

Proposed Platform for the Green Party of the United States

Presented by the Platform Committee, July 2008

INTRODUCTION

The Green Party of the United States is a federation of 46 State Green Parties. Greens are dedicated to social, environmental, economic and political justice. The four pillars that underpin our policies are grassroots democracy, social justice, ecology and non-violence.

The Green Party is distinguished from other political parties by its independence from corporate control. We accept no contributions from Corporations and are not beholden to the corporate paymasters.

The Green Party of the United States is a partner with the European Federation of Green Parties and the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas. Green parties are the first parties to recognize that our role in the world is stewardship of Earth's natural resources rather than domination and unrestrained consumption of the goods of the Earth. Greens recognize that human survival depends on our understanding and commitment to our stewardship role.

In 1996, the Association of State Green Parties was formed near Middleburg, VA. In 2001, it changed its name to Green Party of the United States (GPUS) and was recognized by the Federal Election Commission that same year.

[Note to delegates: Three versions of the Platform Preamble are presented below. At the platform hearing Friday morning, these three will be discussed and a decision made on which one to include in the proposed 2008 Green Party Platform.]

Platform Preamble, Version 1:

We believe that humankind is threatened by two crises:

1. The survival of the human species, indeed, the survival of all living things on Planet Earth is endangered by over use, abuse and drain of nature's resources, which are our life- support system. Pollution of the land, the sea, the rivers and the air call into question our recognition of our obligation to ourselves and to following generations.

2. The second threat is the drift away from the rule of law by our government and the erosion of our Constitution. Government of, by and for the people depends on an educated and informed public who do not surrender their citizen oversight when they elect candidates to office. Government accountability for its performance is a permanent obligation to retain the public trust. In contemporary times, our government has deliberately cut off access and shown indifference to the public will. It has reduced the rule of law to a hollow promise. Furthermore our government's defiance of international law and nullification of the UN Charter has undermined the willingness of other nations to abide by the same rule of law embodied in the Charter and international law.

The compass that guides our Green policies is embodied in the 10 Key Values defined below.

Platform Preamble, Version 2:

Never has our country faced as many challenges and crises as we do in 2008. Levels of federal revenue are the lowest they have been since 1950 because of tax cuts for the rich. Government agencies charged with safeguarding public health and safety are operating with slashed budgets that paralyze their efforts. Jobs are being permanently relocated outside the country, while social and educational programs are being gutted. Our food, water, air, and soil are increasingly found to bear debilitating pollution. Many of our allies around the world are disgusted with our imperial foreign policy, militarism, and arrogant corporate behavior.

The Green Party Platform seeks to identify the most crucial problems facing our country and offers ideas for responsible action to solve them. We propose a vision of our common good that is advanced through an independent politics free from the control of corporations and big money. We are strong and resilient in our core values:

- Participatory Democracy, rooted in community practice at the grassroots level and informing every level, from the local to the international.
- Social Justice and Equal Opportunity emphasizing personal and social responsibility, accountability, and an informing ethic of Nonviolence.
- Ecological and Economic Sustainability, balancing the interests of a regulated market economy and community-based economics with effective care for the ecosystems of the Earth.

We act in service to our children and the future generations of the Earth community. The Green Party is committed to values-based politics as expressed in our Ten Key Values. These values guide us in countering and changing a

system that extols exploitation, unsustainable consumption, and destructive competition.

Platform Preamble, Version 3:

Never has our country faced as many challenges and crises as we do in 2008 and the near future. Levels of federal revenue are the lowest they have been since 1950 because of tax cuts and breaks for the very rich and for corporations. Government agencies charged with safeguarding public health and safety are operating with slashed budgets that paralyze their efforts. Jobs are being permanently relocated outside the country, while social and educational programs are being gutted. Our food, water, air, and soil are increasingly found to bear toxins and debilitating pollution. Every single level of government - local, county, state, and federal - is operating in the red, running up crushing amounts of debt. Many of our allies and former friends around the world are disgusted with our imperial foreign policy, militarism, and arrogant corporate behavior. Realizing that our actions will be judged by future generations, we ask how we can draw on the best of our traditions, calling forth a spirit of ingenuity and citizen participation to achieve a free, democratic, just, and responsible society, one that actively responds to the crucial ecological challenges of our time, rather than denying them.

We submit a bold vision of our country's future, a Platform on which we stand:

- Our Ten Key Values as a guide to a politics of vision and action,
- A creative, pragmatic plan for a prospering sustainable economy, and
- A call to restore and protect a healthy, diverse environment and to cultivate a sense of community at all levels, from the local to the planetary.

We propose a vision of our common good that is advanced through an independent politics free from the control of corporations and big money, and through a democratic structure and process that empowers and reaches across lines of division to bring together our combined strengths as a people.

We, the Green Party, see our political and economic progress, and our individual lives, within the context of an evolving, dynamic world.

As in nature, where adaptation and diversity provide key strategies through which life flourishes, a successful political strategy is one that is diverse, adaptable to changing needs, and strong and resilient in its core values:

- Participatory Democracy, rooted in community practice at the grassroots level and informing every level, from the local to the international.
- Social Justice and Equal Opportunity emphasizing personal and social responsibility, accountability, and an informing ethic of Nonviolence.
- Ecological and Economic Sustainability, balancing the interests of a regulated market economy and community-based economics with effective care for the Great Economy in which we are embedded: the ecosystems of the Earth.

The Green Party Platform seeks to identify the most crucial problems facing our country and offers ideas for responsible action to solve them. Looking to the future with hope and optimism, we believe we can truly correct the course of reckless, destructive governance that has allowed and encouraged the degradation of our ecological life-support systems, gutted our economy, and strained the social fabric to the point of causing material hardship for millions of Americans. Our common destiny brings us together across our nation and around the globe. We act in service to our children and the future generations of all our relations in the Earth community. We act in service to the future we are creating today.

10 KEY VALUES

1. GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY

Every human being deserves a say in the decisions that affect his or her life and should not be subject to the will of another. Therefore, we will work to increase public participation at every level of government and to ensure that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them. We will also work to create new types of political organizations which expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in the decision-making process.

2. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

All persons should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and

the environment. We must consciously confront in ourselves, our organizations, and society at large, barriers such as racism and class oppression, sexism and homophobia, ageism and disability, which act to deny fair treatment and equal justice under the law.

3. ECOLOGICAL WISDOM

Human societies must operate with the understanding that we are part of nature, not separate from nature. We must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet. We support a sustainable society which utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit and not suffer from the practices of our generation. To this end we must practice agriculture which replenishes the soil; move to an energy efficient economy; and live in ways that respect the integrity of natural systems.

4. NON-VIOLENCE

It is essential that we develop effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence. We will work to demilitarize, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, without being naive about the intentions of other governments. We recognize the need for self-defense and the defense of others who are in helpless situations. We promote non-violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree, and will guide our actions toward lasting personal, community and global peace.

5. DECENTRALIZATION

Centralization of wealth and power contributes to social and economic injustice, environmental destruction, and militarization. Therefore, we support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system which is controlled by and mostly benefits the powerful few, to a democratic, less bureaucratic system. Decision-making should, as much as possible, remain at the individual and local level, while assuring that civil rights are protected for all citizens.

6. COMMUNITY BASED ECONOMICS

Redesign our work structures to encourage employee ownership and workplace democracy. Develop new economic activities and institutions that will allow us to use our new technologies in ways that are humane, freeing, ecological and accountable, and responsive to communities. Establish some form of basic economic security, open to all. Move beyond the narrow "job ethic" to new definitions of "work," "jobs" and "income" that reflect the changing economy. Restructure our patterns of income distribution to reflect the wealth created by those outside the formal monetary economy: those who take responsibility for parenting, housekeeping, home gardens, community volunteer work, etc. Restrict the size and concentrated power of corporations without discouraging superior efficiency or technological innovation.

7. FEMINISM AND GENDER EQUITY

We have inherited a social system based on male domination of politics and economics. We call for the replacement of the cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender. Human values such as equity between the sexes, interpersonal responsibility, and honesty must be developed with moral conscience. We should remember that the process that determines our decisions and actions is just as important as achieving the outcome we want.

8. RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

We believe it is important to value cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, and to promote the development of respectful relationships across these lines. We believe that the many diverse elements of society should be reflected in our organizations and decision-making bodies, and we support the leadership of people who have been traditionally closed out of leadership roles. We acknowledge and encourage respect for other life forms than our own and the preservation of biodiversity.

9. PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

We encourage individuals to act to improve their personal well-being and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony. We seek to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

10. FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Our actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. We seek to protect valuable natural resources, safely disposing of or "unmaking" all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival. We must counterbalance the drive for short-term profits by assuring that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions. Make the quality of life, rather than open-ended economic growth, the focus of future thinking.

Chapter I. DEMOCRACY

Our nation was born as the first great experiment in modern democracy. To sustain this form of government as defined by our Constitution and expanded over the years, we must revive citizen participation and regain citizen control of our politics and our economy. The barriers to entering the electoral arena must be removed enabling the development of a democratic, multi-party system. To create a level playing field where all may enter, exclusion for lack of funds can no longer be the rule. Also, the Supreme Court ruling of 1976 (*Buckley v. Valeo*) that equated money with speech and secured the unhindered flow of money to every level of political office must be overruled. Once elected, our government must listen to all voices before passing laws that fall equally on all to obey. To guarantee equal access by citizens, and equal opportunity to enter the productive and commercial world, our elected government is obliged to regulate economic, entrepreneurial and environmental activity and to be ever vigilant to prevent exploitation and control by the rich and powerful over public activity.

The Green Party is the alternative to a system that puts a price on every form of public activity. The Green Platform policies and positions offered here are the formula for the restoration and practice of democracy in our fragmented and misguided government

A. POLITICAL REFORM

The Green Party advances a comprehensive political reform agenda:

1. Democracy depends on political debate in the public forum, followed by the formulation of public policy, and followed again by legislation, implementation and enforcement. The practice of citizenship does not end after the voting day. Citizen access must be no less than access by the wealthy few, by corporations or by other private interests.
2. Comprehensive campaign finance reform includes full disclosure of contributors, caps on spending and contributions at the national and state level as a step toward full public financing of elections.
3. All valid candidates at the state and federal levels should have free and equal access to a regulated and neutral internet, to radio and television time, and to print press coverage. No preferential treatment can be permitted.
4. We will ban or greatly limit political action committees and restrict soft money contributions.
5. We support:
 - a) Strict control of lobbying. Disclose lobbying via "gifts" and money contributions.
 - b) Access to a mandatory record of visits to Legislators' offices for all certified lobbying organizations.
 - c) Strengthen power of Congressional Ethics committees to oversee and investigate performance of legislators within the year that suspected wrong-doing occurs.
 - d) Sunshine laws that enforce transparency at all levels of non-executive government that are not closed by law.
 - e) Restore the power and reach of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), reduce cost to citizens who use the Act and reduce time allowed for an agency to reply.
 - f) Expand power of Government Accounting Office - GAO, beyond reporting and recommending remedies to bringing evidence pro-actively to the Inspector General's attention.

B. ELECTION REFORM

The present winner-take-all system of election results in a narrow range of parties, a narrow spectrum of issues debated and the same narrow spectrum reflected by the media. Consequently, barely 50% of voters actually vote.

1. We aim to replace winner-take-all with any of several systems, or combinations thereof, including:
 - a) Proportional Representation.

b) Cumulative voting or choice voting.

c) Instant Run-off Voting.

These formulae will widen the range of choice, widen the ability for candidates to enter the race, break the two-party hold on the system and enlarge the voting public.

2. Ballot access to third parties:

We demand, either by legislation or by judicial ruling, based on the enumerated rights in the 14th amendment and the rights guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, signed by the United States, that ballot entry be equally available to all political parties.

3. Abolish the Electoral College and guarantee direct election of the President.

4. Make voting day a holiday and facilitate early voting.

5. All voting machines across the United States must have a voter-verified paper trail that allows every voter to verify his or her vote, and random audits to be taken during the voting period, based on the paper trail.

6. Install technical equipment that incorporates a voter-verifiable trail for vision-impaired voters.

7. To prevent fraud, voting machine source code must be open for public inspection before and after the election.

C. LOCAL/STATE GOVERNMENT

Think Globally, Act Locally.

1. Give more power to lesser bodies, such as subpoena power to neighborhood councils, city and county councils and State legislatures, thus guaranteeing that each layer of government can inspect the governing level above it. Every jurisdiction should have a civilian complaint review board with subpoena power

2. Redistricting: Support a Constitutional amendment that removes the redistricting power from the state legislatures and gives it to the Census Bureau - a non-partisan agency whose assignment is to count the number of citizens in each state every ten years and is therefore best equipped to measure demography of the jurisdictions.

3. The right of initiative, referendum and recall belongs to all citizens in all states. Also, ward councils within a jurisdiction should have the collective power to put an initiative on the ballot. The cost of collecting signatures cannot put petitions out of reach because of cost. At least 50% of the number of signatures necessary must be collected by volunteers.

4. If voted for in a jurisdiction, "none-of-the-above" will be put on the ballot.

5. We support statehood for the District of Columbia. Give District of Columbia the same voting rights as every other state.

6. Non-violent civil disobedience should be a legally protected practice under the first amendment right of citizens to assemble and petition their government.

7. Both federal and state enforcement laws are necessary to secure the practice of constitutional rights, civil rights and practices. This includes protection against intimidation, surveillance and retaliation by any government or non-government agency.

8. All persons convicted of felonies shall regain full citizenship rights upon completion of their sentence, and shall be granted the right to vote and to run for office. [See Chapter II, Section H. Prison Conditions.]

