

Vote for the Environment Survey 2008

Political Party: **Green Party**

Contact Person:

Phone:

Email:

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1: Please indicate whether you support the policies below with a yes or no. Space is provided for comments, if required.

Note: For each of the policies below, please indicate yes/no. Space is provided for comments.

WILL YOUR PARTY...?

POLICY	Y/N	COMMENT
<i>Goal 1: Tackle climate change by reducing GHG emissions by 30% on 1990 levels by 2020</i>		
Bring all sectors and gases into the emissions trading scheme by January 2011	Y	Sectors with fewer emission reduction options will need to be phased in. Agriculture, for example, has few options for methane reduction, but plenty for NOx reduction (e.g. inhibitors, stand-off pads, herd homes, biodigesters, nutrient budgets, low inputs). Therefore, bringing nitrous emissions in by 2011 is appropriate. Facing a marginal cost for methane would also incentivise research as would use of the reduction measures currently available (e.g. high-sugar grasses). Industrial dairying is solely responsible for the large emission rise since 1990, so there is where the obligation should lie. If dairy was to be phased in to the ETS from 2011, there would be additional benefits for water quality, deforestation, and biodiversity.
Ban all new large scale thermal electricity generation	Y	The Greens support the current 'renewable preference' law, which bans new thermal generation for the next 10 years except in limited circumstances. In fact, the Greens believe

		that all new generation can realistically be renewable so we would strengthen the exemption criteria in order to achieve the affordable goal of 90% renewable electricity by 2025. A Green Minister of Energy would look unfavourably on all medium and large scale thermal proposals, and would seek to gradually retire thermal plant in order to achieve this target. We oppose the proposed Rodney gas-fired plant, unlike other parties.
Spend \$4 billion over five years to 2013 on public and active transport, including rail	Y	Our public transport policy recently announced would see the current road to public transport funding ratio of 5:1 moved to 2:1 and then, over 5 years, reversed to 1:2. We will shift infrastructure spending from new roads and onto improving walking and cycling facilities, expanding passenger rail and bus networks in our urban centres, and developing rail to take more logs and freight off the roads to save emissions and improve safety. Over the years, the Greens have ensured that the Government has steadily increased spending on alternatives to cars, but investment in public transport is still grossly disadvantaged and underfunded. Investing in public transport is needed to reduce dependence on expensive oil, and to reduce New Zealand's transport emissions. See http://www.greens.org.nz/transport
Ban new coal mines and fully protect the upper Waimangaroa Valley including Happy Valley	Y	This is our policy announced last year by Jeanette Fitzsimons on Earth Day. To allow a transition of local economies and workers away from coal, we will permit current mines to exhaust themselves, but prohibit new coal mines. NZ may not face a Kyoto liability for the coal we export, but the climate feels the heat from it regardless. As yet unmined areas like the valuable wetland and Kiwi habitat of the upper Waimangaroa should never be mined. See http://www.greens.org.nz/node/19165
Retain the \$1 billion energy efficiency and conservation fund	Y	The Greens negotiated this fund as part of our support for the ETS. Investment in household energy efficiency has a large benefit for emission reduction, reduced energy demand, and reduced air pollution. Warm dry homes support healthy families. Despite the current tight economic climate, the fund remains a sensible investment, and we are very disappointed that National would seek to cancel this fund.
Goal 2: Clean up all New Zealand streams and rivers by 2020		
Introduce a significant charge on	Y	As per our first answer, a price on fertiliser (whether to internalise the cost of emissions or

