

FOE demands (bold ones are web election pledges)	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Green	Assessment
Profile given to environment in manifesto	David Cameron doesn't mention the environment in his introduction, but it is mentioned in the foreword as one of three "progressive challenges of our age". It is also included near the top of the section "Get the economy moving" as part of the new economic model Britain needs "we need to boost enterprise and develop a low carbon, hi-tech economy." (p3) Cutting carbon emissions and increasing UK market share for low carbon technologies is also one of eight "Benchmarks for Britain" against which success or failure of a Conservative Government. (p5)	Brief mention in Gordon Brown's foreword as one of the major challenges "intensive global competition, climate change, an ageing society and bringing stability to Afghanistan"; Similar in introduction - plus reference to green industries as one of the high tech industries of the future. Chapter 8 of 10 covers most green promises, with transport policies, Green Investment Bank and jobs included in "Growth" chapter. Strong links to jobs.	Environment features on the front cover, with one of the four key "steps" listed there being "A fairer future - creating jobs by making Britain greener". Mentioned in Nick Clegg's introduction, and green policies are featured and highlighted throughout the document with green tabs.	Unsurprisingly, very high - foreword links the "triple economic, environmental and social crises" (p2) and the vision states "Green policies are essential if we are to get out of this mess and create a sustainable and fair economy." (p5) Environment is covered as one of five chapters, but features heavily in the other 4 as well.	Of the main parties, Liberal Democrats have clearly made the most effort to include green issues throughout the manifesto. The issues have similar prominence in Labour and Conservative manifestos.
A local carbon budget for every local authority: that caps CO2 in the local area in line with the scientific demands for emissions cuts and local circumstances; and enough money and technical support to enable councils to do their bit to tackle climate change.	In government, we will lead from the front by ... working with local authorities and others to deliver emissions reductions. (p91)	We will devolve power to local councils to hold energy companies to account for community energy efficiency programmes, and give them powers to develop local energy systems such as renewables and district heating. (8.4) Local government is at the forefront of tackling the major challenges our society faces, from climate change to ageing ... We will give local government new powers to ... tackle climate change (9:4)			While no party has a clear enough description of what they will do to help and ensure local authorities deliver on climate change, Labour have at least recognised new (if unspecified) powers will be needed. Conservative pledge is even more vague, and Liberal Democrats have not included anything.

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<p>Sufficient investment in switching to a low carbon economy to: achieve a reduction in UK greenhouse gas emission of 42 per cent by 2020; create jobs and boost the recovery; and eliminate fuel poverty. (Similar pledge in Green Standard)</p>	<p>we can confirm our aim of reducing carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. (p91) Ministers will be unambiguously responsible for determining energy policy and delivering an Annual Energy Statement to Parliament to set a clear direction for energy policy (p92) we will ensure that 10 per cent of the staff directly employed by 'Green Deal' providers are apprentices, helping to build a green collar workforce for the future (p93) We will increase the proportion of tax revenues accounted for by environmental taxes, ensuring that any additional revenues from new green taxes that are principally designed as an environmental measure to change behaviour are used to reduce the burden of taxation elsewhere. (p31)</p>	<p>Our aim is to create 400,000 new green jobs by 2015.... we will use our leadership in the EU to push for a strengthening of Europe's 2020 emission reductions from 20 to 30 per cent by 2020 as part of an ambitious global deal. This would mean the UK increasing its current target of a 34 per cent reduction. (8:3)</p>	<p>We will set a target for a zero-carbon Britain...by 2050, reducing carbon emissions in the UK by over 40 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020 as a step on the way. (p58) Liberal Democrats will begin our term in office with a one-year job creation and green economic stimulus package. We have identified £3.1 billion of public spending that can be used to create 100,000 jobs. (p23) Change tariffs so essential energy is cheapest, energy efficiency measures keep bills low (p53)</p>	<p>the UK needs to adopt an initial annual carbon dioxide emissions reduction target of around 10 per cent, with the aim of reducing emissions by 90 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030, and 65 per cent by 2020 – starting now (p34) ... Our major and immediate priority is the creation of an extra million jobs and training places within a full year of operation of our major investment plan (p9) ... We favour a Robin Hood Tax – a tax on financial transactions (p15) the share of environmental taxation in total taxes would double from about 7 per cent now to 14 per cent in 2013 (p16)</p>	<p>LibDems have promised targets in line with the advice of the Climate Change Committee, and the Green Party has gone even further. Labour have left the way clear to increase the 2020 target, but not committed yet. The Conservatives have matched the long term target to CCC advice, but not said what will happen in the next 10 years - such a distant target matters, but not as much as a 2020 target which will drive emissions cuts in the next Parliament. Conservative green tax pledge is welcome.</p>

