

Chapter III, NOT showing changes

Issues to be considered for Chapter III:

- 1. We need a much stronger and more central emphasis on climate change and our program to limit this potential disaster for the planet.*
- 2. (A.6 and 8) A distinction should be made among biofuels. Corn-based ethanol is a particular problem. Why is cellulosic ethanol ruled out? Some use of biodiesel may be warranted.*
- 3. (B.2) I don't think we want to rule out the use of radioactive isotopes for medical purposes or for certain industrial instrumentation purposes.*
- 4. (C.22) Completely banning short haul air transport may be a little extreme.*
- 5. (H.1) An amendment is proposed to eliminate assistance to small to medium sized ranches.*
- 6. (H.9) Alternative versions are presented, one of which advocates a complete end to raising animals for slaughter.*
- 7. (K.6) One version crosses out goats (and any animals) as a sustainable means of weed control.*
- 8. (G. various places) Version 2 adds a long introductory paragraph, and a longer section at the end of point 3,.*

III. Ecological Sustainability

A. Energy

Our energy use and abuse is at the core of many environmental and even social problems. With less than 5% of the world's population, the U.S. consumes 22% of the world's energy resources. Our oil and gas addiction in particular has led to wars and human rights abuses in many countries.

The regional and global peaks in oil, gas, coal and uranium production are driving up costs of conventional fuels, threatening wars and social chaos if we cannot move beyond the dirty fuels immediately and invest in only the cleanest, most sustainable energy strategies.

We advocate strong energy policies at all levels of government to shift decisively away from polluting energy systems towards reduced energy use and clean energy sources.

We oppose energy utility deregulation. We support strong protections for electricity and natural gas consumers. These protections can only occur in a locally-controlled, fully regulated energy system that directly links generation with transmission and distribution. We recognize that deregulation and its reliance on markets - as opposed to state-based regulations - is incapable of providing affordable, reliable and clean energy. We support state efforts to regain control over electricity by establishing democratic, public control systems to locally coordinate supply and demand and by eliminating energy trading. Consumers deserve full disclosure of the specific electric generating facilities used to produce their electricity. We support net-metering to make decentralized energy production economically viable.

Energy management must be governed by the principle of conservation, efficiency, and clean renewables. Of highest importance is to use less, then to use wisely, and to have clean production of what is used. We advocate strong public policies to widely deploy conservation, efficiency, and clean renewable energy technologies. Examples include tax credits, renewable portfolio standards, research programs, loans and grants. Existing policies that currently benefit nuclear power, combustion technologies (including technologies that produce burnable fuels) or large hydroelectric dams should be eliminated and reallocated to conservation, efficiency, wind and solar power.

Conservation and Efficiency

1. Extensive conservation measures will bring huge resource savings for both the economy and the environment. Europe consumes less than half of the electricity consumed per capita in the U.S. We call for extensive energy conservation efforts, with a goal of reducing energy consumption by 50% in 20 years.
2. We support efforts to decentralize regional electric grids by promoting energy efficiency and localized clean renewable energy. Tax-exempt bonds should be authorized to finance public ownership of utilities and to allow publicly owned utilities to finance conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects.

Clean Renewables

3. We call for a Manhattan Project-level of commitment to developing clean renewable energy technologies - technologies that do not create pollution in the course of generating electricity. These can include wind, solar (including solar thermal and concentrating solar), ocean power, geothermal, and small-scale hydro. Since even clean renewable energy can have negative environmental impacts, care must be taken to minimize such impacts. Clean renewable energy does not include nuclear power, any sort of combustion or process in which by-products are ultimately combusted, or hydroelectric dams that block entire rivers.
4. The Green Party calls for federal commitment to the mass-production of cheap, non-toxic solar photovoltaic technology to enable widespread deployment of solar power. To make solar more cost-competitive, we support large-scale government purchases of solar cells for installation on government facilities.
5. We support efforts of individuals and institutions to voluntarily purchase wind and solar power products through tradeable renewable energy certificates. However, there are limits to the volunteer, market-based approach to promoting clean energy. Just as we cannot expect that individual purchases of organic food will cause all food production to become organic, we cannot expect that voluntary approaches will be sufficient to fully replace current energy supplies with clean energy.

