEATURES OF A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

- 4010 A way of life which is guided by the principles outlined here can and will take many different forms. It is however desirable to try to describe those features which must form part of any sustainable society, and also those features which Ecology Party policies are intended to bring about.
- 4020 A sustainable society can be quite prosperous, but it cannot have continually rising affluence. Having accepted that there is a limit to the total wealth of a community, there must be a limit to the wealth each person can receive, and this is true no matter how much or how little work needs to be done to produce that wealth. Provided the Ecology Party's plans are implemented in time, drastic cuts in living standards can generally be avoided, but there will have to be some redistribution of income, and taxation is probably the fairest way of doing this. What wealth there is must be shared in such a way that everyone has a guarantee of economic security, otherwise people will not heed ecological restraints in their daily lives.

- 4030 Conservation will be very important. Extravagance and waste will be more serious matters than they are in the present 'throw-away' society. Goods will be made to last, and will be repaired rather than thrown away. They will be designed so that the materials used can easily be recycled when the goods are finally beyond repair. Certain types of luxury goods are likely to be less in evidence.
- 4040 Many industries will be smaller in scale than they are at present, and will serve the needs of the local community. Importing goods which can be produced locally does not make sense. Co-ownership schemes will be encouraged, so that workers will be responsible to themselves and their local community, not to anonymous shareholders. Goods will be made because they are needed, not merely to provide jobs. The accent will be on co-operation rather than competition. On the other hand, there will still be scope for individuals with initiative to improve their material wealth, provided they use their ingenuity to do it in ways which conserve resources and cause no pollution. The self-employed will come into their own. Cobblers, corner shopkeepers, smallholders, small farmers, craftsmen and repairers of all kinds, and anyone to whom independence and the satisfaction of a job well done is more important than high financial returns, will find that the Ecology Party National Income scheme allows them to cut their charges to customers, leading to an increase in demand for their services. This will dovetail with policies to encourage repair and maintenance to create considerable scope for individual enterprise.

4050 The tendency of present-day industry to create unemployment through automation can be avoided when we get away from the 'need' to replace obsolescent consumer goods as soon as possible. Machines can help workers, for example in performing dangerous work, instead of replacing them. The alienation, frustration and boredom of mass-production can be a thing of the past. Working on smaller units and making high quality, long lasting products, people will find their work much more enjoyable than at present.

4060 In the early stages of the change-over to renewable sources of energy there will be a great deal of work to be done building solar collectors, methane generators, and possibly tidal barrages or other construction of a similar nature. However, in time it is likely that less work will need to be done because of reduced consumption. If this happens jobs can be shared — they need not be fought over. We shall still be well off in terms of material comforts, and the extra leisure time will be welcome for gardening, sport, household improvements and all those things that people want to do but have not time for when they are working full time. Unemployment need not exist at all. The very idea will seem outdated under the National Income scheme which will combine security with a work incentive even if there is less paid work to be done.

4070 The search for a sustainable society is a new venture: the Ecology Party is quite clear on the new direction we must take, but no one can possibly know all the details at the outset. This outline is intended to help people to visualise what is possible in a sustainable society, not to present a blueprint. The Ecology Party offers not a panacea, but a foundation for a new way of life.

part two

the policies

5

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT

- 5010 The main requirement of an ecologically sound system of government is that it should permit small, relatively self-sufficient population units to be self managing. Decision making and financial control should be kept as near the personal level as possible, and where the requirements of co-ordination and fairness require large-scale decisions, these must be made with the fullest possible democratic participation.
- 5020 The size of such self governing units will be determined by a variety of factors most of which will vary according to local and regional conditions, but it is unlikely that any will exceed the size of a currently defined Local Government District.
- 5030 There is ample justification for the smallness of these units: with the reintroduction of small farm and industrial units their co-ordination with community needs would demand a greater degree of local organisation than at present; the environmental impact of communities decreases with their reduced size

and is more controllable when potentially small; community feeling is best engendered in small population units; and public participation in governmental decision making is most effective when the administrative area is small.

5040 If political power is to be held by the District Council it follows that the principal government must be at this level. However, there must be higher levels of government, say Provincial and Central levels. These three levels of government will be part of a unified system with areas of responsibility clearly defined at each level. While policy decisions affecting the well-being of the people will be largely in the hands of the District Councils, the higher levels of government will be responsible for the co-ordination of the activities of the lower level councils to ensure that damaging inequalities or practices unfair to other districts do not develop. They will also exercise a quasi-judicial appeals function, for example where an individual or minority within a district complains that an ostensibly democratic decision is in fact tyrannical in its effect. Unless otherwise stated, any given area of responsibility will therefore lie at district level. However, many policy decisions arrived at by a District Council may be subjected to scrutiny and modification at a higher level, though this should wherever possible take the form of judgement by other District Councils.

- 5050 Resource management and pollution are however important policy areas which will be among those held at national level. It is envisaged that these will eventually be handed over to a wider authority whose relationship to the British Government would be the same as the relationship of that government to its Provincial Councils.
- 5060 To ensure that power stays within the hands of the District Councils they must control their own finances as far as possible. All taxes would be collected within Districts by the District Councils. There would be no need for rates. Funds for use by the higher levels of government would be provided by allocating a percentage of the District Council annual budget for that purpose. The percentage would be the same for all districts within a province and would be fixed by them annually. Control of the total expenditure at Central or Provincial levels would, therefore, be in the hands of the District Councils. Approval for detailed expenditure must be sought from the level of council immediately lower in the system. It is suggested that Education, the Health Service and initially, the Welfare Services are financed from Provincial funds, each District receiving an allocation calculated on an age related per capita basis. This would ensure equality of service in all areas, regardless of the level of affluence or poverty within a District.
- 5070 The establishment of principal government at District level would meet many of the criticisms of the system we have at present. For example:

- 5071 The decreasing contact between Westminster and the public has led to a lessening of the understanding of social, economic and environmental problems in government circles. The potential for personal contact between the public and councillors in the reformed system would reverse this trend and lessen the frustration felt presently by people who are aware of these problems, but who are unable to influence the remote central government.
- 5072 The immense amount of legislation now carried out by Parliament would be reduced because laws which are nationally applicable would have to be distinguished from local government management decisions.
- 5073 Mis-spending of vast sums of public money on prestige projects, defence, food subsidies, anti-conservationist redevelopment and needless industrial development would be severely curtailed if the national government were allowed to spend only the money given to it by the District Councils.
- 5074 The present system by which policy is determined centrally at Westminster and imposed on the public would be reversed.

LONG TERM AIMS

- 5080 To achieve, by progressive modification of the present system one in which small relatively self-sufficient, self-governing communities can co-exist harmoniously within the framework of a greater nation and the World as a whole.

SHORT TERM AIMS

- 5090 The attainment of the long term aims can be brought about only by a substantial reform of the functions of government and the methods of selection of representatives. The reform needs to be concentrated into four main fields:
1. The overall structure of government.
 2. Electoral.
 3. Civil Service and public employment.
 4. In the provision of watch-dog facilities for the public over the processes of government.

Such reforms should be carried out only after exhaustive investigations of all possible paths. It is proposed here to do no more than underline some guiding principles.

Reform of governmental structure

- 5101 The power of parliament should be diminished by a process of gradual devolution. The three tiers of government envisaged are District, being the principal one, Provincial or National and Central. County Councils will be abolished in due course after the transfer of their present functions to the re-organised District and Provincial Councils. Each English province will contain an industrial centre, one or more ports and urban centres and supporting agricultural

land. In essence, the Province should be as nearly self-sufficient as possible. A single Central Government will function for the whole of Great Britain. It will handle exclusively such matters as resource management, pollution, national defence, foreign policy, international trade and monetary control.

- 5102 It is important to investigate improvements in the way in which District Councils consult with the public; for example, via Community Councils which would be set up by communities according to their own needs, wishes and territorial limits.
- 5103 The role of the House of Lords as a watch dog of the Commons would be replaced by Inspectorate Commissions as outlined below.
- 5104 There should be free access of the public to government and its records at all levels.
- 5105 In each tier of government voting will be at the free choice of the representatives. Whips will not operate within the Ecology Party.
- 5106 The Ecology Party has no objection to the ultimate independence of Wales, Scotland and Ulster within a wider federation if the citizens in those areas so decide.

Electoral reform

- 5111 Districts will be independently represented in the Provincial or National and Central Councils. Each District should be free to determine how its representative is selected.
- 5112 The calibre of local government suffers from the desire of ambitious and able people to enter Parliament. This may be avoided if each District rules that only people who have served on the District Council for a set time period say 3 or 4 years are qualified as candidates to represent the District in the National or Provincial and Central Councils.
- 5113 Elected representatives must be accountable to their electors and provision must be made for the representatives under certain, extreme circumstances to be recalled and submitted to re-election.
- 5114 Councillors must be closely associated with the District which they serve.
- 5115 Councillors will be paid a salary and expenses and additional allowances will be made during a councillor's term in a middle tier or Central government.
- 5116 There will be a compulsory register of interests of all councillors listing all sources of income and it would be available for public inspection.

The Civil Service

5121 The function of a ministry will be to act as the organ of the minister in his capacity as a co-ordinator of the national affairs which fall within the scope of his ministry. Policies will be formulated by the District Councils, departments of which will hold the greater financial control.

5122 There will be no distinction between civil servants and local authority administrators.

5123 The departments of District Councils should be reflected at Provincial and Central levels by departments holding the same title having a co-ordinating function.

Provision of watch-dog facilities

5131 The function of the Ombudsman will be elevated and enlarged so that it will comprise a major part of governmental practice. This will be done by the appointment of Commissions. There will be two parts to each Commission: an inspectorate and a research and advisory division.

5132 The field of a Commission will cover either the whole of one or more, or parts of several governmental departments.

- 5133 The Inspectorate will be partly staffed by permanent employees of the Commission and partly by co-opted citizens. The co-opted citizens will form juries which will examine in detail and in co-operation with the permanent employees of the Commission any activity of government, a Commission, industry or commerce. The jury will exist only for the length of time of the specific enquiry or series of enquiries after which it will be disbanded. The jury can recommend prosecution. Its findings, which must be made public immediately the enquiry is completed, can be used as evidence.
- 5134 The Research and Advisory Division will consist of permanent employees who will carry out primary research in all fields and examine inter-relationships between the activities of several different government departments.
- 5135 The Commission will receive, via the Inspectorate, complaints from the public and will act upon them.

Decentralisation of Government

- 5141 The suggested order of decentralisation would be firstly to create the middle tier of Provincial and National Councils, secondly to reorganise at District level. Each re-organisation would accompany progressive devolution of power from the Central Government. The timing and pacing of this stage needs to be carefully researched.