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<p>An international deal on cutting emissions where those responsible make the deepest cuts first, and developing countries are supported to grow in a low carbon way. <i>(Similar pledge in Green Standard)</i></p>	<p>A Conservative government will work towards an ambitious global deal that will limit emissions and make available substantial financial resources for adaptation and mitigation. (p91)</p>	<p>continue to work for an ambitious, fair and legally binding climate change agreement, building on the Copenhagen Accord to limit global temperature rises to two degrees Celsius ... we believe Europe should agree a second Kyoto commitment period, provided all countries are brought within a clear legal framework. Developing countries need help to adapt, reduce deforestation and emissions. From 2013 we will provide climate assistance additional to our commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of national income in overseas aid. No more than ten per cent of our aid will be counted towards climate finance. (8:3)</p>	<p>committed to securing a legally binding global agreement on limiting the increase in global temperatures to below 1.7 degrees Celsius ... agreement must be based on ... the principle of contraction and convergence. We will press the EU to Promote the transition to a low-carbon economy in Europe, by moving unilaterally and immediately to an EU emissions reduction target of 30 per cent by 2020, adopting new long-term targets and policies for clean energy and energy efficiency; and expand investment in energy technology innovation ... deepen diplomatic co-operation between the EU and emerging economies and developing countries, provide enhanced financial support for low-carbon solutions and lead international efforts to promote the transfer of technologies that will help to tackle climate change. (p60) We will ensure that adaptation and mitigation measures are financed by industrialised nations on top of existing aid commitments. (p63)</p>	<p>we support the Contraction and Convergence framework for mitigating climate change. Under such a system all countries would eventually converge on the same low emissions per capita. ... to avoid warming exceeding 2°C ... We support the idea of a Robin Hood Tax, sometimes called a Financial Transactions TaxAny global climate change treaty must involve a transfer of resources of well over US\$150 billion a year from rich countries to poorer countries channelled through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to pay for the development of renewable energy technologies and climate change adaptation, and to help resist deforestation. We favour dedicating the revenues from an international financial transactions tax to this purpose and to wider global sustainable development. If that does not prove successful the UK must pay its fair contribution from other resources.</p>	<p>LibDems more ambitious target to keep warming to less than 1.7 deg C is a huge challenge. But they also score highly because they are clear that assistance to the developing world to deal with the climate change we in the rich countries have caused has to come on top of current aid budgets, not simply be us diverting them. Labour promise climate finance will be mostly additional money, and the Conservatives make no commitment.</p>

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<p>A new law which will tackle the major greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation caused by the UK's dependence on imported feeds for livestock - and which will support better UK farming and domestic feed production/</p>	<p>We will negotiate for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to deliver greater value for money while supporting the sustainability of British farming. The new CAP should reflect the importance we attach to the environment, to ensuring food security and to tackling global poverty. (p97)</p>	<p>We want British farming to be profitable and competitive. We need our farmers to produce more food, nurturing our countryside and biodiversity. We will continue to seek reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) to facilitate the creation of fairer and better functioning agricultural markets, enabling farmers to return a reasonable profit from food production at lower cost to the consumer. (8:5)</p>	<p>Keep the pressure on for reform of agricultural subsidies so that farmers, consumers and taxpayers get a fair deal, and the environment is protected. (p66) Use the money freed by our reform to Single Farm Payments to provide extra support for hill farmers, cheap loans to help farmers invest in environmentally friendly biogas digesters and a new Farming Apprenticeship scheme. Work within Europe for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, while continuing direct support for farmers, especially in upland and less favoured areas. We believe that a greater proportion of that support should be targeted at conservation, the environment and tackling climate change, as well as at providing food security for a rapidly growing world population. Organic and reduced-input foodstuffs should be encouraged. Help consumers to choose foods with the least environmental impact, through clearer labelling, (p84)</p>	<p>Localise the food chain, including assistance for small farms, starting farmers' markets, farm box schemes and locally owned co-ops. Set new targets every five years and a minimum conversion of 10% of UK food production to organic every five years. Replace the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with support for smaller farms, organic agriculture, local food markets, and measures to increase biodiversity in our countryside – European subsidies must support planet friendly farming (p39) ... We will work to measure and reduce the impact of our meat and dairy consumption, while recognising that traditional rotational grazing has potential for storing carbon in the soil (p40)</p>	<p>Green Party specifically highlight the need to tackle emissions from the livestock industry, and of the major parties it is the LibDems who propose using the widest range of policies to back sustainable farming - reform of CAP and other farm support schemes, and helping consumers choose the lowest impact food. Conservatives also link CAP reform to sustainability, while Labour mention the need to nurture countryside, but only link CAP reform to low cost food - which may not be compatible.</p>