Fuels for Transportation and Heating

6. Oil and gas are the primary fuels used for transportation and heating. U.S. dependence on oil and gas has driven an unparalleled assault on the global environment and on human rights in many nations. We call for a rapid transition to electric vehicles to ultimately eliminate the need for burnable fuels in private land transportation. We recognize that hydrogen is not an energy source, but an energy storage tactic – one that makes no sense in the private transportation sector. We also recognize that biofuels and other "alternative" fuels are limited in potential and require very damaging production systems that cannot be done in a large scale without causing dire environmental harm.
7. We support further research into energy storage strategies, so that the use of hydrogen as an energy storage medium – or a more viable alternative – can, make it possible to operate a decentralized grid on intermittent energy generation methods, such as solar and wind. If fuel cells turn out to be the best option to efficiently distribute electricity as needed, they should be powered using hydrogen sourced from water and separated by electrolysis with power provided by clean, renewable energy technologies. We oppose the use of nuclear technologies or carbon-based feedstocks for hydrogen production.
8. We oppose the development of environmentally-destructive "alternative" fuels produced with

polluting, energy-intensive processes or from unsustainable or toxic feedstocks, such as genetically-engineered crops, coal, or waste streams contaminated with persistent toxins. This includes especially ethanol derived from corn, cellulosic ethanol and nearly all biodiesel. Biofuels should be used only where no combustion-free technologies are an option.

9. With regard to heating fuels, we support building codes for new construction that incorporate the best available energy conservation designs. New construction should be required to use proven passive solar methods to achieve substantial portions of its heating energy from the sun. For existing homes and buildings, we support programs to aid in their weatherization and increased energy efficiency.
10. We oppose further oil and gas drilling or exploration – especially that which would occur in other countries, on our nation's outer continental shelf, on our public lands, in the Rocky Mountains, and under the Great Lakes.

B. Nuclear Issues

1. The Green Party recognizes that there is no such thing as nuclear waste "disposal." All six of the "low-level" nuclear waste dumps in the United States have leaked. There are no technological quick fixes that can effectively isolate nuclear waste from the biosphere for the duration of its hazardous life. Therefore, it is essential that generation of additional nuclear wastes be stopped.
2. The Green Party calls for the early retirement of nuclear power reactors as soon as possible (in no more than five years), and for a phase-out of other technologies that use or produce nuclear waste. These technologies include non-commercial nuclear reactors, reprocessing facilities, nuclear waste incinerators, food irradiators, and all commercial and military uses of depleted uranium.
3. Current methods of underground storage are a danger to present and future generations. Any nuclear waste management strategies must be above ground, retrievable and repackagable. They must be continuously monitored for leakage and secured from attack or theft, and the locations must minimize transportation of wastes. Therefore the Green Party calls for the cancellation of the planned nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain on Shoshone lands in Nevada and also the closure and remediation of the Waste Isolation Plant in New Mexico.
4. The Green Party supports keeping irradiated reactor fuel in multiple congressional districts (not a central site) for temporary storage until further production of this waste has ceased, and a scientifically and environmentally sound, socially acceptable plan has been achieved. We deny there is such a thing as safe disposal of nuclear waste.
5. We call for independent, publicly-accessible radiation monitoring at all nuclear facilities.
6. We support applicable environmental impact statements and National Environmental Policy Act analysis with citizen participation at all nuclear sites.
7. We support an immediate and intensive campaign to educate the public about nuclear problems, including disposal, clean-up, and long-term dangers.
8. We oppose the export of nuclear technologies or their wastes to other nations.

9. We oppose all public subsidies for nuclear power, including Price-Anderson insurance caps and stranded cost recovery bailouts.

10. We oppose the development and use of new nuclear reactors, plutonium (MOX) fuel, nuclear fuel reprocessing, nuclear fusion, uranium enrichment, and the manufacturing of new plutonium pits for a new generation of nuclear weapons. Therefore we envision the national labs devoted to nuclear energy and weapons development closed or redirected, and all operations at the Department of Energy's nuclear production sites stopping, full clean-up and remediation undertaken and just compensation provided to those in the "sacrifice zone" for damages to air, water, soil, and health.

11. We oppose the deregulation of radioactive materials and wastes, which is allowing such wastes to be recycled into consumer products and to enter municipal waste landfills and incinerators. We call for the strict regulation, tracking, monitoring, and recapturing of radioactive materials and wastes.

12. We call on the military to clean up depleted uranium contamination from testing ranges and battlefields, and to fully compensate exposed veterans and civilians who have been affected by depleted uranium exposure in the U.S. and elsewhere.

C. Transportation

The Green Party supports a transportation policy that emphasizes the use of mass transit and alternatives to the automobile and truck for transport. We call for major public investment in mass transportation, so that such systems are cheap or free to the public and are safe, accessible, and easily understandable to first-time users.

