

General Election 2019: Green party manifesto science and education policies

Please note that we have summarised the party's main manifesto only. You can find the manifesto in full [here](#).

Climate and energy

Green Party:

- Combine investment of over £100 billion a year towards the “Green New Deal.”
- Introduce support and new incentives to directly accelerate wind energy development, paving the way for wind to provide around 70% of the UK's electricity by 2030.
- Introduce new support for solar, geothermal, tidal, hydro and other renewable energies to provide much of the remainder of the UK's energy supply by 2030.
- Remove subsidies to the oil and gas industries.
- Apply a carbon tax on all fossil fuel imports and domestic extraction, based on greenhouse gas emissions produced when fuel is burnt. The carbon tax will be raised progressively over a decade to phase out use of coal, oil and gas.
- Prohibit the construction of nuclear power stations.
- Ban fracking.
- Start deployment of a carbon capture and storage system that can deal with carbon dioxide emissions from the manufacture of iron, steel and cement.

Environment and ecology

Green Party:

- Encourage the creation of new green spaces from pocket parks on vacant land, to living green roofs and walls.
- Encourage urban gardeners to “plan for wildlife” – opting for grass and shrubs over paving in a garden can create vital new habitats for wildlife.
- Encourage, through changes to the planning system, the “rewilding” of spaces to provide new habitats for wildlife.
- Champion a treaty which establishes the Arctic, Antarctic and Amazon as world nature reserves.
- Create a new international “ecocide law” to prosecute crime against the natural environment.
- Strengthen green belt, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest protections, with development in these areas only being permitted in exceptional circumstances.
- Create a new environmental protection commission.
- Develop a soil health monitoring programme for England, to match those in Scotland and Wales.

- Invest in peatland restoration and end both the burning of peatlands and use of peat in compost in horticulture.
- Reintroduce nature into our urban environments.

Agriculture and fisheries

Green Party:

- Work with farmers to refocus farm subsidies to help farmers transition to “more sustainable, diverse and environmentally friendly” forms of land use, including organic farming, agroforestry and mixed farming, and away from intensive livestock farming.
- Encourage the expansion and replanting of the majority of hedgerows lost in the last 50 years through new subsidies, creating new environments for wildlife.
- Legislate to give farmers “greater security” of tenure, so that they can “invest in sustainable improvements to their land,” whilst ending the use of land as a tax shelter and encouraging new entrants into farming.
- Create thousands of new jobs in rural areas, through the shift away from intensive farming towards smaller-scale, more people-focussed food production and land management that respects nature.
- Invest in training and skills to help people develop and apply the skills needed in these new jobs.
- End the badger cull, “which has no evidence basis and has failed to effectively reduce Bovine TB.”
- Fund research into a sensitive test to enable cattle vaccination, as an essential, as well as humane, part of a meaningful strategy to control the spread of the disease.
- Invest in better farm bio-security and badger vaccination.
- Advocate for European legalisation to end factory farming, prohibit the routine use of antibiotics for farm animals, and ban the killing of animals for sport across the EU.
- Implement a ban on cages and close confinement and “deliberate mutilation” of farm animals.
- Reduce pesticide and fungicide use by at least 50% by overall weight by 2022.
- Champion reform of the common agricultural policy, so that it “promotes more sustainable farming methods.”
- Press for a review of the common fisheries policy in order to increase its sustainability.
- Introduce new support for small-scale family farms and for new entrants to farming.

Water and air

Green Party:

- Ban advertising for flights, and introduce a frequent flyer levy to reduce the impact of the 15% of people who take 70% of flights. The levy will only apply to people who take more than one (return) flight a year, discouraging excessive flying.
- Stop the building of new runways and increased road capacity, “saving thousands of acres of countryside every year and protecting people from the harm of increased air pollution and traffic danger.”

