

# General Election 2005: What the parties say on green issues



**Friends of  
the Earth**

	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Greens</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>
<b>Manifesto foreword</b>	Blair states commitment to lead on the environment as one of the 'world's greatest challenges'	Environment barely mentioned. Content of main manifesto is extremely thin, only in mini-manifesto is there any commitments.	Green "pledges" in every chapter Kennedy calls it a 'green thread' running through all LD's thinking	Caroline Lucas and Keith Taylor state that the Green's policies are based on commitments to social, economic and environmental justice	Their vision for Wales includes a "sustainable economy and environment"
<b>Energy and Climate Change</b>	Commit again to the 20% reduction target by 2010 included in the last two manifestos. However, CO2 emissions are now higher than in 1997.  Welcome inclusion of Climate Change policies in economics section – as well as in the international and "quality of life" sections. The repeated prioritisation	Commit to the 2010, 2020 and 2050 targets set by Labour Government (this is only included in the mini-environment manifesto.)  Climate change is relegated to extremely lowly position in the main manifesto with broad statements rather than policy commitments.  Mini-manifesto contains more detail – but has not been launched at a press	No explicit commitments to CO2 targets in manifesto, though explicit support for at least the Government targets was given at their environment press conference. They claim to be going further than these targets with a commitment to 'contraction & convergence' – agreeing a sustainable per capita allowance for emissions of	Cut CO2 by 20% by 2010, then 90% by 2050.  Introduce Cabinet Minister for climate change  Aim to switch from carbon economy to renewable economy.	Welsh & UK benchmarks in order to meet the 2050 60% reduction target.  Various mentions of energy throughout the manifesto and an entire section on climate change. Want to introduce 'green taxes' put Wales at the forefront of environmental technologies and encourage micro-generation domestically.

	<p>of climate change through the G8 and EU presidencies is also welcome.</p> <p>With domestic emissions higher than in 1997, tougher policies and a more robust attempt to tackle transport and industry are needed.</p>	<p>conference, or even in a press release, or identified as a key policy area.</p>	<p>greenhouse gases – but without timetables and figures for the contraction and convergence rate, we cannot confirm this.</p> <p>Would keep UK at front of international climate talks.</p>		<p>Comprehensive coverage for a concise manifesto</p>
<b>Transport</b>	<p>Raft of road widening proposals.</p> <p>Mention improvements to public transport systems, and some support for cycling and walking.</p> <p>Explore economic measures to promote greener vehicles. Explore how to move away from vehicle taxation to national road-pricing system.</p>	<p>Promise to end a “war on motorist” which doesn’t exist. The cost of travelling by car has fallen, while bus and train tickets have risen.</p> <p>Policy to encourage biofuels is welcome but promoting voluntary agreements unlikely be successful.</p>	<p>A presumption against major road building, and promises to promote congestion charging in cities outside London, before eventually reforming transport taxes to move towards a national road pricing system.</p> <p>However, the promise to promote congestion charging is undermined by recent opposition to the Edinburgh proposals.</p>	<p>Cut traffic by 10% by 2010. Massively expand public transport network.</p> <p>Scrap all road building and extend congestion charge.</p> <p>Return tube and trains to national ownership.</p> <p>Promote walking and cycling.</p>	<p>Railways devolved into public ownership.</p> <p>Support congestion charging in main towns and cities where appropriate.</p> <p>Investment and research into less polluting fuels.</p> <p>Attention to needs of cyclists &amp; pedestrians.</p>

<b>Aviation</b>	<p>Supporting air travel through white paper policies (expansion of airports).</p> <p>Committed to using UK's presidency to include in EU ETS</p>	<p>Include aviation in EU ETS before building any more runways in South East.</p> <p>Inform public of impacts of their flying by renaming Air Passenger Duty and include information on passenger tickets.</p>	<p>Oppose new international airports and build no further runway capacity in the SE</p> <p>Reform of aviation tax to encourage airlines to fly fewer but fuller flights. Include aviation in EU ETS.</p>	<p>Oppose airport expansion and ban night flights.</p> <p>Tax aviation fuel and shift shorter flights to trains.</p>	No comment
<b>GM</b>	<p>Do not mention at all – despite this being perhaps the most controversial aspect of environment policy since Labour came to power.</p>	<p>Ban GM crops until science says safe for people and environment. Protect consumers' right to choose non-GM food.</p>	<p>Ban GM crops until science says safe for people and environment. Protect consumers' right to choose non-GM food.</p>	<p>Ban GM crops.</p>	<p>Oppose GM crops in Wales &amp; Europe</p>
<b>Renewables</b>	<p>Promise to "continue to promote and develop renewable energy sources," but do not repeat their commitment to 10% renewables by 2010 from the last manifesto.</p>	<p>Support for broad range of renewable energy sources – with focus on microgeneration and energy efficiency. If this coded criticism of wind power leads to large numbers of windfarms being blocked, it is questionable whether other sources could make up the gap.</p>	<p>Promise 20% renewables by 2020 and 50% by 2050.</p>	<p>Promise 40% renewables by 2020.</p> <p>Promise 2 million sq m of solar panels, and 2 million small scale wind turbines by 2010</p>	<p>Renewables are mentioned throughout the manifesto. Want to encourage micro-generation and energy crops. Use planning powers to require new developments incorporate renewables.</p>

<b>Nuclear</b>	No commitment to end or build new nuclear, just having existing stations “as part of a strategy of having a mix of energy sources.”	Press reports claim they will rebuild existing power stations.	Lib Dems pledge not to replace nuclear stations as they reach the end of their natural life.	Close down nuclear power stations.	No new nuclear power stations
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