9. All educational institutions must facilitate student civic action groups. These groups of enrolled students may schedule debate forums and speeches within the property of the institution. Demonstrations by enrolled students, that have been scheduled beforehand and are pledged to non-violence, must be permitted.

D. COMMUNITY - The process of Grassroots Democracy

Community is naturally generated by shared interests and needs on the neighborhood level. It is aggregated into advocacy groups who deliberate and shape policies that they lobby their local government to enact and implement. Community goals are leavened by including the social diversity of young and old, rich and poor, and religious beliefs and ethnicity. These groups join together to achieve economic viability and prosperity within protected, sustainable ecosystems. Basic tenets of community depend on cooperation.

1. Community is sustained by strong local government.

2. It depends on locally generated business that is locally owned that employs local residents, serves local needs and re-invests in the same location. When local governments give tax breaks and other conveniences not enjoyed by small business to attract large corporations, they undermine the survival and financial strength of the community, and the profits gained by large business do not go back into the community.

3. Community thrives on non-profit public interest groups that serve the needs of citizens distinct from

market capitalism. Community survival depends on local ownership of the media - print, radio, television and independent media. FCC licensing practices and granting permission to merge often undermine local ownership of media.

4. A basic income shall be provided to everyone, as a matter of right, sufficient for each person to purchase necessities, including shelter, food, utilities, transportation, and health care. This income guarantee covers families and individuals.

E. FOREIGN AFFAIRS - MILITARY

1. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

The U.S. is the initiator and a primary author of the United Nations Charter, written after World War II, to create an international forum where nations resolve disputes by negotiation and mediation rather than war. This obligation is affirmed by the U.S. Constitution, which declares that Treaties, signed by the President and ratified by the Senate, are the supreme law of the land.

- a) The United States must recognize the sovereignty of nation-states and their right to self-determination.
- b) The U.S. is prohibited under international law and under the U.N. Charter, from pre-emptive or preventive invasion of another nation. The invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003 is illegal.
- c) The claim that U.S. territory, off-shore bases or ships are threatened by another Nation is not sufficient cause to declare war or take punitive action against another nation without first submitting a complaint to the United Nations. The unprovoked U.S. bombing and/or invasion of Grenada, Panama, and Haiti in the nineties was illegal.
- d) Threatening invasion of Iran when it has committed no aggressive act against the U.S. violates international law. Negotiations to resolve disagreement between sovereign nations must be submitted to the U.N. forum.
- e) The U.S. has no legal or moral right to undermine or dominate a foreign government, a nation or a region outside the U.S. either by military force, covert action or economic exploitation.
- f) Under our constitution only the Congress may declare war. The President may not secretly engage in military or subversive action in another nation because only Congress can vote the funds necessary for action. The undisclosed funding of guerrilla warfare in Nicaragua in the 1980s was illegal.
- g) The Green Party demands:
 - 1) Immediate cessation of U.S. combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - 2) Complete withdrawal of U.S. military forces and mercenaries, under safe conditions and U.N. supervision.
 - 3) The U.S. may not maintain military bases in Iraq or Afghanistan.
 - 4) Given the scale of destruction by the U.S. military and its civilian contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. must recognize and honor its obligation to fund the reconstruction and rebuilding of infrastructure and institutions in those nations.
 - 5) As the invading nation, the U.S. must secure the return of displaced refugees in Iraq and Afghanistan and repair their infrastructure and rebuild their homes.

2. UNITED NATIONS CHARTER OBLIGATIONS

We recognize and support:

- a. The right of the U.N. to intervene when a nation state engages in genocidal acts or in persistent violation and denial of the human rights of an ethnic or religious group within its boundaries; and the right to protect the victims of such acts.
- b. The authority of the U.N. General Assembly to act in a crisis situation by passing a resolution under the Uniting for Peace Procedure when the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) is stalemated by vetoes.
- c. The US obligation to render military assistance or service under U.N. command to enforce a U.N. Security Council resolution;
- d. The right of a people to exist in a sovereign state within historic and U.N. recognized boundaries, including such peoples as Palestinians, Tibetans and Chechens;
- e. Eliminate the veto power enjoyed by any one of the 5 permanent members of the UNSC and enlarge the SC to twenty nations.
- f. Universal collective security through the rule of international law under the auspices of the United Nations, regional international treaties and the international courts.
- g. U.S. signature to the International Criminal Court and acceptance of its judicial authority over U.S. citizens who are accused and indicted for international war crimes.

3. WAR ON TERRORISTS

Those who put security above liberty will have neither.

a. A terrorist act is one that causes serious bodily harm or death to civilians or non-combatants, when the agent intends to compel a government or an international organization to do or refrain from doing any act.

b. An act of resistance is the right of citizens of a state to struggle against imperial or illegal foreign occupation that seeks to enforce its military or economic control. Resistance may include violent acts against combatants, against covert operatives or military targets.

c. We repudiate U.S. militarism, especially in the form of our “global war on terror” used to justify and legitimize foreign occupation, acts of aggression, support of puppet governments, dictatorship and economic exploitation.

d. We advocate that the U.S. government form a war crimes tribunal to investigate, indict and prosecute past US war crimes. We advocate reparations to those that the court determines are injured parties.

4. U.S. LAWS PASSED IN WAR TIME AND THEIR REPEAL

a. We demand repeal of the Patriot Act, Patriot Act II and the Military Commission Act.

b. We oppose passage of the Patriotic American Act (PAA)

c. We demand restoration of the right of Habeas Corpus.

d. We demand repeal of any law or executive order that permits detention, imprisonment, abuse and torture of human beings that are prohibited by the Human Rights Convention signed by the US and prohibited by the U.S. Constitution.

e. All agencies of the U.S. government, including the CIA, must abide by the Manual for Military Justice in the treatment of all prisoners.

f. No agency of the US government may spy on or invade the privacy of an unidentified collection of names gathered by trolling by the National Security Agency without a FISA warrant.

g. No non-military person may be detained and imprisoned without being charged; told what the charges are; allowed a lawyer and allowed to gather evidence to present in court.

h. The U.S. government must prohibit all covert actions used to destabilize, subvert or usurp the governments of another nation.

i. The U.S. must renew its prohibition on assassination, or assistance, in any form, for the assassination of citizens of a foreign nation or officials of a foreign government.

j. The Homeland Defense Department may not engage in domestic spying and intruding into the legal and private lives of citizens in the U.S. without a proper warrant from a court.

k. Support for the military in all services: (See also Chapter II, Section A9. Veteran's Rights.)

1) We support increased pay to servicemen in combat zone, and a set term of service not to be extended.

2) We support guaranteed medical and health care to all veterans for any illness or disease.

3) We support counseling, housing and job protection for servicemen returning to civilian life.

4) We support a re-introduction of the G. I. bill to enable veterans to enter college or technical school.

5. NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

The reduction of our nuclear arsenal and the abolition of nuclear weapons must be the irreversible policy of the United States. The following steps necessary to fulfill that goal are:

a. Declare a no-first-strike policy.

b. Declare a no-pre-emptive strike policy.

c. Declare the U.S. will never threaten or use a nuclear weapon, regardless of size, on a non-nuclear nation.

d. Ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Our pledge not to test will bring us into conformity with international agreement to reduce our nuclear arsenal and to desist from testing new weapons or versions of old weapons.

e. Bring down to storage and begin dismantling all deployed (hair-trigger alert) nuclear weapons.

f. Separate all nuclear warheads from delivery systems and schedule their demolition.

g. U.S. withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty opened the door for the U.S. to pursue missile defense research and to negotiate the installation of missile launch pads on foreign territory, despite their unproven operational status. Missile defense research profits military contractors, not the American national interest.

h. We oppose the research, testing and stockpiling of all nuclear weapons of any size. We support complete defunding of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW).

i. We oppose the continued use of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories for nuclear weapons research and bomb building, now labeled the Complex Transformation.

j. Sign the Toronto treaty banning the production, stockpiling, use and sale of land mines, and assist other nations in unearthing and disabling land mines buried in their lands.

k. Sign a U.N. agreement not to produce, stockpile, use or sell cluster bombs or depleted uranium in any form.

l. End all stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons and all research, use, and sale of such weapons; and sign the convention that establishes U.N. inspection and reduction of all nations' stockpiles of such weapons

m. Sign agreement to annual, unscheduled inspection of research and nuclear weapons plants by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAE)

6. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEFENSE SPENDING

a. Restore the State Department to its historic, statutory place and rightful role of representing U.S. foreign policy abroad, conducting diplomacy and negotiating agreements. Our ambassadors and Foreign Service officers are the envoys for our foreign policy in relations with their counterparts in foreign governments.

b. U.S. Department of Defense spends more on weaponry, military surveillance and readiness than the rest of the world combined. The Department of Defense budget is out of all proportion to any realistic military threat, or security need of the United States.

c. The militarization of our society has elevated funding of the Department of Defense above domestic needs. The Congress has succumbed to lobbying by private military contractors as though there were no limits to our needs and to our funds.

d. We oppose renewal of the military draft or any extension of the militarization of our society by the Department of Defense or the Department of Homeland Security.

e. We support enlargement of AmeriCorps and other organizations that bring youth into domestic social work for social/environmental improvements that will earn for them most of their college or technical training.

f. Military spending by definition is non-productive. It uses our labor and our resources and returns nothing useful to our economy or our society.

g. The U.S. has over 700 foreign military bases. We demand a fixed schedule for the closure of these bases and return the base property to the host country.

h. The U.S. Guantanamo base in Cuba is a prison. It must be closed and the whole base returned to Cuba. The prisoners in Guantanamo must be released and returned to their families. They have never been charged with a terrorist act nor has evidence been produced against them.

i. The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly known as the School of the Americas, in Fort Benning, Georgia must be closed in 2008.

j. The U.S. is the largest arms seller and dealer in the world. Our government should prohibit all arms sales to foreign nations. Furthermore grants and loans to impoverished and undemocratic nations is prohibited unless the money is targeted to domestic, non-military needs. In addition, grants or loans to other nations may not be used by those nations to release their own funds for military purposes.

k. The U.S. must not license or subsidize defense contractors who market their products abroad and must shift our export market from weapons to peaceful technology, industrial and agricultural products, and to education and technical training.

7. THE ROAD TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

a. In 1948, the Jewish immigrants to Palestine declared the Jewish state of Israel within the Palestinian territory appropriated by Israelis up to that date.

b. Since 1948, the UN Security Council has passed many resolutions to guarantee the human rights of Palestinians, their right of self-determination and right of return to their homes (now within Israeli boundaries)

c. Israel must abide by international law, end its occupation of Palestine and halt the spread of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land. Israel has set up an apartheid state both within Palestinian territories and within Israel, where the non-Jews are second-class citizens, or have no rights at all.

d. The elected governments of Palestine and Israel must each declare the right of the other to exist.

e. We oppose the US practice of vetoing UN Security Council decisions that pertain to the boundaries of Palestine, the water rights and the freedom of movement of Palestinian citizens and all other rights that citizens of a nation state enjoy which are denied them by Israel.

f. We oppose the US annual grant of around \$3 billion to Israel.

g. We support US divestment from Israel and boycott of imported Israeli products.

h. We oppose the imposition of a one-state or two-state solution by outside powers. The resolution of their conflict, whatever form is finally decided, must be arrived at by the Palestinians and Israelis.

i. We support the appointment of a Reconciliation Board to compensate the Palestinians who have been denied their rights, have had their property destroyed and have been harmed by the confiscation of their goods and property by Israelis.

F. FOREIGN AFFAIRS - TRADE

“Free” Trade is not fair trade. Free trade is market capitalism for the profit and advantage of investment capital, commercial banks and hedge funds.

1. U.S. corporations, protected by the U.S. government, and given license by trade agreements (e.g.) NAFTA, CAFTA, and AAFTA extract resources, exploit labor and degrade the environment in underdeveloped countries with no requirement to restore the spoiled and drained territories.

2. As advertised, “globalization” claimed it would serve all participant nations (a rising tide lifts all boats). It was investment capital at its most beneficent. Instead, it has profited international corporations without upgrading the economy of developing nations.

3 “Globalization” denotes trade in the world marketplace whereby investors set the terms and demand repayment of their loans regardless of the inability of debtor countries to repay the loans.

4. The Green Party seeks the following policy changes:

a. Review all international contracts and agreements on trade and commerce, including those currently held by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB), and the nascent Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

b. Re-formulate trade agreements according to Fair Trade with terms set that protect labor, human rights, local business, and the environment, including local agriculture, forests, rivers streams and wetlands.

c. Cancel the debts of recipient nations; re-formulate the rules on capital investment and install strict standards in the IMF/WB that control the use of grants or loans; prevent fraud, misuse, and subversion of funds by recipient, dictatorial governments.

5. Restore and protect the rights of citizens to public ownership of their resources and the use of its benefits against the intrusion of corporate control, under any guise.

6. Prohibit US investment or corporate investment and operation of industries in foreign countries unless: Labor’s right to organize, to create unions and to negotiate with management is built into the contract, and included or implied in any subcontracts.

7. Import Restrictions or Permits:

a. Restrict the import of foreign goods to the US that come from nations that lack protection equivalent to US standards for labor, health, safety, and the environment and that are legally enforced.

b. Individual states must be allowed to set higher standards than the federal government and to refuse sub-standard imports that were imported from non-compliant foreign states.

c. Secure the right of states and municipalities to refuse to invest in foreign businesses that do not abide by their standards for imported goods, fair trade, and environmental protection.

d. Prohibit U.S. corporations from avoiding or evading payment of their taxes by basing their charters abroad in offshore islands.

