



Councillors

Yes we CAN get elected

The first Ecology Party councillor was elected in 1976

John Luck stood in the three seat Rye Ward for Rother District Council and was elected third in a contest with 5 other candidates.

The same year John Davenport stood with an Ecology Party badge for Kempsey Parish Council in Worcestershire and was duly elected. Many other Eco-Green candidates have since won Parish/Town seats but there are no reliable records and these councils are at best quirky and frequently militantly non-political.

The following year Jeremy Faull won the Withiel Division on Cornwall County Council. As was often the case in remote areas there was only one other candidate, a Tory, who then withdrew saying that he couldn't better Jeremy's policies and he would be supporting him. Jeremy thus became our first County Councillor being elected unopposed.

In 1979 John Luck lost his seat and we were back down to one.

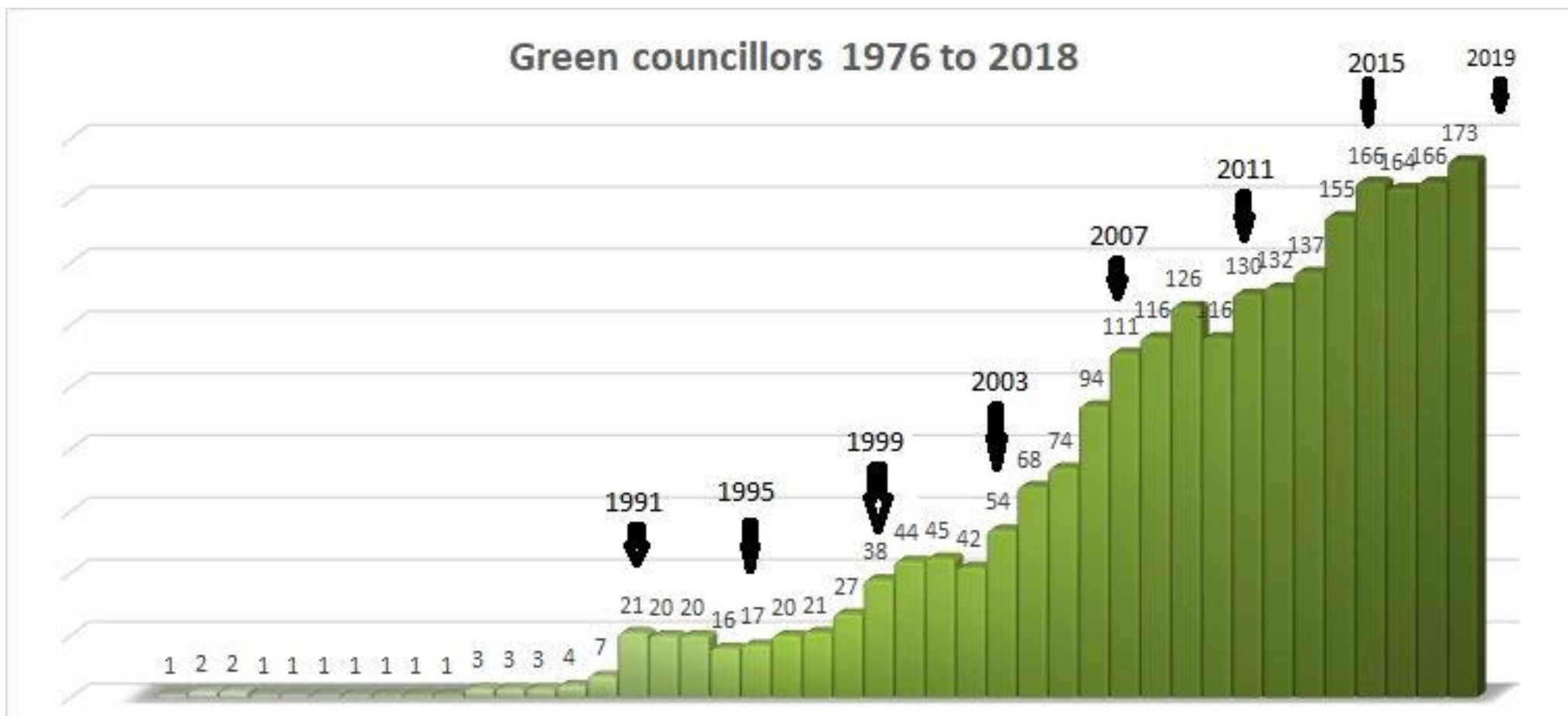
In 1986 Richard Lawson was elected for Congresbury in Woodspring District of Somerset – a seat which has remained Green ever since with two changes of councillor.

The same year John Marjoram and Martin Blaxendale were elected in Stroud, but Jeremy Faull failed to hold his seat in Cornwall so the net total rose to three.