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<p>A major energy efficiency programme for all homes, funded by a mix of grants and loans. <i>(Similar pledge in Green Standard)</i></p>	<p>Rising energy costs hit families hard, so we will create a 'Green Deal', giving every home up to £6,500 worth of energy improvement measures – with more for hard-to-treat homes – paid for out of savings made on fuel bills over 25 years. (p93)</p>	<p>We will ensure that all household lofts and cavity walls are insulated, where practical, by 2015. By 2020 every home will have a smart meter to help control energy use and enable cheaper tariffs; and we will enable seven million homes to have a fuller 'eco-upgrade'. We will legislate to introduce 'Pay As You Save' financing schemes under which home energy improvements can be paid for from the savings they generate on energy bills. Labour is determined to end fuel poverty and create a fair energy system for all. We will introduce a new Warm Home Standard for social housing and regulate landlords so that privately rented accommodation is properly insulated. We have legislated for compulsory contributions from energy companies to protect the vulnerable. (8:4)</p>	<p>Begin a national programme to insulate many more homes paid for by the savings from lower energy bills (p53) Begin a ten-year programme of home insulation, offering a home energy improvement package of up to £10,000 per home, paid for by the savings from lower energy bills, and make sure every new home is fully energy-efficient by improving building regulations. (p58) Launch and "Eco-cashback" scheme, for one year only, which will give you £400 if you install double glazing, replace and old boiler or install microgeneration ... a more attractive feed-in tariff than under current Government plans. (p59)</p>	<p>Introduce a free home insulation programme for all homes that need it, with priority for pensioners and those living in fuel poverty, aiming to insulate 4 million homes every year... would cost £2bn in 2010 rising to £4bn a year and create 80,000 jobs. Introduce incentives totalling £2bn p.a. to encourage homes to become more energy self-sufficient by aiming for 1,000,000 solar roofs, and support generous feed-in tariffs for micro-generation, creating 40,000 jobs in the installation industries. Abolish standing charges on fuel bills and set tariffs to favour smaller consumers. (p20)</p>	<p>Labour are the only one of the major parties to have policies covering rented homes as well as owner-occupied homes. All parties propose pay-as-you-save schemes: a great idea, but they do not work in rented homes, and do not work for the fuel poor (who may spend the same on Bills after efficiency improvements: they will benefit from a warmer home, but realise no savings to repay the loan).</p>

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<p>A Green industrial Strategy, creating jobs producing the environmental solutions we need.</p>	<p>Manifesto sets increasing global share of low carbon market as a key benchmark of success. (p5) stopping Labour's jobs tax, lowering corporate tax rates, reducing the regulatory burden, and supporting innovation and sustainable development – changes that will benefit businesses of all sizes and boost employment. (p19) Government procurement is a £200 billion a year market that can be used much better to stimulate enterprise and innovation. (p20) We will encourage private sector investment to put Britain at the forefront of the green technology revolution, creating jobs and new businesses across the country. (p31) Instead of using rules and regulations to impose a centralised worldview, we will go with the grain of human nature, creating new incentives and market signals which reward people for doing the right thing. Instead of pulling bureaucratic levers from above ... we will provide people with the information they need to make more responsible choices. we will unleash the power of green enterprise and promote resource efficiency to generate thousands of green jobs. (p89)</p>	<p>to support business in securing prosperity for future generations, an activist industrial strategy is needed: learning the lessons from those nations that have succeeded in developing advanced manufacturing and leading-edge service industries. In these countries the role of government is not to stand aside, but to nurture private-sector dynamism, properly supporting infrastructure and the sectors of the future. (1:2) . Only active government can shape markets to prioritise green growth and job creation. Environmental sustainability cannot be left to individuals and businesses acting alone. (8.3)</p>	<p>Investing up to £400 million in refurbishing shipyards in the North of England and Scotland so that they can manufacture offshore wind turbines and other marine renewable energy equipment. As part of this scheme we will write off backdated business rates demands from before April 2008 for businesses in ports. ... Use the substantial purchasing power of government to expand the markets for green products and technologies (p26)</p>	<p>Our major and immediate priority is the creation of an extra million jobs and training places within a full year of operation of our major investment plan, the Green New Deal. (p9) Offer Green workforce training and an environmental community programme including training courses for jobs in energy conservation and renewable energy, with grant-funded conversion courses for skilled engineers from other industries. (p10)</p>	<p>While the Green Party aims highest in terms of jobs and investment, the other parties set their policies in diverse ways. It is welcome the Conservatives have set this as one of 8 key benchmarks for their success. However it is too early to say if the support for innovation and investment, or the information and new incentives they propose will be sufficient. Labour say how important an activist industrial strategy is, but doesn't really specify what it is. Meanwhile the LibDems and propose two schemes to kick start the sector. This is less of a "grand vision" - but they are concrete policies. LibDems and Conservatives identify procurement as an important lever - LibDems tying this more closely to green products.</p>
<p>A Green Bank funded by "Green Bonds" that generates the investment needed – bonds will be paid back as the savings from preventing climate change are realised. <i>(Similar pledge in the Green Standard)</i></p>	<p>we will create Britain's first Green Investment Bank – which will draw together money currently divided across existing government initiatives, leveraging private sector capital to finance new green technology start-ups. We will create green Individual Savings Accounts to help provide the financial backing we need to create a low carbon economy. (p31)</p>	<p>We will establish a Green Investment Bank to invest in low-carbon infrastructure, with the Government's stake funded by the sale of infrastructure assets. The Government will seek to match its contribution with at least £1 billion of private-sector investment. (1:6)</p>	<p>we will set up a United Kingdom Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) to attract private finance – essential to delivering the much-needed expansion of Britain's transport and energy infrastructure when public finances are tight. ... Start with government seed funding ... raised from the sell-off of the student loan book or the Tote as the Government has already proposed. In addition borrowing could be secured against or raised from government-owned assets such as the Dartford Crossing. We will investigate other ways of raising seed capital such as auctioning airport landing slots and parts of the radio spectrum. (p24)</p>	<p>Support new institutions like a green investment bank and local community banks in the financial sector, and new ways of investing in the green economy, such as green national savings bonds. (p9)</p>	<p>Devil will be in the detail here - perhaps most importantly in the amount of money that the bank gets access to. Labour and Liberal Democrats propose seeding the back through Government sell-offs, the Conservatives by bringing together money from other initiatives - which risks damage to existing Government programmes.</p>

