

Proposal	Establishment of GPUS EcoAction Committee
Presenter	Green Party of Minnesota
Floor Manager	Marc Sanson
Phase	Closed
Discussion	11/21/2005 - 12/16/2005
Voting	12/17/2005 - 12/23/2005
Result	Adopted
Presens Quorum	32 0.6666
Consens Quorum	40 A Majority of Yes and No Votes

Background

The Green Party of the United States recognizes the following in its Ten Key Values:

ECOLOGICAL WISDOM

Human societies must operate with the understanding that we are part of nature, not separate from nature. We must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet. We support a sustainable society which utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit and not suffer from the practices of our generation. To this end we must practice agriculture which replenishes the soil; move to an energy efficient economy; and live in ways that respect the integrity of natural systems.

NON-VIOLENCE

It is essential that we develop effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence. We will work to demilitarize, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, without being naive about the intentions of other governments. We recognize the need for self-defense and the defense of others who are in helpless situations. We promote non-violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree, and will guide our actions toward lasting personal, community and global peace.

PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

We encourage individuals to act to improve their personal well-being and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony. We seek to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Our actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. We seek to protect valuable natural resources, safely disposing of or "unmaking" • all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival. We must counterbalance the drive for short-term profits by assuring that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions.

It is clear and overwhelming that the Earth is in crisis, and that in mainstream US politics, the Earth has no voice, and no advocate. Global warming, disease proliferation, species endangerment and abuse (and others), caused in part by pollution, deforestation, topsoil erosion, urban sprawl, and population growth (and others), are issues that need to be taken up in government and by the people.

Proposal

The Green Party of the United States shall establish an EcoAction Committee. The purpose and function of this committee shall be to facilitate the planning and achievement of eco-justice action proposals adopted by the Green Party, to support and promote the Green Party's candidates, eco-justice platform and agenda, and to promote and lobby for responsible government stewardship of the Earth and its inhabitants. For the purposes of this committee, the term eco-justice refers to ecological wisdom and environmental justice.

1. Committee Structure

The EcoAction Committee shall be a standing committee of the GPUS and shall be governed by section 3 of the bylaws of the Green Party of the United States (GPUS). The committee shall be made up of volunteers from the various state Green parties and caucuses. As a standing committee of the GPUS, up to three members of any state party or caucus may be members of the EcoAction Committee. Each state party or caucus, when nominating a member to the committee shall send a note to the co-chairs of the committee informing the committee of its nominations. The EcoAction Committee shall maintain an email list for the communication of committee business and to use in formal decision making.

2. Leadership

The co-chairs and secretary shall be elected by the membership of the committee yearly or when a vacancy occurs either at an in person meeting of the committee at the yearly meeting of the GPUS NC or in an online election to be conducted using Ranked Voting.

a. Co- Chairs:

When possible the co-chairs shall be of different genders and from different states. The job of the co-chairs is to keep the committee on task and provide leadership to the various sub groups of the committee working on specific tasks. Co-chairs of the committee may not assume the task of list administrator.

b. Secretary:

The Secretary shall conduct all correspondence, agenda requirements and other clerical requests of the committee.

3. Decisions

Before making a formal decision, the EcoAction Committee shall publish the resolution on its email list noting that a decision will be made. The committee shall then attempt to achieve consensus on the resolution.

Following

a minimum of five days, if no consensus is achieved, the committee shall be empowered to vote, and a 2/3 vote of the voting active members shall be required for passage. Each member of the committee shall have one vote. All votes will be conducted by open ballot.

The co-chairs shall conduct, certify and record the tally of the votes.

When the committee makes a decision by consensus, a shorter decision-making process is allowed as long as sufficient time for comments and concerns, at least 5 days, is given.

All decisions that must be forwarded to the GPUS NC for a further decision, shall include in the EcoAction Committee resolution, a clause to that effect.

Minority reports may be submitted as part of a resolution when requested by EcoAction committee members.