To reduce auto use, the Green Party advocates the following strategies:

Pedestrians and Bicyclists

1. Make streets, neighborhoods and commercial districts more pedestrian friendly.
2. Increase the greenery of streets.
3. Utilize traffic-calming methods, where the design of streets promotes safe speeds and safe interaction with pedestrians. Create auto-free zones.
4. Develop extensive networks of bikeways, bicycle lanes and paths. Include bike racks on all public transit.
5. Maintain free community bicycle fleets, and provide necessary support for cyclists.

Mass Transit

6. Develop affordable mass transit systems that are more economical to use than private vehicles.
7. Encourage employer subsidies of transit commuter tickets for employees, funded by government Congestion Management grants.

8. Use existing auto infrastructure for transit expansion where possible. Light rail should be established in expressway medians through metropolitan high-density corridors.
9. Include land use decisions in transportation issues, with consideration of the need for mass transit to have a market and be viable, and with attention paid to cross-commuting - the practice of people commuting to a place where they could and should live.
10. Expand our country's network of rail lines, including high-speed regional passenger service.
11. Build rail lines for the exclusive use of passenger trains.

Automobiles

12. Place a moratorium on highway widening then use the money for mass transit and facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
13. Mandate HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes on freeways, and lower toll fees for carpools.
14. Discourage unnecessary auto use by eliminating free parking in non-residential areas well served by mass transit, and establish preferential parking rates for HOV.
15. Support ambitious increases in motor vehicle fuel efficiency, including the use of hybrid electric designs. Legislate a "gas guzzler" tax on new vehicles that get a lower MPG than the CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards and offer "gas sipper" rebates for vehicles that get a higher MPG. Schedule an increase in CAFE standards to 60 MPG for cars and 45 MPG for light trucks by the year 2012.
16. Develop and market the conversion of existing, used cars and trucks to electric vehicles, so that such conversions are cheaper than purchasing new vehicles.
17. Develop and market quick-charging electric batteries or battery exchange stations so that electric vehicles can be used for long-distance travel. Support government procurement of high efficiency motor vehicles.
18. Encourage carpooling programs, telecommuting, and other creative solutions to reduce commuter traffic congestion. We advocate fair buy-backs of the most polluting and least efficient vehicles to remove them from the road.

Air Travel

19. Make airports accessible by local transit systems.
 20. Legislate further incremental reductions in airplane noise and air pollution.
 21. Emphasize the use of light and heavy rail for freight transportation.
22. Ban flights between cities where land-based travel options can get a passenger to their destination within four hours.

Freight

23. We call for incentives to get long-distance truck hauling off of our highways and on to railways. Governments on all levels must take the initiative in eliminating administrative and logistical obstacles to efficient rail freight transport.

D. Waste Management

The Green Party advocates a shift away from the wasteful use of materials and towards an industrial system based on clean production and principles of zero waste.

1. We support toxics-use reduction and green chemistry to reduce the amounts of toxic chemicals in production processes, and to replace them with less- or non-toxic alternatives. We call for the phasing out of toxic metals, persistent organic pollutants, persistent bio-accumulative toxins, synthetic petrochemicals, and all avoidable uses of halogenated chemicals.
2. We support clean production methods so that products are designed to be durable, repairable, reusable, recyclable, and energy-efficient, using non-toxic, sustainably-obtained materials, and nonpolluting production methods.
3. We support making manufacturers responsible for the full life cycle of their products by taking back used packaging and products for remanufacturing, reuse, or recycling. The electronics industry in particular must redesign its products to eliminate toxic components and enable clean recycling. We support the Principles of Extended Producer Responsibility (www.grrn.org/epr/epr_principles.html), as outlined by the EPR Working Group of the Grassroots Recycling Network. Policies to assist this transition include bans, recycled content standards, and economic incentives such as taxation, special fees, and deposits.
4. The precautionary principle should be applied when introducing a technology that might raise a threat of harm to human health or the environment. In such cases, needs assessments and alternatives assessments must be conducted with full public participation. Affected communities must hold decision-making power over technology deployment.
5. The public has a right to know what toxic or potentially toxic chemicals are used and released in their communities, and in products that they might purchase or use. In the case of chemical releases, that right must be made real through continuous emissions monitoring and real-time public disclosure of data.
6. Corporations should be held strictly liable for the consequences of the pollution they produce. We support the Citizens' Platform on Superfund, as adopted at the 1995 Communities At Risk Superfund Summit in Washington, DC (www.ccae.org/projects/platform.htm). We call on the EPA to end the use of incineration as a cleanup technology, and to ensure that "cleanups" don't simply relocate the toxic mess to chemical waste dumps in poor communities of color.
7. We support the Principles of Environmental Justice as outlined by the 1991 National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit (www.ejnet.org/ej/platform.html) and the Principles of Working Together, adopted at the 2002 Second National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit.
8. We call for the shut-down of existing waste incinerators, a moratorium on new waste incinerators, and a phase-out of landfills. For all possible waste streams, we support the following strategies (in order of priority) as alternatives to incineration and landfills:
 - * Toxics use reduction
 - * Source reduction, reuse, clean recycling or composting / digestion
 - * Neutralization / sterilization / detoxification methods where applicable
9. No wastes containing toxic or radioactive contaminants significantly above background levels should be deregulated, allowing them to be used in "beneficial use" schemes as fertilizer, "co-products," or fuels; or by "recycling" them into consumer products (including construction materials) or disposing of them as municipal waste.