In 1989 another seat was won in Medina on the Isle of Wight by Paul Taylor, and then three more in 1990 in Stroud, Runnymede and Leatherhead. The last two were sitting Liberal councillors defecting to Ecology.

1991 saw the first step increase in councillors from 7 to 21. 1991 was a 'big' election year with all the councils hold 'all-out' four yearly elections being up for grabs and 1,133 Green candidates stood. The average vote share was just over 10%.

Green councillors 1976 to 2018



And there it stayed throughout the 1990's with the party riven by internal wrangling and disappointing general and European election results. Councillor numbers varied between 21 and 16 until 1998.

Caroline Lucas was elected to Oxford County in 1993, offsetting the loss of a seat elsewhere. The next big round of local elections in 1995 brought no increase in seats, although it did see the first Green elected to Brighton City Council. It was not until 1998 that some modest overall gains were achieved.

As well as a European election with a pseudo PR system, 1999 was the next big round of district council elections and at last the party was in a position to contest them coherently – Target to Win was in play as official policy since 1996 (although it had been described in a newsletter as early as 1978) and a net gain of 11 councillors was achieved.

Since then it has been a story of fairly steady gains. Brighton, Norwich, Bristol and Lancaster cities have demonstrated that once you get the first couple of councillors elected it becomes easier (but never easy!) to win more.

However, it is important to maintain a sense of perspective. There are roughly 19,300 principal authority councillors in England and Wales. 40 years after the first Ecology councillor was elected, still less than 1% of councillors are Green.

At the current linear growth of 7.75 councillors a year over 20 years it will be 622 years before a quarter of council seats are green.

Can we afford to wait until the year 2640?