nitrogenous fertilisers by 2010 to reduce water pollution		the cost of water pollution, or both) would incentivise optimum/reduced use, better protection from run-off and oxidisation, and help reduce the declining water quality in New Zealand.
Implement a National Policy Statement by 2010 to clean up New Zealand's rivers, lakes and small waterways and reverse the decline of our freshwater biodiversity by 2020	Y	Or earlier. However, the NPS and associated National Environmental Standards must be strong in order to match the scale of the pollution problem, must set real tangible objectives to return to swimability of <i>all</i> waterways rather than just an "appropriate" few as the current draft NPS proposes. The NPS must take account on the impact of water quality on the decline of freshwater biodiversity such as eels and whitebait.
Implement a moratorium on new water takes for irrigation, including Central Plains Water, until environmental flows are set	Y	This may not be necessary on <i>all</i> water takes, but on sensitive or at-risk catchments we will implement a moratorium immediately until we sort out issues of environmental flows and allocation. Over-allocation is destroying many of our important rivers. The Minister should withdraw the 'requiring authority' granted to CPW.
Protect all wild and scenic rivers from hydroelectric development by 2011 including the Mohikini River	Y	The NPS on renewable energy needs to have clear direction on protecting us from inappropriate hydro development (such as the Mokihinui) and ensuring a minimum ecological footprint for other proposals. There are some better options for hydroelectricity, especially micro-hydro projects, recommissioning old hydro schemes, increasing capacity and efficiency of current hydro schemes, and some run-of-river proposals (e.g. the Arnold). The Greens would oversee a strategic planning approach to the use of our rivers for hydro development with the aim of protecting our wild rivers and their conservation value.
Establish national environmental standards by 2010 to clean up all freshwater to swimmable water standard by 2020 and drinking water and food collecting standard by 2030	Y	A swimmable standard by 2020 and drinkable standard by 2030 are challenging objectives, but ones that should be aspired to. The current poor quality of many waterways will require more time to reach these standards, even if we stopped all pollution today. A standard for groundwater quality should not be forgotten too given it is an important source of drinking water in some areas.
Goal 3: Reform oceans management by 2010 to preserve and protect the marine environment		
Create a new oceans agency by January 2011 charged with implementing New Zealand's international obligation to	Y	The current Government has achieved nothing over nine years completely failing to deliver the promised Oceans Policy. The latest plan is a pathetic "EEZ management regime" which resembles more of a resource utilisation plan than an ocean protection and sustainability

preserve and protect the EEZ and continental shelf		plan. Any Oceans plan should have a goal of integrating management of the EEZ with the territorial sea, and encompass all impacts (like climate change) and uses (like Fisheries and Marine Transport) and not just focus on filling legislative gaps. The 2003 draft Oceans policy was on track, but the Government has back-tracked completely. The Greens will get a comprehensive Oceans plan back on track.
Reform the Fisheries Act by January 2010 to better protect the marine environment and maintain healthy fisheries.	Y	The review of the Act next year is a chance to assert the primacy of the precautionary principle and strengthen the importance of sustainability in relation to the utilisation of fish stocks. It is also a chance to better integrate “fisheries” with marine protection and bycatch impacts.
Adopt measures by 2010 to reduce bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals and other fish to near zero levels.	Y	Given current technologies, it is unacceptable to continue to tolerate the current annual toll of endangered seabirds, marine mammals and non-target fish (which are often wasted). Near-zero must be the objective.
Protect 10% of each of New Zealand’s marine ecological types in marine reserves by 2010 and at least 30% by 2020.	~	Protecting 10% in no-take reserves by 2010 is almost impossible given the current Government’s much looser target of 10% in Marine Protected Areas in the territorial sea, while the Marine Reserves Bill (allowing reserves in the EEZ) remains stuck in Select Committee. The Greens will pass the Marine Reserves Bill within the first six months in office and will include the facilitation of co-location of reserves and Maori traditional management areas (mataitai and taiapure). We would also ensure the protection of a network of fully representative marine reserves within our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Once reserves in the EEZ are possible, a target of 30% protection by 2020 will become possible.
Implement Population Management Plans to recover New Zealand sea lion and Hector’s and Maui’s dolphin populations.	Y	The recent IUCN red-list shone an international spot-light on the declining populations of sea lions and Hector’s and Maui’s dolphins. The science is clear, the threats are identified - it is time to act.
Goal 4: Save New Zealand’s natural heritage		
Double regular pest control on public conservation estate by 2011 including	Y	This is a core commitment in our conservation policy package announced in September. See http://www.greens.org.nz/conservation