6

DECENTRALISATION

- 6010 Decentralisation, involving dispersal of the population is necessary whether the population stabilises or continues to increase.
- 6020 It is submitted that farming efficiency in terms of yield per acre and yield per unit of energy consumed decreases as the size of a farm increases. The most efficient farm sizes are less than 50 acres. If all the large British farms were to be divided into units of roughly 50 acres each this increased output would go a long way towards making up the food deficiency which is now made up by imports. (See AGRICULTURE AND FOOD). The extra manpower necessary on the small farms could be provided by ruralising parts of the urban community, thus leading to a more equitable balance between the urban and rural populations.
- 6030 The division between town and country has led to the formation of two societies within one, neither of which fully understands the other. By dis-

- persing industry from the main centres to small towns and breaking down the unit size, the industrial and agricultural labour forces will become interchangeable and the present division between industrial and agricultural labour largely removed. There would be greater scope for the workforce to live close to its place of work and for the food needs of the population to be met locally: thus saving energy in transport and time in travelling.
- 6040 The impact of the city on the countryside in the form of second homes, vandalism, pollution, tourism would be lessened if more people lived in the country. Similarly, many city derived neuroses would be less in evidence.
- 6050 A reduction in the size of city populations is consistent with the requirements of more democratic government, and should lead to increasing self-reliance and social responsibility in each community.
- 6060 Ruralisation of the urban population is necessarily a long term aim, but it can be started by encouraging dispersal to small towns, where children can grow up in close proximity to the countryside and, in adulthood, make the transition more easily. If the population can be stabilised and then reduced the overall impact of the increased numbers of people moving out of the big cities will be less on the countryside than the corresponding benefit gained by the cities.

7

POPULATION

- 7100 Great Britain can be regarded as being overpopulated either because at present, we are unable to live without importing much of our food and all of most other resources, or because of the very high population density.
- 7200 Currently we import half the food we consume; half of this consists of temperate foods, which we are able to cultivate in Great Britain. The Ecology Party's agricultural policies are designed to take Britain towards self-sufficiency in food, but even if it were possible to feed the whole of the present population from our own resources it is unlikely that a continually expanding population could be self-supporting because of its demands for new land for dwellings, work places, roads, leisure areas, quarries, rubbish tips, all of which must be taken from the stock of farm land, forests and wild, uncultivated areas. The effect is not only to diminish the potential for achieving self-sufficiency in food, it threatens to destroy the overall ecological balance and reduces the aesthetic value of the scenery.

LONG TERM AIMS

- 7500 Gradually to reduce the population of Great Britain over a period of about 80 years to about 40 million, the expected carrying capacity of our agricultural land, assuming modified dietary levels and agricultural techniques. Thereafter to continue as stable as possible, thus avoiding any age group imbalance, which might cause social or economic difficulties.

SHORT TERM AIMS

- 7600 To halt further population growth by reducing the number of unwanted babies and unplanned pregnancies. At the same time ensure through education and publicity that the average number of children per family does not rise above the 1974 figure of 1.6. (The 1.6 family size has the effect of stabilising the total population almost immediately and then to decline theoretically reaching a total of 39 million in 2051).

THE POLICIES

- 7700 No policy should disparage childbearing or create negative feelings towards children or the family. It should avoid coercion until voluntary measures have been tried and failed. The State should therefore continue to aid and support families, but changes should be made in the way this is done.

- 7710 The first act would be to state clearly the right and responsibility of the government to be involved in population planning, since the future of all is at stake. Falling birth-rates should be welcomed publicly, and hopes for a decrease in population in the longer term stated openly.
- 7720 Population studies and sex education will be strongly recommended in every school curriculum as part of general education about the environment, world development, resources and economics. Only an understanding of the inter-dependence of population size and vital resources will lead to a rational choice of family size that will not fluctuate in response to fashion or short term ups and downs in the economy.
- 7730 Given grass-roots change in attitude to family size (or perhaps to the number of children a woman should produce in her life-time, irrespective of number of partners) conditions will be created to encourage and support the desire to limit births per woman.
- 7731 Increase provision of birth-control facilities both by increasing the number of sessions and increasing the number of local centres where sessions are held. Expand domiciliary services to reach those least motivated or least able to help themselves.

- 7732 Encourage sales of non-medical contraceptives especially in self-service stores and take steps to reduce costs of these. The present moves to allow Family Planning nurses to prescribe the Pill for established users would be implemented.
- 7733 Ensure post-natal family planning advice in all maternity wards.
- 7734 Arrange for more para-medical staff to be involved in fitting contraceptives and giving advice. These would be specially trained and would relieve the pressure on doctors expensively trained in other fields of medicine.
- 7735 Make sterilisation free for males and females on request with proper counselling.
- 7736 Make abortion available on request (up to 12 weeks) with counselling before and after, especially in contraceptive techniques. Encourage abortions as an out patient procedure, thus relieving gynaecological wards of pressure but charge a low standard fee.
- 7737 Step up advertising about contraceptives and family-planning services, if necessary, aimed at specific groups.

- 7738 Sponsor more research into safer and more agreeable contraceptives and methods of birth control.
- 7740 Attempts should be made to reverse the present trend towards delivering babies by production line methods in hospitals with a view to allowing the one or two births a woman might have to be happy and meaningful, a community and family event.
- 7741 The involvement of women in the wider community in paid or unpaid, professional or unskilled roles should be encouraged in addition to underlining the importance of domestic roles. Alongside this the Ecology Party advocates the similar deployment of men – part time outside employment and greater involvement in the community and house or homestead.

FISCAL MEASURES

- 7751 Maternity Grants to be paid for every child.
- 7752 Family Allowances would be replaced by National Income at full rate for the first two children, reduced for the third and none for subsequent children. (See SOCIAL WELFARE).

MIGRATION

- 7761 Immigration controls should remain as at present but be modified to ensure that no racial or sexual discrimination, intended or otherwise, shall continue.
- 7762 Emigration should not be relied on for balancing the population, but should be regarded as a bonus. (In 1974 the excess of birth over death rates was 30,000; emigration was 30,000).

8

SOCIAL WELFARE

- 8110 The welfare of individuals in society, that is their health, their employment, guarantees against hardship resulting from sickness, disablement, unemployment, old age, desertion, widowhood and so on is largely provided for by the State. It does so by giving either a service or a cash benefit.
- 8120 At first sight such guarantees are logically unconnected with ecological aims, their only purpose being to ensure that the sustainable society is also compassionate. In fact Social Welfare is of central importance to the political approach: the Ecology Party believes that ecological government must, indeed can only be achieved by popular consent, not by dictatorial or paternalistic means; but the sustainable society also requires a turning away from material preoccupations. It would be cynical and unrealistic to expect this from anyone for whom material insecurity was still possible. Moreover the basic ecological policies (see EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY, and ECONOMY) expressly displace the twin conventional priorities of full employment and

rising living standards, and would cause widespread anxiety. It would therefore be futile to ask anyone to accept our proposals until we could first offer a complete answer to this natural concern.

8130 There are five possible Social Welfare strategies available to any society:

8131 No relief of poverty or hardship by the community at large.

8132 Relief only in deserving cases.

8133 Basic subsistence needs guaranteed, but only as a last resort.

8134 Basic needs provided unconditionally.

8135 Equal sharing of Wealth irrespective of personal contribution.

8140 Only the fourth and fifth strategies meet the requirements outlined above, and the Ecology Party believes that the fourth strategy is the most appropriate, both during the transitional period, and in the sustainable society itself. It is necessary briefly to refer to the major drawbacks in the other strategies, since some of them have been advocated by different sections of the ecological movement.

8141 The first strategy would allow widespread hardship at a time when less work is likely to be available, and the only means of security would be to maximise

- the number of one's descendants. Many parts of India are familiar with this strategy.
- 8142 The second strategy, the Poor Law, was introduced in Britain in 1834. It failed in its express intention to relieve the 'deserving poor', because the humiliation drove away the intended beneficiaries, whilst encouraging malingering. It is particularly unsuitable for a society which observes ecological constraints, as it puts these in direct conflict with humanitarian considerations.
- 8143 The third strategy has been official policy in Britain since 1945: the 'Welfare State'. It removes the worst evils of the first and second strategies, but the self-defeating humiliation, and a degree of insecurity remain. It introduced the 'Poverty Trap' whereby attempts to rise above the poverty line by one's own efforts are automatically frustrated by the withdrawal of Welfare benefits. Having developed piecemeal, the present welfare system causes unnecessary resentment.
- 8144 The strategy of equal sharing would remove insecurity, but it would tend to discourage initiative, and would on that account be unpopular among many natural supporters of a sustainable society.
- 8150 The recent trend for welfare services both to proliferate and to become more centralised, often because of economic pressures, has led to such administra-

tive complexity that the adequacy of the services is being impaired. In addition, the variety and complexity of cash benefits that are now available are such that their objective is often self-defeating, while the administrative structure needed to support payment has become unwieldy and impersonal leading often to inhumane dealings with recipients of benefits.

- 8160 Clearly, there has to be a reversal in the trend towards centralisation, services have to co-ordinate better, and the benefit schemes be simplified. However, it is inadequate simply to improve the present system, which merely provides for needs. The causes of the needs have to be identified and rooted out. In the long term, one way in which many causes might be eliminated at source would be to allow society to regroup itself into small self-managing communities, which are more able to be self-regulating and, therefore, less needful of and dependent on outside sources for benefits.

LONG TERM AIMS

- 8200 To enable society to regroup itself in such a way that concern for and administration of welfare can be devolved from the state to the local community, but at all times to provide a benefit scheme which unconditionally provides for the basic needs of all individuals in society.

SHORT TERM AIMS

- 8301 To continue the process of decentralisation in the Health Service, begun with its re-organisation in 1974, laying greater stress on the development of the service at community level.
- 8302 To continue a rationalisation of the social services.
- 8303 To replace the present multitudinous cash benefits with a simple National Income Scheme.

HEALTH

- 8410 The National Health Service will be retained, but it will be administered separately from National Income. Its function should be to provide the best medical care possible within our limited resources, to provide the facilities, expertise and publicity required to implement the population policy, and to encourage public debate into the social priorities of medical care. The Health Service should re-examine its attitude towards medical practices such as homeopathy, osteopathy, acupuncture and so on with a view to providing a total medical service. Private practice will be discouraged.
- 8411 Doctors will no longer be required to spend so much time filling in forms, acting as social workers and performing other non-medical duties. In addition

pressure on the G.P. can be relieved by the employment of more auxiliaries and Community Nurses, trained like the District Nurses to carry out simple diagnoses and treatments.

- 8412 Hospital treatment will be provided increasingly by small community hospitals; though it is recognised that large centres for learning and for the use of specialised techniques are needed.
- 8413 A policy of education of the public about the advantages of dietary changes and the hazards of smoking and excessive drinking should be embarked upon by the Health Service using all available channels of communication. All advertising for smoking and drinking will be abolished.
- 8414 Emphasis must be changed from highly technical and expensive curative medicine to a more cost-effective policy of preventive medicine.
- 8415 An investigation must be made of the possibilities of separating patients who need intensive expert treatment from those who require long term nursing with perhaps only drug treatment.
- 8416 The return of geriatric and handicapped patients to the home and the community, perhaps in sheltered houses or flats, should be encouraged where it is possible, but it is stressed that the person's relatives should be given a choice. If they accept the responsibility, full support facilities should be provided by

the Health Service. Individuals with sole care of invalid parents or handicapped dependents should be acknowledged as paid employees of the Health Service.