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Change accounting rules for transport projects to allow money to be used on revenue projects (like public transport schemes) rather than just capital projects (like new roads).					
Smarter Travel Choices" schemes rolled out nationwide.					
Tougher recycling targets reaching 70% (like Flanders).	We will introduce a Responsibility Deal on waste – a voluntary arrangement among producers to cut back on the production of waste and improve its disposal – as we move towards our goal of a zero-waste society. Households need new incentives to go green, so we will reward people who do the right thing by encouraging councils to pay people to recycle, while scrapping Labour’s plans for new bin taxes on families. To help this happen, we will put a floor under the standard rate of landfill tax until 2020 to encourage alternative forms of waste disposal. (p97)	Move towards a ‘zero waste’ Britain ... we will drive the introduction of ‘recycling on the go’, with separated public bins on the street and in shopping centres. (8:2)	Set targets for ‘zero waste’, aiming to end the use of landfill. That means less packaging, more recycling, and a huge increase in anaerobic digestion to generate energy from food and farm waste. We will also improve resource efficiency and reduce waste through requiring better design and durability product standards and reducing excess packaging. (p81)	Aim to recycle 70% of domestic waste by 2015 as a move towards a zero-waste system. The Government provides the infrastructure, people do the recycling ... providing a free compost bin and composting advice for anyone who wants them (p26)	The Greens set the target we wanted, while the other parties should have been far more specific. Of the limited pledges, the LibDems is probably toughest. They will set targets for "zero waste" though how soon we will get there is of course crucial. Their AD plans are also welcome. Labour and Conservatives will "move towards" zero waste - though at what speed is equally unclear (it could even be faster than a poor LibDem target). More detail is needed to judge Conservative plans to encourage people to recycle. Voluntary agreements have not previously been very successful at cutting waste - the Conservatives should back this up with regulation if it did not work.

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New rules on waste that ban landfill or incineration of recyclable materials, and stop councils signing long-term contracts that lock them into incineration.	put a floor under standard rate of landfill tax until 2020. (p97)	Move towards a 'zero waste' Britain, banning recyclable and biodegradable materials from landfill. (8:2)	Set targets for 'zero waste', aiming to end the use of landfill. That means less packaging, more recycling, and a huge increase in anaerobic digestion to generate energy from food and farm waste. We will also improve resource efficiency and reduce waste through requiring better design and durability product standards and reducing excess packaging. (p81)	Oppose the incineration of waste, but encourage domestic composting. Almost double spending on recycling and waste disposal ... We would spend an extra £3bn pa, creating 60,000 jobs. Burying waste gives rise to both greenhouse gases and pollution, and is no longer acceptable. (p26)	Green oppose landfill and incineration, while LibDems and Labour ban just landfill, LibDems for all waste, Labour for biodegradable waste. Neither have a timescale. Impact of Conservative policy is difficult to assess without knowing the level of the floor proposed.
Ensure that food bought with public money (in schools, hospitals etc) is produced by the most sustainable practices, and is not leading to deforestation.	Government should take the lead by procuring more sustainably. We will ensure that food procured by government departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British standards of production, wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs. (p97)		We will use government procurement policy to expand the market for sustainable and fair-traded products. (p84)	Provide free school meals for all – with locally sourced or fair-trade and (where possible) organic food, and with a vegetarian option. (p22)	Of the main parties, the LibDems specifically link public procurement of food to sustainable and fairtraded products. While it is good the Conservatives will use purchasing power to raise standards, as drafted, this would not include the use of feeds that are causing deforestation.
Put increases in the biofuel targets on hold, pending thorough review of impacts.				Oppose the large-scale cultivation of bio-fuels, especially in poor countries where they compete with land for food, or result in the destruction of tropical forests. (p36)	
Link planning policy to the carbon budgets arising from the Climate Change Act, by making emissions a key factor in determining whether developments should go ahead. (Similar pledge in the Green Standard)	We will create a presumption in favour of sustainable development in the planning system. We will abolish the unelected Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) and replace it with an efficient and democratically-accountable system that provides a fast-track process for major infrastructure projects. We will: use private or hybrid Bills to promote major projects, such as our plans for a national high speed rail network; ensure that all other major infrastructure projects are considered at planning inquiries which have binding timetables and which focus on planning issues – with final permission given by a Minister; and provide transitional arrangements for projects already before the IPC to ensure that these projects are not disrupted or delayed.(p20)	The newly formed Infrastructure Planning Commission will – within a democratically determined framework – help streamline and speed up decision-making on major projects. (1:6)	Abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission and return decision making, including housing targets, to local people. We will create a third-party right of appeal in cases where planning decisions go against locally agreed plans. (p81)	Require all major development plans and planning applications to show how they will contribute to carbon reduction targets. (p35) Introduce stronger planning policies to support onshore wind, tidal, wave, solar and geothermal energy schemes, and help local planning authorities to make more consistent decisions. Give micro-renewables 'permitted development' status. (p36)	Only the Green Party explicitly links planning to carbon budgets.