10. We oppose the exportation, under any circumstances, of chemicals that are prohibited in the United States. We oppose shipping of toxic, hazardous, or radioactive wastes across national borders, and the shipment of such wastes without strict regulation across any political borders. Waste should not be considered a tradable commodity under the Interstate Commerce Clause.

E. Global Climate Crisis & Ozone Depletion

Earth's atmosphere is in great danger due to man-made chemicals and hydrocarbon emissions. Chloro-fluorocarbons, hydrochloro-fluorocarbons, and other related ozone-depleting substances should be banned.

We must implement the following policies if we are to make a start on protecting our global climate:

1. An early target must be set to prevent emissions from rising so far that future reductions become even more difficult.
2. Avoiding loopholes is even more important now than an ambitious target. Unless a very ambitious target is set, which now seems unlikely, allowing sinks and trading within the protocol will create such loopholes that no real reductions will occur. Emissions trading is a failed and unjust strategy, that will only delay serious emissions reductions while perpetuating the health disparities that plague poor communities and communities of color. Outright bans, taxes and strict emissions limits must be used to quickly move from polluting, largely fossil fueled, energy systems to reduced demand and clean energy.
3. Targets are not enough without credible policies and measures to achieve them. We urge all governments to table a list of the policies and measures they intend to adopt to attain their target, for example eco-taxes and energy performance standards.
4. Nuclear power is not an acceptable alternative to fossil energy. There isn't enough time, money or uranium to "solve" global warming with nuclear power and the environmental, public health and security threats make it unacceptable in any situation.
5. We endorse the Contraction and Convergence model under discussion at international talks (which as proposed would eventually give every human being an equal right to the atmosphere) as the most practical way to achieve justice and participation for developing countries.
6. As a nation, we must implement public and private initiatives at every level to support the Global Climate Treaty signed at the Earth Summit in 1992, committing industrial nations within a time framework to reducing emissions to 1990 levels.
7. The most authoritative assessment to date concludes that a worldwide carbon dioxide emissions reduction of 50-70 percent is necessary to contain climate change. The Kyoto Climate Protocol in 1998 falls far short, calling for only a five percent reduction. Nonetheless, the agreement is an important first step that all parties - especially the U.S. - should ratify as soon as possible.
8. We must drastically reduce, then eliminate, the use of fossil fuels. We must use energy more efficiently, and from clean, renewable sources. We must preserve the many valuable natural services including climactic stability provided by intact ecosystems. [See section E.2. Fair Taxation in chapter IV]
9. If we fail to summon the political will now to make these investments, the costs of

climatic disruptions will almost certainly force us to make them later at a greater expense. Greenhouse gases and the threat of global warming must be addressed by the international community in concert, through international treaties and conventions, with the industrial nations at the forefront of this vital effort.

F. Land Use and Sustainable Cities

1. Land Ownership and Property Rights

We encourage the social ownership and use of land at the community, local, and regional level. For example, community and conservation land trusts under covenants of ecological responsibility.

2. Urban Land Use

By following the specific items set forth below, planners can design urban land use strategies to reduce each person's ecological footprint. We support coordinated urban land use patterns that help preserve agricultural and wilderness lands.

It is imperative that we as a nation find a means to control urban sprawl. The ecological, social, and fiscal crises engendered by sprawl are becoming evermore apparent. The Green Party endorses the Metropolitix movement, which seeks to control sprawl by integrating such measures as urban growth boundaries, tax base sharing, fair housing, and metropolitan transportation.

