
THE ECOLOGY PARTY

A NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT

ECOLOGY

In 1854, the Great White Chief in Washington made an offer for a large area of Indian land. Chief Seattle's reply, printed below, is one of the most beautiful and profound statements on ecology ever made - it illustrates an ecological view of the world far better than any dry philosophical analysis.

"How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?

Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing, and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. The sap which courses through the trees carries the memories of the red man.

The white man's dead forget the country of their birth when they go to walk among the stars. Our dead never forget this beautiful earth, for it is the mother of the red man. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices of the meadows, the body heat of the pony, and man - all belong to the same family.

So, when the Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land, he asks much of us. The Great Chief sends word that he will reserve us a place so that we can live

THE ECOLOGY PARTY AND ITS POLICIES

Today, we live in an industrial age.

An age in which man has found out:

- how to make weapons that could destroy the world
- how to poison and pollute our environment
- how to destroy complex ecosystems on whose stability we depend for our survival
- how to use up energy resources and minerals in a few generations.

An age in which society is disintegrating: our children will grow up in a society torn apart by unemployment, inflation, crime, poverty and injustice - all of which are a direct result of our industrial way of life.

Unless we completely rethink the problems facing us it is only a question of time before we are confronted with economic and social collapse. We do not need to destroy the biosphere utterly to bring catastrophe upon ourselves. All we have to do is carry on as we are. Are we that shortsighted? Is that what we want for ourselves and our children?

THE ECOLOGY PARTY SAYS NO.

Industrial society with all its problems cannot last - we must move forward to the post-industrial age now. It is not an impossible task; we do have the knowledge to foresee and avoid the logical consequences of our greed and stupidity.

So why are things getting worse?

Because successive governments not only ignore our problems, but perpetuate them. Tories, Liberals and Labour are all committed to a centralised industrial lifestyle - they have

but alternative ways of baking the same industrial cake, and different ways of sharing out the slices.

The Ecology Party offers a totally different cake, better and more satisfying. Not only that, but the ingredients won't run out either. We offer a stable, decentralised, just society. A society that will last.

A society that puts the individual first, with the accent on personal fulfilment rather than the continual acquisition of material goods. A society in which you and yours matter.

Our policies are based on two fundamental principles:

DEMOCRACY

GOVERNMENT

People must be given as much say as possible in running their own affairs - in determining the type of community in which they live. Every decision must be taken at the lowest possible level. Nothing should be done nationally that can be done at the district or county level, or by the local community; and nothing should be done by the local community that can be done by the family. The Ecology Party therefore proposes a system of community self-government - a system which would help recreate a caring and responsible society by allowing people to exercise control over their own lives.

JUSTICE

Our objective is the fair sharing of resources, wealth, amenities and decision-making power by all. The Ecology Party believes that we can attack injustice and exploitation at a fundamental level by decentralisation, and the

removal of power from the hands of the few.
To this end we would also:

- introduce a guaranteed minimum income for everyone, with basic needs provided unconditionally.
- ensure that workers are given their rights in the management and control of industry.
- ensure that communities are able to organise their own health, education and recreation facilities, according to their own needs.
- eliminate discrimination, both racial and sexual. Prejudices only flourish in an unjust society: we can achieve true equality through education and the establishment of a caring, face-to-face society, in which people are precious.

ECOLOGY

"Man did not weave the web of life - he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself." In other words, we must learn to live in harmony with nature, within the limits of the world's finite supply of resources. To do this, the Ecology Party proposes the following policies:

THE ECONOMY

Economic growth requiring unlimited consumption of raw materials cannot continue - thus our whole industrial and economic strategy of expansion must be discarded. In its place we must create a steady state economy in which wealth is assessed from what we have, rather than how quickly we use it - quality before quantity. A stable economic system would be based on conservation of resources, recycling, and sustainable small scale industries; on co-operation and sharing rather than competition, greed and exploitation. Growth must be curbed and existing wealth redistributed.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Government is deluding itself if it believes that full employment can be achieved through economic growth - for the simple reason that the necessary growth is not sustainable. The Ecology Party proposes:

- a shorter working week, which would also allow people to participate more fully in community life and government.
- a general clean-up of the legacy of industrial wastes from the last 150 years.
- a programme of house insulation and other energy conservation measures, creating thousands of jobs across the country.
- the encouragement of labour intensive rather than capital intensive jobs (especially in agriculture.)

ENERGY

The Ecology Party is absolutely opposed to the development of nuclear power which represents the most dangerous threat to the future of humanity. We propose the introduction of an energy policy that stresses conservation, and the development of natural pollution-free sources such as solar and wind power. Together, these two measures will meet all the energy needs of an ecological society.

POPULATION

In future our prosperity is going to depend very much on our numbers - we must bring into the world only as many people as society can care for justly. This means stabilizing our population at a level that can be sustained comfortably by our domestic production of food and raw materials.

These goals can only be achieved with a co-ordinated programme of social, political and economic change - minor piecemeal adjustments by other political parties which remain committed in essence to policies which have led to our present crisis, will only aggravate the situation.

However, the difference between all other political groups and the Ecology Party, is not just a matter of our alternative policies. The real division is between rival philosophies of life:

- one believes in exploiting natural resources, the other in conserving them.
- the one believes in centralized control, the other in regional self-government.
- the one believes in conquering, the other in co-operating with nature.

The philosophy and policies of the Ecology Party give us the chance of building a sustainable democracy which would bring security to our descendents for thousands of years. The alternative is the destruction of the biosphere and complete social collapse.

The choice is yours.

If you would like to join us or would like full details of our policies, please contact:

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Devon Ecology Party



3, Mowbray Avenue,
Exeter,
EX4 4HB,
Devon.

17th January 1978.

Dear *Steve Lambert*

I enclose a copy of a leaflet we have recently produced. It is intended to serve as an introduction to both ecology and the Ecology Party, for people who have come across neither before. Given that the Ecology Party as a whole has very little general literature available, we hope that our pamphlet will be of use to groups throughout the country which do not as yet have the resources to produce their own

Our initial print run was for 2000 - this represents a considerable outlay for us, so we hope you will order large quantities! Prices are as follows:

5: 45p
10: 75p
20: £1.25p
50: £2.75p
100: £5.00p

All prices include postage. Please make cheques payable to 'Devon Ecology Party'.

Yours,

Peter Frings

Peter Frings (Secretary).