

1982-1992

Another decade of disintegration? – or of *real* progress through the Green Movement?

We already share the *makings* of a movement, but at the moment we seem paralysed at the prospect of putting it all together! We beaver away on our own little patch, taking action here, campaigning there, but with only the occasional thought for the political implications of what we're doing.

The Green Movement of the eighties faces a double challenge:

- **Firstly, we must learn to rely more on the links between our thousands of members, and find more effective ways of working together. That's what's already happening in Europe. Germany, Belgium, Holland and Scandinavia – this is where the green movement is beginning to *command* political attention.**
- **Secondly, whatever our own particular concerns, they must find political expression in a way which relates them to today's major issues: peace, mass unemployment, the North/South divide, social breakdown, human rights and survival itself. The notion of a 'single-issue campaign' is becoming more and more redundant.**

Report after report has confirmed the basic ecological analysis of a divided humanity careering to catastrophe, our social and physical environment increasingly at risk as the rich strive to get richer and the poor struggle to stay alive.

Yet they've all been shelved! Governments heed only that evidence which suits their own interests. The other parties all have economic programmes geared to sustaining and stimulating our wasteful consumer society which caused the problems in the first place. *Only green politics is securely based on the modern imperatives of conservation, ecological sustainability and increased quality of life.*

So where does that leave the Ecology Party?

Before the 1979 General Election, the Ecology Party had 700 members. Its 53 candidate campaign boosted that to 6,000 within the year, and did as much to get the politics of ecology discussed – both locally and nationally – as any single event before or since.

We now need *you* to convert that tentative start into a real breakthrough

We have already started preparing for the next General Election. It won't be an easy campaign for us; we'll be out on a limb again, the only party telling the truth. We have nothing to contribute to the strident appeals to sectional interest, to hollow predictions of economic recovery and 'full employment', to promises of tax cuts and 'massive reflation', or to the despicable process of simultaneously persuading unilateralists that you *will* and multilateralists that you *won't*.

We know the problems go deeper than that. So surely do you. We need policies that go to the root of things and we need them *now*. For until we 'greens' learn to work together *politically* our vision of a just and sustainable society will remain an idle dream.

E. F. Schumacher once said:

We must do what we conceive to be the right thing, and not bother our heads or burden our souls with whether we're going to be successful. Because if we don't do the right thing, we'll be doing the wrong thing, and we'll just be part of the disease and not a part of the cure.

Green Politics

You may well say that politics doesn't necessarily mean party politics. For us, the party is simply the way we organize ourselves round the major political issues, and elections have proved a most effective way of getting the message across.

But the Ecology Party isn't just about fighting elections:

- it's about community and cooperative projects geared to socially useful production, local self-reliance and long-term sustainability
- it's about participation, personal responsibility, and individual lifestyles, about our diet, our health, our state of mind and spirit
- it's about consistent non-violent confrontation with the forces that are destroying the planet and threatening human survival
- it's about establishing much wider links within the green movement, through publications, gatherings and shared local initiatives
- it's about a new form of politics which challenges the domination of leaders, men, materialism, gigantism, violence and inappropriate technology

Green politics has something new to say, and a new way in which to say it. But to be truly effective, we need your support right now.

A strong challenge from the Ecology Party in the General Election will force the other parties to face up to the issues which really matter. Without that sort of challenge, green politics will be for ever struggling even to get onto the agenda. That, quite literally, would be a disaster.

Publications	Quantity	Cost
1. Jobs for Keeps. (25p) A radical policy for employment		
2. The Politics of Ecology (25p) A full explanation of our philosophy and principles		
3. The Real Alternative (25p) A short manifesto of the Party's policies		
4. How to Survive the Nuclear Age (80p) A major new pamphlet on Civil Defence and disarmament		
Postage and Packing		20p
TOTAL (please fill in this amount in next column)		

SOMERSET ECOLOGY PARTY
c/o 6 ALMA ST.
TAUNTON.

How to support the Ecology Party

The best thing you can do is join us!

The normal subscription is £6. Students, pensioners and claimants can join for £3. For that you get full membership of the Party, but even that isn't enough to make us the force in politics that we need to be. We very much depend on the contributions that people can make.

1. I would like to join the Ecology Party

Subscription £ 3

2. I would like to make a donation

(a) to the National Party £ 2

(b) to ~~SOMERSET~~ branch £ 2

3. More information please, £
(see Publication List)

TOTAL (enclosed) £ 7

Name LUCY MACKELLIGIN

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Tel No. 782432

Signature Lucy Mackelligin Date

If you wish, state any skills or special interests here.

Lucy Mackelligin

I wish to receive the Activists Mailing

I am interested to learn more about the Sustainable Community Activists Project

Send this form either to:

Ecology Party, 36-38 Clapham Road, London SW9 0JQ or to the local Ecology Party branch in the box at the top of the page.

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