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Reform OFGEM and the energy markets so they deliver a low carbon energy supply.	We will reform the Climate Change Levy to provide a floor price for carbon, delivering the right climate for investment in low carbon energy production (p31) We need to generate 15 per cent of our energy from renewables by 2020 (p91) We will reform the energy regulator Ofgem so that: it focuses on executing energy policy; it is tasked with monitoring the spare capacity in the energy market and making provisions for additional capacity where required; and its competition policy and consumer protection powers pass to the Office of Fair trading (p92)	We will now reform the regulatory system to provide the certainty that investors need (8:3) we will ensure greater competition in the energy supply market. (8:4) We are planning for around 40 per cent of our electricity to come from low-carbon sources by 2020 – renewables, nuclear and clean fossil fuels. (8:3)	Set a target for 40 per cent of UK electricity to come from clean, non-carbon-emitting sources by 2020, rising to 100 per cent by 2050, underpinned by guaranteed price support; and ensure that at least three-quarters of this new renewable energy comes from marine and offshore sources. Set out a clear renewables routemap to 2050, covering grid access and investment in electricity networks, and develop new incentives to promote renewable heat. (p58)	The private sector has not responded to the challenge of renewable energy with sufficient vigour and investment. We would introduce a massive programme of direct Government investment in large-scale wind and other renewable generation, and investment in the grid, spending as much as £20bn over the Parliament and creating 80,000 jobs in installation and equipment manufacture. Aim to obtain about half our energy from renewable sources by 2020 and ensure that emissions from power generation are zero by 2030. (p35)	While the Green Party would use direct investment in energy supply, none of the other parties have set out clearly plans to reform the market - despite OFGEM itself saying this is needed. LibDems have the most ambitious plans for renewable electricity, their promised routemap must show how markets are reformed. Conservatives and Labour promise OFGEM reform, but not explicitly to deliver low carbon energy supply. (Conservative 15% renewable <i>energy</i> target looks less, but is roughly equivalent to Labour's 40% low carbon <i>electricity</i> , as it is easier to decarbonise electricity than other energy sectors. Labour also count nuclear in their target.)
Establish a Supermarket Ombudsman, and a Commission for Business, Human Rights and the Environment.	We will ensure a fair market for food suppliers – especially farmers – by reducing the burden of regulation. To ensure the grocery supply code of practice is applied fairly, we will introduce an independent supermarket ombudsman. (p97)	In order to protect farmers and food suppliers from unfair and uncompetitive practices by major retailers, we will create a Supermarket Ombudsman.	Create a legal Supermarket Code and a powerful independent regulator of Britain's food market. (p83)	Reduce the dominance of supermarket chains through a range of measures, such as: - vigorously enforcing monopoly legislation against the existing largest chains; - introducing a supermarket Ombudsman to protect farmers from supermarket bullying; - prohibiting new out-of-town retailing, and requiring parking charges for private car parks with exemption for the disabled; - insisting that 50% of retail floor space in all new developments is affordable space for local small businesses (p40)	LibDem's independent regulator and legal code would have more teeth than the ombudsman proposed by the other parties.