7. Every day over \$1 trillion dollars circles the globe in currency trade and temporary investment capitol. Financial speculators are free to invest and withdraw at will.

a. Greens seek to restrict the unfettered flow of capital and currency trade, by levying the Tobin tax of .05% on cross border currency transactions. [See Chapter IV, Section E2. Fair Taxation]

8. We support the funding and expansion of non-government organizations (NGOs) that work in undeveloped countries:

a. To educate and train people to create and maintain a local business.

b. To expand and fund health care clinics and make family planning, contraception and abortion available wherever local communities ask for it. (See Chapter II, Section A1, Women's Rights.)

9. We oppose the US pressure, favoring Monsanto, Cargill, ADM et al., to force genetically modified seed and seed products on farmers in foreign nations. The peasants must be allowed to plant, grow, harvest and market the products of their local seed.

10. We oppose absolutely the privatization of water in foreign countries and in the US. (See Chapter II,

Section H, Water.)

11. We demand an immediate end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba and the restoration of normal diplomatic relations, respect for national sovereignty and re-installation of fair trade.

12. We demand that the U.S. government end its veto of U.N. resolutions pertaining to Cuba, and cease any and all covert action by the CIA or its hired help, in Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia or any Central or South American Nation.

G. DE-MILITARIZATION OF SPACE OUTER SPACE - COMMERCIAL, EXPLORATORY, MILITARY

Our technological entrance into outer space happened after WW II, and Satellites became fundamental to the functioning of our society. Broadcast television, the internet, ATM machines, banking transfers, telephone service, credit card validation, weather prediction, terrestrial and oceanic mapping, atmospheric and natural disaster monitoring, urban planning and navigation - all rely on the use of satellites.

1. There are some 600 to 800 operational satellites currently in orbit; of which the majority were launched by the United States.

2. Aside from satellites, at present, there are around 40,000 bits of debris circulating the Earth. The space environment is over-taxed by space pollution from this orbital debris and saturation of radio frequency. An international treaty for scheduling a launch, for tracking and for surveillance of space objects is imperative.

3. We oppose the use of space robots in any military or espionage capacity.

4. For years, space was a zone of cooperation as civil society and commercial industry increased their use and dependence on space systems. Despite tacit and expressed agreement among nations not to militarize space, the United States government, despite international treaties, pursues the militarization path. In effect, it has become the threat it feared from others.

5. We oppose militarization of space in any form. We reject the U.S. argument that it needs to militarize space to protect its satellites

6. The line between land-based and space-based weapons has faded from sight as the U.S. Air Force and the Missile Defense Agency researched and developed space-weapon technologies. These weapons, launched from land or space, target orbiting assets or other space weapons and potentially enable the U.S. to foil or destroy any threat to our satellites, our nation or our foreign bases and allies.

7. While multiple efforts have been made to hold conventions, and forums to ban space weapons, and to build trust among nations, they are futile without U.S. agreement. Meanwhile, the U.S. expands its space power.

8. We oppose testing and deploying anti-satellite weapons (ASAT) from the land or the air. We oppose the development and basing of interceptor missiles (SDI) in the U.S. or other countries; we oppose debris-creating weapons. In effect, we demand that the U.S. take the initiative to create an international treaty that totally reverses the militarization of space.

9. In 1952, President Eisenhower tried to set our government on a path to transform nuclear weapons into nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, to no avail. In his turn, Pres. Kennedy pursued the same goal of abolition of nuclear weapons, and President Reagan attempted the same thing. The only way to discourage other nations from seeking to build or possess nuclear weapons is for the US to take the lead, and begin the public dismemberment of its nuclear arsenal.

10. We support the continued exploration of space carried on by NASA, teamed up with other nations. The knowledge and understanding gained by this exploration should be deposited under U.N. supervision and should be shared with all members of the United Nations.

Chapter II. SOCIAL JUSTICE

America historically led the world in establishing a society with democratic values such as equal opportunity and protection from discrimination. Today, however, our country is among the most extreme examples of industrialized nations that have a widening gap between the wealthy and the rest of its citizenry.

Our public schools are forced to cut back countless programs and services. Our criminal justice system assigns long prison terms to hundreds of thousands of perpetrators of victimless crimes. Our civil liberties are impaired by the excesses of the PATRIOT Act and kindred new laws that use a national tragedy (the attacks on September 11, 2001) as an excuse. Discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, or race continues to sap the potential of our society and to violate personal dignity.

Feelings of isolation and helplessness are common in America today. Children are increasingly shaped by an

"electronic childhood" with little direct experience of nature and free play and are trained by mass culture to regard themselves first and foremost as consumers. Our families are scattered, our popular culture is crassly manipulated by the profit motives of increasingly concentrated media conglomerates, and our sense of community is a pale shadow of what earlier generations of Americans knew.

Quality of life is determined not just by material aspects. We honor the various types of spiritual experience in our diverse society. Artistic expression and a thriving structure of art institutions are key to community well-being. A deep and broad embrace of nonviolence is the only effective way to stop cycles of violence, from the home to the streets to the international level. More than 46 million Americans have no medical insurance coverage. We support the shift in modern medicine to include healing through complementary therapies to facilitate the healthy person.

A. CIVIL RIGHTS AND EQUAL RIGHTS

The foundation of any democratic society is the guarantee that each member of society has equal rights. Respect for our constitutionally protected rights is our best defense against discrimination and the abuse of power. We strive to secure universal and effective observance of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an international standard.

One of our key values is Respect for Diversity. We are committed to establishing relationships that honor diversity; that support the self-definition and self-determination of all people; and that consciously confront the barriers of racism, sexism, homophobia, class oppression, ageism, and transphobia, and the many ways our culture separates us from working together. We support affirmative action to remedy discrimination.

1. Women's Rights

Since the beginning of what we call civilization, when men's dominance over women was firmly established until the present day, our history has been marred with oppression of and brutality to women. The Green Party deplores this system of male domination, known as *patriarchy*, in all its forms, both subtle and overt - from oppression, inequality, and discrimination to domestic violence, rape, trafficking and forced slavery. The change the world is crying for cannot occur unless women's voices are heard. Democracy cannot work without equality for women that provides equal participation and representation. It took an extraordinary and ongoing fight over 72 years for Women to win the right to vote. However, the Equal Rights Amendment has still not been ratified.

We are committed to increasing participation of women in politics, government and leadership so they can change laws, make decisions, and create policy solutions that affect and will improve women's lives, and we are building our party so that Greens can be elected to office to do this. In 2002, the National Women's Caucus of the Green Party of the United States was founded to carry out the Party's commitment to women.

a. Social Equality

1) We support the equal application of the Constitution to all citizens, and therefore call for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). We urge accelerated ratification by three or more of the remaining 15 states that are required to pass ERA into law and into the Constitution. We urge renewed efforts and campaigns to ratify the ERA. We support House Resolution 98, using the precedent of a three-state strategy for ratification.

2) We call for equal representation of women in Congress instead of the current 13%.

3) The Green Party calls for U.S. passage of CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, which was adopted in 1979 by the U.N. General Assembly and ratified by 173 countries. The U.S. is one of the very few countries, and the only industrialized nation, that have not ratified it.

4) The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission should actively investigate and prosecute sexual harassment complaints. Women who file complaints must not be persecuted and should be protected under federal and state law. We must enshrine in law the basic principle that women have the same rights as men, and promote gender equality and fairness in the work force to ensure that women receive equal pay for jobs of equal worth.

5) We support the inclusion of an equal number of women and men in peace talks and negotiations, not only because these efforts directly affect their lives and those of their families, but also because when women are involved, the negotiations are more successful.

b. Reproductive Rights

1) Women's rights must be protected and expanded to guarantee each woman's right to be free from sexual harassment or interference in the intensely personal choice about whether to have a child.

2) Women's right to control their bodies is non-negotiable. It is essential that the option of a safe, legal abortion remains available. The "morning-after" pill must be affordable and easily accessible without a prescription, together with a government-sponsored public relations campaign to educate women about this form of contraception.

Clinics must be accessible and must offer advice on contraception and the means for contraception; consultation about abortion and the performance of abortions, and; abortion regardless of age or marital status.

3) We endorse women's right to use contraception and, when they choose, to have an abortion. This right cannot be limited to women's age or marital status. Contraception and abortion must be included in all health insurance policies in the U.S., and any state government must be able to legally offer these services free of charge to women at the poverty level. We oppose our government's habit of cutting family planning funds when those funds go to agencies in foreign countries that give out contraceptive devices, offer advice on abortion, and perform abortions.

4) We encourage women and men to prevent unwanted pregnancies. It is the right and duty of every woman to learn about her body and to be aware of the phases of her menstrual cycle, and it is the duty for every man to be aware of the functions and health of his and his partner's bodies. This is necessary to make informed decisions and to prevent unintended consequences. Unplanned conception takes control away from individuals and makes them subject to external controls.

c. Economic Equality

1) Since, nationally, women still earn only 70% of men's wages for equal jobs, the Green Party calls for the introduction and passage of federal and state laws to achieve pay equity, and funding for the enforcement of such laws.

2) Single mothers are the largest and most severely impoverished group in the United States, which explains why 25% of the children in our country live below the poverty line. Welfare reform has forced mothers to abandon their children to travel to minimum wage jobs.

3) The Green Party supports real reforms to end poverty and return dignity and opportunity to all mothers. We call for implementing innovative programs that work with the particular and special needs of motherhood. We also support other programs such as a universal basic income that will provide for those who nurture the next generation.

d. Violence and Oppression

1) Language is often used as a weapon by those with power, and women have traditionally borne the brunt of inflicted injuries. Freedom of speech is vital to democracy; however, this freedom should not be used to perpetuate oppression and abuse.

2) Rape, domestic violence and other violence to women are increasing nationwide. We must address the root cause of all violence even as we specifically address violence to women. We call for increased funding for programs to address it.

3) The Green Party has zero tolerance for the illegal international trafficking in humans. Of the millions of humans trafficked worldwide, the large majority are women and children who are bought and sold as slaves and forced to labor against their will primarily in prostitution, but also in agriculture, sweat shops, domestic service and in other forms of servitude. Coercive tactics, including deception, fraud, intimidation, isolation, threat and use of physical force, or debt bondage, are used. Fifty thousand victims, both women and children, were trafficked to the U.S. in 2003.

4) The Green Party supports all efforts to eradicate this extreme abuse of human rights, including but not limited to enforcement of existing laws and passage of tough new ones, punishing traffickers, aiding victims, increasing public awareness, reforming immigration laws, supporting existing programs and creating new ones.

5) We support the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report as an important document. We support and urge enforcement of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (HR 3244) signed into law in 2000. This Act authorizes funding for the prevention of trade in human beings and for protecting victims. It gives the State Department a historic opportunity to create an office with the exclusive responsibility of ending traffic in humans and protecting the victims of this worldwide trade. We urge committed support to achieve the cooperation of all levels of government.

2. Racial Discrimination

The development of the United States has been marked by conflict over race. The growth and expansion of the United States depended on displacement or extermination of Native Americans and importation of slaves from Africa. White supremacy was our history from the beginning. Today, we still struggle to overcome and compensate for past suppression of our non-white minorities.

a. We support reparations to people of color. One form of reparation could be a guarantee that all children of color who graduate from high school will be fully funded for 4 years of college. Another form could be monetary compensation. The actual choice of reparation should be decided by the people to whom we owe it.

b. We condemn all symbols and practices of racial discrimination wherever they occur. Examples are

Confederate flags on government buildings and police profiling of minorities.

- c. We demand enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, including language access for voting.
- d. We call for a national language policy that offers all citizens the chance to learn at least two languages.
- e. We demand enforcement of laws against hate crimes and all laws - local, state and federal - that protect minorities and guaranteed equality under the law to all citizens.

3. Justice for Native Hawaiians: Kanaka Maoli

Since illegal annexation in 1898, the Federal and State governments have cheated and neglected the native Hawaiian people. The U.S. Congress passed, and President Clinton signed into law, the "Apology Bill" (U.S. Public Law 103-150) in 1993. This admission of crime states in part, "the native Hawaiians have never lost their inherent sovereignty nor their national home base."

The Green Party demands justice for *kanaka maoli*. We support the following:

- a. Protecting sacred and culturally significant sites.
- b. Efforts to nurture native Hawaiian culture.
- c. Kanaka maoli leadership and guardianship in protecting gathering rights, and lobbying the legislature to safeguard these rights without interference.
- d. Return of, or fair compensation for, ceded lands.
- e. Immediate distribution of Hawaiian Homelands, with government funds allocated for the necessary infrastructure.
- f. Prohibition of future sale or diminishments of the Ceded Land Trust.
- g. A call for open dialogue among all residents of Hawai'i on the sovereignty option of full independence.
- h. Hawaiian sovereignty in a form that is fair to both native Hawaiians and other residents of Hawai'i.
- i. We acknowledge and actively endorse the inherent and absolute right of indigenous nations to self-determination, and thereby call upon the U.S. government to reverse its opposition to enactment of the proposed United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in its entirety.