WELFARE SERVICES

- 8501 The numerous Welfare Agencies, Social Workers etc. should be rationalised so that any child coming into care by committing an offence, by being orphaned, or by being reported by a school should come under the care of a single welfare worker. This person should assume the role of guardian to that child or family of children. Their powers under the law would be limited but quite specific, and would include the provision to refer the children to court if it was deemed necessary in the child's interest.
- 8502 In general self-help organisations and schemes promoting community development and integration would be fostered, while trends towards institutionalisation would be discouraged.
- 8503 Partially handicapped people should have the freedom to take up part-time employment and, no matter what the disablement, they should all be treated equally by the Welfare Services.

RETIREMENT

- 8601 Pensions are considered under National Income.

- 8602 The living conditions of the elderly should be thoroughly investigated and steps taken to provide the right sort of housing and support service for them.

NATIONAL INCOME

- 8701 The National Income Scheme is a comprehensive tax credit scheme, which is meant to replace all existing welfare benefits and tax allowances.
- 8702 The National Income would be payable without qualification to all adult and qualifying child residents of Great Britain, that due to a child under school leaving age to be payable to his or her legal guardian. It is offset only by tax, though payment would be independent of tax. The tax structure will be revised in association with the National Income scheme: there will be no tax allowances, a zero rate at low levels, and progressively rising rates on higher incomes. Under present conditions, the majority of people in full employment would not receive any cash payment.
- 8703 Unlike the present system the National Income would not require a specific claim and would not be withdrawn when the recipient has income from any other source, though the remodelled tax structure would ensure that only those on low incomes receive any net benefit. This removes the disincentive to work which is associated with payment of Supplementary Benefits.

- 8704 Four National Income rates are envisaged: Standard Rate C for adults and persons on courses of occupational retraining, lower rates, A and B for children and a higher rate D for persons over 60, the disabled and anyone else with special needs. In value it would be similar to the present Supplementary Benefits; i.e. calculated to cover basic food, clothing and heating requirements and including an accommodation allowance, fixed locally according to the average cost of accommodation in each housing area, but weighted slightly in favour of the less densely populated areas.

HOUSING

- 8801 District Councils must assume the responsibility for seeing that homes are available for all people in their area. New ways of housing must be explored, such as "group housing" where families wishing to live together share a large building or adjacent houses.
- 8802 Slum clearance must continue, but the destruction of communities, which it often involves, must be stopped by careful planning.

9

EDUCATION

- 9100 In keeping with the policy of developing small, self-reliant communities a modification of the present educational system is necessary. Further, the number of children leaving school illiterate and the number of bored, aggressive and anti-social children in our secondary schools, points to the failure of the present system. The Ecology Party sees the need for an educational system, which will fulfil the needs of both the child and the community. Schools will be small and they will be community oriented. In addition, the community must make its contribution to the running of the school, freeing the learning and teaching resources that exist within the community, thus enabling human talent of all kinds to be exercised.

LONG TERM AIMS

- 9201 To create an egalitarian educational system, in which society recognises its responsibility to ensure that all children receive equal opportunity.

- 9202 To change from a competitive exam-loaded system to one that sees children as individuals who learn at different speeds and have different aptitudes and talents, and so create an atmosphere in which children can reach their full potential and explore all avenues of opportunity without pressure.
- 9203 To move the emphasis from better education equals a better job, equals a higher income, to education for developing individual talents for the good of the community.

SHORT TERM AIMS

- 9301 To develop a community spirit by making educational establishments serve the community by opening their doors to parents and adult members of the community and by the school becoming a focal point for community activities.

THE POLICIES

- 9401 Control of education will remain decentralised. Schools will be financed by the Provincial Government to ensure that all areas receive equal finances. Educational policy will be directed by the District Council in close contact with Community Councils.
- 9402 All new schools will be designed and present schools modified where possible with community education in mind. They will include community facilities;

e.g. a public library, health centre, nursery school, old people's day centre, sports facilities, cafe and shops. All ages will be accommodated on the same campus.

9403 No more schools will be built to accommodate more than 800 pupils.

9404 All schools will be co-educational and comprehensive. Public, private, independent and sectarian schools will be absorbed by the local education authorities.

9405 School governors will be elected from and by the community, to be responsible for the smooth running of community participation in the schools. Teachers and pupils will be represented in the governing body.

9406 Each secondary school will have a schools council made up of teachers, pupils and parents.

9407 School leaving age will be reduced to 15+. It is anticipated that if the Ecology Party's policies work as expected, pupils will voluntarily remain at school for longer than this. In the long term a statutory leaving age should be unnecessary. Older pupils will be encouraged to explore the avenues of opportunity open to them outside and inside the school environment, take part in tutoring children in lower parts of school and to participate in community service. The

present right of a parent to educate his own children if he so wishes will be recognised.

- 9408 Nursery education – provision will be made for all children over the age of 3 years to receive some form of nursery education, whether it be in a nursery school or play group. Nursery education will not be compulsory and parents will be encouraged to participate in the running of the nursery school or play group.
- 9409 Class sizes to be reduced to 20 in all schools.
- 9410 Curricula. These will be based on community education. There will be a broad based scheme of education with a greater diversity of subjects studied and a reversal of the present trend towards specialisation. All children will be encouraged to study both arts and science subjects and there will be no difference between subjects studied by the sexes. In particular, curricula must contain the study of the environment, world development, resources, economics, religion, population, human relations and government. Children will be prepared to lead a full, active and useful life by sharing in the practical day to day running of the school – working in school gardens, cleaning, repairing furniture, general school maintenance, tutoring and caring for younger children, helping in health centres and old people's day centres and by working in

the library and shops on the school campus. In this way it is envisaged that all children will learn respect and a sense of responsibility for the people around them and for their environment.

9411 'O' and 'A' Levels to be abolished. All children are to be free to follow the course of training or study of their choice. Children must be guided into their niche, not selected or rejected by examination. A detailed record of the child's course of study, progress and attainments and special abilities will be kept. It is felt that with a wide area of opportunity and experience open to children, they will be able to make a choice of employment consistent with their desires and abilities. Professional and technical bodies will be able to keep their own examination system during their training programme to ensure that standards are maintained.

9412 Higher Education. The barriers that exist between all further education institutions and the community must be broken down. As a long term aim universities, colleges and polytechnics must be open to all. Lectures must be public lectures and be publicised. Meanwhile, higher educational establishments will be encouraged and given facilities to expand extra mural courses which will be freely open to all. Students and teachers should be encouraged to participate in community affairs. All research projects are to be made public.

- 9413 Special Schools. The present system of isolating our handicapped and backward children from the rest of society is Victorian. As far as possible they should be integrated into ordinary schools. Experiments have shown that even blind children can be educated in a normal school. With smaller classes, integration becomes a possibility. The extra facilities needed by handicapped children could be provided by the school children and parents as part of a self-help programme. Where integration is impossible special units will be provided attached to day schools or elsewhere as is thought best for the children concerned.
- 9414 Before further education is begun, especially teacher training, all students will be encouraged to take a job to gain experience of life outside the school environment.
- 9415 Provision will be made for any adult to embark on a programme of retraining or re-education at any time in his life. The present system of evening classes for adults will be expanded and adequately provided for. In the long term the schools will take over the functions of the further education colleges.

10

LAND TENURE

- 10100 At present the ultimate owner of all land in Britain is the Crown, but most of it, including its minerals and resources, is controlled by private individuals under the freehold system.
- 10200 This effective private ownership of land has led to an inequitable distribution of tenure and, because of the absence of external controls, land is often severely misused. Any system of reform must correct these misuses and take into account the fiscal anomalies created by the freehold system. Some of these are as follows:
- 10201 A rating system which leaves vacant land free of duty, but taxes heavily any improvement.
- 10202 Freehold landlords collect rent but pass on none of it to the State or community.

- 10203 The State receives no income from land used for roads, railways or waterways.
- 10204 Land is valued in capital rather than annual terms.
- 10300 Land is the most important asset any nation possesses and all people have a right to share equally in its utilisation.
- 10400 All land, but not the buildings on it, should be held in trust by the State and the system of freeholding stopped.
- 10401 Compensation to present freeholders should be allowed only where land has been purchased within the last 30 years.
- 10402 Land should be held on lease only, but no lease should continue after the death of the title holder. In re-negotiating a lease priority will be given to the late title-holder's dependants.
- 10403 Present title-holders of rural property will be given the first choice of tenancy, but properties exceeding 1000 acres in hill areas and 150 acres on arable land will be divided into smaller lots and leased independently.
- 10404 Forest, catchment areas and barren hill land shall not be leased to individuals.
- 10405 Rent should be collected from all land, including railways, roads, waterways and idle land except where it is idle through bureaucratic delays.

- 10406 Rent should vary according to the potential and actual use to which it is put; the highest rent being collected for arable land misused for building.

LAND STEWARDS

- 10500 An independent Commission of Land Stewards will be created, whose responsibilities will be for all aspects of land policy. The Land Stewards will be drawn from all parts of Britain and will have agencies in all Districts and Provinces.
- 10501 The first act of the Land Stewards will be to gather all information available on present land tenure and usage, including the identity of all freeholders, the extent of their holding, date and method of acquisition, capital sum paid or mortgage, their tenants, rents payable and use.
- 10502 The Land Stewards on completion of this survey, will organise the state holding of land, draw up a table of rentable values and, thereafter, collect the rents due which will then be paid to the provinces, less a small deduction for operating expenses.

11

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

- 11100 The survival of the human species depends largely on its capacity to feed itself: thus a nation's agricultural policies are vitally important. As long as Britain continues to import half the food she consumes the threat of food shortages imposed by the demands of a rapidly rising world population is one of the most serious that faces her.

LONG TERM AIMS

- 11200 For ecological as well as humane and economic reasons new agricultural policies should preferably be based on global strategies with long term aims involving all the nations of the world. These aims are:
- 11201 To strive to feed all the population of the world as soon as possible.
- 11202 To develop an ecologically stable agricultural system which will continue to supply enough food to meet man's requirements indefinitely.

- 11203 To enhance man's sense of achievement and happiness by promoting a more harmonious relationship with Nature and with the land.

SHORT TERM AIMS

- 11300 The stability of Britain's present agricultural system is in jeopardy. This is due to the ecological disturbance resulting from some of our farming practices, agriculture's dependence on high inputs of energy and raw materials and on imports of animal feeding stuffs. Bearing in mind also the country's low level of self-sufficiency in the light of future world demand for food, policies must lead to the following short term aims:
- 11301 Immediately to reduce the use of non-renewable resources in agriculture by, if necessary, increasing the labour force and by establishing organic methods of farming.
- 11302 To become self-sufficient in food production by if necessary changing some of our eating habits and farming practices.
- 11303 To educate people into an awareness of the important link between the health of man, the wholesomeness of his food and the stability of the environment.