the marine environment		
Keep DOC as a core Government department doing integrated conservation management, including coastal and marine conservation and increase baseline funding by at least \$100 million per annum	Y	This is a core commitment in our conservation policy package announced in August. \$100 increase per annum in baseline funding is the first step while we evaluate what a sustainable level of funding for the Department might look like so that they can properly protect our natural and historic heritage. See http://www.greens.org.nz/sites/default/files/GreenConservationPolicy08_0.pdf
Maintain DoC's conservation advocacy function and ensure that hunting groups do not get control over public conservation land	Y	We will defend the ability of the Government to advocate on behalf of the public for conservation values—a mandate of DOC. Recreational hunters deserve a say in the management of public conservation lands like any other New Zealander, but their say should not be disproportional to the input of other members of the public such as non-hunting recreationalists and conservationists. See http://www.greens.org.nz/node/19936
Increase funding for DOC and community group advocacy under the Resource Management Act and other environmental decision making	Y	The Greens established the current fund for community groups to defend conservation and community values. We would like to see the fund capacity increased if there is demand for it. More importantly, the gross imbalance of power between developers and the community needs to be addressed.
Implement a National Policy Statement by 2011 that protects indigenous biodiversity.	Y	The NPS on biodiversity has been stalled for a long time. The Biodiversity Strategy and its more recent review have identified many areas where we need to do a lot more to arrest the decline and degradation of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems. An NPS that ensured strong biodiversity protection would give certainty to Councils and developers. The Green Party secured a commitment to this NPS through ETS negotiations, and we look forward to working with the next Government to draft and implement it.
<i>Goal 5: Show leadership for the Environment</i>		
Commit to 30% emission reductions by 2020 at the international climate change negotiations and encourage all other developed countries to do the same	Y	The Greens have committed to this target, despite the immense challenge it represents. With emissions currently 25% <i>above</i> 1990 levels, a reduction to 30% below 1990 levels by 2020 is a steep trajectory—a 44% <i>reduction</i> on current levels. However, the scientific consensus is that the important thing now is to begin reducing emissions, so the Green Party proposes a raft of policy initiatives to <i>actually</i> reduce emissions. It is too easy to name

		a target and rely on the ETS, but that will never be enough. Failing to achieve real reductions will cost the climate and the economy enormously. See http://www.greens.org.nz/node/19882 and http://www.greens.org.nz/node/19816
Ban the import of products from illegally logged forests by January 2010	Y	Even better, we would prohibit import and sale of illegally-logged timber and wood products as fast as officials could draft the regulation and implement enforcement measures! See http://www.greens.org.nz/forestry
Require MFE to lead the development of a Sustainable Development Strategy for New Zealand and to monitor performance through a 'Genuine Progress Indicator', environmental indicators and regular reporting	Y	We support a Sustainable Development Strategy, and have long-promoted sustainable development in the absence of a Government strategy. We also support the development of sustainability indicators. We support the development and implementation of GPI and other indicators that adequately reflect New Zealanders' quality of life values, the limits of resource use, our ecological footprint, and the limits to growth. Recent work by Statistics NZ and the "What Matters Most to New Zealanders" workshops have begun this work. Accurate reporting of environmental trends must also be protected, which is why we exposed Chapter 13 of the Environment NZ report. See http://www.greens.org.nz/node/17242
Keep GE in the lab	Y	The Greens have campaigned strongly for years for a GE Free NZ. Our markets do not want it and our 'clean green' market advantage relies on being GE Free. New Zealanders also do not want or need GE in our food or environment. In this term of Parliament, we have worked with the Government to strengthen regulations because the law currently <i>allows</i> release of GE organisms. We hope that the next Government will see sense and declare NZ GE Free. See http://www.greens.org.nz/ge
Promote the protection of the Ross Sea as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area	Y	