4. Indigenous Peoples

a. All treaties signed by the United States government have the same legal status as our Constitution and to circumvent or deny the provisions of a treaty is a federal crime.

b. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) should stand alone and separate from the Department of the Interior. The BIA should have authority to settle claims for health injuries suffered by Native Americans in uranium mines or other extractive industries. No agency of the federal government may be immune to claims for harm done to Native Americans while working in these industries.

c. Tribal governments of Native Americans are sovereign nations within their boundaries and no arm of the US government can deny them the practice of their rights, the preservation of their traditions and the protection of their sacred spaces.

d. Years of denial and confining Native Americans on Reservations has left them impoverished and without the resources and infrastructure necessary to sustain themselves and prosper. In particular, land, water, mineral and other resource rights have been curtailed or denied.

e. The health and education of Native Americans has been ignored and they have been cheated of millions of dollars owed to them; thus preventing them from providing for themselves and from sharing in the economy of the United States.

f. We support clean up of left over mines and tailing piles spread throughout Native American lands, a vast destructive legacy of the Cold War era still to be paid for.

g. Native American land and treaty rights often stand as the front line against government and multinational corporate attempts to plunder energy, mineral, water, timber, fish, and game resources. These rights must be recognized.

5. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

In keeping with the Green values of diversity and social justice, we support full legal and political equality for all persons, regardless of sex, gender or sexual orientation.

- a. We affirm the right of all individuals to choose intimate partners regardless of sex, gender, or sexual orientation.
- b. We support equal rights of all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, to housing, jobs, civil marriage, medical benefits, child custody, and in all areas of activity enjoyed by all citizens.
- c. We support language in state and federal anti-discrimination law that secures the rights of intersex individuals and prohibits discrimination based on gender identity. We are opposed to intersex genital mutilation.

d. All persons have the right to determine their gender identity and sex and their choice may not be overridden by police authority. We support access to medical and surgical treatment for reassignment of gender or sex.

e. We support legislation against all forms of hate crimes directed against people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender and intersex.

6. Rights of the Disabled and Mentally Ill

We support:

- a. The full implementation and enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- b. Increase rehabilitation funding for education and training for work of the disabled; and allowing them, when feasible, to live at home rather than in state-funded institutions.
- c. The government's obligation to care for the mentally ill is a constant, not just after the person is in a crisis.
- d. Mainstreaming the differently-abled and allow them to participate in the allocation of state rehabilitation funds.
- e. Funding in-home support services that include hiring personal attendants.
- f. Funding of community-based programs that offer outpatient medical services, case management services and counseling.
- g. Provide residential living for those who do not need institutional care but cannot live independently.
- h. Reduce the paperwork and facilitate applications for Supplemental Security Income for chronically mentally ill.
- i. Increase teacher training in special education courses for the needs of differently-abled students.
- j. Fund publicity programs to increase public sensitivity to the needs of the mentally ill and differently-abled.

7. Religious Freedom and Secular Equality

We affirm the right of each individual to the exercise of conscience and religion, while maintaining the constitutionally mandated separation of government and religion. We believe that federal, state, and local governments must remain neutral regarding religion.

We call for:

- a. Re-affirmation of the first amendment rights, and vigorous prosecution of hate crimes based on religious affiliation or practice.
- b. Elimination of displays of religious symbols, monuments, or statements on government buildings, property, websites, money, or documents.
- c. Restoration of the Pledge of Allegiance to its pre-1954 version by eliminating the phrase "under God."
- d. Ending faith-based initiatives and charitable choice programs, using public funds.
- e. Ending school vouchers.
- f. Prohibit religiously-based curricula in government-funded public schools.
- g. Revocation of the Congressional charter of the Boy Scouts of America until it eliminates its practices against gays and those holding certain religious beliefs.

8. Child and Youth Rights

Young people (those under the age of eighteen) are one of the least protected classes of human beings, yet they represent our future. We must ensure they have an upbringing that allows them to take their place as functioning, productive, and self-actualized members of their community.

- a. Our young are not the property of their parents or guardians, but are under their care and guidance.
- b. Our young have the right to survive by being provided adequate food, shelter and comprehensive health care, including prenatal care for mothers.
- c. Our young have the right to be protected from abuse, harmful drugs, violence, environmental hazards, neglect, and exploitation.
- d. Our young have the right to develop in a safe and nurturing early environment provided by affordable child care and pre-school preparation.
- e. Our young have the right to an education that is stimulating, relevant, engaging, and that fosters their natural desire to learn.
- f. Young people's creative potential should be encouraged.
- g. Young people should have input into the direction and pace of their own education, including input into the operation of their educational institutions.
- h. Young people should be provided with education regarding their own and others' sexuality at the earliest

appropriate time.

- i. Young people should be provided the opportunity to express themselves in their own media, including television, radio, films and the Internet. Young people should also be given skills in analyzing commercial media.
- j. Young people should be kept free from coercive advertising at their educational institutions.
- k. Children are entitled to the full respect due any human being. Corporal punishment of children, either at home or at school, constitutes violence against children. Such violence, whatever its desired ends, has been amply demonstrated to have no positive effect on children. It is perpetuated from generation to generation and conditions children to accept violence as a means of dealing with conflict when they are adults. We support educational programs and laws to end this practice.

9. Veterans' Rights

Military veterans deserve the same rights to needed medical and other care and support granted to everyone else. The best way for us to support those presently in the military or who may decide to join is to work like hell to assure that our military does nothing except 1) protect our national borders against violent invasion, and 2) participate beyond our borders only in actions fully and freely approved by the United Nations.

We recommend the following actions:

- a. Ensure that all pre-deployment physicals are completed and carried out within the standard allotted time period and that medical follow-ups are routinely done on all soldiers.
- b. Establish a panel of independent medical doctors to examine and oversee the policies of the military regarding forced vaccinations and shots, often with experimental drugs.
- c. Honor all laws concerning time limits on deployments.
- d. Provide better care for the wounded, sick, and injured soldiers returning home. The Pentagon must take all steps necessary to fully diagnose and treat both physical and mental health conditions resulting from service in all combat zones.
- e. Ensure a smooth transition from active military life to civilian life by providing counseling, tuition grants, housing, emergency management, job protection, and other support systems.
- f. Restore full funding for veterans' health programs.
- g. Support and respect Conscientious Objector status. We fully support the right of individuals in the military service to modify or completely separate from military involvement because of conscientious objection. We call upon all military entities and officers to support a transparent and democratic conscientious objection process free of harassment, imprisonment, or deployment to war zones for those pursuing the conscientious objection process.
- h. Recognized, independent veteran organizations must have access to military personnel to ensure they are being informed of their rights. This is especially true for those who are hospitalized due to service related injuries or illnesses.

10. Consumer Protection

- a. Consumer advocacy agencies must have the same access to legislators and regulatory agencies as corporate lobbyists have.
- b. We support the creation of independent consumer advocacy agencies in order to protect the interests of consumers against corporate lobbyists who have too often successfully argued before regulatory agencies against consumer rights.
- c. Legal monopolies and regulated industries including electric, gas, water, and telephone utilities, must be legally responsive to information requests from local public counsel offices that protect the consumer.
- d. Consumers have a legal right to be informed about the origin and ingredients of a product. The full social, environmental, and economic effects of production of all products should be readily and freely available to all potential consumers. "Truth in advertising" must declare what is recycled, what is organic, and what is natural.
- e. We defend class action rights against manufacturers of unsafe products and practices, and call for restrictions on secrecy agreements that conceal information about public health, labor conditions and environmental safety.
- f. The "whistle blower" is the public's best protection against fraud, misuse and waste. We support stronger laws to protect whistle-blowers against demotion, job-loss and other forms of retaliation.

11. War on Terrorism

(See also Chapter I, section E, Foreign Affairs.)

The so-called *war on terrorism* must not become an assault on the civil liberties that are enshrined in our Constitution. The price of freedom is not the loss of liberty. Constitutionally protected rights - fought for by

American patriots - are rights the Green Party patriotically holds in the highest regard. Greens demand that the Justice Department cease and desist its wholesale rollback of constitutional protections and its daily dismantling of legal safeguards.

The use of Homeland Defense monies to spy on citizens exercising First Amendment rights is particularly onerous, as are "sneak and peek" provisions of the U.S.A.P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act that allow surveillance of libraries, readers, the Internet, and computer users. Basic rights ensuring individual privacy are under attack. The U.S. government's use of high tech tools, including intrusive monitoring, data mining and analysis to identify and disrupt citizen activists, should be seen as an attack on fundamental rights of an engaged, active citizenry.

B. ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE

Low-income citizens and minorities suffer disproportionately from environmental hazards in the workplace, at home, and in their communities. Inadequate laws, lax enforcement of existing environmental regulations, and weak penalties for infractions undermine environmental protection.

Therefore, the Green Party advocates:

1. Government oversight of responsible agencies, and prosecution for their delinquency for non-enforcement of enforceable crimes.
2. Expand legal responsibility of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate and penalize industry with slack enforcement of anti-pollution laws.
3. Moratoria on siting new toxic chemical or waste facilities in areas with high hazardous waste already deposited.
4. Legal provision for alternatives to hazardous work places and to prevent promises of jobs to bribe a community to agree to hazardous practices or pollution.
5. Storage of hazardous materials or practices must be preceded by public hearings, conducted in the language of those community members who will be directly affected.
6. Preceding the siting of hazardous materials or practices with public hearings, conducted in the language of those community members who will be directly affected.

C. ECONOMIC JUSTICE / SOCIAL SAFETY NET

The passage of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act under President Clinton left the safety net in tatters, and weakened it further by reducing or de-funding the remaining portions. City and State governments have attempted to remedy the loss and protect poor families and the unemployed, but not sufficiently to bring them back under the protection of the social contract.

1. The Green Party opposes any privatization of Social Security whatsoever. We oppose raising the retirement age above 65 years.
2. All people have a right to food, housing, medical care, education, and living wage work. Federally funded entitlement programs to underpin these rights must be restored. Exploiting labor by paying wages below a living wage standard violates a worker's rights.
3. We support public funding of living wage jobs in community and environmental service such as environmental clean up, recycling, sustainable agriculture and forest management, repair and maintenance of public facilities, aids in schools, libraries and childcare centers, and construction and renovation of energy efficient housing.
4. Reduce the work week to 35 hours. In addition, we recognize that work performed outside the monetary value of commodity exchange in the marketplace is equally, socially useful, beneficial and productive work. Such work includes child and elderly care, homemaking, voluntary community service, advocacy work in the political arena and in the arts.
5. The widening gap between wealth of the top 5% and the rest of the population contradicts economic democracy and undermines political democracy. We call for ending corporate subsidies, tax loopholes, bailouts and other privileges that sustain the imbalance in wealth distribution.

D. WELFARE: A COMMITMENT TO ENDING POVERTY

1. We call for restoration of a federally funded entitlement program to support children, families, the unemployed, elderly and disabled, with no time limit on benefits.
2. We support public funding for the development of living wage jobs in community and environmental service. We oppose enterprise zone giveaways, which benefit corporations more than inner-city communities
3. Forcing welfare recipients to accept jobs that pay wages below a living wage drives wages down and exploits

workers for private profit at public expense. We reject welfare as being a form of indentured servitude.

4. Corporations receiving public subsidies must provide jobs that pay a living wage, observe basic workers' rights, and agree to affirmative action policies.

E. EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

1. Education

The failing report card of American education is troubling for almost every American. Who fails to see the connection between our investment in education and our success as a people? Who believes there is no relation between personal achievement and a quality education—an education that teaches creative and critical thinking skills and a respect for lifelong learning?

A democratic government depends on educated citizens. An ignorant public cannot carry the responsibility of government of, by and for the people. Therefore public education is the backbone of democracy and must be equally available to all Americans from kindergarten through high school.

a. Education is the function of our schools and teachers are the essential instrument of education. Teaching is a vocation and a profession and must receive the respect and salary equivalent to related service professions. To qualify to teach should require a B.A. or B.S. degree plus a year of teaching practice and theory course work from an accredited liberal arts college.

b. We recognize that there is no fixed, single mode of teaching in different social settings. At the same time all students have the right to curricula that prepare them equally to enter society with the learning and information necessary to be productive citizens and to participate in a democratic state.

c. We support learning as lifelong engagement and we believe adult education should be available to all who seek it on a schedule that fits into the standard work week.

d. Public education is the responsibility of state governments. The federal role in education is to set standards that assures a level playing field for all citizens regardless of which state they live in. However, the Federal Act titled "No Child Left Behind" punishes where it should assist and hinders its own declared purpose. It should be repealed or greatly redesigned.

e. In keeping with equal access to equal education, funding formulas must distribute equally to assure the same standards for teacher-per-student ratio, supplies, equipment and resources, including visual arts, music, and athletic programs.

f. We oppose vouchers, or any scheme that will transfer money out of the public school system. We also oppose charter schools unless set up with adequate public interest safeguards and the administration of public schools by private, for-profit entities.

g. We support:

- Early learning (pre-kindergarten) programs in all schools;
- Availability of after-school programs, including music, art, and dance, in or near the school for all children;
- State funding for day care that includes school children under the age of ten when after-school programs are not available; and
- Requiring a non-violent, conflict resolution class in all schools beginning in high school.

h. We encourage state Departments of Education and school boards to include teachers, instructors and teacher assistants when drawing up the curriculum of the schools.

i. In today's high-tech world, all students from 9th grade on must have exposure, training and practice on the computer.

j. We recognize the viable alternative of home-based education.

k. We support bi-lingual education and advocate teaching two languages in all schools: teach grammar, syntax and writing of the native language and teach grammar, syntax and reading of another language.

l. Corporations have no place in our educational institutions. Schools must safeguard students' privacy rights and withhold private student information from corporate interests. In addition, Section 9528 (Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Students and Student Recruiting Information) must be repealed. This is equally true in higher education. Academic research must not be controlled by corporations or the US military.

m. We support tuition-free post secondary education in a community college, liberal arts college or vocational training academy. Government loans for education should be repayable as a proportion of future earnings rather than at a fixed rate.