THE POLICIES

Education and research

- 11411 Promote research into organic farming methods (e.g. biological pest control, recycling human waste, composting, mixed farming), and reduce the level of research into such chemical farming as is dependent upon high energy inputs or finite resources.
- 11412 Increase the scope and function of the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS) to promote a closer link between research and farming practice and to act as a propaganda agency for most favoured methods.
- 11413 Set up a public education campaign by making food and agriculture more important parts of all educational curricula.
- 11414 Give grants for retraining in agriculture and give all the necessary support for movement of people out of industry into agriculture.

Farm Structure

- 11421 Abolish the present farm amalgamation scheme.
- 11422 Farm unit size will be reduced by progressive legislation, fiscal direction and changes in the system of land tenure (see LAND TENURE and DECENTRALISATION).

Buildings and fixed equipment

- 11431 Abolish the present Capital Grant Scheme and grant aid for grubbing up orchards.
- 11432 Introduce maintenance, repair and restoration grants for buildings and fixed equipment.
- 11433 Introduce a house building grant scheme to provide accommodation for the increased labour force.
- 11434 Introduce a capital grant scheme for establishing acceptable energy systems in rural areas.
- 11435 Give grant aid in certain circumstances for the maintenance of areas of ecological and historical interest.
- 11436 Introduce grants for hedge and tree planting schemes and for wind breaks in certain areas (Eastern counties and hill areas especially).
- 11437 Maintain present aid schemes for preserving soil structure and fertility, e.g. liming and drainage grants.

Conversion to organic farming systems

- 11441 Give grant incentives to farmers for introducing livestock ("extensive system") on arable farms, to convert from intensive to extensive animal production and for establishing mixed farming systems on present monocrop farms.
- 11442 Introduce tax disincentives to reduce the use of chemical herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, growth promoters and artificial fertilisers and to reduce all fuel consumption on farms.
- 11443 Financial disincentives will also be used to reduce consumption and production of processed foods and meat protein, especially pig, poultry, barley-beef meats.

Small scale food production

- 11451 Permit and encourage sale of vegetables and eggs from all gardens and allotments to encourage small scale food production.
- 11452 Prohibit use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides by garden and allotment holders.
- 11453 Permit on approval cropping of any land which is proven to be lying idle, whether it be privately or state owned.

11454 Encourage education in horticulture by providing evening courses etc. at schools and colleges.

Food stocks

11461 Establish grain and other stockpiles for national and international emergencies with the aim of holding at least 12 months minimum supplies.

12

NATURAL RESOURCES

- 12100 The natural resources considered in this section, whether imported or home produced, are the fossil fuels, metalliferous and bulk minerals, forest products and re-usable waste products, all of which provide basic raw materials.
- 12200 Primary raw materials are those derived more or less directly from Nature and comprise three classes:
 - 12201 Non-renewable materials, such as oil, coal, natural gas, uranium, salt, refractory clays, glass-making sand, which are either destroyed or irreversibly converted in use.
 - 12202 Re-usable materials, such as water and most metals, which maintain their primary characteristics and can be recycled.
 - 12203 Biologically renewable materials, such as cotton, wool, flax, wood pulp and so on.
- 12300 Secondary raw materials are those by-products from industrial, commercial,

domestic and agricultural processes which can be re-used, scrap of various kinds, and the derivatives of primary sources, such as plastics, chemicals and bricks.

- 12400 Economic growth cannot be maintained in industries based on the consumption of non-renewable raw materials because they are in finite supply. A point will be reached at which demand will be greater than supply regardless of whether there is growth or stable consumption, after which there will be contraction and ultimately collapse of industries based on them. Materials substitution is only viable when the substitute itself is not of a non-renewable kind.
- 12500 Industries based on re-usable materials will depend increasingly on recycled materials as the raw materials become scarcer. In order to maintain production of primary ores it is possible to work metal deposits of increasingly lower grade if economic conditions permit. This, and the extraction of the metal, however, is highly energy intensive and in an energy deficient situation the minimum grade of exploitable ore will most probably rise, thus bringing about shortages of metals regardless of their abundances.
- 12600 Biologically renewable raw materials are not subject to the same limitations on growth as those in the other classes because they utilise an extra-terrestrial source of energy (sunlight) for their generation. Progressively increasing consumption of these raw materials is possible if productivity per unit of land can

be increased, more land is available and there is energy for cultivation, cropping and processing. If these can be achieved in conjunction with efficient recycling either growth can be maintained or primary production can be limited to that required to make up the deficit between total demand and that met by recycling.

LONG TERM AIMS

- 12700 In recognition that primary raw materials are either in finite supply or subject to sufficient external limitations to make growth in production unrealistic, the long term aims are to achieve controlled minimum consumption of primary raw materials phasing out entirely the use of non-renewable materials for routine purposes and maximum conservation of their derivatives.

SHORT TERM AIMS

- 12801 To slow down the consumption of non-renewable raw materials before the onset of scarcity, if possible, and at the same time give incentives to society as a whole to investigate alternatives.
- 12802 To induce industry to invest in resource saving technology; e.g. miniaturisation in electronics, minimisation of waste during manufacturing processes, the manufacture of long life products and conservation of energy in industry.

- 12803 To intensify the practice of and research into recycling of biologically renewable and both primary and secondary re-usable raw materials, and to investigate new ways of utilising hitherto sterile industrial waste products.
- 12804 To encourage research into ecologically sound cultivation techniques of biologically renewable raw materials, develop less energy intensive methods of cropping and processing and ensure that land is available for cultivation.
- 12805 To reduce the nation's dependence on imported raw materials.
- 12806 To ensure that the transition towards controlled minimum consumption and maximum conservation is managed in such a way as to cause minimum social disruption.
- 12807 To begin steps towards initiating an international agreement, especially among the industrial nations, on the control of resource consumption.

THE POLICIES

- 12901 Establish a ministerial Natural Resources Department the function of which will be to control and co-ordinate the availability of natural resources.
- 12902 Create an Environment Commission, part of whose function will be to ensure that abuses of the environment by quarrying and mining are minimised.

- 12903 All mineral rights will be held in trust by the State on behalf of the communities which occupy the land, or, in the case of the off-shore rights, which border it.
- 12904 Exploitation of minerals will be on the initiative of the communities which occupy the relevant land, subject to the consent of the Central Government.
- 12905 A single national, non-ministerial government body will be set up to be responsible for mineral exploration and assessment, the maintenance of standards in mining and quarrying and to provide geological and mining engineering advice on consultation.
- 12906 A Resources Tax will be imposed on all imported raw materials, the tax increasing annually for a period of years. The object of the tax will be to encourage salvage, separation and recycling industries, the saving of resources and the minimisation of waste. A similar tax will be imposed at the quarry or mine for home produced materials, selected according to scarcity or misuse.
- 12907 Buffer depots will be set up throughout the country to hold stocks of reusable materials and so cushion industry against fluctuations in demand for waste, while maintaining continuity of collection.
- 12908 Investigate the feasibility of an amortisation tax; i.e. one applied to consumer

- goods rising inversely with the length of useful life of the article. Manufacturers would be required to increase the guarantee period on all goods and to keep a good stock of spares for a further specified period.
- 12909 Encourage local authorities to set up recovery services for the collection of all domestic and commercial waste in such a way that it can be recycled, specifically to encourage the separation of different classes of waste at source, and to set up and/or support recycling facilities.
- 12910 Substantial grants will be dispensed via the Science Research Council to universities and research institutions for the investigation of the technology of waste recycling, purification, recovery and disposal and into resource-saving manufacturing techniques.
- 12911 Local authorities will be required to recycle municipal and domestic waste and sewage. A scheme for sorting waste at source will be progressively introduced. Digestion of organic wastes to produce organic fertilisers and methane will be mandatory on Local Authorities and encouraged elsewhere. In addition, the discharge of industrial and polluting waste into the sewers will be made punishable by high fines.
- 12912 A Minimum Packaging Act will contain specifications for packaging to ensure

- that there is the minimum waste and maximum recyclability of packaging materials, the standardisation of bottle sizes and shapes.
- 12913 A Standards Commission will be established incorporating the British Standards Institution, the Design Council and the Patent Office to exercise quality control on consumer products, specifically to examine for recyclability, long life, maximised conservation of energy in manufacture and function; to determine the rate of amortisation tax; to determine guarantee periods and spares availability periods and to disperse knowledge of pertinent inventions. Inventors and designers will receive a direct royalty via the government for all ideas which are put into practical use in direct proportion to such use.
- 12914 The Forestry Commission will come under the control of the Natural Resources Department. A crash hardwood planting programme should be undertaken in order that future generations shall have sufficient long life timber for building purposes — timber which will stand up to the elements without treatment by dubious chemicals, including paint.
- 12915 Limit advertising to the informative, classified kind. The sort of advertising which is intended to urge people to consume more products should be replaced by a campaign urging the public to understand conservation and become conscious of resource saving.

13

BUILDING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- 13100 In the fields of housing and town planning the policies needed for an expanding population differ from those for a static or declining population. If population stabilisation were to be achieved extra housing would be required only until the age structure recovered from the effects of the so-called baby boom. With a declining population housing in some areas would gradually be released from use, but in the long term new housing and other buildings are likely to be required during the population dispersal required by the policy of decentralisation and ultimately to replace derelict buildings. However, population stabilisation is not likely to be achieved immediately and many of the present housing problems are likely to remain for some time. Policies are given, therefore, which relate to this current situation, even though they would be meaningless if the full range of the Ecology Party's policies were to be implemented.

LONG TERM AIMS

- 13201 To construct new buildings only because of necessity.
- 13202 For each building to have minimal dependence on external energy sources.
- 13203 For each town or village to contain all the facilities for work, social and cultural activities required by the community, and to be surrounded by an agricultural hinterland that feeds it. All such settlements should fit into the ecosystem with minimum disruption of it.

SHORT TERM AIMS

- 13301 Primarily, these are to reintroduce conservation practices in the design and construction and use of buildings, in particular to follow the 'long life, loose fit, low energy' concept.
- 13302 To modify town planning to enable a greater degree of self-sufficiency to be achieved within the living areas than at present.
- 13303 To hold back all new development on agricultural land or other land not at present within the confines of an urban (including village) area.

HOUSING

- 13410 As a general principle the existing housing stock must be maintained and improved in preference to new building. (There are 600,000 unoccupied houses in Great Britain).
- 13411 Financial incentives should be given to extend, renovate and improve existing property either on the lines of the present improvement grants or via commercial loans secured by a District Council grant certificate.
- 13412 Existing areas of old property in public ownership, kept empty until required for clearance for general development should be returned to occupation, preferably under trusts or housing associations for conversion and renovation.
- 13413 Existing large houses (and possibly other building types) should be broken down into smaller family size units.
- 13414 If existing housing must be demolished then so far as possible this should be limited to small infill sites for low rise/high density dwellings.
- 13415 Before any new house building is undertaken on a large scale Local Authorities must carry out a full analysis of the availability of dwellings in their areas.
- 13416 All existing schemes and building projects should be investigated for their environmental impact and with a view to improving their environment and amenities.