- Reduce the emission of polluting fluorinated gases (used in fridges, air conditioners and aerosols) in all manufactured goods by implementing the Committee on Climate Change recommendations in this area.
- Deploy “environmentally friendly” flood management measures to protect communities from flooding.
- Protect water supplies by enforcing stricter penalties for polluters and for water companies found to be extracting too much water.
- Invest in ecotourism and associated schemes such as rewilding, habitat recovery and species reintroduction, creating new job opportunities.
- Commit to making at least 30% of UK domestic waters into fully protected marine protected areas by 2030.

Waste

Green Party:

- Ban the production of single use plastics for use in packaging, and invest in research and development into alternatives to plastic.
- Extend the tax on plastic bags to cover plastic bottles, single-use plastics and microplastics, and extend plastic bottle deposit schemes.
- Develop and implement a “reformed waste strategy,” where manufacturers and retailers are required to pay the full cost of recycling and disposing of the packaging they produce.
- Develop the infrastructure necessary to enable large corporations and individuals to recycle close to 100% of the items they use.
- Require manufacturers to offer ten year warranties on white goods, to encourage repair and reuse.
- Promote initiatives to reduce food waste, including education programmes and changing the rules to allow food waste to be used for animal feed for pigs and chickens.

Health and biomedicine

Green Party:

- Enable medical scientists to conduct research on psychoactive drugs to develop new treatments for mental and physical illnesses.
- Invest in education and treat problematic drug use as “a health issue, not a crime.”

Food and drink

Green Party:

- Encourage urban food growing, including new community farms and allotments, through the planning system.

- Legislate for a right to food, giving everyone access to healthy, nutritious, locally grown food, including the creation of new providers to supply this food at an affordable price to schools.
- Help shoppers choose cruelty free food, with mandatory method of production labelling for meat, milk and dairy products.
- Maintain a moratorium on production and import of GM foods, including food from animals fed on GM feed.
- Establish a Food and Agriculture Research Council to research sustainable and health-promoting methods of food production and distribution.
- “Support the transition” to plant based diets by phasing in a tax on meat and dairy products over the next ten years.

Animal Research

Green Party:

- Guarantee the principle of animal sentience. This will mean that that regard for the welfare needs of animals as sentient beings is uppermost in formulating and implementing relevant government policy.
- Stop the use of primates, cats and dogs in research and the importation of monkeys for use in labs.
- Work towards a complete ban on all animal testing.

Research funding and higher education policy

Green Party:

- Fully fund every higher education student and scrap undergraduate tuition fees.
- Write off existing debt for former students who studied under the £9k tuition fee regime.
- Increase funding for adult education across England and Wales, creating a range of new adult education programmes for learners to access.

Schools education policy

Green Party:

- Relieve the “financial squeeze” on schools by increasing funding by at least £4 billion per year.
- Focus funding to reduce class sizes down to under 20 in the long term.
- Free schools from centrally imposed testing regimes, Ofsted inspections, and “rigid” national curriculum and league tables.
- Replace Ofsted with a collaborative system of assessing and supporting schools locally.
- Create a fully inclusive education system, where children with special education needs are able to access their local school and are fully supported in that school.

- Introduce an “English Climate Emergency Education Act” to support schools to teach young people about the urgency, severity and scientific basis of the climate and environmental crises, and to ensure youth voices are heard on climate issues.
- Enable more outdoor lessons, where children will learn more about nature, animals and the environment.
- Introduce a new “Nature” GCSE.
- Remove charitable status from private schools and charge full VAT on fees.
- Revive the further education sector to provide a wider choice of academic and vocational learning.
- Raise the funding rate for 16–17-year-olds, followed by an annual rise in line with inflation, at the same time as introducing a capital expansion fund for sixth form providers.

Diversity and inclusion

Green Party:

- Confront racism, antisemitism and prejudice, including from an early age through a broader and decolonialised curriculum in school, focussing on histories and role models from a diverse range of ethnicities and religions.
- End the opt-out of LGBT+ inclusive PHSE classes at school to ensure that every child learns about different types of couples and families that make up UK society.