



Green Party Manifesto 2010



Free insulation



A living wage



Free School Meals



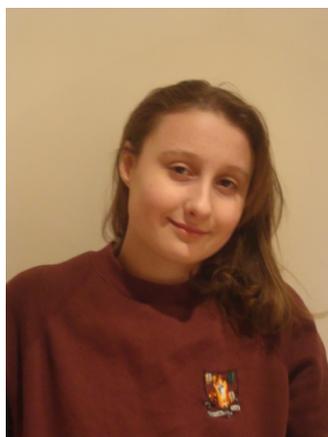
Affordable homes



Safer streets



Green energy for all



Hi, My name is Asia Dyrda and I am in my second year at Banchory Academy. I chose to be the Green Party candidate 2010 because I believe that the Green Party is the most reliable political party:

Because I love the equality and fairness they feel toward the nation, they feel that being wealthy or not is not a rational divide. In other words, people who are wealthy should not have any more privileges over the less wealthy.

About the Green Party

The Green Party of The United Kingdom is a growing political movement promoting social and environmental justice through campaigns, direct action and the electoral process.

Education and young people

In schools, we believe much smaller class sizes are the key to behaviour and learning. Classrooms should be places for the children to explore and discover new things, which is easier to achieve with smaller numbers of children in classrooms. Those who do well in school tests come into a society that has a very narrow view of education as a collection of marketable certificates. This reflects the view of other parties that education is important only as a means to enable Britain to compete in the global economy.



Living wage



The minimum wage is really a poverty wage. Every calculation shows that a real Living Wage - what we really need to provide for ourselves and our families - is at least a pound an hour higher. Greens have won a Living Wage for workers around the country, and now we want more people to benefit.

Thanks to the work of the London Living Wage Unit, cleaners at Fire Stations across London gained a pay rise in 2007 from the minimum wage – then just £5.35 – to the London living wage, which is now £7.45 an hour. We plan to increase the wage throughout the United Kingdom.

Free school meals



A free lunch? Yes we can

At a time when the health of our children is cause for mounting concern, we want our kids to know what good food is and at least once a day, sit down to a proper balanced meal. So the Green Party would provide a free lunch in all state schools in England and Wales every school day, to every pupil, this is also extremely possible to do in all constituencies. This will have enormous benefits for our children's health and their ability to concentrate in school. Parents won't have to wonder any more what kind of junk food their children are spending their lunch money on. And as it applies to everyone, it will end the stigma previously attached to free school meals – remember, nearly 300,000 children who are eligible for free school meals don't actually take advantage of them. The scheme will support local and organic non-GM food, free from additives and cater for all dietary requirements (such as vegetarian, vegan or halal). Schools will also be encouraged to involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food. Of course, we don't propose to force feed children. If they really don't want their free lunch, they can bring food from home, go home at lunchtime or buy healthy food from school.

Safer streets



Safety in low numbers

More than half the people unlucky enough to be hit by a car doing a seemingly harmless 35mph, die. Reduce the speed to 20 mph and only 1 in 40 of us die. We happen to think that people on foot and on bicycles have just as much right to feel safe on the streets where they live as car users, so we'll introduce a 20 mph limit in residential urban areas, including villages. Cars travelling at 20 mph hit 60% fewer people, kill far fewer of those they do hit and don't scare kids so much that they're afraid to play outside. In the end, driving is a privilege, but being able to walk the streets safely is a right.

Green energy for all



Power to the people

Solar water heaters will typically save you about £40 a year. And the average solar electricity installation can save up to £200 on your annual electricity bill. Never mind the CO2 you'll save which is likely to be well over 1 tonne. Homes in Kirklees, West Yorkshire now generate an astonishing 5% of the UK's total solar energy (this will be a much higher percentage if this scheme is introduced to the rest of the United Kingdom) thanks to the actions of their Green Party councillors. We believe it's time other local councils took the lead in combating climate change too. And what better place to start than the buildings they own and control? We believe these should all be equipped with solar water heating, solar electricity, wind generators – or all three. Again, if Kirklees Council can do it, every Council can (with a few Green councillors to prod them along!).

