

Biodiversity and Green Spaces

Planting for wildlife, balancing order with nature



A pair of otters - recently announced as back from the brink and present in every English County

The issue of biodiversity and green spaces is often a very local issue. The preservation of wildlife reserves, parks, woods, even verges and overgrown wasteland can energise a local population. It is important to recognise the value of the natural world, and protect it accordingly.

Lib Dem policy:

Policy Paper 26 - Living in the Greenhouse, Policies to Tackle Climate Change, published in 1997

5.0.7: Biodiversity. Countryside protection policies need to adapt to the increasing number of species placed at risk from climate change. The reform of the CAP which Liberal Democrats envisage would ensure that increased resources became available for the protection of rare species and habitats. Legal protection for vulnerable areas also needs to be strengthened.

Policy Paper 31 - Keeping the Balance, Policies on Genetic Modification, published in 1999

5.2.5 includes: We call for: a) All countries to sign the Convention on Biological Diversity, and for it to be given effective enforcement powers. b) Issues concerning TRIPS and genetic patenting to be reviewed as part of the WTO 'Millennium Round'

Policy Paper 52 - Rural Futures, published in 2002

4.0 The Liberal Democrats are developing integrated policies to ensure truly sustainable and flourishing farming and land use for strong local communities, and a healthy, unpolluted, safe and biodiverse environment for those who live in and visit the countryside.

4.7.3 The Liberal Democrats call for a National Pesticide Reduction Strategy, with clear targets for reduction in usage and encourage local authorities to draw up Pesticide Reduction strategies.

Policy Paper 93 - Our Natural Heritage, Policies on the Natural Environment, published in 2009 (whole paper is relevant).

1.0.1: Whether it's the rolling green hills of our rural landscape or the diversity of wildlife in an urban garden, Liberal Democrats recognise that a healthy natural environment is crucial to our quality of life.

Challenge:

07 Winter	p1	The Forgotten Crisis
08 Spring	p2	The New Green Agenda Is Mental
08 Summer	p1	Mainstreaming Environmental Action
08 Autumn	p18	What Will The Next War Be About?
09 Summer	p4	A Local Green Way Out Of Recession
09 Autumn	p5	A Green Tick for the Libdems
09 Autumn	p7	Our Natural Heritage, The Verdict
09 Autumn	p10	Campaigning for the Natural Environment
10 Summer	p14	Keeping the Swifts Flying
10 Winter	p6	Biodiversity - The Hidden Threat To Us All
11 Spring	p21	Save Our Wood
11 Summer	p21	Silent Forests

Resources:

The Wildlife Trusts Biodiversity Benchmark

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/biodiversitybenchmark>

Cambridge and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership <http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/>

The Convention on Biological Diversity <http://www.cbd.int/>

UN Decade on Biodiversity <http://www.decadeonbiodiversity.net/>

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity <http://www.teebweb.org/>

Natural England <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

The Natural History Museum <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/>

DEFRA UK BAP site <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5155>

The National Biodiversity Network <http://www.nbn.org.uk/>

The Biodiversity Planning Toolkit <http://www.biodiversityplanningtoolkit.com/>

Biodiversity Economics <http://biodiversityeconomics.org/>

The Forum for the Future Sustainable Cities Index

<http://www.forumforthefuture.org/project/sustainable-cities-index/overview>