2. The Arts

Freedom of artistic expression is a fundamental right and a key element in empowering communities, and in moving us toward sustainability and respect for diversity.

The Green Party supports:

- a. Alternative, community-based systems treating neither the artwork nor the artist as a commodity.
- b. Eliminating all laws that seek to restrict or censor artistic expression, including the withholding of government funds for political or moral content.
- c. Increased funding for the arts appropriate to their essential social role at local, state and federal levels of government.
- d. Community-funded programs employing local artists to enrich their communities through public art programs, including public performances, exhibitions, murals on public buildings, design or re-design of parks and public areas, storytelling, poetry reading, and publication.
- e. The establishment of non-profit public forums for local artists to display their talents and creations. Research, public dialogue, and trial experiments to develop alternative systems for the valuation and exchange of artworks and for the financial support of artists. Some examples include community subscriber support groups, artwork rental busts, cooperative support systems among artists, legal or financial incentives to donate to the arts or to donate artworks to public museums.
- f. Responsible choices of non-toxic, renewable, or recyclable materials. Funding sources not connected with social injustice or environmental destruction.
- g. Education programs in the community that will energize the creativity of every community member from the youngest to the oldest, including neglected groups such as teenagers, senior citizens, prisoners, immigrants, and drug addicts. These programs would provide materials and access to interested, qualified arts educators for every member of the community who demonstrates an interest.
- h. Funding and staffing to incorporate arts education into every school curriculum. We encourage local artists and the community to contribute time, experience, and resources to these efforts.
- i. Diversity in arts education in the schools including age-specific hands-on activities and appreciative theoretical approaches, exposure to the arts of various cultures and stylistic traditions, and experiences with a variety of media, techniques and contents.
- j. The integration of the arts and artistic teaching methods into other areas of the curriculum to promote a holistic perspective.

F. HEALTH CARE

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. The Green Party supports a wide range of health care services, not just traditional medicine that too often emphasizes high-tech intervention and surgical techniques.

The United States must respect the measures other nations take to ensure public health, and must not use medication, medical equipment, and other medical necessities, or threats of withholding them, as leverage for political reasons or as extortion for the sake of commercial profit. We oppose any embargo or economic sanction that would cause the suffering or death of civilians.

The Green Party's principle aim is the introduction of Universal Single-Payer Health Care for everyone living in the United States. While in pursuit of that public obligation, we support expanded preventive health care by public health care clinics and support for both traditional medical/surgical care and alternative medicine.

1. Single-payer health care will include the following services:

- a. A publicly funded health care insurance program, administered at the state and local levels.
- b. Lifetime benefits for everyone, including: dental, vision, mental health care, hospice, long-term care, substance abuse treatment and medication coverage.
- c. Freedom to choose the type of health care provider, with a wide range of health care choices.
- d. Decision-making in the hands of health providers and their patients.
- e. Participation of all licensed and/or certified health providers, subject to standards of practice in their field.
- f. Portable health plan benefits.
- g. Primary and preventive care as priorities, including education about diet, nutrition and exercise.
- h. Fair and full reimbursement to providers for their services.

2. Preventive Care

70% to 80% of illness in America is due to negligence, overwork, lack of free time and lack of physical

exercise and lack of healthy food. We support a huge change in life style in society at large, and at the workplace. The present mode puts quality living and healthy living out of reach for all but wealthy people. Health care insurance premiums are too high for most people and Medicare, serving over 40 million Americans, covers fewer and fewer health needs each year. Consequently, care for illness or disease is delayed until it reaches a critical stage and the expense of treatment doubles or triples.

We support:

- a. Expanding the teaching of public health and preventive treatment in medical schools.
- b. Prohibiting snack food and sweets in all public schools.
- c. Serving organic food and a proper balance of vegetables, fruits and meat in public school meals.
- d. Requiring school nutritionists to plan a healthy, protein rich diet to be served in the school.
- e. Inclusion of a nutrition and health course coupled with sex education taught in every high school

3. Health Programs and Medical Treatment

a. We support the availability of holistic health approaches and, the use of complementary and alternative therapies such as herbal medicines, homeopathy and acupuncture.

b. We oppose the arrest, harassment, prosecution or revocation of license of anyone involved in any aspect of the production, cultivation, transportation, distribution or consumption of medicinal marijuana.

c. We support informed consent laws to protect consumers of the impact of types of treatment and including different treatments prescribed, and attention to family medicine as opposed to increased medical specialization.

d. We unequivocally support a woman's right to reproductive choice, no matter her marital status or age, and that contraception and safe, legal abortion procedures be available on demand and be included in all health insurance coverage in the U.S., as well as free of charge in any state where a woman falls below the poverty level. [See section A.1. Women's Rights in this chapter]

e. Increase medical research and alternative therapies actively to combat diseases and eliminate their causes, especially cancer and HIV/AIDS and other blood borne diseases such as Hepatitis C.

f. Expand and enlarge public health services for special needs: the mentally ill, the handicapped, and those who are terminally ill.

g. Establishment of a National Health Trust Fund that would channel all current Federal payments for health care programs directly into the Fund, in addition to employees' health premium payments.

4. AIDS / HIV

a. We support a comprehensive campaign against AIDS and HIV, and other blood borne diseases such as Hepatitis C. International agencies, especially the United Nations, must install medical care and protection programs in all countries suffering from the AIDS epidemic. All prescription drugs and medicines for AIDS victims must be generically available and subsidized by the governments where they are dispersed.

b. Give equal access to all affected, including prisoners, to AIDS education, drug treatment, condoms, microbicides and other medications.

c. Provide housing and treatment for homeless and poor people with AIDS/HIV.

d. Lift the Federal ban on needle exchanges and support needle exchange programs and other programs that help drug addicts.

e. No mandatory screening for AIDS/HIV; anonymous screening must be available. Lift the ban prohibiting HIV positive people from entering the U.S. as visitors or as immigrants.

G. LABOR

The ever-widening gap between rich and poor is destructive of democracy and creates an uneven playing field for economic opportunity. Public welfare that depends on hand-outs from the corporate rich reduces democracy by that same amount. Every citizen must have the leverage necessary to become a productive member of the economy and the society in which we live.

1. We re-affirm the legal right of all workers to organize, to form a union and to bargain collectively without hindrance. This right was guaranteed under The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1936.

2. To re-enforce that Act, we support Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) which guarantees the right to form a union by the card-check method.

3. All workers have the right to inform others or be informed about a union being organized where they work. This includes advertising and recruiting.

4. We demand the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, which promotes open shop.

5. Workers must have the following rights and protections:

- a. To elect representatives to the Board of Directors of the business where they work, and their representatives must have equal rights with management.
- b. To elect their own union officers.
- c. No permanent replacement of striking workers.
- d. No forced overtime.
- e. Flexible working schedules to allow managing personal and family concerns
- f. To be paid a living wage, including temporary and permanent workers.
- g. Until we have universal health care, the employer must pay at least half of workers' health insurance.
- h. All workers must have unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and access to a jobs search program.

- i. All workers must have minimum pensions, vested and portable.

6. Mediation must be the first available solution to labor - management disputes, with an agreed-upon time limit.

7. When a new union is formed, the union members must have the right to submit a first contract to binding arbitration at the request of the union.

8. Labor must have the first right to buy out a company that is for sale or is going bankrupt, or being outsourced to another state or another country.

9. Labor has the right to stock ownership and oversight of the investment of its own funds in the company where it works.

10. When a company purchases or merges with another company, it must honor all existing collective bargaining agreements and contracts.

11. Agricultural and other excluded workers must be covered by federal labor laws, except where existing state laws offer more protection.

12. We encourage and support government subsidizing of cooperative ownership and management of enterprises whenever a buy-out is possible.

13 Management's right to close its workplace and move to a lower-pay locale must be circumscribed to the degree necessary to protect the local workforce and their job security.

14. We support the 35-hour work week.

15. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is the law and must be enforced. This law protects workers against dangerous equipment, chemicals, polluted air, fertilizers and other workplace hazards indoors and outdoors.

16. The law on family medical leave for workers must not be circumvented, undermined, or in any way reduced in range or time.

H. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Our criminal justice system fails to deliver justice. It offers more retribution and punishment than rehabilitation and leverage to return to society to be a productive citizen. Our prisons hold more than 2 million people, often for sentences totally disproportionate to the offense. Minorities and the poor are over-represented in the prison population and white collar criminals are given light sentences by comparison.

1. The Green Party supports:

- a. Repeal "3 strikes, you're out" law.

b. Repeal Sentencing Guidelines and restore sentencing to the judge's discretion within a boundary that makes the penalty proportional to the crime.

c. Expand parole to prisoners who have served half their sentence and who have a good record in the prison system. Prisoners on parole must be allowed to vote.

d. Repeal Bush's law (Patriot Act) that allows detention of any targeted person suspected of terrorist activity or association, and restore the 4th Amendment to the Constitution.

- e. Abolish the death penalty.

2. Access to Justice; repeal or lessen definition of criminal acts.

a. All detained, accused or arrested persons must be told the charge at time of arrest and must have access to a lawyer when arraigned.

- b. All non-violent and victimless crime should be classified as misdemeanor.

- c. Legalize growing, harvesting, distributing and marketing of Hemp.

3. First Amendment rights of prisoners must not be revoked. Freedom to speak to journalists, to write letters to people outside the prison and to study legal procedures from law books in the prison library.

4. Prisoners must be allowed to vote by absentee ballot and when released, have the right to vote and to run for office.

5. Education in Prison:

a. Enact a law that requires all prisons to offer high school (GED) classes, College courses and technical training to all prisoners. Guarantee all prisoners the right to use the prison library and to order magazines, journals or books.

b. Include in this law a program for educated prisoners to tutor uneducated prisoners.

6. The Green Party opposes private prisons:

a. All private prisons must be returned to federal or state ownership and management.

b. No contracting out of any police services. Maximum security prisons must be owned and managed by the Federal government and their intense severity reduced.

7. Prison management:

a. All prisoners must have the right to file a complaint for abuse to a civilian complaint review board with subpoena power.

b. Warden or guard abuse of prisoners and violation of their rights is a serious offense. Offending officers must be suspended without pay and fired when found guilty by the civilian complaint review board.

c. No prisoner may be kept in solitary confinement for more than 12 hrs. a day.

d. Prison household services such as preparing food, cleaning, laundry, gardening, and repair of fixtures must be performed by the prison inmates under direction of prison institution employees. Only medical and other professional services (e.g. electricians) may be contracted out.

8. Police performance in the society:

a. Restrict police use of guns and all forms of control weapons.

b. Restraining weapons and methods such as pepper spray, taser guns, stun belts, gas, choke holds and tight hand cuffs are greatly over-used. States must pass legislation that reduce and restrict police possession and use of such methods of control.

c. Fines on police convicted of brutality are to be paid by police, not taxpayers.

d. Police found guilty of excessive violence or brutal acts shall not be indemnified and must pay half the compensation awarded to the victims.

9. Drug Policy

a. The "war on drugs" has failed in its purpose for 60 years. US security officers are often complicit in the drug market. Funding the drug war must be ended immediately by the US Congress.

b. Cannabis/Hemp is to be legalized, regulated and controlled like cigarettes and alcohol. Until this happens we advocate that medical marijuana be made a prescription drug that doctors may prescribe to their patients.

c. Heroin and Cocaine, Ecstasy and Methamphetamine, are to be medicalized and come under the supervision of medical personnel. All other illegal drugs are to be decriminalized. We advocate future debate and true and honest medicinal study.

d. Taxes derived from the sale of Cannabis/Hemp will go to communities that have been ravished by the drug war as reparations to rebuild infrastructure such as public education, health care and addiction treatment programs.

I. POPULATION

Humans have a unique responsibility for stewardship of the Earth. We have a global responsibility to change the existing patterns of production and consumption - especially in our own nation - to insure that the Earth's carrying capacity is not depleted. Creating a sustainable relationship with nature while meeting essential needs of humans on this planet will effectively address the challenge of "overpopulation" of our own species.

Limiting the discussion to population numbers and birthrates diverts attention from over-consumption in the industrial world and historic patterns of exploitation of developing countries. Consumption-oriented lifestyles that have evolved in the industrial world have resulted in a minority of people consuming a majority of resources. This is as significant a threat to the Earth's carrying capacity as the high birth rates in low-consumption countries.

Current global demographics demonstrate that economic well-being promotes low birthrates. Any discussion of population must also be a discussion of women throughout the world. There is documented evidence that the economic and social status of women is a primary factor in birthrates - when women have control over their lives,

birthrates decrease. Also, a major barrier to the improvement of women's reproductive health is a lack of shared responsibility between men and women in family planning. A combination of male attitudes and cultural traditions have resulted in most men being under-educated and unininvolved in the planning of their families.

Globally, human population is increasing while food production has leveled off. When population increases faster than the economy grows, the disparity between rich and poor also increases. Higher human consumption rates and populations increase the pressure on the environment in every ecological problem area. (See Schwartzman, P. and Schwartzman, D., 2007, *Is the world overpopulated?* Green Horizon Quarterly, Winter 10-13, link at: <http://www.dcmetrosftp.org/newsletters/NL20061201.html#pop>)

Global warming, extinction of species, water scarcity, natural resource depletion, massive deforestation and, in general the pollution of the air, land and water around the world sound an alarm that we are fouling our own nest.

World population is currently estimated at more than 6 billion people and projected to grow to 9 billion by 2050. The U.S. population is projected to grow from 300 million to 420 million by 2050. The question that confronts us is: is this level of population growth sustainable? GPUS says no.