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Commit to making significant progress towards restoring the natural environment by 2020, doubling woodland cover, and ensuring protected sites are in good condition. (Green Standard pledge)	We will support the strongest protection for endangered species and work to protect vital habitats from destruction. (p95) promote new green spaces and wildlife corridors ... We will produce a new White Paper on protecting the natural environment, including a focus on restoring habitat. We will pioneer a new system of conservation credits to protect habitats ... planting up to one million new trees in the next Parliament (p96)	We will put forward new areas for protected landscape and habitat status, focusing on green corridors and wildlife networks to link up existing sites. And we will commit to increasing the area covered by forest and woodland. (8:5)	Introduce a new strategy to bring the UK back on target to halt the loss of habitats and species and as far as possible restore biodiversity by 2020 (p81) we will aim to double the UK's woodland cover by 2050 (p82)	Press to extend the amount of land covered by the EU Habitats Directive in the UK, and ensure that protected sites are in good condition. Set up a national Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) to promote and integrate research and development on public health and environmental protection. (p41)	
Ensure everyone has access to natural green space (Green Standard pledge)		We have ... given the public a Right to Roam our mountains, moors and heaths. We will now extend this to the whole English coastline.	Increase general right of access to the countryside. (p81) Create a new designation - similar to SSSI status - to protect green areas of particular importance or value to the community. (p82)		
GM Food	ensure that consumers have the right to choose non-GM foods through clear labelling; not permit any commercial planting of GM crops until and unless it has been assessed as safe for people and the environment; and, develop a legally-binding protocol covering the separation of GM and non-GM material, including clear industry liability. (p97)			Support GM-free zones and continue to work for a complete ban on genetically modified food in Europe (p40)	

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High Speed and national rail	<p>will begin work immediately to create a high speed rail line connecting London and Heathrow with Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. This is the first step towards achieving our vision of creating a national high speed rail network to join up major cities across England, Scotland and Wales. Stage two will deliver two new lines bringing the north east, Scotland and Wales into the high speed rail network ... we will reform our railways to provide a better focus on tackling problems that matter most to passengers, such as overcrowding. We will grant longer, more flexible rail franchises to incentivise private sector investment in improvements like longer trains and better stations.(p23)</p>	<p>Britain needs to invest in modern, high-capacity and low-carbon transport infrastructure ... commitment to a new high-speed rail line, linking North and South. ... We will consult fully on legislation to take forward our high-speed rail plans within the next Parliament. High-speed rail ... will free up capacity on existing intercity rail lines, enabling more rail freight, commuter and local services. We will press ahead with a major investment programme in existing rail services, hugely improving commuter services into and through London, and electrifying new rail-lines including the Great Western Main Line from London to South Wales. We will complete the new east-west Crossrail line in London adding ten per cent to London transport capacity. ... We will encourage more people to switch to rail with an enforceable right to the cheapest fare, while trebling the number of secure cycle-storage spaces at rail stations. We will welcome rail franchise bids from not-for-profit, mutual or co-operative franchise enterprises and will look to remove unfair barriers that prevent such bids benefiting passengers and taxpayers.</p>	<p>Set up a UK Infrastructure Bank to invest in public transport like high speed rail. (p79) Some of the [road pricing] revenue from lorries would be used to fund further extensions of high speed rail through the UK Infrastructure Bank. (p80) Cut rail fares ... Regulated fares fall behind inflation by 1% each year, meaning a real-terms price cut. (p54 &78) Switch traffic from road to rail by investing in local rail improvements .. Paid for by cutting the major roads budget. (p78).</p>	<p>Give higher priority to railways and plan for a growing railway network. Open additional stations on existing routes. Return the railways, tube system and other light railway systems, including both track and operations, to public ownership. Support in principle a new north-south high-speed line (p38) We would reduce heavy freight and shift it from the roads to the railways ... expand the rail freight network and make greater use of waterways, where suitable. Safeguard land adjacent to railways for use in freight distribution projects.</p>	