- 13420 Home ownership should be encouraged, because it is hoped that this would lead to a greater pride in possession, better maintenance and, therefore, improvement of the housing stock.
- 13421 Whatever new house building is necessary should be encouraged on a do-it-yourself basis either by individuals or groups. Finance might be made available at advantageous rates providing the work is done under supervision.
- 13422 Such new houses should be designed with the potential for extension either into the roof, or at ground floor, or internally by using non-structural partitions etc.
- 13423 Housing Associations are to be encouraged, not as housing ghettos, but with their own shops, craft industries etc., and land presently under public ownership and under utilised should be made available for such schemes.

TOWNSCAPE AND LANDSCAPE WITH BUILDINGS

- 13510 As far as possible any development within present cities should be confined to the city boundaries, the intention being not to encroach on any more agricultural land. For similar reasons development brought about by the needs of population dispersal should be sited on derelict or other poor quality land within the confines of an existing built up area.

- 13520 Derelict land, particularly from extractive industries should be improved for re-use, not only for recreational purposes, but for housing and light industry.
- 13530 Planning regulations should be adjusted so that zoning is discouraged. Strict segregation of residential, industrial and commercial areas kills the natural growth of a community. Provided that there is no excessive nuisance all types of building can mix as they have done in the most vigorous communities in the past.
- 13531 Close proximity of workplaces, homes and services cuts down commuter movement and saves energy and time.
- 13532 By allowing small part-time businesses, workshops etc., to spring up in housing areas incentives will be available for people to use their leisure time for useful part-time work at home, all of which will add to the national stock and add to the character of the community.
- 13533 Where segregation of building types is necessary the isolated industrial unit needs humanising with pedestrian access, planted areas and recreational space.
- 13540 Highway legislation which gives priority to the motorist in most aspects of planning should be re-examined in accordance with the change in emphasis in future modes of transport.

- 13541 In addition to roads, access to industrial areas, shops and open spaces should be possible by footpaths and cycleways. Parking space for bicycles should be provided.
- 13542 Inflexible highways standards should be removed. Excessive corner radii, visibility splays etc., result in wasted land (SLOAP – space left over after planning), destruction of character of areas and often dangerous speeds available to road users. For instance, a tight corner cannot be taken at speed, and so reduces the risk of speeding in built-up areas. Other mechanical means of discouraging traffic and speeding, e.g. sleeping policemen, will ensure that only essential motoring can take place in built up areas.
- 13543 Strict pedestrianisation as in new shopping precincts leads to wasteful duplication of accesses. Tight control of visiting delivery vehicles is all that is needed.

ENERGY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION IN BUILDING

- 13610 In the long term, so-called autonomous houses are to be recommended, but until they are possible on a wide scale steps should be taken to encourage resource conservation.

- 13611 Traditional materials are more durable and require less replacement and maintenance.
- 13612 Air conditioning and mechanical ventilation systems are to be discouraged and the heat pump encouraged in place of gas, oil-fired or electric central heating systems. Proper use should be made of solar gains for space heating and the use of solar heating for domestic hot water should be encouraged.
- 13613 Investigate the use of "low grade" water for industrial purposes, possibly recycling it within the industrial compound. Water saving domestic installations should be more widely used.
- 13614 Thermal insulation levels should be increased in all new or existing buildings and excessively large windows should be discouraged, as this causes heat losses. On the other hand, there should preferably be no part of any building not lit by natural light.
- 13615 Encouragement of traditional building techniques and materials including timber frame structures, should lead to a natural saving in energy as these techniques were developed over many generations for that very purpose.

- 13620 All industrial and commercial buildings should be designed for as long a life as possible and not too closely tied to the original purpose, so that a change of ownership and use can readily be accommodated. It should be possible to break down large industrial buildings into a number of small occupancies later if this is necessary.

ADVICE CENTRES

- 13710 Architecture/building clinics should be set up in every town to give free professional advice to householders and building owners. This could cover the approach to improving property, how to obtain grants or take action against nuisance, or to object to development, and how to generate new work.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

- 13810 The present machinery for conservation areas and listed buildings should be maintained and improved to provide incentives for retention of character of areas. It must be made clear that this is yet another resource which must be conserved. Legal sanctions must be stiffened against those who demolish listed buildings.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

- 13910 Encouragement should be given to building workers to maintain craft skills, even if they only use them on a part-time basis.
- 13920 The use of unnecessary plant should be discouraged as being wasteful.
- 13930 Building systems must be investigated thoroughly to determine their true cost in comparison with traditional methods. Many of them are uneconomic on grounds not always immediately apparent, for instance, relying on imported components, high levels of maintenance, high running costs etc. Their extensive use has also led to a lack of standardisation. Traditional building was, contrary to popular belief, highly standardised and dimensionally co-ordinated. A return to this quality of standardisation would cut down on much of the waste that is taken for granted in present building systems.

14

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY

- 14100 An advantage of a growth economy is that it can sustain a high level of employment when it is flourishing. Thus, the premium put on full employment by society in general has led most politicians to follow the conventional, Keynesian, economic paths which equate full employment with growth.
- 14200 The cessation of growth, whether from economic collapse, or by deliberate intention, is likely to cause severe unemployment. The fact that beyond a certain point a growth economy is not sustainable means that the problem of high unemployment is inevitably going to have to be faced.

UNEMPLOYMENT

- 14300 In the short term there are two ways of dealing with the problem of unemployment.
- 14301 As to the provision of security, one of the most important functions of the National Income Scheme (see SOCIAL WELFARE) will be to allow both

hours of work and rates of pay to become completely flexible, rendering the very word "unemployed" obsolete. The recipient can take part-time or low-paid work (which might not otherwise be feasible for the employer) or find work for himself, without loss of benefit.

- 14302 Work sharing instead of partial lay-offs of the labour force should be encouraged, leading ultimately to all workers having a permanently much reduced working week and flexible hours.

INDUSTRIAL REORGANISATION

- 14410 In the long term the solution to the problem of unemployment lies as much in the policies on population, agriculture, decentralisation and resource conservation as within industry itself. Industrial reorganisation can make its contribution, but it is equally necessary to meet the conservationist requirements of a stable economy. There are three types of industry when considered in terms of the type of labour utilisation.
- 14411 Energy intensive, large scale industrial processes such as steel making, oil refining, chemical manufacture, cement making, which require a small, usually highly skilled labour force in relation to output.
- 14412 Manufacturing industries in which the end product is a saleable commodity, either directly to the public or to another industry. The objective is to attain

high production and productivity rates.

- 14413 Craft industries which are highly labour intensive and in which output is low and the emphasis is on quality of end product.
- 14420 There is little to be gained by changing either the energy intensive processes or the craft industries except in modifying them to meet environmental requirements. Metal extraction from ores and chemical manufacture is done most economically in terms of energy, on a large scale, and, by their nature labour cannot be substituted for energy in these processes.
- 14430 The greatest amount of change would be within the manufacturing industries. The principal reform should be that industrial production should be to meet the needs of society, not the desires artificially stimulated by advertising and competitive consumerism.
- 14440 At present, the main criterion for efficiency in manufacturing industry is the economising of manpower and many of the devices used to achieve this are resource consuming. The move back to labour intensive methods in industry is justified under certain conditions for a variety of reasons.
- 14441 The main conditions are that manual methods should only be reintroduced if they are justified on energy or resource saving terms; that they should not replace repetitive, dangerous or physically highly demanding operations

- presently done by machinery, and that they should not lead to exploitation of manpower.
- 14442 The advantages of resorting to labour intensive methods are that they would help to maintain employment levels when output rates are falling; they would lead to the reintroduction of some craft skills; improve quality in some fields, give labour a bigger potential for work satisfaction than at present, and, marginally save energy.
- 14443 Another disadvantage of capital intensive manufacturing industry is its inherent instability; marketing overheads are high and the break even point for profitability tends to be a high percentage of maximum output leading, therefore, to continuously high levels of consumption. Losses also can be heavy and their threat imposes considerable strain on management-worker relationships.
- 14450 Small, less centralised, efficient industrial production units, which provide for the needs of relatively small areas, would save on transport of materials and produce, reduce commuter travel, fit better into a community oriented society and be more likely to provide satisfying employment. Such companies will be encouraged to form and pressure will be put on large companies to decentralise.
- 14460 To maintain this type of industry new processes must be designed specifically for small scale operation, including mechanisation and automation, and generally following the tenets of the Intermediate Technology, i.e. emphasising

sing low cost and labour intensive methods. Such processes must carefully balance the requirements of energy, materials and manpower.

- 14470 While certain services such as power generation, water supply, transport networks, post and telecommunications and the large scale, energy intensive industries are best controlled by the Provincial or Central Governments, it is considered in the best interests of society that most commercial and industrial firms should be community based and held in co-ownership by their employees. Multinational firms, multi-company organisations and the Stock Exchange as it now exists and operates are incompatible with this aim and steps will be taken to disband them. Provincial versions of the old style Stock Exchange as a medium for raising capital for new industries would be maintained.

REDEPLOYMENT OF LABOUR

- 14500 Additional to the requirements of a more labour intensive manufacturing industry there are a number of other ways in which the need for labour will be generated in a steady state economy.
- 14501 Compulsory manufacture of long-life goods, while leading initially to a reduction in the manufacturing labour force, will bring about an increase in labour for servicing and maintenance.

- 14502 The labour intensive processes in the recycling industry, such as collection and separation, will be encouraged.
- 14503 There will be a return to more labour intensive farming methods, which with the ruralisation of part of the urban community during population dispersal, will absorb some of the unemployed.
- 14504 Sewage works will be converted to methane/sludge producers and transport systems will be restructured both needing extra labour.
- 14505 Skilled and technical workers will be needed to research, design and build alternative energy generation systems and production systems compatible with the needs of small scale, community based industry.
- 14506 Workers will be encouraged to learn more than one job and given the opportunity for retraining at any time of life.
- 14507 A Reclamation Force will be set up, attached to the District Councils, with the function of cleaning up the environment. At first their main task will be to repair the damage to the environment caused by the last two centuries of industrial development, but later the emphasis would be more on urban care and embellishment.
- 14508 Provision for couples to take part time jobs or even share one job will be made so that fathers in particular can spend more time with their families.

15

POLLUTION

- 15100 Pollution is caused by the discharge of poisonous, noxious, inflammable, explosive, radioactive and some apparently useless materials into the atmosphere, land or water in such a way, or in such quantities as to be obnoxious, damaging to the environment, or potentially damaging through cumulative or secondary effects. The identification and measurement of pollutants requires continuing research effort and the levels and conditions which are defined as causing pollution need constant monitoring and review.
- 15200 There are a number of categories of pollution.
- 15201 Industrial wastes, being those by-products from manufacturing industries which, for the time being, have no further economic value and which must be removed from the manufacturing site.
- 15202 Bulk wastes which are not always immediately usable, such as iron and steel-works slag, colliery waste, power station ash and waste from china clay work-

ings. These materials cause pollution when tipped in such a way as to cause hazard to animals or the public or to render agricultural or other land useless.