4. Quorums and Active Members

An active member of the EcoAction Committee shall be defined as a duly-selected member who has been active within the last three months, taking part in discussion, decisions, or subgroup work within that period. The co-chairs shall be responsible for keeping a roster of active members, though they may ask other committee members to actually keep the list. One half of the active membership shall constitute a quorum for formal decision making. There shall be no quorum requirements for the committee to take on projects, designate people to work on projects, or other informal work that moves the committees operations and projects along.

5. Teleconferences and In-Person Meetings

A quorum for a vote on the co-chair, is one half of the active membership. All formal decisions made at a teleconference or in-person meeting shall be reviewed online using the list of active committee members and the normal decision making process. A one week notice of meetings must be provided.

Minutes shall be kept of all meetings and teleconferences, and these shall be sent by e-mail to members within one week.

6. Reports

The EcoAction Committee shall make monthly reports to the GPUS NC on its work. The co-chairs shall lead that process.

7. Committee Members Rights and Responsibilities

A. All members will work to improve their communication skills, their ability to tolerate genuine differences, their willingness to take the time to

build relationships and genuinely listen and resolve conflicts, their commitment to integrity, openness and transparency, their natural curiosity about different cultures, their respect for multiple ways of being effective and their celebration of difference and the unknown, and to lower their distrust and insecurities that lead to controlling, manipulative and intolerant behavior.

B. The committee will work to be tolerant, and to work with each member to identify the underlying causes of behavior that others experience as disruptive or obstructionist and change the committee process so as to meet those needs to that behavior experienced as disruptive or obstructionist dissipates.

C. Any member who consistently cannot follow agreed upon processes, acts in a disrespectful or offensive manner, engages in illegal activities within the committee or that, in the opinion of the EcoAction Committee, are inconsistent with Green Party activism or values, will be sent written notice from the co-chairs by agreement of the EcoAction Committee according to formal decision making procedures. A written notice will also be sent to the member's state party or caucus. Mediation may be offered (see section C) except in cases where delayed action might have serious legal or financial consequences. In that case, the state party or caucus will be asked to remove the member and designate a replacement.

D. EcoAction Committee members who feel a member is not following e-mail list rules make their concerns known to co-chairs and list administrator. The co-chairs and list administrator will contact the member. If the problem persists, the list administrator and co-chairs will issue a formal warning on the list. After a second formal warning, the member's postings will be moderated for two months and a second notice will be sent by the list administrator, who will at once document the offenses to the EcoAction Committee co-chairs and notify the list.

E. Mediation will be offered at this time by a process agreed upon by the EcoAction Committee. Also at this time, the state party will be notified of the second warning. Whenever possible, supporting documentation (e-mail posts; missed deadlines; incomplete or sub-standard assignments) should be provided to the state. Once the member is returned to the list, if there is a third warning, the EcoAction Committee votes on sending a formal complaint to the member's state party or caucus.

F. Ethical Standards

The rights of a Green in the GPUS EcoAction Committee shall not be curtailed without first meeting the following due process rules.

The Green whose rights are being curtailed has:

- a. the right to know one's accusers;
- b. the right to know the charges one is being accused of;
- c. the right to question, with expectation of redress, matters of bias, unnecessary delays, and other tactics which are entered into in an attempt to make the process less than a fair consideration of merit;
- d. the right to respond fully and to all affected audiences and stakeholders on one's own behalf;

- e. the right to present evidence on one's behalf;
- f. the right to call witnesses on one's behalf;
- g. the implicit promise that both the accusers and defendants will be held to the truth in their presentations;
- h. the implicit promise that the cases of both the accusers and the defendants will be equally presented in terms of time and attention, if requested by either;
- i. the implicit promise that those entrusted with the dispatch of the process will conduct it in as even-handed a manner as possible.

Resources

Required: Email list serv to facilitate committee work

Contact: Kristen Olson

References

GPUS Bylaws section 3

Questions about this system?

Contact the [Voting Admin](#).

The Green Party of the United States voting system is [free software](#), licensed under the [GNU](#) General Public License ([GPL](#)).

You can download a copy [here](#).

To independently verify a *ranked choice vote*, or for information about how that works, go to [Jonathan Lundell's Voting Page](#) and upload the ballot file from the ranked choice vote result page. JL's ranked choice module is licensed under an alternate free software license.