The Green Party proposes to:

- a. Support the use of green technologies that restore natural ecosystems while improving the quality of life for humans and furthering the co-existence of human populations with other species and natural systems.
- b. Support the use of the ecological footprint model to help communities assess the burden they place on their local, regional, and global environment, and to help them understand how they can improve their own communities.
- c. Encourage appropriately higher-density communities and urban infill development to prevent urban sprawl into agricultural and wilderness areas.
- d. Integrate an increased and sufficient number of affordable housing units into urbanized areas. These units should remain a part of the affordable housing stock for the life of the units. Also, protect current residents from displacement and encourage a wide variety of housing that will attract a wide variety of new residents.
- e. Support population densities in urbanized areas with appropriate infrastructure to facilitate public transit travel, shopping, recycling, renewable energy production, urban forestry, habitat restoration, public park renewal, and the re-development of brownfields.
- f. Support environmental justice policies that give communities a voice in planning future development with the goal of preventing concentration of polluting infrastructure in under-represented poor and/or minority communities.
- g. Plan open spaces, parklands, greenbelts, and public garden plots as components

of all development plans.

- h. Locate schools, places of employment, medical facilities, and shopping areas within easy walking or bicycling distances from residences, or at mass transit stops.
- i. Include bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure in development plans. For example, inter-connected bike paths and pedestrian-only malls.
- j. Support efforts of cities and counties to re-develop, restore, and revitalize impacted local ecosystems.
- k. Support the long-term goal of re-establishing land use patterns and electoral districts consistent with a bioregional model of land use.
- l. Explore closed-loop sewage treatment systems and urban graywater systems wherever possible.
- m. Change tax and planning laws to promote decentralized, renewable energy infrastructures in urban and suburban areas.
- n. Change tax and planning laws to promote restoration and revitalization of degraded lands, improvements in watershed management, and protection/reintroduction of listed, threatened, or endangered species in suburban, rural, and agricultural areas.
- o. Educate citizens about reducing levels of consumption including over-consumption of living space.
- p. Rather than move populations back to the land, it is important to bring the land back to cities. This requires consolidating housing into such structures as ecotowns, to free open space, and to move about by bicycle, train, bus and on foot so that roadways may be converted to parkland and agriculture.

3. Natural Resource Management

Greens believe that effective land and resource management practices must be founded on stewardship, such as incorporated in a land ethic as articulated by Aldo Leopold. Stringent natural resource management should serve to prevent activities that adversely affect public and adjacent lands.

The Green Party calls for:

- q. Repeal of the Mining Act of 1872. We demand a halt to federal mineral, oil and gas, and resource giveaways, "royalty holidays," and flagrant concessions to the mining, energy and timber industries; and an immediate crackdown on their evasive and fraudulent reporting.
- r. Strict enforcement of clean-up of industrial-scale natural resource extraction activities. For example, cleaning up tailings, pits, and runoff from mining operations by agreements with companies that can include posting of site restoration bonds prior to commencement of operations. The regional long term environmental and social impacts of any resource extractions should be minimized, and the land restored to a healthy ecological state.
- s. halting all current international funding policies that promote destruction of forest ecosystems, and we call for an end to the trade in endangered hardwoods.

We support laws that promote paper recycling and mandate sustainable forestry practices that promote biodiversity. We also call for the development of alternative sources of paper manufacturing, such as from hemp fiber.

- t. Protecting old growth forests, a zero-cut policy banning industrial timber harvest on federal and state lands, a ban on all clear-cutting, and a reduction of road building on public lands.
- u. Raising grazing fees on public land to approximate fair market value, and significant grazing reforms. We support policies that favor small-scale ranchers over corporate operations (which are often used as tax write-offs, a practice that undermines family ranches).
- v. Preserving and extending wildlife habitat and biological diversity by creating and preserving large continuous tracts of open space (complete ecosystems so as to permit healthy, self-managing wildlife populations to exist in a natural state). We oppose any selling of our National Parks, the commercial privatizing of public lands, and cutbacks or exploitation in our national wilderness areas.
- w. Public involvement in decision making by active and well funded Resource Management Districts and Councils. This will aid a long term process on the use of federal and state trust lands, which are currently controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, National Park Service, and State Land Offices.
- x. Banning indiscriminate wildlife "damage control practices" and abolishing the Animal Damage Control agency that has been renamed Wildlife Services.
- y. Comprehensive baseline mapping of our nation's biodiversity resources.
- z. Watershed planning to mitigate the impacts of urban development on our streams, rivers, and lakes. Storm water management, soil erosion and sedimentation control, the establishment of vegetative buffers, and performance standards for development are appropriate measures in this area. Special attention must be given to the restoration and protection of riparian areas, which are critical habitats in healthy ecosystems.



Water is essential to all forms of life. The Green Party calls for an international declaration that water belongs to the Earth and all of its species. Water is a basic human right! The U.S. Government must lead the way in declaring water a fundamental human right and prevent efforts to privatize, export, and sell for profit a substance that is essential to all life.