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Local transport	We will support sustainable transport initiatives that work best for local communities by giving the concerns of cyclists much greater priority; encouraging partnerships between bus operators and local authorities; and helping people cut down on work related travel.	We will support tram schemes into the major cities, including upgrades to the Manchester, Nottingham, Birmingham and Tyne & Wear light-rail systems, a modern trolley bus in Leeds, and more Oyster-style electronic ticketing promoting cheap and easy interchange between public transport in cities. ... We will provide punctuality data on all bus routes so passengers can hold services to account. We want greater use of London-style powers to regulate bus routes where local bus services are not serving communities well, and we will work with the Competition Commission to ensure that the bus companies do not make excess profits at the expense of passengers. (9:5)	Investing £140 million in a bus scrappage scheme ...to replace old polluting buses with new, accessible low-carbon ones and create jobs (p24 & 59) Give councils greater powers to regulate bus services according to community needs ... Include the promotion of safer cycling and pedestrian routes in all local transport plans. (p79)	Ensure that at least 10% of transport spending is on securing a shift to more active travel like walking and cycling. (p37) Invest in new Light Rapid Transit systems (using appropriate technologies). Support free local transport for pensioners. We would spend £1.5 billion subsidising existing public transport to make fares up to 10% cheaper, and £30 billion over the Parliament on investing in a better system.(p38)	All will look again at bus regulation - the detail will be what matters. New low-carbon buses will be a demonstration that Government is putting its money where its mouth is on low-carbon vehicles. Welcome to see cycling noted by LibDems and Tories - though the detail will matter here too. Through ticketing is also helpful, and it is good to see Conservative plans to help people cut down on work travel - reducing the need to travel is vital.
Road transport	Will make companies that dig up roads accountable for the congestion they cause ... Councils will get more powers to get traffic flowing more smoothly. We will consult on the introduction of a "Fair Fuel Stabiliser." This would cut duty when oil prices rise, and vice versa.	We will extend hard-shoulder running on motorways, alongside targeted motorway widening including on the M25. ... we will increase tenfold the penalties on utilities who allow work to overrun. We rule out the introduction of national road pricing in the next Parliament.	Cut major road budget to fund railway improvements (p78) We will... Reduce pollution from vehicle exhausts through tighter regulation. We will aim to fully meet European air quality targets by 2012 (p42) Undertake preparations for the introduction of a system of road pricing in a second Government. Any such system would be revenue neutral for motorists, with revenue from cars used to abolish VED and reduce fuel duty, helping those in rural areas who have no alternative...some of the revenues from lorries would be used to fund further extensions of high speed rail (p80)	Reallocate the £30 billion the Government has earmarked for road-building over the next 10 years. Spend the money on a programme of investment in public transport over the Parliament ... Abolish car tax and replace it with a purchase tax on new cars that reflects their emissions. That way we would affect the types of car chosen at the time that matters, when they are bought new. Prioritise public transport, then if necessary work towards the introduction of road pricing. (p38)	Serious black mark for Labour here - the only party pledged to provide more space for cars (though Conservatives do not rule it out). increasing road space will increase traffic. Far better to shift this expenditure to public transport - as Greens and LibDems promise. The Conservatives "Fair Fuel Stabiliser" must not reduce the incentive to buy efficient cars and reduce travel.
Electric cars	we will introduce incentives for electricity network operators to establish a new national car recharging network, making it much easier for drivers to move to electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles (p24)	To promote the rapid take-up of electric and low-carbon cars, we will ensure there are 100,000 electric vehicle charging points by the end of the next Parliament. (1:7)	Work through the EU for a zero emissions target for all new cars by 2040 and extend targets to other vehicles. (p80)		

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Aviation plans	Our goal is to make Heathrow airport better, not bigger. We will stop the third runway and instead link Heathrow directly to our high speed rail network, providing an alternative to thousands of flights. In addition, we will block plans for second runways at Stansted and Gatwick; and, reform air Passenger Duty to encourage a switch to fuller and cleaner planes. (p23)	We support a third runway at Heathrow, subject to strict conditions on environmental impact and flight numbers, but we will not allow additional runways to proceed at any other airport in the next Parliament.	We will cancel plans for a third runway and other airport expansion in the South East (p42 & 80) Replace the per-passenger APD with a per-plane duty (PPD) so capturing freight movements by air for the first time. Introduce an additional, higher rate of PPD on domestic flights for which alternative and less polluting travel is readily available (p14 & 80) Work with other countries to establish new sources of development financing, including a financial transaction tax and a cap and trade system for carbon emissions from aviation and shipping. (p62)	Introduce taxation on aviation that reflects its full environmental costs ... Stop airport expansion and shift shorter air journeys to the railways ... Ban night flying. (p39)	Another black mark for Labour - the only party still wanting airport expansion in the South East. Along with their plans for road expansion these plans stand out like a sore thumb as incompatible with a low carbon future. No party sets an aim for emissions from aviation.
Smart Grids	The way our energy is produced and transmitted is stuck in the last century. A Conservative Government will transform this "dumb", unresponsive network and create an "electricity internet" - a highly interactive network based on a new smart grid that will interact with people's homes to manage supply and demand. (p92)	A major drive for energy efficiency will be enhanced by a 'smart grid' using new information technologies. (8:3)	Transform the electricity networks into a dynamic electricity grid that can better connect and integrate new, clean energy technologies particularly through the better use of sub-sea connections, leading to the development of a European Supergrid. (p58)	Support Europe-wide renewable energy initiatives such as an under-sea grid for offshore wind and marine power, concentrating solar power plants in southern Europe and the North African deserts and the building of highly efficient long-distance high-voltage DC power lines. (p36)	
Nuclear power	clearing the way for new nuclear power stations - provided they receive no public subsidy (p92)	We have taken the decisions to enable a new generation of nuclear power stations (8:3)	Reject a new generation of nuclear power stations based on the evidence nuclear is a far more expensive way of reducing carbon. (p59)	Phase out nuclear power and resolutely oppose any new nuclear power stations. (p35)	FOE oppose new nuclear because cost build times mean there are better ways to cut carbon, and the waste problem is still not solved. Conservative promise of no subsidy is welcome - but must include indirect subsidy too, like provision of waste disposal facilities.
Coal fired power	we will take steps to encourage new low carbon energy production, including introducing an Emissions Performance Standard ... Creating four carbon capture and storage equipped plants (p92)	we have taken the decisions to enable ... a programme of four clean coal plants with carbon capture and storage technology with a levy to fund them. We are the only Government in the world to have banned new unabated coal-fired power stations. (8:3)	Block new coal-fired stations - unless they are accompanied by the highest level of CCS facilities (p59)	Not permit any further investment in new coal-fuelled power stations. (p36)	All say coal plant cannot be built without CCS - LibDems insist this must be "the highest level" whereas other parties could allow smaller proportion to be captured. Conservative EPS proposal is the right tool, but the level it is set at will determine its success.
Severn Barrage		We will make a decision early in the next Parliament on the feasibility of alternative options for a tidal energy project on the Severn, taking full account of the environmental impacts.			