Let a Thousand Sunflowers Bloom

176 Green Party Principal Authority Councillors in 2018

England & Wales Local Authorities

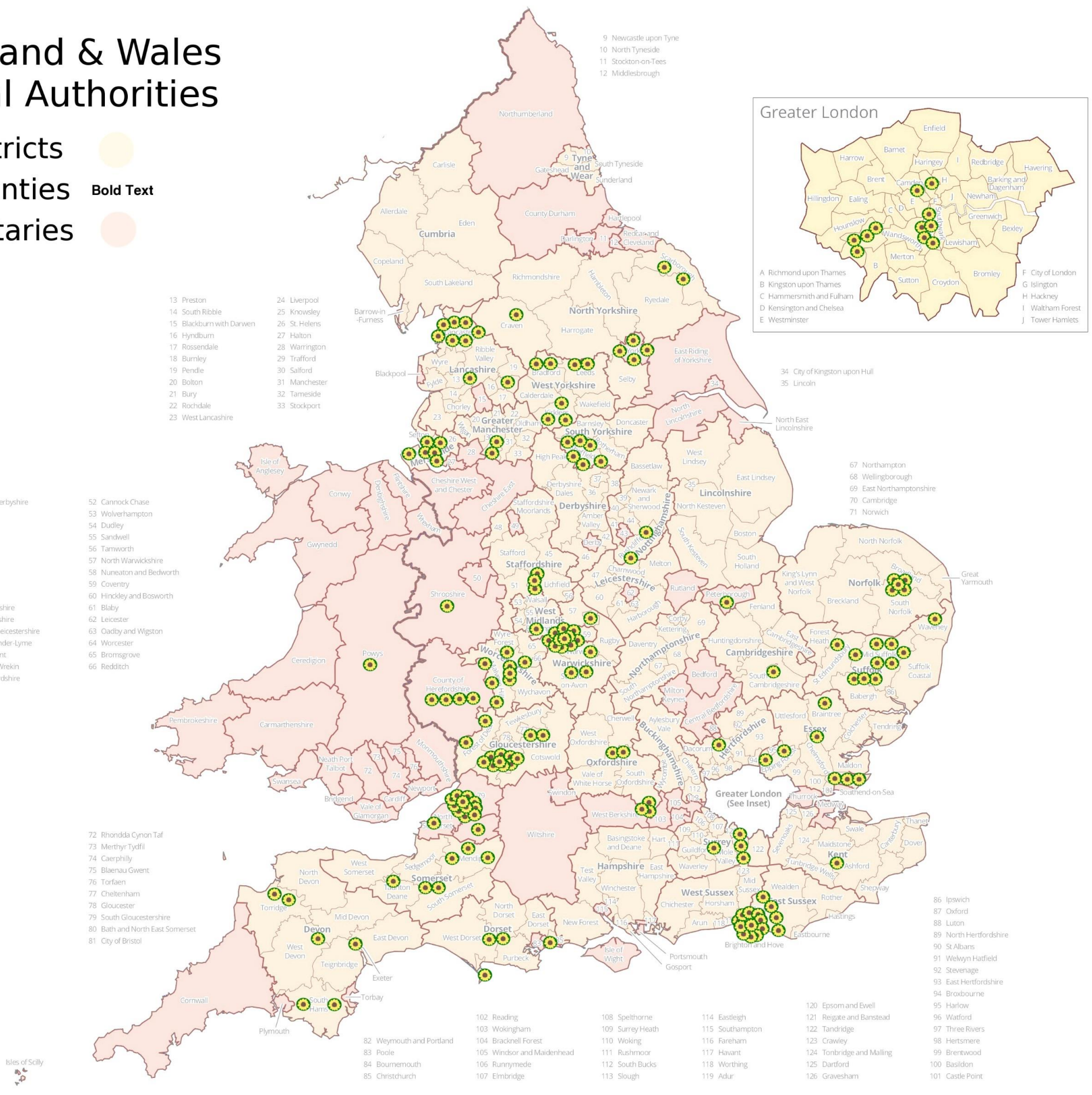
Districts



Counties

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Unitaries



Oscar Gillespie, Julie Howell, James Abbott, Simon Heap, Steven Neville, James Abbott, Diane Hoy, Michael Hoy, Stuart Wilson, Simon Grover, Ben Price, David Raby, Denise Carlo, Jo Henderson, Martin Schmierer, Andrew Stringer, Anne Killett, John Matthissen, Keith Welham, Rachel Eburne, Sarah Mansell, Julia Wakelam, Andrew Stringer, Elfrede Brambley Crawshaw, Robert Lindsay, Graham Elliott, Richard Mallender, Sue Mallender, Sian Berry, Caroline Russell, Jonathan Bartley, Nicole Griffiths, Pete Elliott, Rebecca Thackray, Scott Ainslie, Andree Frieze, Dylan Baxendale, Monica Saunders, Richard Bennett, Dan Jerrome, Geraldine Coggins, Kai Taylor, Anna Key, Lawrence Brown, Sarah Jennings, Tom Crone, Patrick Cleary, Andrew Fewings, Abi Mills, Caroline Jackson, Dave Brookes, John Barry, Nick Wilkinson, Rebecca Novell, Tim Hamilton Cox, Gina Dowding, Brenda McGonigle, Josh Williams, Robert White, Alexandra Phillips, Amanda Knight, David Gibson, Dick Page, Leo Littman, Lizzie Deane, Louisa Greenbaum, Ollie Sykes, Pete West, Phelim MacCafferty, Tom Druitt, Joanna Carter, Johnny Dennis, Susan Murray, Tony Rowell, Martin Whybrow, Craig Simmons, Dick Wolff, Hal Brown, Jonathan Essex, Steve McKenna, Jonathan Essex, Lin Patterson, Carla Denyer, Charlie Bolton, Cleo Lake, Clive Stevens, Eleanor Combley, Fi Hance, Jerome Thomas, Judith English, Martin Fodor, Paula O'Rourke, Stephen Clarke, Tom Leimdorfer, Simon Bull, Jacqi Hodgson, Chris Musgrave, Jacqi Hodgson, John Green, Cathrine Simmons, Peter Christie, Clare Sutton, John Orrell, John Orrell, Chris McFarling, Sid Phelps, Eva Ward, Rachel Smith, Catherine Braun, Jim Dewey, John Marjoram, Jonathan Edmunds, Karen McKeown, Martin Baxendale, Martin Whiteside, Norman Kay, Simon Pickering, Des Harris, Shane Collins, Stina Falle, John Clarke, Martin Dimery, Dave Mansell, Emily Durrant, Ellie Chowns, Felicity Norman, Jenny Bartlett, Trish Marsh, Andy Hodgson, Ben Groom, Chris Williams, James Burn, Jean Hamilton, Karl Macnaughton, Maggie Allen, Mark Wilson, Max McLoughlin, Tim Hodgson, Cheryl Buxton-Sait, Julien Pritchard, Julian Dean, Claire Wilkinson, Paul Woodhead, Stuart Crabtree, Keith Kondakor, Ian Davison, Jonathan Chilvers, Keith Kondakor, Chris Reed, John Raine, Natalie McVey, Louis Stephen, Louise Griffiths, Neil Laurenson, John Raine, Matthew Jenkins, Andy Brown, Andy D'Agorne, Dave Taylor, Denise Craghill, Lars Kramm, Kevin Warnes, Martin Love, Andrew Cooper, Julie Stewart-Turner, Karen Allison, Ann Blackburn, David Blackburn, Dilys Cluer, Mark Vesey, Alison Teal, Douglas Johnson, Kaltum Rivers, Magid Mah, Martin Phipps, Rob Murphy