We face a worldwide water crisis. According to the United Nations, more than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water. If current trends persist, by 2025 as much as two-thirds of the world's population will be living with a serious scarcity of water. Multinational corporations recognize these trends and are moving fast to monopolize water supplies around the world. They argue that privatizing water is the best way to allocate this valuable resource, and they are scheming to have water declared a human need so that it can be commodified and sold on the open market ensuring that the allocation of water will be based on principles of scarcity and profit maximization.

We do not agree. With water sold to the highest bidder, the rich will have plenty while the poor will be left with little but polluted water, and short term profits will preclude any concern for long term sustainability. We must stop this privatization before the infrastructures become so established that it will be impossible to avoid a disaster of epic proportions.

[Version 2 adds the following paragraph.]

Current expenditures have done nothing to reassure the public regarding the depletion of nonrenewable sources of water (groundwater) and continue to minimize the real costs of research and development to assure adequate supply to regions. We propose a two-tier severance tax for regions that will provide funding for bioregions while assuring a conservation measure that will reduce water consumptive use. Large water users need to begin to be appropriately charged for withdrawals that lower the water table. Many high-tech mega-corporations do not contribute their fair share for the cost of the infrastructure and development needed to meet the delivery of the resource to local residents. Private companies, who sell bottled water, do so at the expense of the hydrological systems of the neighboring communities, and as such should be required to report annually to the local communities and be held responsible for such withdrawals to local municipalities. We propose that localities control, or even eliminate, expansion (growth), where such expansion will continue to expand groundwater resource depletion, and wherever water supplies are not meeting demand. Water is not money, and can't be printed to satisfy the ambitions of local governments, large landholders, and developers." Water is a component of the commons. As such, while respecting existing historical water rights, such as those in the West- "first in time, first in right", we call for water administration that is accountable to stakeholders in a form that is directly responsible to all users. Urban planning decisions need to be based on a plan that integrates land use with water use. Political bodies, such as municipal water authorities, need to reflect more than the interests and concerns of real estate and development interests. We support growth of urban centers in the context of supply from renewable water sources. Depletion of the aquifers and groundwater mining undermines the long-term stability of the hydrology of regions. We oppose private water banking because it prevents consistent bioregional public planning policies towards water withdrawals by private interests that seek to reallocate the resource where it is most profitable. We support mandatory conservation requirements in urban areas, as needed, to assure the geological stability of aquifers and reliance on renewable sources of water.

Governments are signing away their control over their domestic water supplies by participating in trade treaties such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and in institutions such as the World Trade Organization. The World Bank recently adopted a policy of water privatization and full-cost water pricing. We support the recognition of the principle that all stakeholders should be included in water-planning processes. We oppose allowing major economic or political interests to make decisions that will impact others. We are opposed to the exploitation of another country's natural resources, whether water, oil or gold without fair and just compensation and review of the extraction process by those impacted. We support the national sovereignty of all countries and their authority to control the extraction and development process of natural resources within their national boundaries by international corporations.

1. We need strong national and international laws promote conservation, reclaim polluted water systems, develop water-supply restrictions, ban toxic and pesticide dumping, control or ban corporate farming, and bring the rule of law to transnational corporations that pollute water systems. Mining and depleting the present underground aquifers must be severely restricted. We encourage the use of wetlands, improving the utilization of updated technologies in treating water for pharmaceuticals and preventing the introduction of nucleotides, mixed waste, nuclear waste and perchlorate into the surface and ground water. We encourage local municipal support for transitioning local economies away from high-tech industry, military bases and national laboratories that withdraw disproportionate amounts of water and pollute public waterways. We support the highest federal standards for the public water supply and federal funding support for water quality including for the local implementation of the highest possible standard regarding arsenic levels of surface and groundwater.

2. Greens oppose the privatization of water and demand that the U.S. government pass strong laws with effective enforcement mechanisms to assure a safe and adequate supply of water for its citizens and all life within its borders.

3. New forms of international, bioregional, and community organizations, watershed/ ecosystem-based, must be created to monitor and equitably distribute the fresh water necessary for all life on our planet. Decisions about water must be based on an ecosystems approach. (Version 1) These decisions can be reached and considered appropriate when stakeholders themselves participate in the planning. Such planning processes, that are open and inclusive, need to be given the authority of their respective states to establish plans, using the science available, and the demonstrated values held by stakeholders. We support duly-elected regional water authority boards that represent stakeholders and have stakeholders represented on an advisory board. (Version 2) These decisions can be reached and considered appropriate when stakeholders themselves participate in the planning. Such planning processes, that are open and inclusive, need to be given the authority of their respective states to

establish plans, using the science available, and the demonstrated values held by stakeholders. We support the establishment of small, local water management associations to give local people control over the administration and management of their water. Water can only be managed in a sustainable fashion at the local level. The creation of such institutions would promote democracy and give people the opportunity to acknowledge and accept the responsibility all of us have to manage our water.