Overpopulation, like environmental degradation, is a national and global problem and must be solved by all nations individually and collectively at home and by international cooperation.

We call for:

1. Repealing of the Global Gag Rule imposed by the Bush administration to prevent the distribution of family planning assistance to clinics that provide abortion services;
2. Full funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), from which the Bush administration has withheld family planning funds since 2002; and
3. Full funding for HIV/AIDS programs that promote safe sex, as well as abstinence.

J. FREE SPEECH AND MEDIA REFORM

Free speech and free press are constitutionally and politically guaranteed rights. Democracy requires a wide variety of opinions and information, which is not currently provided by corporate controlled media outlets. We urge the public to *reclaim the public airwaves*. The privatization of the broadcast airwaves - one of our most important taxpayer assets - has caused serious deformations of our politics and culture. In return for free licenses to use taxpayer property, broadcasters give us a steady stream of increasingly coarse, redundant, superficial programming, and exclusively decide who says what on our public airwaves.

The Green Party supports:

1. Citizen controlled and publicly funded newspapers, modeled on the former Los Angeles Municipal News.
2. Market-priced leasing of any for-profit use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
3. Reasonable restriction on media consolidation, using a public interest standard.
4. Restoring of full public funding of the National Public Broadcasting System to provide in-depth coverage of issues and the widest possible range of viewpoints.
5. Community ownership of broadcast outlets and public oversight of licensing.
6. Free and equal airtime for political candidates on radio and television networks. [See section A. Political Reform in Chapter I]
7. Taxing advertising wherever it occurs to fund democratic media in those outlets, which include all means of electronic communication, newspapers, magazines, billboards, signs, etc.
8. The repeal of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
9. The prohibition of commercial advertising in public places such as schools, parks, and governmental buildings.
10. Developing community radio, particularly those rule-making petitions before the FCC that allow for a new service of small, locally-owned FM stations.
11. Limiting the concentration of power that has characterized the telecommunications industry.
12. Opposing censorship in the arts, media (including the World Wide Web and Internet), and press. We encourage individual and social responsibility by artists, creative media, writers and all citizens.
13. Advertising-free internet communication and other means of communication must be established or, as applicable, remain fully under accountable citizen control.

K. IMMIGRATION / EMIGRATION

Our nation is a rich tapestry of nationalities, races, religions, and creeds with equality of opportunity,

individual freedoms, and inalienable rights protected by our Constitution.

Immigration and particularly the large number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. have become a hot political issue. Laws to oppress immigrants are constantly being proposed at the national, state, and local levels. In opposition millions of immigrants and supporters of immigrants rights have been marching in the streets.

If it were economically possible to provide for their families many immigrants would choose to remain in their native countries. We stand firmly for social justice for all those living in this country regardless of their immigration status. In doing so we must consider immigration issues from an international standpoint, taking into account international labor and environmental standards and human rights.

We accept as a goal a world in which persons can freely choose any country in which to live and/or work. We seek the reciprocity this would require and recognize that countries have a right to know the identity of persons seeking to enter and to limit for security reasons who may enter. The U.S. needs a complete overhaul of its immigration laws. Our current situation has created extreme social injustice. Millions of people are living and working in the U.S. with no legal status, making them subject to extreme exploitation and abuse. Immigration raids are terrorizing the immigrant community. Families are being broken up. Employer abuses of undocumented immigrants are rampant.

Here are the principals we feel should be included in a just immigration reform.

1. Undocumented immigrants should be granted a legal status which includes the chance to become U.S. citizens with minimal processing fees and credit for all payments into the Social Security System which have been placed in "Suspense Files".

2. We believe the following immigration policies are fair:

a. In relation to all countries with which "free trade" agreements are in effect, any citizen of those countries whose identity can be traced and verified should be entitled to a border pass to come and go from the U.S. as this person desires (subject to limited public safety concerns). Work permits for these persons must be easily obtainable. This applies particularly to our neighbors, Canada and Mexico.

b. All persons fleeing political, racial, religious, or other types of persecution must be welcomed and given permanent resident status. The history of arbitrary denial of political asylum claims must be ended. Particular attention should be given to those minorities who are political exiles and refugees and those whose lives would be at risk if asylum is not granted.

c. Family reunification must be a priority in accepting applications for permanent residency. The years of waiting that families are currently put through must be ended.

d. Permanent residency should not be denied based on political views, racial or national origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, disability, or any other arbitrary basis.

e. There are many countries in the world where the economic policies and military actions of the U.S. government or U.S. based corporations have caused extreme hardships. The peoples of these countries deserve special consideration if they wish to come to the U.S. to escape intolerable conditions created by our government or U.S. corporations.

3. Recognizing that a just reform of immigration policy may take some time, we support:

a. Measures to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers licenses if they can prove their identity and pass the required tests.

b. Measures to give legal status to undocumented immigrants who graduate from high school in the U.S. to allow them to attend public or private colleges and universities on an equal basis with other high school graduates.

c. Reduce wait lists and make the system work more efficiently. Current numeric caps on immigrant visas must be increased. The current system of quotas and preferences has to be thoroughly and realistically reformed. Current backlogs must be brought up to date as soon as possible. Wait times for processing and resolving immigration benefit applications should be reduced to no more than six months. Pre-1996 screening criteria for legal permanent residency and citizenship applications should be restored.

4. Guest worker programs are required when workers wish to work in the U.S. but do not want to be forced to give up their citizenship in their home countries, workers who sincerely are not seeking a path to U.S. citizenship. Such programs must adequately protect the labor rights of these workers.

5. We advocate an end to employer sanctions, which have been shown to hurt not only undocumented workers but also U.S.-born workers (especially those of color).

6. Greens oppose "English-only" legislation. When interaction with the government is limited to the English speaking, persons are put at additional risk of exploitation. Particularly, the language rights of peoples who were in this land before it became U.S. soil must be recognized. We advocate legislation to ensure that federal funds marked

for communities to provide ESL (English as a Second Language) training, and health and social support services to immigrants actually go to them. When funds are spent in other areas, immigrants are being deprived of benefits that they earn as productive workers in their communities.

7. Courts, social service agencies, and all government agencies dealing with immigrants must provide trained and certified translators.

8. We oppose those who seek to divide us for political gain by raising ethnic and racial hatreds, and by blaming immigrants for social and economic problems.

9. We demand an immediate end to policies designed to force undocumented border crossers into areas where environmental conditions mean dramatically increased risk of permanent injury or death, and mean greater degradation of fragile environments, and the cutting off of corridors needed by wildlife for migration within their habitat. For these reasons, we specifically oppose the walling off of both traditional urban crossing areas and of wilderness areas.

10. We demand recognition of sovereignty in determining the independent status of their members by indigenous nations whose people would otherwise be separated by the border demarcations of more recent nations.

L. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Shelter, like food, health care and education, is a social necessity that a democratic society is obliged to secure for all its citizens. In recent years, the cost of housing, to rent or purchase, has outdistanced the income of a large percentage of the population. While the real estate business, building owners and developers have thrived on rising prices, many workers and fixed-income people, whose income has been diminished or static, have lost their homes and their place in the economy.

We support government policies that redress years of special benefits to developers and property owners and no benefits to citizens and small business. A level playing field is necessary for all to share in the society, the economy and to have equal access to their government. A lack of legal protection has allowed the eviction of thousands of tenants while the gap between the rich and the rest of society goes wider and wider.

The Green Party advocates:

1. Rent control over rise in rents including opposing vacancy decontrol.

2. Oppose laws which pass on landlord's costs such as building improvements, costs and fuel surcharges unless landlords prove they are not making a profit.

3. Subsidize co-operative ownership of apartment buildings.

4. Re-write building codes to increase obligation that developers include affordable units for low-income tenants in their rehabilitated apartment buildings.

4. States write laws that require creation of Tenants Advocacy Office that protects tenants from eviction when landlord wants to upgrade and raise price of their holdings. Especially important is protection for the elderly and disabled persons.

5. Strict inspection schedule by inspectors and heavy fines or confiscation of their buildings on owners who fail to maintain their buildings.

6. Revise zoning laws to expand areas that allow group housing.

7. Build public housing on low and small human scale and allow a tenant to buy his unit.

8. Enact State laws on inclusionary zoning that requires developers to include units for low income tenants.

9. Oppose tax abatements for landlords who maintain vacant property.

10. Oppose subsidies and tax abatements for landlords who do not provide at least 20% affordable rentals in new construction. Affordable means that rents do not exceed 25% of income for persons with income below \$50,000.

11. Measures to Help Homeless Persons. At the bottom of the pile are the homeless - around one million. Many homeless people have low-wage jobs but can't afford to pay rent and are forced to live in shelters or on the street.

a. Open homeless shelters in areas near public transportation and close enough to work places for homeless people to get to work.

b. Repeal laws that criminalize any facet of homelessness including where they sleep, or that deny citizens the right to help homeless persons.

c. Re-affirm and enforce laws that open public buildings for the homeless in freezing weather.

d. Open feeding stations that guarantee two meals/day to homeless people.

12. Greatly expand community land trusts, such that they become available to anyone who chooses that type of home ownership.

13. We support government assistance to borrowers caught in the recent sub-prime lending crisis whereby they can keep their homes while paying down their loans.

14. Enforce fair housing laws against discrimination based on race, sex, familial status (children), marital status, disability, or sexual orientation. Fully fund the Fair Employment and Housing Commission that funds nonprofit organizations engaged in fair housing monitoring and enforcement.

15. All commercial, industrial, and residential buildings must be designed and built according to a green building code, both in design and in materials used.

16. Implement low-impact, site-specific designs that encourage human-scale development and promote development that encourages urban density - with green spaces - and that discourages urban sprawl.

M. ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

Cruelty to animals is unnecessary and immoral. The mark of a humane and civilized society lies in how we treat the least protected among us. To extend rights to other sentient living beings is our responsibility and a mark of our place among all of nature. We call for an intelligent, compassionate approach to the treatment of all animals.

We reject the belief that our species is the center of the world, and that other life forms exist only for our use and enjoyment. Our species does not have the right to exploit and inflict violence on other animals simply because we have the desire and power to do so. Our ethic upholds not only the value of biological diversity and the integrity and continuity of species, but also the value of individual lives and the interest of individual animals.

The Green Party advocates humane treatment of animals with the following policies:

1. Redirect the funds that are disbursed annually by the National Institutes of Health away from animal experiments and more towards direct health care, preventive medicine, and biomedical research using non-animal procedures such as clinical, epidemiological, and cell culture research. Any federal testing programs proposing animal tests must undergo a vigorous audit to assess their relevance and identify applicable non-animal testing strategies.

2. Phase-out the use of animals for consumer product testing, tobacco and alcohol testing, psychological testing, classroom demonstrations and dissections, weapons development and other military programs.

3. Mandate clear labeling of products to tell whether or not they have been tested on animals and if they contain any animal products or by-products.

4. Establish procedures to develop greater public scrutiny of all animal research. These should include the welfare of laboratory animals, including those currently excluded under the Animal Welfare Act, and a halt to wasteful public funding of unnecessary research such as duplicative experiments.

5. End the abuse of animals, including farm animals, and strengthen our enforcement of existing laws. This should include amending the Humane Slaughter Act to cover all animals slaughtered for agricultural purposes, including religious (ritual) slaughter practices.

6. Ban the use of goods produced from exotic or endangered animals.

7. Prohibit large scale commercial breeding facilities, such as "puppy mills," because of the massive suffering, overpopulation, and ill health such facilities produce.

8. Subsidize spay and neuter clinics to combat the ever-worsening pet overpopulation problem that results in the killing of millions of animals every year. Where unwanted companion animals are being killed in shelters, we advocate mandatory spay and neuter laws.

9. Ban the practice of "pound seizure" whereby shelters are permitted or required to surrender impounded animals to laboratories upon request. Prohibit Class B dealers from selling animals from random sources to research facilities.

10. Ban canned hunts. This should include prohibiting the importation of indigenous and non-native animals and the sale of animals from zoos and other commercial "entertainment" industries for the purpose of canned hunts.

11. Ban the exploitation of animals in entertainment, gambling, and sports.

Chapter III. SUSTAINABLE ECOLOGY

The ideology of industrialism, in both capitalist and communist countries, insists that modern society should rightly use and despoil the rest of the natural world as we desire, because any loss of the ecosystems is merely an "externality" in economic thought and because problems can be addressed later by a technological fix. We are now living through the painful consequences of that ignorant perspective.

Inherent in the efficient dynamics of ecosystems is a vital profusion of biodiversity. We support planetary

efforts to slow the ever-increasing numbers of humans pressuring the ecosystems, and we especially support the reduction of consumption of raw materials by the industrialized Northern Hemisphere. We strongly oppose the recent attempts to roll back the federal environmental protection laws that safeguard our air, water, and soil. We strongly urge the U.S. to adopt an actively responsible position in the crisis of global climate change.

A. GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS

Global climate change caused by human activity is now causing suffering to people around the world. Even if mankind were able to stop immediately any further production of greenhouse gases, the cumulative effects of the greenhouse gases already added to the atmosphere would continue to change the world's climate for decades. Public awareness of this developing crisis has increased dramatically in recent years. The time is now for bold action to halt the rise in greenhouse gases and then to reduce their concentration in the atmosphere. Both Arjun Makhijani (*Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy*, available at <www.ieer.org>) and Lester Brown (*Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*, see <www.earth-policy.org>) have written books showing practical plans for how this can be done.

