

ECOLOGY PARTY

Summary of constitutional decisions in effect on 1.9.76

National Executive Committee meeting 21.6.74

NEC to have power to co-opt sub-committees as required
Expenditure incurred without prior NEC approval may be ratified at the discretion of the NEC
To be no formal party constitution.
NEC rules and Conference rules to be determined by the NEC each year
NEC quorum to be 4
NEC Chairman to vote only if there was an equal division of votes.

NEC meeting 26.7.74

NEC opposed at this stage to any mention of a link between paid-up membership and block voting rights for the purpose of attracting funds through affiliation. (passed on Chairman's casting vote)
Request for NEC minutes to be made available to non-party members declined. Suggested that the minutes be available to members only for 5 years.

NEC meeting 11.10.74

Paid-up members to be allowed as observers at NEC meetings.

NEC meeting 17.11.74

NEC members to be free to publicise individual opinions provided they make it clear that they are not speaking on behalf of the party.

NEC meeting 14.2.75

NEC members to be ineligible for re-election the year following 3 years' consecutive service.
NEC elections to be annual
NEC to appoint its own Chairman.
Concept of Party Leader inappropriate unless or until one emerged spontaneously.
NEC to be increased to 7 at 2nd annual Conference. Proposers and seconders inappropriate owing to isolation of some members.
Area Organisers expected to pay subscriptions

NEC meeting 23.3.75

NEC members must pay subscriptions

NEC meeting 4.5.75

Subscription paid on behalf of a minor accepted as an enrolment.
Regionalisation of NEC representation and duties agreed as right but premature.

NEC meeting 13.6.75

Any party member had authority to make any statement, however controversial, without dissociating the party, provided it was consistent with official policy, or a logical consequence of it.

2nd annual Conference 28/29.6.75

The Ecology Party ratified as the party name by 75% of those present.
No smoking to take place at any party meeting
Subscriptions to be fixed by the NEC
New NEC: K.M.Benfield, E.Davenport, P.Murray and E.Jones (also two other members who have since resigned).

contd over/

Constitutional decisions (contd) 2

NEC meeting 13.7.75

NEC venue to rotate round members, host to be Chairman.
Refund of NEC members' expenses agreed as a statement of intent.

NEC meeting 31.8.75

Constitutional summary in this form to be updated annually.
NEC travel fund opened with a donation of £30.
Party spokesmen: each occasion to be allocated as it arose by the NEC
Newsletter Editor answerable to the NEC on all matters, though on content
this could only be after the event.
Newsletter editorship could be changed at any time.
The n/1 editorial should be unsigned, since it was, and must always
adhere to, the official party view; all other articles should be signed
or initialled.
Subscriptions fixed at £4.00 p.a., renewable on 1st Jan, but to be
halved after the annual conference had been held.

NEC meeting 1.11.75

Whenever the newsletter formed part of another publication, the words
"Only the Ecology Party newsletter necessarily reflects the views of
the party" to be displayed on each issue.

NEC meeting 30.11.75

Affirmed that the NEC was a co-ordinating committee, not the leaders
of the party.
A formal AGM to be held at each annual conference.

NEC meeting 11.1.76

General Membership introduced (renamed 'Pledged Supporters' on 4.4.76):
anyone who had made a donation of any size within the last 12 months
(no voting rights or newsletter), the purpose being to give a more
realistic figure for our true support.

NEC meeting 8.2.76

Merger of the newsletter with Good Earth approved.
In view of the increased circulation, permission to be obtained for/
any material subject to copyright. publication of
Failing any offers following a newsletter item, the NEC to fill any
vacancies as it thought fit.
The idea of a Scottish EP analogous to the breakaway Scottish Labour
Party accepted in principle by the NEC, subject to the suggestion that
a conference of Scottish members would be a first requirement.

NEC meeting 4.4.76

1976 Conference to be limited to paid-up members

NEC meeting 7.3.76

Damon Thompson, J.Davenport, K.Rushworth and D.Nightingale-Smith to be
co-opted on to the NEC as from 1.5.76 following a newsletter announcement.