Cycles of intense drought and flooding have demonstrated the need to reorient our priorities in order to achieve a truly sustainable water policy. Over-development and poor planning have resulted in increasing rain-impermeable areas, which compounds the severity and frequency of flooding and pollution in regions downstream. We must begin to understand and apply a holistic *watershed approach* to managing our water resources. The principle of bioregionalism (living within the means of a region's natural resources) should give direction to future water policies. We recognize the disproportional political influences of the timber, real estate and development industries, and work to support family farms, open space, and preservation of the old growth forests. We support the concept of economic growth being premised on available renewable water supplies. We support integration of local industry and agriculture that promotes organic and non-GMO agricultural and dairy production. We support the facilitation of these methods through favorable local municipal tax policies and subsidization of investors, growers and dairy farmers support. We uphold the water and land rights established under the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo and the sovereign claims of Native American nations, pueblos and tribes, as paramount to all other rights.

4. Conservation must be an essential part of any water policy. Water conservation also reduces energy consumption and pollution. Conservation needs to be utilized to reduce regional water consumptive use and not to redirect "saved" water for "new" users. The question of determining the public policy for conservation should include whether or not to make conservation measures mandatory, or voluntary and how revenues can be raised, through such measures as water severance taxes that are pro-rated based on amount of use to pay for water management infrastructure improvements.

To conserve water, the Green Party proposes to:

Mandate water efficient appliances and fixtures be used in all new construction, and promote retrofitting of older buildings.

Promote native landscaping and other drought resistant/ climate-appropriate plants, in order to reduce the need for irrigation.

Promote drip irrigation systems where irrigation is necessary.

Eliminate storm water pollution of our water resources through education of our citizens, enforcement of our laws, and holistic watershed management. Promote storm water technologies that detain, treat, filtrate, and use storm waters near where it is collected.

Promote the appropriate reuse of the "gray" and "black" waters we produce. Use separation techniques, such as dual piping systems where pure water is used for drinking and washing, and reclaimed water is used for lawn watering and similar purposes.

Mandate pre-treatment of industrial wastes to eliminate the presence of metals, solvents, and other toxins in sewer water. This would reduce the cost of municipal treatment and encourage wastewater reuse.

Promote passive and natural systems, such as wetlands, for water and wastewater treatment where appropriate.

Eliminate water subsidies for corporate agribusiness. Higher water prices give agribusiness incentives to conserve.

Assist community organizations to monitor the use of local resources, and to oversee the enforcement of water quality regulations.

Preserve and restore the nation's natural water features (streams, rivers, lakes, bays, wetlands and groundwater aquifers) that are vital to achieving sustainable use of water resources.

5. Chemicals used in the fluoridation of America's public drinking water supplies are toxic waste by-products. The majority of these toxic wastes come from the phosphate fertilizer industry. Fluoride accumulates in the human body through ingestion and inhalation. A growing body of research suggests that fluoride may be associated with arthritis, hip fractures, bone cancer, kidney damage, infertility, and brain disorders. For these reasons, the Green Party opposes the fluoridation of drinking water.

6. The EPA recognizes factory farms as sources of water pollution under its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program. The Green Party proposes to:

- Mandate treatment of toxic wastes from existing factory farms.
- Impose a moratorium on any new factory farms.



Food is a necessity and a fundamental human right. All people have a right to adequate, safe, nutritional and high quality food; and those who grow it have a right to a fair return for their labor.

Nature is our life support system. Our well-being and survival depend on our stewardship of nature in all its forms. The crops we grow or gather, the livestock we raise or hunt, and all those living things that we harvest from the seas, rivers and lakes, are our renewable resources that we bring to market for human consumption.

The development of machinery, technology and science has created a great distance between the production of food and the people who consume it. Food production is largely taken over by corporate agribusiness that puts profit over preservation of nature's resources and consumer health and safety.

We need a new regulatory and oversight agency with adjudicative powers mandated to inspect, and control all food production from seed to harvest to processing to labeling and distribution

We support the following:

1. Subsidies that encourage more small farms, family farms, producer and consumer cooperatives and community kitchens.

2. End the subsidies of agribusiness like Monsanto and Cargill.

3. Shift price supports to organically grown food rather than to chemically produced food grown with artificial fertilizers and pesticides.

4. Phase out the use of fertilizer made of sewage sludge or hazardous wastes, and irradiation in food production.

[Note, alternative versions for no. 5 are presented below.]

[Version 1] 5. Animal farming must be practiced in ethically and environmentally sustainable ways. We support a rapid phase out of confined animal feeding operations and factory farms.