The Green Party takes as one of its central tasks the fight to implement measures that will quickly stop the increase in greenhouse gas emissions and then reduce these emissions by 90% by 2050. Throughout our program, the Green Party is promoting many concrete measures which, taken together, will accomplish this.

The struggle to bring climate change under control is an international struggle. The Green Party of the United States has joined with Green Parties all over the world in developing the Global Greens Charter and the May 2008 declarations of the Second Global Greens Congress (www.globalgreens.org). Green Parties all over the world are the leading and strongest political force working to save the planet from the impending disaster of global climate change.

We must implement the following policies if we are to make a start on protecting our global climate:

1. The U.S. must start immediately reducing the use of fossil fuels with the goal of stopping the increase in greenhouse gas emissions within five years and of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases by 90% by 2050.
2. Emissions trading is a failed and unjust strategy, which will not be effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions sufficiently. The Green Party favors using outright bans, taxes and strict emissions limits to reduce demand and to promote the adoption of clean energy sources.
3. Targets are not enough without credible policies and measures to achieve them. We urge all governments to table a list of the policies and measures they intend to adopt to attain their target, for example eco-taxes and energy performance standards.
4. Nuclear power is not an acceptable alternative to fossil energy. There isn't enough time, money or uranium to "solve" global warming with nuclear power and the environmental, public health and security threats make it unacceptable in any situation.
5. We endorse the Contraction and Convergence model under discussion at international talks (which as proposed would eventually give every human being an equal right to the atmosphere) as the most practical way to achieve justice and participation for developing countries.
6. If we fail to summon the political will now to make these investments, the costs of climatic disruptions will almost certainly force us to make them later at a greater expense. Greenhouse gases and the threat of global warming must be addressed by the international community in concert, through international treaties and conventions, with the industrial nations at the forefront of this vital effort.

B. ENERGY

Our energy use and abuse is at the core of many environmental and even social problems. With less than 5% of the world's population, the U.S. consumes 22% of the world's energy resources. Our oil and gas addiction in particular has led to wars and human rights abuses in many countries.

The regional and global peaks in oil, gas, coal and uranium production are driving up costs of conventional fuels, threatening wars and social chaos if we cannot move beyond the dirty fuels immediately and invest in only the cleanest, most sustainable energy strategies.

We advocate strong energy policies at all levels of government to shift decisively away from polluting energy systems towards reduced energy use and clean energy sources.

We oppose energy utility deregulation. We support strong protections for electricity and natural gas consumers. These protections can only occur in a locally-controlled, fully regulated energy system that directly links generation with transmission and distribution. We recognize that deregulation and its reliance on markets - as opposed to state-based regulations - is incapable of providing affordable, reliable and clean energy. We support state

efforts to regain control over electricity by establishing democratic, public control systems to locally coordinate supply and demand and by eliminating energy trading. Consumers deserve full disclosure of the specific electric generating facilities used to produce their electricity. We support net-metering to make decentralized energy production economically viable.

Energy management must be governed by the principle of conservation, efficiency, and clean renewables. Of highest importance is to use less, then to use wisely, and to have clean production of what is used. We advocate strong public policies to widely deploy conservation, efficiency, and clean renewable energy technologies. Examples include tax credits, renewable portfolio standards, research programs, loans and grants. Existing policies that currently benefit nuclear power, combustion technologies (including technologies that produce burnable fuels) or large hydroelectric dams should be eliminated and reallocated to conservation, efficiency, wind and solar power.

1. Conservation and Efficiency

a. Extensive conservation measures will bring huge resource savings for both the economy and the environment. Europe consumes less than half of the electricity consumed per capita in the U.S. We call for extensive energy conservation efforts, with a goal of reducing energy consumption by 50% in 20 years.

b. We support efforts to decentralize regional electric grids by promoting energy efficiency and localized clean renewable energy. Tax-exempt bonds should be authorized to finance public ownership of utilities and to allow publicly owned utilities to finance conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects.

2. Clean Renewables

a. We call for a Manhattan Project-level commitment to developing clean renewable energy technologies - technologies that do not create pollution in the course of generating electricity. These can include wind, solar (including solar thermal and concentrating solar), ocean power, geothermal, and small-scale hydro. Since even clean renewable energy can have negative environmental impacts, care must be taken to minimize such impacts. Clean renewable energy does not include nuclear power, any sort of combustion or process in which by-products are ultimately combusted, or hydroelectric dams that block entire rivers.

b. The Green Party calls for federal commitment to the mass-production of cheap, non-toxic solar photovoltaic technology to enable widespread deployment of solar power. To make solar more cost-competitive, we support large-scale government purchases of solar cells for installation on government facilities.

c. We support efforts of individuals and institutions to voluntarily purchase wind and solar power products through tradable renewable energy certificates. However, there are limits to the volunteer, market-based approach to promoting clean energy. Just as we cannot expect that individual purchases of organic food will cause all food production to become organic, we cannot expect that voluntary approaches will be sufficient to fully replace current energy supplies with clean energy.

3. Fuels for Transportation and Heating

a. Oil and gas are the primary fuels used for transportation and heating. U.S. dependence on oil and gas has driven an unparalleled assault on the global environment and on human rights in many nations. We call for a rapid transition to electric vehicles to ultimately eliminate the need for burnable fuels in private land transportation. We recognize that hydrogen is not an energy source, but an energy storage tactic – one that makes no sense in the private transportation sector. We also recognize that biofuels and other "alternative" fuels are limited in potential and require very damaging production systems that cannot be done in a large scale without causing dire environmental harm.

b. We support further research into energy storage strategies, so that the use of hydrogen as an energy storage medium – or a more viable alternative – can make it possible to operate a decentralized grid on intermittent energy generation methods, such as solar and wind. If fuel cells turn out to be the best option to efficiently distribute electricity as needed, they should be powered using hydrogen sourced from water and separated by electrolysis with power provided by clean, renewable energy technologies. We oppose the use of nuclear technologies or carbon-based feedstocks for hydrogen production.

c. We oppose the development of environmentally-destructive "alternative" fuels produced with polluting, energy-intensive processes or from unsustainable or toxic feedstocks, such as genetically-engineered crops, coal, or waste streams contaminated with persistent toxins. This includes especially ethanol derived from corn. Biofuels should be used only where no combustion-free technologies are an option.

d. With regard to heating fuels, we support building codes for new construction that incorporate the best available energy conservation designs. New construction should be required to use proven passive solar methods to achieve substantial portions of its heating energy from the sun. For existing homes and buildings, we support programs to aid in their weatherization and increased energy efficiency.

e. We oppose further oil and gas drilling or exploration – especially in other countries, on our nation's outer continental shelf, on our public lands, in the Rocky Mountains, and under the Great Lakes.

C. NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The Green Party recognizes that there is no such thing as nuclear waste "disposal." All six of the "low-level" nuclear waste dumps in the United States have leaked. There are no technological quick fixes that can effectively isolate nuclear waste from the biosphere for the duration of its hazardous life. Therefore, it is essential that generation of additional nuclear wastes be stopped.

2. The Green Party calls for the early retirement of nuclear power reactors as soon as possible (in no more than five years), and for a phase-out of other technologies that use or produce nuclear waste. These technologies include non-commercial nuclear reactors, reprocessing facilities, nuclear waste incinerators, food irradiators, and all commercial and military uses of depleted uranium.

3. Current methods of underground storage are a danger to present and future generations. Any nuclear waste management strategies must be above ground, retrievable and repackagable. They must be continuously monitored for leakage and secured from attack or theft, and their locations must minimize transportation of wastes. Therefore the Green Party calls for the cancellation of the planned nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain on Shoshone lands in Nevada and also the closure and remediation of the Waste Isolation Plant in New Mexico.

4. The Green Party supports keeping irradiated reactor fuel in multiple congressional districts (not a central site) for temporary storage until further production of this waste has ceased, and a scientifically and environmentally sound, socially acceptable plan has been achieved. We deny there is such a thing as safe disposal of nuclear waste.

5. We call for independent, publicly-accessible radiation monitoring at all nuclear facilities.

6. We support applicable environmental impact statements and National Environmental Policy Act analysis with citizen participation at all nuclear sites.

7. We support an immediate and intensive campaign to educate the public about nuclear problems, including disposal, clean-up, and long-term dangers.

8. We oppose the export of nuclear technologies or their wastes to other nations.

9. We oppose all public subsidies for nuclear power, including Price-Anderson insurance caps and stranded cost recovery bailouts.

10. We oppose the development and use of new nuclear reactors, plutonium (MOX) fuel, nuclear fuel reprocessing, uranium enrichment, and the manufacturing of new plutonium pits for a new generation of nuclear weapons. Therefore we envision the national labs devoted to nuclear energy and weapons development closed or redirected, and all operations at the Department of Energy's nuclear production sites stopping, full clean-up and remediation undertaken and just compensation provided to those in the "sacrifice zone" for damages to air, water, soil, and health.

11. We oppose the deregulation of radioactive materials and wastes, which is allowing such wastes to be recycled into consumer products and to enter municipal waste landfills and incinerators. We call for the strict regulation, tracking, monitoring, and recapturing of radioactive materials and wastes.

12. We call on the military to clean up depleted uranium contamination from testing ranges and battlefields, and to fully compensate exposed veterans and civilians who have been affected by depleted uranium exposure in the U.S. and elsewhere.

D. TRANSPORTATION

The Green Party supports a transportation policy that emphasizes the use of mass transit and alternatives to the automobile and truck for transport. We call for major public investment in mass transportation, so that such systems are cheap or free to the public and are safe, accessible, and easily understandable to first-time users.

To reduce auto use, the Green Party advocates the following strategies:

1. Pedestrians and Bicyclists

a. Make streets, neighborhoods and commercial districts more pedestrian friendly. Increase street greenery.

b. Utilize traffic-calming methods, where the design of streets promotes safe speeds and safe interaction with pedestrians. Create auto-free zones.

c. Develop extensive networks of bikeways, bicycle lanes and paths. Include bike racks on all public transit.

d. Maintain free community bicycle fleets, and provide necessary support for cyclists.

2. Mass Transit

- a. Develop affordable mass transit systems that are more economical to use than private vehicles.
- b. Encourage employer subsidies of transit commuter tickets for employees, funded by government Congestion Management grants.
- c. Use existing auto infrastructure for transit expansion where possible. Light rail should be established in expressway medians through metropolitan high-density corridors.
- d. Include land use decisions in transportation issues, with consideration of the need for mass transit to have a market and be viable, and with attention paid to cross-commuting - the practice of people commuting to a place where they could and should live.
- e. Expand our country's network of rail lines, including high-speed regional passenger service.
- f. Build rail lines for the exclusive use of passenger trains.

3. Automobiles

- a. Place a moratorium on highway widening then use the money for mass transit and facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- b. Mandate HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes on freeways, and lower toll fees for carpools.
- c. Discourage unnecessary auto use by eliminating free parking in non-residential areas well served by mass transit, and establish preferential parking rates for HOV.
- d. Support ambitious increases in motor vehicle fuel efficiency, including the use of hybrid electric designs. Legislate a "gas guzzler" tax on new vehicles that get a lower MPG than the CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards and offer "gas sipper" rebates for vehicles that get a higher MPG. Schedule an increase in CAFE standards to 60 MPG for cars and 45 MPG for light trucks by the year 2012.
- e. Develop and market the conversion of existing, used cars and trucks to electric vehicles, so that such conversions are cheaper than purchasing new vehicles. Develop and market quick-charging electric batteries or battery exchange stations so that electric vehicles can be used for long-distance travel. Support government procurement of high efficiency motor vehicles.
- f. Encourage carpooling programs, telecommuting, and other creative solutions to reduce commuter traffic congestion. We advocate fair buy-backs of the most polluting and least efficient vehicles to remove them from the road.

4. Air Travel

- a. Make airports accessible by local transit systems.
- b. Legislate further incremental reductions in airplane noise and air pollution.

5. Freight

We call for incentives to get long-distance truck hauling off of our highways and on to railways. Governments on all levels must take the initiative in eliminating administrative and logistical obstacles to efficient rail freight transportation.

E. WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Green Party advocates a shift away from the wasteful use of materials and towards an industrial system based on clean production and principles of zero waste.

1. We support toxics-use reduction and green chemistry to reduce the amounts of toxic chemicals in production processes, and to replace them with less- or non-toxic alternatives. We call for the phasing out of toxic metals, persistent organic pollutants, persistent bio-accumulative toxins, synthetic petrochemicals, and all avoidable uses of halogenated chemicals.
2. We support clean production methods so that products are designed to be durable, repairable, reusable, recyclable, and energy-efficient, using non-toxic, sustainably-obtained materials, and nonpolluting production methods.
3. We support making manufacturers responsible for the full life cycle of their products by taking back used packaging and products for remanufacturing, reuse, or recycling. The electronics industry in particular must redesign its products to eliminate toxic components and enable clean recycling. We support the Principles of Extended Producer Responsibility (www.grrn.org/epr/epr_principles.html), as outlined by the EPR Working Group of the Grassroots Recycling Network. Policies to assist this transition include bans, recycled content standards, and economic incentives such as taxation, special fees, and deposits.
4. The precautionary principle should be applied when introducing a technology that might raise a threat of harm to human health or the environment. In such cases, needs assessments and alternatives assessments must be conducted with full public participation. Affected communities must hold decision-making power over technology

deployment.

5. The public has a right to know what toxic or potentially toxic chemicals are used and released in their communities, and in products that they might purchase or use. In the case of chemical releases, that right must be made real through continuous emissions monitoring and real-time public disclosure of data.