- 15203 Domestic refuse, including sewage, when discharged into water or tipped.
- 15204 Discharges at sea of oil, kitchen waste and so on, which end up ultimately on the seashore.
- 15205 Agricultural pollution caused by the use of pesticides and fertilisers, and the products of silage which drain into local water supplies endangering animal life.
- 15206 Accidental discharges of pollutants.
- 15207 Noise.
- 15208 Heat.
- 15300 The costs of pollution are carried by society as a whole, whether this be the social and economic costs of pollution itself or the costs of avoiding it. At present these costs are not sufficiently related to the causes. Responsibility for eliminating pollution should be squarely placed on those causing it, be they individuals, companies or public authorities. The "polluter pays" principle will be applied.
- 15400 Pollution cannot be accepted on the grounds that it is uneconomical to pre-

vent it. The trade value of manufactured commodities must take into account the cost of producing them by pollution free methods. If this proves to be an uneconomical cost, then the product may cease to be available.

LONG TERM AIMS

15500 To eliminate pollution.

SHORT TERM AIMS

15600 These are aimed at beginning the process of change designed to achieve the long-term aim and involve initiating policies of two kinds.

15601 Pollution frequently involves the unnecessary wastage of otherwise useful materials; thus, by encouraging recycling and conservation of raw materials (see NATURAL RESOURCES) important first steps would be taken towards pollution control.

15602 There must be immediate, strong policies based on the "polluter pays" principle to provide environmental safeguards.

THE POLICIES

15700 (Additional to those that are relevant under Natural Resources)

- 15701 Establish a Pollution Commission to incorporate, with increased staff, the Noise, Clean Air and Wastes, and Central Unit on Environmental Pollution sections of the Department of the Environment, H.M. Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate and other inspectorates concerned with the environment.
- 15702 The Commission will contain an Inspectorate Division whose function will be to supervise the administration of pollution charges. They will be designed both to encourage abatement and to pay for the waste treatment and disposal facilities; thus, the polluter will be solely responsible for the cost of the pollution control. There will be no subsidies, and the polluter will be required to be partly financially responsible for residual damage. Capital schemes designed to overcome pollution will be eligible for investment grants.
- 15703 At present direct legal and administrative controls of pollution are inadequately implemented and there is too heavy a reliance on voluntary restraints. In place of these the new legislation will give the Commission powers to inspect accounts, statistics and waste disposal records.
- 15704 The keeping of such records will be compulsory and their format will be agreed by the Commission. New legislation will contain provision for very heavy fines for polluters and it will ensure that industry pays the full cost of any removal and disposal facilities provided by the local authorities.

- 15705 The Commission will also contain an advisory division which will co-ordinate research, advise on methods of measuring and controlling pollution, noise and any other environmental hazards, check plans of any new developments and investigate the allowable levels of pollutants.
- 15710 If the sludge derived from sewage is to be usable it must be free of toxic substances. Legislation will be enacted to control the input of toxics into sewers and drains from domestic sources.
- 15720 An early warning system for new chemicals, which might be released into the environment, will be initiated and rigorously imposed standards will be set on their use. New chemicals will be strictly screened to determine whether they are necessary and how they might affect the health of people.
- 15730 Private contractors in the waste disposal business must be closely co-ordinated by local authorities.
- 15740 Dumping in the sea and rivers of all pollutants will be banned.
- 15750 International standards for pollution levels must be established and adhered to nationally. Monitoring stations would be set up locally to observe that these standards are kept.

- 15760 The discharge of pollutants into the atmosphere via high chimney stacks in place of filters, etc. will be re-examined.
- 15770 Radioactive waste is a special problem because there are no known ways of safely disposing of it. All forms of nuclear fission will therefore be phased out as quickly as possible until the problem has been solved. (See ENERGY and FUEL).
- 15780 Steps would be taken to reduce pollution by motor vehicle exhausts. High lead petrol would be phased out and strict noise limits introduced for road, rail and air vehicles.

16

TRANSPORT

- 16100 The present transport systems in Britain are dependent on both the availability of abundant fossil fuels, and planning regulations, which do not limit the amount of land that can be used to extend the transport networks. The effect of resource depletion on the supply of fuel and the need to stop the sterilisation of agricultural land under roads etc. could both be disastrous to the transport system unless it is changed markedly.
- 16200 Instead of relying on annual profit/loss balance sheets for evaluating transport systems a form of accounting must be introduced in which all social and environmental costs and benefits are considered not only in the short term but on a long term basis.
- 16300 Transportation policies should seek to achieve three objectives in a transport system.

- 16301 That it operates at the lowest practical cost in resources and with the minimum impact on the environment.
- 16302 That it is sustainable indefinitely.
- 16303 That it does not discriminate between different sections of society.
- 16400 Such policies would:
 - 16401 Encourage rail and water transport, which are more efficient in the use of fuel than air or road transport.
 - 16402 Encourage public transport as opposed to private transport.
 - 16403 Encourage walking and cycling.
 - 16404 Make the best use of existing facilities rather than take more land.
 - 16405 Reduce the total demand for transport by appropriate planning in cities and industry and the decentralisation of services (see BUILDING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT).

THE POLICIES

- 16501 Transfer the emphasis from road building to railways by ceasing road building in all urban areas and most rural areas.

- 16502 The railways electrification programme to be re-examined against alternative motive power systems due to the low efficiency of presently available electricity generating stations and transmission losses of electricity.
- 16503 Rail sidings to be built into any new industrial areas and, in all areas, develop and improve railhead to customer delivery services.
- 16504 Railway freight charges to be stabilised in conjunction with an expanded freightliner network and increased wagon load traffic.
- 16505 Substantially increase the vehicle licence fee for heavy lorries and progressively decrease the maximum permissible size of vehicle.
- 16506 Raise sharply the tax on petrol and licence fee for large cars, while reducing it on low consumption vehicles, say below 1000 c.c.
- 16507 Adjust freight charges to make it uneconomical to transport commodities over long distances when they can be made locally.
- 16508 Bus and rail services to be integrated and information about them made readily available in an integrated form.
- 16509 Stabilise public transport fares; increase the range of family fares to counteract the economies of family car travel; widely introduce "travel card" facilities allowing unlimited travel for a set period of time.

- 16510 Introduce extensive bus priority measures in towns and cities.
- 16511 Encourage greater experimentation with and introduction of schemes such as free city centre bus services, park and ride, post buses, voluntary car pooling. In general traffic management in towns and cities should make car commuting costly and inconvenient. Parking facilities should not be increased.
- 16512 Local Authorities will be required to provide appropriate facilities for cyclists; e.g. priority lanes, special cycle tracks and parking places by shops.
- 16513 Remove all tax concessions for the use of company cars.
- 16514 Encourage the motor industry to develop alternative forms of motive power for cars based on renewable resources.
- 16515 The annual budget of the British Waterways Board will be increased by government aid to fund the rehabilitation of the waterways as a means of transport.
- 16516 No new airports will be built in the foreseeable future.
- 16517 A Transport Commission will be established to supervise the co-ordination of all transport services and to research new socially and environmentally acceptable transport systems.
- 16518 The present driving test will be made more stringent, thus bringing it into line with the tests which drivers in public transport have to undergo.

17

ENERGY AND FUEL

CONSERVATION

- 17101 Some level of energy consumption is essential to sustain life in the temperate and cold regions of the World even at a primitive level, but our present industrial way of life is entirely dependent for its very existence on rates of energy consumption vastly in excess of this minimum. Consumption per head in the U.K. is already well above what could possibly be provided World Wide and yet official policy is based on doubling U.K. consumption rates by the year 2000. It is this assumption which leads to the predicted 'energy gap' which is the impetus behind the current government policy on Nuclear power.
- 17102 The Ecology Party believes that a full and satisfying life is possible at considerably lower consumption rates than today's and that our first priority is to arrest our climbing energy demands and set a course towards a less energy intensive life style so that the energy needs of future generations will be assured.

FOSSIL FUELS

- 17201 In the U.K. over 90% of our energy demands are met from fossil fuels, including large amounts of imported oil, but reserves of oil and natural gas are very limited and only coal is available in quantities sufficient to supply our needs over a substantial time. Ideally we should avoid burning these materials at all since they are valuable raw materials for many manufactured goods and their combustion causes air pollution and releases waste heat to the atmosphere. Nevertheless it is difficult to see how we can avoid the situation where coal continues to be the major source of energy for many years to come, with its attendant environmental and social problems.
- 17202 Oil is a premium fuel and essential to transport because of the ease with which it is stored, handled and used in prime movers. It should be kept to those uses for which its properties suit it and not burned in large installations which could use coal. Our limited supply of North Sea oil must be spread over as long a period as possible to allow time for alternative liquid fuels, such as hydrogen based fuels, to be developed.
- 17203 Natural gas is another premium fuel, with an even shorter life span than oil, which should be restricted to uses where its special properties of cleanliness and ease of handling make it essential. Methane produced from sewage, wastes

and suitable effluents, and specially grown organic matter, could be a natural successor to North Sea gas, although in much smaller quantities.

ELECTRICITY

- 17301 Much of our primary fuels are turned into electricity, which is the most expensive of the forms in which we use energy, judged in both economic terms and in terms of energy use; only about 25% of the energy in the coal burned in the power station reaches the point of use. Its use should be restricted to lighting and motive power and essential industrial processes.
- 17302 Power stations are currently built under an Act requiring that they should supply electric power efficiently. This they do, but there is no statutory requirement to use the low temperature waste heat produced. If this could be put to good use in industrial processes or domestic and commercial heating, overall efficiencies of up to 80% are possible. This requires radically different objectives and policies in the nationalised energy industries and in their relationship with industry and local authorities.

RENEWABLE SOURCES

- 17401 Our fossil fuels constitute energy derived from the Sun in an earlier geological era and stored in chemical form. It took millions of years for these fuels to

form, but man is exploiting them over a mere 2 or 3 hundred years. We need urgently to develop methods of using the energy we receive each day from the Sun, which is pollution free, adds no extra heat to the atmosphere, and is inexhaustible.

- 17402 Solar energy is generally diffuse and difficult to obtain at a density and temperature appropriate to centralised power systems, but as a decentralised source it has a lot to offer. Since about 40% of the energy used in Britain goes to service and heat buildings, it is vital that the best use is made of direct solar heat, photo-electric and thermo-electric generators, and small size wind mills. Heat pumps are an important means of upgrading solar heat to useful temperatures. The development of simple and cheap storage methods for energy from Sun and wind is a high priority to extend the benefits beyond sunny or windy days.
- 17403 Although large scale hydro-electric possibilities are largely exploited, small scale systems may still be appropriate in some areas and pumped storage of water is one method of energy storage. The Severn barrage tidal scheme needs careful economic and environmental appraisal, and the possibilities of geo-thermal heat must be explored.
- 17404 Wind is an indirect result of solar heat and ocean waves represent wind in concentrated form. Wave power is one of the most promising forms of renewable

energy and could be used to generate electric power for the grid or to make hydrogen based fuels which would provide a portable form of stored energy.

