

Community and the Environment

Transition, Wildlife Trusts, Nature Reserves,
Awareness Raising



Looking after the local environment

Community and the environment looks at how the community interacts and takes stewardship of the environment. Four main themes of this are: Transition, wildlife trusts, nature reserves, awareness raising

LibDem policy:

PP2 - Reclaiming the City, Quality of Life in Urban Areas (pub 1994)

5.2.4 Conservation, both of the built and the natural environment, is a crucial element of planning policy. Local authorities should be given greater powers to designate and to offer proper protection to sites, with effective enforcement powers.

PP45 - Local Economies, Local Choice (pub 2001)

5.0.2 Liberal Democrats believe sustainability must be inextricably linked with all policy, especially economic policy and above all local economic policy.

PP69 - Affordable homes in Safer, Greener, communities (pub 2004)

4.2. looks at improving access to Open Spaces through minimum standards in planning developments and the rights of communities to reclaim under used land. Policy would allow rights of public access on private open space created and the rights to have the communities on management committees of these open spaces.

4.3.2 makes the statement that "Liberal Democrats believe sustainable communities will only be achieved when local people are empowered, through their councils, tenant associations and local community groups."

5.4.6 Makes a priority to identify land for new Community :Land trusts (CLTs), issues and issue guidance for councils and private foundations on how they can provide land for the trusts and encourages councils to undertake an audit and publish a register.

5.4.3 introduces the concept of community land auctions to enable community to acquire land

PP73 - Your community , your choice - local government policy paper (pub 2006)

Although this is a local government structural paper it does give to major principles that link to the above; Reaffirming decisions to the lowest level and citizens should be given incentives to re-engage with their communities

PP77 Green and prosperous communities (pub 2007)

This paper looks at Social cohesion and regeneration as a theme. Whilst not specifically talking environmental issues the paper looks at encouraging volunteering that could be for environmental projects.

PP93 - Our Natural Environment (pub 2009)

2.3.2 Introduces environmental labelling, the impact

4.1.1 involves local communities in creating new community woodland and green areas.

4.1.2 Encourages the development of 'greenways'

4.2.1 introduces a special designation comparable to SSSI to allow the protection of allotments and other green spaces of particular value to the health and wellbeing of local people.

4.2.5 Local authorities will be given the responsibility for working together to agree

Landscape Policies to protect and enhance natural geographical areas such as river basins, moors, woodland areas, flood plains or islands.

PP102 - Quality of Life (pub 2011)

5.6.3 We will make the promotion of quality of life the central goal of the planning framework.

Challenge:

08 Spring	p8	Towards Greener Living	
09 Spring	p9	Small is Still Beautiful	
10 Spring	p9	Saving Our Seas	p15 Sustainable Tourism
10 Spring	p23	The Path To Transition	
10 Summer	p15	People Power	
10 Autumn	p21	Localism and Climate Change in Eastleigh	
11 Spring	p6	Micro Hydro-power in Rural Africa	
11 Autumn	p22	Making Planning Work Differently	
12 Summer	p19	A Sustainable Future for Fish	
12 Autumn	p18	Reserve Judgement	
13 Spring	p6	Farming, Floods and Forests	
13 Winter	p5	Negating NIMBYism	p22 Community Energy
14 Summer	p10	Global Sanctuary	

Resources:

Transition Network - <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/>

Further resource on the transition movement. <http://transitionculture.org/>

Wildlife extra guide to the UK's wildlife and nature reserves. <http://www.wildlifeextra.com/>

Hub for the 47 wildlife trusts in the UK. <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/>

Wildlife Trusts nature reserves <http://www.wild-net.org/ukwebsite/TWTReserves.aspx>

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

RSPB – Royal Society for Protection of Birds <http://www.rspb.org.uk/>

National Trust - <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

Community Wind Power - community owned wind energy consultancy
<http://www.communitywindpower.co.uk/>

West Mill Community Wind Farm - located in the South East
http://www.westmill.coop/westmill_home.asp

Going Greener from People and Planet – Transition Universities initiative
<http://peopleandplanet.org/goinggreener>

The UK Green Film Festival <http://www.ukgreenfilmfestival.org/>