

What
is
the
Oxford
Ecology
Movement



The Oxford Ecology Movement is a new political movement founded last year to offer Oxford voters a chance to vote for new and sane policies for the future instead of the stale policies of recent years. We all depend on the earth, its soils and seas, the sun and the air for our existence, yet modern society, by headlong "growth" and "progress", is endangering the whole delicate balance of life on the planet.

At the same time society has become so large and impersonal that it is very hard for an individual to make himself or herself felt in the maze of bureaucracy, rules, regulations and forms we are all faced with.

We in the OEM believe that not only can something be done about the destructive and impersonal trends in modern society, but something must be done, or the world we bequeath to our children will be too grim and repressive to live and work for: a society of vast and dangerous nuclear power stations, huge companies, all-pervading computers and very little private life.

Whatever the other parties say, what they do in government is the test. They talk about freedom and individuality, but in practice they go on making everything bigger and more centralised, always thinking they know what is best for us. In their offices and computers they have lost touch with the reality of the fragile balance of life, and the fact that the earth's resources are limited, and will be used up if "growth" is endlessly pursued. Enormous amounts of taxpayers' money, our money, are wasted because the bureaucracy is too remote to understand or listen to peoples' real needs.



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Who is your candidate ?

Your candidate, ANTHONY CHEKE, 33, has lived in and around Oxford for 16 years, with spells abroad for wildlife research and conservation. He now works as librarian of the Edward Grey Institute in the university zoology department. He is married, and in the throes of buying a house in East Oxford. He has been active in environmental action in Oxford since 1972, and has recently been involved in a project developing new methods of organic gardening and a special solar greenhouse.



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Why vote ecology ?

A vote for the OEM is a positive vote for a better future, where you as an individual will have a real say in what is going on in your community and in Britain

Only if people vote for ecology candidates will other politicians understand that the public wants a change, and in what direction that change is needed. At present, by hiding the facts of what life will be like if we carry on in the same old way, politicians of the old parties think they can fool the public into accepting their worn-out solutions, which are slowly leading us to disaster.

LOOK AT some of these old ideas:

- * Has unemployment been solved by policies of economic growth ?
- * Do more roads solve traffic problems ?
- * Are cheap throwaway goods better than quality durable products ?
- * Has nuclear power made your electricity bills go down ?
- * Have you got anything out of Concorde ?
- * Do more pills bring better health ?
- * Has "efficient farming" improved the countryside ?

The answer to all these is clearly **NO** !

Yet each of the old parties wants to carry on with most of these same old "solutions"; they can't seem to stop themselves.

We in the Oxford Ecology Movement offer new and more realistic policies

a green vote is a vote for fresh thinking

vote for tomorrow

a green vote is a vote for our lives & surroundings

vote **CHEKE**

Here are some of our ideas and policies:

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

We must act now to stop greedy and irresponsible use of our limited resources, and save some for our children. We must promote durable goods over ones that quickly rust and break. How many times have your new shoes collapsed after a week or two?

SAFE ENERGY

Dangerous and expensive nuclear power stations should be phased out and replaced with alternatives such as wind, waves, water and sun. Oil and coal reserves should be conserved and used in the cleanest possible way. Waste heat from power stations should heat homes, not the sky.

NATURAL HEALTH

Fresh air, clean water and fresh food are the essentials of good health. Our present lifestyle causes many of our illnesses, which would disappear in a gentler society eating more whole instead of processed food. Health care is the responsibility of the community, not just special institutions.

HOMES, NOT "LITTLE BOXES"

Make do and mend is better than bulldoze and redevelop. Communities must not be destroyed by developers. All houses should have special grants for insulation to cut heating costs. Council houses should be available to a wider range of people, and housing co-ops made easier to set up.

EDUCATION

What did you learn at school about life as it really is? Schools should be closer to the community, and not just to get rid of children during the day. Education is vital, but it must be sensitive and relevant, and all should help in it.

SATISFYING WORK

The prospect of mindless machine-watching leads many young people to vandalism and violence. We need to promote opportunities for creative and co-operative work in smaller factories and workshops, with worker control, to allow production of better quality goods by happier people. Necessary but nasty jobs (rubbish and tax collecting, mining) should be shared by everyone as a community service.

TAX AND ALLOWANCES

A basic personal income (replacing tax allowances and social security) should be paid automatically to all adults. Tax on other income should be simple and progressive (no poverty traps), and designed to prevent excessive riches and exploitation.

STABILITY

The economy should be steered away from hopeless attempts at more growth towards building up a stable system in balance with resources.

WAR AND PEACE

Nuclear terror cannot bring peace. Britain must make a stand against the global increase in super-weapons. Make ours a voice for peace.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

a vote for the old parties only confirms them on their road to disaster

vote ecology

YOUR CANDIDATE IS **Anthony Cheke**

TRAVELLING LIGHT

We can't afford to waste our land on more roads and airports. Good public transport is much more economical than private cars. Buses and trains should co-operate, not compete for custom. Neighbourhood car and van sharing schemes should be promoted. Juggernauts should be smaller, not bigger as the Common Market wants.

STOP THE POISON !

Lead in petrol damages childrens' brains: it should be banned. Tankers need much more control against oil spills. Many food additives and vapours given off by plastics cause allergies and cancer - companies should have to prove they are necessary, and unnecessary ones banned.

DEMOCRACY AND DECENTRALISATION

Politicians want your votes, but how often have they consulted you afterwards about their plans and policies? Most issues could and should be dealt with at district council level, where we would have greater control. Let local districts collect tax, letting us decide how much to give to London. Proportional representation would mean proper democracy - each vote would have the same positive value. A Freedom of Information Act would safeguard the public from secretive bureaucracy and misuse of power.

GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND

Factory farming is cruel and unnecessary, and should be phased out. We should preserve our soils by careful use of organic manures, not ruin them with chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Big farms destroy hedges and wildlife - we should return to small personal farms. More allotments should be made available. Tree planting and forestry are vital as we are very short of wood.

WILDLIFE

Bigger reserves should be made for wildlife. Imports of all endangered species and products made from them should be stopped. Sperm whale oil can easily be replaced.



your candidate writes

Dear Voter,

I realise that it is an act of faith to ask you to vote for me rather than a candidate of the more familiar parties. However we in the OEM feel, after many years of trying to make politicians understand the damage they are doing to the earth, that the time has come to offer people a direct choice at an election: do you, or don't you, have confidence in the way things are going in this country? The old parties only offer slightly different versions of the same old thing: we look forward to a really "green and pleasant" land in the future, not dominated by bureaucracy and nuclear power.

The OEM may be new as a political group, but most of us have been involved in campaigns for a better future for many years - as members of the Conservation Society, Friends of the Earth, Soil Association etc. Some have worked with CND, the Abortion Law Reform Association and other radical groups, while others have kept in touch with themselves and the earth through religion, yoga, Zen or travel to many countries and cultures. We come from many backgrounds, and came together to add the chance of voting for a sane future to our other activities for a better world. None of us are professional politicians, and are only involved in politics to provide the people of Oxford with an opportunity to express their views in a new and positive way. Voting is a little act, but can say a lot if you use it carefully. Please think about it.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Cheke

For a copy of the full manifesto contact us at
6 Glebe St., phone 43476 or 58513.