- 17405 Sewage, waste and other organic matter can be converted into useful fertiliser by anaerobic digestion with the evolution of methane. This should be mandatory at all sewage works, and medium and small scale units for houses and farms should be developed.

NUCLEAR FISSION

- 17501 Proponents of Nuclear power point to the safe and pollution free performance of the Magnox series of reactors, claim that the economics are better than coal fired stations, and argue that the predicted energy gap can be closed only by this means. The Ecology Party reject this view and would reverse the present policy as quickly as possible.
- 17502 There are several reasons: no satisfactory solution has yet been found to the problem of radioactive waste disposal and with half lives of tens of thousands of years these materials form a legacy which we are not prepared to leave to future generations: the risks of a major accident may be very small but the results could be catastrophic, and an expanding programme must increase the risk of human fallibility or malice leading to such a result; the investment, in

terms of technical and economic resources, needed to expand at the rate proposed is beyond Britain's capacity, and the energy investment, i.e. the energy needed to build and fuel the reactors, is so large that more energy would be used than generated over the first 20 or so years: a nuclear electric economy is the ultimate in remote and centralised technology, which the Ecology Party is philosophically opposed to, and could lead to a technological elite with little feel for ordinary life going on around them because of the needs of security. These arguments apply with even greater force to fast breeder reactors.

- 17503 The Ecology Party believes that the energy gap should be closed by ensuring that it is never opened, i.e. by a vigorous energy conservation programme, the development of coal in the short to medium term, and vigorous development of renewable sources.
- 17504 Selling Nuclear technology abroad must stop; reactor safety may be less certain and possible military uses of a civil programme present a very serious hazard. Far better to sell the technology of renewable sources, particularly to developing countries which are mostly far better blessed with sunshine than Britain.

NUCLEAR FUSION

- 17601 If it proved feasible to emulate the basic reaction occurring in the Sun, i.e. fusing two Duterium atoms together to form Helium, a vast source of energy would become available which would not produce radioactive waste. Such a source will be needed as coal supplies run out and research in the field should continue until the alternatives can be assessed.
- 17602 Electricity generation is not the only possible way of using fusion energy. It could be used to split water to obtain Hydrogen which could then be piped where required including the then existing coal fired stations thus providing a smooth changeover from coal whilst retaining the decentralised power network.

LONG TERM AIMS

- 17701 To provide sufficient energy, by efficient methods, to sustain a comfortable but simple life style, having due regard to the long term sustainability and environmental impact of the methods.

SHORT TERM AIMS

- 17801 Reduce consumption of fossil fuels.
- 17802 Develop renewable energy sources.

- 17803 Wind down the Nuclear energy programme over a suitable period and make the remains safe. Continue with Nuclear Fusion research.
- 17804 Develop coal mining technology to improve working conditions and to allow narrow seams and undersea fields to be exploited.

POLICIES

- 17901 Review building regulations to further improve standards of insulation and draught exclusion in new buildings and to maximise the use of solar and other potential heat gains and avoid overheating in summer.
- 17902 Provide tax incentives for insulation and draught exclusion on existing houses, offices, factories and production plant.
- 17903 Provide investment grants for suitable energy saving schemes and for projects to use renewable energy sources.
- 17904 Adjust fuel tariffs to increase with amount used. Special rates for essential services.
- 17905 Require companies to publish an audited energy account in their annual reports.
- 17906 Savings will be made in transport as outlined in TRANSPORT section.

- 17907 Draw up a new enabling Act for the electricity boards laying upon them the duty to combine electrical generation and distribution with the efficient use of waste heat. The policy will be to build smaller power stations, to locate them in towns and cities and to encourage industry to operate 'total energy' systems combining power generation and process heating with arrangements for feeding surplus power into the grid where appropriate.
- 17908 Contracts to sell fuel abroad will be reviewed.
- 17909 Research will be increased in the following areas:
- more energy efficient industrial processes
 - renewable energy sources
 - energy storage systems and secondary fuels
 - coal mining technology
- and maintained in the following areas:
- safe processing and disposal of existing and unavoidable radioactive wastes
 - nuclear fusion.
- 17910 Draw up a new Act for the U.K.A.E.A. laying upon it the duty of getting Britain out of Nuclear fission power with minimum economic loss by a phased operation over a period of years depending on our depth of involvement at the time, but typically 25 years. It must solve the problems of de-commissioning reactors and managing wastes.

18

FOREIGN POLICY

- 18100 The Ecology Party is concerned with, firstly, future generations and, secondly, existing populations. The former involves concern for survival of the species; the latter involves a concern for the safety and health of all peoples and a concern for their quality of life. The Ecology Party represents a faith which, once espoused, must be broadcast as widely as possible. The Ecology Party's principles are applicable to all countries.
- 18200 The Ecology Party's policies are designed to promote self-sufficiency in the life of individuals and the nation, but it is not intended that they should lead Britain to being an inward-looking xenophobic state. International co-operation at all levels is an ideal that will not be ignored, particularly with respect to European countries, and it is envisaged that ultimately it will be possible for Britain to be part of a European Political Community within which conservationist principles are paramount.

- 18300 The Ecology Party accepts the democratic decision of the British people to remain within the E.E.C. and will actively work towards achieving a self-sufficient Europe based upon the principles of the Ecology Party.
- 18301 The Ecology Party's objectives must be made known within E.E.C. and European groups and parties with similar ideals must be sought out.
- 18302 The growth of international co-ordination on environmental matters will be encouraged with the early establishment of international standards.
- 18303 All planning will be evaluated for its impact on the environment on a European scale, perhaps by a European watch-dog organisation.
- 18304 Increase international collaboration in scientific and technical research, especially on energy generation.
- 18305 Establish a coherent European energy policy.
- 18306 Take steps towards forming an International Union of Local Authorities through which ideas on environmental issues will be exchanged. Through such a body it might be possible to co-ordinate environmental policies, and resist any move toward technocratic elitism within the E.E.C.

- 18400 Mutual co-operation among all countries in the world on a basis of self-sufficiency is essential to the maintenance of peace and stability. Policies towards Third World countries will seek to end exploitation and discriminatory influence by British industrial and commercial organisation, and, in the giving of aid, will emphasise a policy which seeks to deal with the causes of underdevelopment rather than a cosmetic treatment of effect. An openly humanitarian approach will be taken to all matters of foreign affairs.
- 18401 The right of primitive peoples to be left undisturbed, either by misguided forms of aid or the exploitations of natural resources will be energetically defended.
- 18402 As a principle, aid to Third World countries will be given only as a result of requests from them and will be the result of investigation of possible side effects. We must be conscious of what we can learn from them so that mutual co-operation is a reality.
- 18403 Where financial aid is given it will be multilateral; but where possible it should be used on research which is of benefit to Third World countries; for example, on tropical diseases, labour and unemployment methods, weather cycles, agriculture and appropriate technology.

- 18404 Direct aid in terms of the provision of expertise will be aimed at initiating self help schemes.
- 18405 Aid will be used to disseminate information on conservation and ecological ideas and practices and to encourage their adoption, especially with regard to population control.
- 18500 The so-called special relationship with the U.S.A. is of little value to Britain. Investment and defence ties with that country will be terminated.
- 18600 In keeping with the promotion of peace and stability within the world, the manufacture and sale of arms to other countries will be phased out.

19

DEFENCE

- 19100 Britain's geographical position is such that in the event of a nuclear war no nuclear weapons of hers will achieve anything other than add to the total destruction of our planet. To maintain such weapons as deterrents harms the cause of arms limitations and costs a great deal of money.
- 19101 Our own nuclear bases will be closed and the nuclear weapons dismantled.
- 19102 American nuclear bases will also be closed and defence agreements with U.S.A. terminated.
- 19200 Activity and expenditure in all spheres of the armed forces will be reviewed regularly and reduced. Present day complex and very costly war machines will be phased out and a capability retained sufficient only to play our own part in policing and in international peace keeping activities. The U.N. require the support of a well-trained but lightly armed force for peace keeping purposes. We should meet this need, but ensure that such a force is trained in non-violent methods of conflict resolution and that this becomes U.N. policy.

20

ECONOMY

- 20001 The purpose of this section is to attempt to present an outline of an economic system which is compatible with the sort of society that the policies in this Manifesto aim to create and to indicate the steps which would be necessary to begin the transformation of our present economic structure.
- 20002 The ultimate aim is the achievement of a steady-state economy based on stock rather than flow economics where wealth is assessed from what we have instead of how quickly we use it. Such an economy should encourage the conservation of natural resources, the enhancement of the environment and a way of life which gives each person the opportunity of fulfilment in work and leisure. It must function within an interlocking system of small communities each as self-sufficient as possible in the necessities of life and in its own management, the whole comprising the Nation. But, above all, the economic thinking behind the system must recognise the long term value of national assets and avoid eroding them for short term gain.

- 20003 An important distinction between modern economic practices and those required in a steady state is that the economy should be in a state of balance. The practice of deficit budgeting can only be sustained during periods of growth. It is incompatible with the requirement of a steady state economy and is highly inflationary when carried out, as at present, during periods of enforced zero growth. In a simplified model of the corporate state, balance must be maintained between exports and imports, taxation and government spending, investment and total savings.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- 20101 The key to economic activity lies in the aggregate of individual material expectations expressed as consumer demand. Whenever this is in excess of current productive capacity, either unintentionally or, as in orthodox economic policy, by design, then either economic growth or inflation must occur. If growth is prevented in any way, then inflation must continue regardless of counter-measures until expectations and hence demand, fall. This is the explanation of our current inflation, and it can only be brought down by measures which allow demand to fall without causing hardship.
- 20102 If demand fell too far, a traditional slump would result, but Keynesian methods could correct this. Once demand has been stabilised just below the

limits of indefinitely sustainable capacity, maintaining economic equilibrium becomes a relatively technical matter of regulating taxation or raw resource costs and money flow.

- 20103 Economic growth is usually defined as 'the rate of increase in Gross National Product per head of population'. The GNP is made up from the spending by government and private consumers on goods and services produced in the U.K., capital investment by government and business, and exports.
- 20104 Of the variety of items which make up the GNP some are essential to our physical and cultural needs but others are merely wasteful. The essence of the problem is to change our way of life so as to concentrate on the necessities such as food, housing and clothing, and on those things of enduring value which enhance the quality of life for everyone. Thus, although the GNP may perforce go down, we believe that true wellbeing and satisfaction in life can grow. For instance, some things, beneficial to health and satisfaction, that we do for ourselves such as growing our own vegetables or making our own bread, do not appear in GNP. Community or local group ownership of items also has compensating benefits in both social and practical terms. Voluntary social work and neighbourly community care could reduce the need for the Social Services. All these represent reductions in GNP without loss in wellbeing.