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Community energy schemes	giving local authorities the power to establish new district heating networks which use biogas and other low carbon fuels; allowing communities that host renewable energy projects like windfarms to keep the additional business rates they generate for six years (p92)	we will support community organisations, co-ops and social enterprises to provide energy services, meaning lower prices through bulk purchasing, and the development of small-scale renewables.	Encourage community owned renewable energy schemes where local people benefit from the power produced (p28)		Oddly, given the philosophy of the Conservative manifesto, they are the only party not to mention helping local community organisations in providing energy. Their plans may help communities embrace alternative energy schemes though - in all cases the detail is what will matter.
New housing		We are investing £7.5 billion over two years to 2011 to build new houses, delivering 110,000 additional energy-efficient, affordable homes to rent or buy.	Bringing 250,000 empty homes back into use. People who own these homes will get a grant or cheap loan ... Grants for social housing, loans for private use (p23)	provide £2bn in 2010 rising to £4bn in 2011 to local authorities to expand social housing, mainly through conversion and renovation, and create 80,000 jobs ... Minimise encroachment onto undeveloped 'greenfield sites' wherever possible by reusing previously developed sites that have fallen into disuse ... There are about one million empty homes. Halve this number through empty property use orders. social housing mainly by conversion and renovation. (p20)	Good to see LibDems and Greens bringing empty homes back into use, though a commitment to making them highly efficient would improve this.
Energy efficiency in public sector and commercial buildings	In Government we will lead from the front by delivering a 10 per cent cut in central government emissions within twelve months (p91)		Improve energy efficiency in the commercial and public sectors, by strengthening the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme and requiring companies and government departments to report on their energy use and set targets for reducing it. We will set a 30 per cent energy efficiency improvement target for 2020, and will commit the government to the goals of the 10:10 campaign as a first step. (p59) Setting aside extra money for schools who want to improve their energy efficiency (p23 & 59)	Introduce children to renewable technologies at school by ensuring that most schools get the bulk of their energy from on-site renewable sources (p22) ...Help small businesses cope with regulation and provide tailored advice on energy efficiency. (p27)	Conservatives and Liberal Democrats will ensure Government buildings make early cuts in carbon dioxide. LibDems go for all public buildings rather than just Whitehall, and are the only party to consider commercial buildings. Tackling schools is also welcome - again it shows Government putting its money where its mouth, rather than just persuading others to improve their buildings.
Water conservation	Industry and customers alike need new incentives to conserve water. We will reform the water industry, and bring in new measures to encourage businesses and households to value this precious resource more highly. (p98)	In stimulating the sustainable use of resources, we will ... continue[e] the move towards universal water metering in areas of water stress. (8:3)	Crack down on waste from the water companies and introduce compulsory smart meters in areas of shortage (p82)		

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Environmental labelling			Work with other countries to develop an international labelling system for the environmental impact of products. (p62)		
Efficient products	We will improve the energy efficiency of everyday appliances by drawing on the experience of the "top runner" scheme from Japan (p93)			Introduce smart meters and appliances (p36)	
Trade in forest products/endangered species	We will tackle the smuggling and illegal trade in wildlife through our new Border Police Force (p95) Oppose any resumption of commercial whaling ... Press for total ban on ivory sales ... We will tackle illegal logging by: pressing for financial support from within a reformed EU budget to be given to developing countries to halt deforestation, pressing for only legally harvested timber to be made available ... introducing anew criminal offence under UK law for the import and possession of illegal timber. (p96)	We will campaign internationally to end illegal trading in ivory and to protect species such as polar bears, seals and bluefin tuna, as well as for an EU-wide ban on illegally logged timber, banning it domestically if this does not succeed.	Protect the world's forests, not only to reduce carbon emissions but to protect this crucial reservoir of biodiversity. We will argue for ... Zero deforestation by 2020; support a new system of payments to developing countries; and adopt at EU - or, if necessary, at UK - level a new law making it illegal to import or possess timber produced illegally in foreign countries. (p61)		All broadly similar - though only the LibDems aim for a deforestation target. Tackling illegal logging is good, but much deforestation now results from soy production for animal feeds rather than timber - this needs more focus from all parties.
International finance/ export credit guarantee	end Labour's use of the Export Credit Guarantee Department to support investment in dirty fossil fuel power stations, and instead use it to help spread new green technology to developing countries. (p118)		Work through the EU to make sure that the environment is fully integrated into the objectives of international institutions like the World Bank, IMF and WTO. Work to increase the resourcing of the UNEP and improve enforcement of international environmental treaties. (p61)		