[Version 2] 5. In the interests of the environment, health and non-violence, we encourage individuals to adopt a vegetarian or strict vegetarian (vegan) lifestyle. We acknowledge that it is not possible to practice animal farming in an ethical way since the end result is to send animals to slaughter. Accordingly, we support a ban on all animal farming. Until we eliminate all animal farming, we support rapidly phasing out confined animal feeding operations.

[Version 3] 5. Phase out “factory” farms - growing animals in confined spaces with confined feeding operations.

6. According to a UN Food and Agriculture Organization report, the livestock industry is "one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems at every scale." We call for the progressive elimination of federal and state-funded corporate subsidies to animal-based agricultural interests and the redirection of funds to plant-based practices that produce food for direct human consumption.

7. Mandatory, full-disclosure of food and fiber labeling. Labels must identify GMO, use of irradiation and pesticides, and country of origin.

8. We support rotational grazing, cover-crop rotations, nitrogen-fixing systems and the replacement of fossil fuel by renewable energy as it is developed.

9. We oppose the forced distribution of GM (genetically modified) seeds and growth of GM crops. The consequences of their use has not yet been adequately researched to prove their advantage over natural/diverse crops.

10. We support the seeding, growing, harvesting and marketing of Hemp. Hemp has no drug or medicinal use; it is easy to cultivate, fast growing and has many commercial uses - none of them harmful in any way.

11. We support true cost pricing in food production. Damage to health and the cost of pesticides, antibiotics, soil erosion from over cultivation, water pollution from drainage of factory farms and long distance travel to bring food to market, all comprise the true cost price of food production.. Locally grown food that is organic, non-factory and not genetically-modified gives us better food and costs less than highly processed food.

I. Biological Diversity

Ecological systems are interlocking and interdependent from the bottom of the food chain to the top. Nature's survival strategy allows adaptability which itself results in biological diversity.

Our stewardship requires that we not disrupt ecological systems to the degree that they cannot renew and maintain themselves Our protection of this biological diversity, while using it requires that we not disrupt them to the degree that they cannot sustain themselves.

1. We oppose the U.S. demands to amend the Convention on Biological Diversity(1992) for the benefit of the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries in regard to intellectual property and technology transfer rights.

2. We oppose monopolistic production of high-tech hybrid seeds. that take away the farmers right to grow his own crop using his own seeds and replacing diversity with monoculture.

3. We oppose international trade agreements (NAFTA, GATT and the WTO in particular) that protect transnational, corporate control of the intellectual property of genetic material, hybrid seeds, and proprietary products.

[Rename section]

J. Forestry and Logging

Nature's green cover is essential to sustaining life on the planet. Part of our stewardship of Nature is protection and sustaining the world's forests.

The cutting of rain forests for lumber and clearing forests for agriculture in many parts of the world threatens the climate and environmental health the planet. Multi-national corporations have little or no regard for their stewardship obligation.

We support the following:

1. Overhaul state and U.S. Forest Service rules to empower them to protect and use our forests to ensure their sustainability. Forests are a renewable resource that will not be renewable if not properly protected.

2. Prohibit logging roads, paid for by taxpayers, in forests that have been declared wilderness.

3. Ban any harvesting of Ancient Forests.

4. Tax the sale of raw wood, pulp, chips, carts, slabs abroad to restore the making of wood products here in America. and restore the jobs to make them.

5. Subsidize local watershed-based mills.

6. Use goats or sheep grazing to control undergrowth rather than herbicides.

7. Legalize the growing, harvesting and marketing of Hemp and all its products.

8. Support indigenous forest people and protect their gathering practices for food and medicine.

9. Halt the destruction of rain forests in third world countries and forgive the debts of those countries.

10. Require labeling that identifies the nature of and origin of lumber products.

K. Ocean Protection

Mining the ocean of its many products without limit or care is destroying the huge resource to the world that the oceans are.

We support the following:

1. The U.S. government should sign the Laws of the Sea Treaty that establishes the global sharing of ocean resources.
2. The National Oceans Protection Act which bans offshore drilling to a distance of 50 to 175 miles from U.S. shores.
3. Ban drift-net fishing and long-line fishing, and ban the importation of fish and fish products caught by drift-nets.
4. Ban ocean transportation of nuclear and toxic wastes.
5. Map undersea toxic dump sites and, investigate methods of rendering them harmless.
6. Phasing out U.S. factory trawlers and subsidize sustainable, community-based fishing.
7. Ban importation of coral products and the destruction of breakwaters.
8. Continue the ban on international whale trade, and all sea life threatened with extinction.