TRADE, SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

- 20201 The present balance of payments deficit, which is running at around 5% of GNP, is a very serious problem requiring urgent action. Efforts are needed in the short term, both to increase exports and to decrease imports, but in the longer term the Ecology Party believes that we should concentrate on reducing imports.
- 20202 In an era of apparently unlimited resources 'free trade' provided a means of accelerating economic growth — although the benefits of this process went primarily to the rich nations. The picture has changed dramatically with our realisation of the physical limits of the Earth and the Ecology Party believes that trade should be restrained by international agreement in order to stimulate nations to be more self-sufficient. This would be done by tariff barriers and by quotas as appropriate.
- 20203 A thorough review of all our imports is needed in order to formulate policies which may reduce consumption, stimulate home produced alternatives and discourage imports. Because most of these policies affect other countries we must be aware of their needs and avoid taking unilateral action without due regard as to the consequences to others.

- 20204 The recent considerable growth in manufactured imports needs special attention; this trend is largely associated with the growth in trade with the E.E.C. and in many cases results in unnecessary duplication and transportation.
- 20205 Ultimately whatever level of imports occurs at any time it is important that these are paid for by corresponding levels of exports, but, in the medium term our exports must substantially exceed our imports in order to reduce the enormous debt we are currently having to service.

CONSUMER SPENDING

- 20301 In order to conserve resources for future generations the pattern of production (see EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY) and consumer spending must change so that the reduction in total consumption can be achieved without causing increased hardship.
- 20302 Value judgments in deciding what to discourage and what to encourage in the supply of goods and services will be partly based on social desirability and partly on such factors as 'gross energy requirement', availability and location of raw materials and problems of disposal. The Ecology Party believes that too much of our industrial effort is squandered on goods whose market is created by clever advertising rather than real need.

- 20303 The economic regulators used to control the pattern of production and, therefore, consumer spending would include: variations in the rate of V.A.T., resource taxes; enforcement of anti-pollution legislation and restriction on marketing expenses allowable against tax. The ground rules for guiding the imposition of these restrictions should be the subject of wide public debate. (See NATURAL RESOURCES AND POLLUTION).

TAXATION

- 20410 Funds to finance Government spending at present arise from:
- 20411 Taxes on income and wealth.
 - 20412 Taxes on spending (currently V.A.T.).
 - 20413 Customs and Excise Duties.
 - 20414 Special taxes, e.g. road fund.
 - 20415 Taxes on businesses.
 - 20416 National Insurance Contributions.
 - 20417 Rates.
 - 20418 Borrowing.

- 20420 Apart from their main function of meeting the needs for both revenue and capital spending taxes are used for a variety of other purposes. In considering the merits of a particular tax it is important to take account of its effect on:
- 20421 The distribution of income and wealth.
- 20422 Incentives and job satisfaction.
- 20423 The level and direction of economic activity.
- 20424 The consumption of scarce resources, especially energy.
- 20425 Administrative efficiency, i.e. the revenue produced by comparison with the cost of collection. The total cost should be considered here rather than just the cost to, say, the Inland Revenue.
- 20426 Discrimination against certain types of goods and services as regards both production and consumption.

CONTROL OF POLLUTION

- 20430 There is a particularly difficult balance to strike between items 20421 and 20422. Incentives are usually seen to be related to the rewarding of merit but in a situation where growth is restricted a reduction in differentials will be needed if the least well off in our society are to be brought up to a reasonable

standard. In this sense there is a conflict between liberty and equality and the Ecology Party believes that in the short term the emphasis must lie with equality although in the long term we believe that other freedoms will be created and valued which are not in conflict with equality, i.e. cultural, recreational and spiritual opportunities.

- 20440 Redistributive taxation is not only a threat to incentive, but it will also stimulate much sterile effort to find ways of tax avoidance. For both these reasons any proposals must be accompanied by wide public debate in order to arrive at the best systems and also to gain understanding and support for the measures taken.
- 20450 Subject to 20440 the Ecology Party believes that:
- 20451 The integrated National Income/Tax system (see SOCIAL WELFARE) should be arranged to give a tax system in which the rate increases progressively with increase in income. Decisions need to be made on both the total range of net incomes and how it should be distributed over the population.
- 20452 The new Capital Transfer tax would be retained substantially in its present form.
- 20453 Measures will be taken to limit large accumulations of wealth.

- 20454 The present Capital Gains would be retained as a restraint on profits made through market fluctuations.
- 20460 Indirect taxations, notably V.A.T. which are essentially taxes on spending, raise about 35% of the Government's income at present. V.A.T. is a useful tax for regulating demand and for discriminating against inessential goods and services.
- 20470 National Insurance contributions constitute about 19% of the Government's income; 10% paid by employers and 9% by employees. This constitutes a major regressive tax which despite recent changes to earnings related contributions is still a considerable tax on the lowest paid. The time has come to abandon the insurance concept and to absorb employees' contributions into the income tax system. Employers' contributions at present constitute a tax on employment and in view of the need to shift emphasis away from labour saving and towards materials and energy saving they should be abolished.
- 20480 Tax on companies provides 7% of Government income. This will be retained.
- 20490 The Ecology Party supports the proposed abolition of rates. A system of Government and Administration is proposed in which taxes would be paid to the local District Government and rates would therefore be an unnecessary complication.

- 20540 In the longer term, we anticipate a reduction in the income available to Government and we must start to plan now the more cost effective forms of service needed in the future, as well as face the current urgent need for economies.
- 20550 The largest single item of expenditure is Social Security which the Ecology Party aims to replace by the National Income system. (See SOCIAL WELFARE). In an equilibrium economy the cost of this item must be balanced by an equivalent sum in taxation. During the transitional period tax rates will have to be monitored and revised upward as employment patterns re-adjust to the flexibility made possible by the National Income Scheme, and to the reduced employment requirements of the sustainable society.
- 20551 The next largest item is education. (See EDUCATION). A principal saving could be made by the full integration of schools with their community, allowing more efficient and intensive use of buildings. Greater involvement of parents, volunteers and part-time staff should reduce the wages bill.
- 20552 Health and personal social services cost only a little less than Education at present. The Ecology Party believes that self sufficient and self governing communities will be intrinsically more healthy and will encourage a more responsible and self-reliant attitude of mind greatly relieving the burden on the Health Service and enabling a major reduction in Social Services.

- 20553 Defence costs are similar in size to Health and the Ecology Party proposes drastic cuts and a radically different approach to defence in future. (See DEFENCE).
- 20554 Housing is one of our greatest social priorities and the need for better insulation standards means that Housing will become a more expensive item in the short to medium term.
- 20555 Agriculture, fisheries and food are currently a fairly modest item and the Ecology Party's policies will require a considerable increase in this area. (See AGRICULTURE).
- 20560 The aim should be to balance income with expenditure, but the high level of interest servicing the National Debt indicates a need to generate a surplus of income over expenditure in the medium term. The present high inflation is reducing the National Debt by eroding the value of the money borrowed and the fixed interest payments, but the high rates of interest partly discount this effect. If inflation can be overcome, then the only way of reducing the debt service payments is by generating a surplus.

SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT

- 20601 In any economic activity the aim should be the generation of a trading surplus. This is essential to provide the means of future progress, to replace plant

- equipment and buildings which are worn out or obsolete, and to introduce new and more efficient plant or equipment so that the same job can be done more economically, i.e. using less materials and energy.
- 20602 The first essential is to create an economic environment in which it is possible for an efficient enterprise to generate a surplus adequate at least to meet its own requirements for improvement and replacement.
- 20603 Inflation, interest rates and the whole monetary system are matters which require urgent and detailed investigation to ensure that whatever system is permitted and whatever reforms are proposed are not in conflict with the general aims of all other policies.
- 20604 Capital investment is related to research and ideally the latter will lead to the former. Research grants policy is therefore an important means of guiding future development.

THE MONETARY SYSTEM AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- 20701 The primary function of the financial and banking sector of the economy is to use efficiently the financial resources of the nation. In broad terms this means facilitating the conversion of cash savings into fixed assets and handling the many and varied transactions both internally and externally. The Ecology

Party has doubts about the efficiency with which this task is carried out today and its relationship to social justice, and the appropriateness of our present institutions to the future structure of the economy.

20702 An important way of controlling the economy is to control the supply and cost of money. Significant changes were made in 1971 to the method of control of interest rates and lending levels. A review of the effects of these changes is overdue.

20703 In general the Ecology Party believes that a tighter control of credit is needed to control inflation, although this is only one of several major factors leading to inflation.

PRICES AND INCOMES

20801 Rising prices are inflationary only if expectations remain buoyant. Only falling demand can genuinely exert downward pressure. Any arbitrary control may tend to be counter-productive.

20802 Incomes will tend to be stabilised by the combined effect of the progressive tax rates proposed in 20451 above and the National Income (see SOCIAL WELFARE). Wage claims will be inhibited, yet individual security and bargaining power will be safeguarded.

- 20803 Taxes on income and wealth enable crude limits to be set on net incomes, but do little to establish equity, or to protect those without bargaining power in the main body of the economy. Some system of guidelines is required to assist in evaluating appropriate levels of pay, particularly in the public service.
- 20804 In the short term urgent steps are needed to curb wages and inflation.
- 20805 The Ecology Party would introduce as an urgent measure a statutory incomes policy. This would limit pay awards to an amount less than the rise in the retail Price Index by an amount stipulated by the government and depending on the current economic situation. If awards were made in excess of these the excess would be "clawed back" through the tax system.
- 20806 In order to ameliorate the ill effects of inflation, threshold agreements would be allowable provided they fell within the overall criteria. Many people, such as pensioners, would depend entirely on the National Income. This would be subject to regular reviews.
- 20807 A Pay Board would be re-established with a brief to review all salaries and wages with a view to building up over the years a framework to act as a guide in negotiating wages and salaries. This would amount to a national job evaluation scheme based on points allocated for various features such as economic and social significance of job, working conditions, educational requirements,

etc. and would enable jobs to be slotted into broad bands with weighing factors for different areas.

- 20808 The Prices Commission should remain in existence to provide a controlling influence on prices, but it must develop its system so as to cut down the delays in giving agreement to price changes. The factors allowable for price changes also need to be widened in order to improve profitability.

ECONOMIC MEASURES – SHORT TERM

- 20901 The two major problems facing Britain today are the balance of payments deficit and inflation. Closely related to inflation is the deficit on current account. The primary purpose of short term measures should be to stabilise this dangerous situation by bringing the balance of payments into surplus and reducing inflation progressively to less than 5%.
- 20902 After careful investigation and international consultation, import restrictions would be imposed while current measures for the encouragement and support of exports would be retained.
- 20903 The control of inflation is partly a matter of technical regulators such as monetary and tax policy but initially the human aspects predominate. As a

Nation we all need to accept that we are living beyond our means, and a Prices and Incomes Policy is an essential element in a return to stability.

- 20904 In an era of restricted growth Government income and expenditure must balance and as inflation is reduced there will be an increasing need to generate a surplus to finance ecologically sound projects.

ECONOMIC MEASURES – LONGER TERM

- 20910 A major priority in the Ecology Party's longer term investment plan would be the development of decentralised technology which would make the "network of communities" concept economically viable. (See EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY). This will mean the support of practical projects as well as more orthodox research.

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