6. Corporations should be held strictly liable for the consequences of the pollution they produce. We support the Citizens' Platform on Superfund, as adopted at the 1995 Communities At Risk Superfund Summit in Washington, DC (www.ccae.org/projects/platform.htm). We call on the EPA to end the use of incineration as a cleanup technology, and to ensure that "cleanups" don't simply relocate the toxic mess to chemical waste dumps in poor communities of color.

7. We support the Principles of Environmental Justice as outlined by the 1991 National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit (www.ejnet.org/ej/platform.html) and the Principles of Working Together, adopted at the 2002 Second National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit.

8. We call for the shut-down of existing waste incinerators, a moratorium on new waste incinerators, and a phase-out of landfills. For all possible waste streams, we support the following strategies (in order of priority) as alternatives to incineration and landfills:

- a. Toxics use reduction
- b. Source reduction, reuse, clean recycling or composting / digestion
- c. Neutralization / sterilization / detoxification methods where applicable

9. No wastes containing toxic or radioactive contaminants significantly above background levels should be deregulated. They should not be allowed to be used in "beneficial use" schemes as fertilizer, "co-products," or fuels; or by "recycling" them into consumer products (including construction materials) or disposing of them as municipal waste.

10. We oppose the exportation, under any circumstances, of chemicals that are prohibited in the United States. We oppose shipping of toxic, hazardous, or radioactive wastes across national borders, and the shipment of such wastes without strict regulation across any political borders. Waste should not be considered a tradable commodity under the Interstate Commerce Clause.

F. CLEAN AIR

Earth's atmosphere is in great danger due to man-made chemicals and hydrocarbon emissions.

1. Chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, and other related ozone-depleting substances should be banned.

2. Coal fired electric power plants not only add CO₂ to the air, they emit other harmful substances, including sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, very fine particles of carbon, and mercury. We favor the phasing out of electrical production by the burning of coal. In the meantime we call for all coal fired power plants which were grandfathered in by the Clean Air Act to immediately be required to install technology to bring them at least to the level required of newer plants. We call for the elimination of mercury in the emissions of all power plants.

G. LAND USE AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES

1. Land Ownership and Property Rights

We encourage the social ownership and use of land at the community, local, and regional level. For example, community and conservation land trusts under covenants of ecological responsibility.

2. Urban Land Use

By following the specific items set forth below, planners can design urban land use strategies to reduce each person's ecological footprint. We support coordinated urban land use patterns that help preserve agricultural and wilderness lands.

It is imperative that we as a nation find a means to control urban sprawl. The ecological, social, and fiscal crises engendered by sprawl are becoming evermore apparent. The Green Party endorses the Metropolitics movement, which seeks to control sprawl by integrating such measures as urban growth boundaries, tax base sharing, fair housing, and metropolitan transportation.

The Green Party proposes to:

a. Support the use of green technologies that restore natural ecosystems while improving the quality of life for humans and furthering the co-existence of human populations with other species and natural systems.

b. Support the use of the ecological footprint model to help communities assess the burden they place on their local, regional, and global environment, and to help them understand how they can improve their own

communities.

- c. Encourage appropriately higher-density communities and urban infill development to prevent urban sprawl into agricultural and wilderness areas.
- d. Integrate an increased and sufficient number of affordable housing units into urbanized areas. These units should remain a part of the affordable housing stock for the life of the units. Also, protect current residents from displacement and encourage a wide variety of housing that will attract a wide variety of new residents.
- e. Support population densities in urbanized areas with appropriate infrastructure to facilitate public transit travel, shopping, recycling, renewable energy production, urban forestry, habitat restoration, public park renewal, and the re-development of brownfields.
- f. Support environmental justice policies that give communities a voice in planning future development with the goal of preventing concentration of polluting infrastructure in under-represented poor and/or minority communities.
- g. Plan open spaces, parklands, greenbelts, and public garden plots as components of all development plans.
- h. Locate schools, places of employment, medical facilities, and shopping areas within easy walking or bicycling distances from residences, or at mass transit stops.
- i. Include bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure in development plans. For example, interconnected bike paths and pedestrian-only malls.
- j. Support efforts of cities and counties to re-develop, restore, and revitalize impacted local ecosystems.
- k. Support the long-term goal of re-establishing land use patterns and electoral districts consistent with a bioregional model of land use.
- l. Promote closed-loop sewage treatment systems and urban graywater systems for new construction and wherever possible.
- m. Change tax and planning laws to promote decentralized, renewable energy infrastructures in urban and suburban areas.
- n. Change tax and planning laws to promote restoration and revitalization of degraded lands, improvements in watershed management, and protection/reintroduction of listed, threatened, or endangered species in suburban, rural, and agricultural areas. Educate citizens about reducing levels of consumption including over-consumption of living space.
- o. Rather than move populations back to the land, it is important to bring the land back to cities. This requires consolidating housing into such structures as eco-colonies, to free open space, and to move about by bicycle, train, bus and on foot so that roadways may be converted to parkland and agriculture.

3. Natural Resource Management

Greens believe that effective land and resource management practices must be founded on stewardship, such as incorporated in a land ethic as articulated by Aldo Leopold. Stringent natural resource management should serve to prevent activities that adversely affect public and adjacent lands.

The Green Party calls for:

- a. Repeal of the Mining Act of 1872. We demand a halt to federal mineral, oil and gas, and resource giveaways, "royalty holidays," and flagrant concessions to the mining, energy and timber industries; and an immediate crackdown on their evasive and fraudulent reporting.
- b. Strict enforcement of clean-up of industrial-scale natural resource extraction activities. For example, cleaning up tailings, pits, and runoff from mining operations by agreements with companies that can include posting of site restoration bonds prior to commencement of operations. The regional long term environmental and social impacts of any resource extractions should be minimized, and the land restored to a healthy ecological state.
- c. Halting all current international funding policies that promote destruction of forest ecosystems, and we call for an end to the trade in endangered hardwoods. We support laws that promote paper recycling and mandate sustainable forestry practices that promote biodiversity. We also call for the development of alternative sources of paper manufacturing, such as from hemp fiber.
- d. Protecting old growth forests, a zero-cut policy banning industrial timber harvest on federal and state lands, a ban on all clear-cutting, and a reduction of road building on public lands.
- e. Raising grazing fees on public land to approximate fair market value, and significant grazing reforms. We support policies that favor small-scale ranchers over corporate operations (which are often used as tax write-offs, a practice that undermines family ranches).
- f. Preserving and extending wildlife habitat and biological diversity by creating and preserving large

continuous tracts of open space (complete ecosystems so as to permit healthy, self-managing wildlife populations to exist in a natural state). We oppose any selling of our National Parks, the commercial privatizing of public lands, and cutbacks or exploitation in our national wilderness areas.

g. Public involvement in decision making by active and well funded Resource Management Districts and Councils. This will aid a long term process on the use of federal and state trust lands, which are currently controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, National Park Service, and State Land Offices.

h. Banning indiscriminate wildlife "damage control practices" and abolishing the Animal Damage Control agency that has been renamed Wildlife Services.

i. Comprehensive baseline mapping of our nation's biodiversity resources.

j. Watershed planning to mitigate the impacts of urban development on our streams, rivers, and lakes.

Storm water management, soil erosion and sedimentation control, the establishment of vegetative buffers, and performance standards for development are appropriate measures in this area. Special attention must be given to the restoration and protection of riparian areas, which are critical habitats in healthy ecosystems.

H. WATER

We face a worldwide water crisis. According to the United Nations, more than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water. If current trends persist, as much as two-thirds of the world's population will be living with a serious scarcity of water by 2025. Multinational corporations recognize these trends and are moving fast to monopolize water supplies around the world. They argue that privatizing water is the best way to allocate this valuable resource, and they are scheming to have water commodified and sold on the open market ensuring that the allocation of water will be based on principles of scarcity and profit maximization.

We do not agree. With water sold to the highest bidder, the rich will have plenty while the poor will be left with little but polluted water, and short-term profits will preclude any concern for long term sustainability. We must stop this privatization before the infrastructures become so established that it will be impossible to avoid a disaster of epic proportions.

1. We need strong national and international laws promote conservation, reclaim polluted water systems, develop water-supply restrictions, ban toxic and pesticide dumping, control or ban corporate farming, and bring the rule of law to transnational corporations that pollute water systems. Mining and depleting the present underground aquifers must be severely restricted. We encourage the use of wetlands, improving the utilization of updated technologies in treating water for pharmaceuticals and preventing the introduction of nucleotides, mixed waste, nuclear waste and perchlorate into the surface and ground water. We encourage local municipal support for transitioning local economies away from industries, military bases and national laboratories that withdraw disproportionate amounts of water and pollute public waterways. We support the highest federal standards for the public water supply and federal funding support for water quality including for the local implementation of the highest possible standard regarding arsenic levels of surface and groundwater.

2. Greens oppose the privatization of water and demand that the U.S. government pass strong laws with effective enforcement mechanisms to assure a safe and adequate supply of water for its citizens and all life within its borders.

3. New forms of international, bioregional, and community organizations, watershed/ecosystem-based, must be created to monitor and equitably distribute the fresh water necessary for all life on our planet. Decisions about water must be based on an ecosystems approach. These decisions can be reached and considered appropriate when stakeholders themselves participate in the planning. Such planning processes, that are open and inclusive, need to be given the authority of their respective states to establish plans, using the science available, and the demonstrated values held by stakeholders. We support duly-elected regional water authority boards that represent stakeholders and have stakeholders represented on an advisory board.

Cycles of intense drought and flooding have demonstrated the need to reorient our priorities in order to achieve a truly sustainable water policy. Over-development and poor planning have resulted in increasing rain-impermeable areas, which compounds the severity and frequency of flooding and pollution in regions downstream. We must begin to understand and apply a holistic *watershed approach* to managing our water resources. The principle of bioregionalism (living within the means of a region's natural resources) should give direction to future water policies. We recognize the disproportional political influences of the timber, real estate and development industries, and work to support family farms, open space, and preservation of the old growth forests. We support the concept of economic growth being premised on available renewable water supplies. We uphold the water and land rights established under the Treaty of Guadelupe Hidalgo and the sovereign claims of Native American nations,

pueblos and tribes, as paramount to all other rights.

4. Conservation must be an essential part of any water policy. Water conservation also reduces energy consumption and pollution. Conservation needs to be utilized to reduce regional water consumptive use and not to redirect "saved" water for "new" users. The question of determining the public policy for conservation should include whether or not to make conservation measures mandatory, or voluntary and how revenues can be raised, through such measures as water severance taxes that are pro-rated based on amount of use to pay for water management infrastructure improvements. To conserve water, the Green Party proposes to:

a. Mandate water efficient appliances and fixtures be used in all new construction, and promote retrofitting of older buildings.

b. Promote native landscaping and other drought resistant/ climate-appropriate plants, in order to reduce the need for irrigation.

c. Promote drip irrigation systems where irrigation is necessary.

d. Eliminate storm water pollution of our water resources through education of our citizens, enforcement of our laws, and holistic watershed management. Promote storm water technologies that detain, treat, filtrate, and use storm waters near where it is collected.

e. Promote the appropriate reuse of the "gray" and "black" waters we produce. Use separation techniques, such as dual piping systems where pure water is used for drinking and washing, and reclaimed water is used for lawn watering and similar purposes.

f. Mandate pre-treatment of industrial wastes to eliminate the presence of metals, solvents, and other toxins in sewer water. This would reduce the cost of municipal treatment and encourage wastewater reuse.

g. Promote passive and natural systems, such as wetlands, for water and wastewater treatment where appropriate.

h. Eliminate water subsidies for corporate agribusiness. Higher water prices give agribusiness incentives to conserve.

i. Assist community organizations to monitor the use of local resources, and to oversee the enforcement of water quality regulations.

j. Preserve and restore the nation's natural water features (streams, rivers, lakes, bays, wetlands and groundwater aquifers) that are vital to achieving sustainable use of water resources.

5. Chemicals used in the fluoridation of America's public drinking water supplies are toxic waste by-products. The majority of these toxic wastes come from the phosphate fertilizer industry. Fluoride accumulates in the human body through ingestion and inhalation. A growing body of research suggests that fluoride may be associated with arthritis, hip fractures, bone cancer, kidney damage, infertility, and brain disorders. For these reasons, the Green Party opposes the fluoridation of drinking water.

6. The EPA recognizes factory farms as sources of water pollution under its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program. The Green Party proposes to:

a. Mandate treatment of toxic wastes from existing factory farms.

b. Impose a moratorium on any new factory farms.

I. AGRICULTURE

The development of machinery, technology and science has created a great distance between the production of food and the people who consume it. Food production is largely taken over by corporate agribusiness that puts profit over preservation of nature's resources and consumer health and safety.

We need a new regulatory and oversight agency with adjudicative powers mandated to inspect, and control all food production from seed to harvest to processing to labeling and distribution

We support the following:

1. Subsidies that encourage more small farms, family farms, producer and consumer cooperatives and community kitchens.

2. End the subsidies of agribusiness like Monsanto and Cargill.

3. Shift price supports to organically grown food rather than to chemically produced food grown with artificial fertilizers and pesticides.

4. Phase out the use of fertilizer made of sewage sludge or hazardous wastes, and irradiation in food production.

5. Animal farming must be practiced in ethically and environmentally sustainable ways. We support a rapid phase out of confined animal feeding operations and factory farms.

6. According to a U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization report, the livestock industry is "one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems at every scale." We call for the progressive elimination of federal and state-funded corporate subsidies to animal-based agricultural interests and the redirection of funds to plant-based practices that produce food for direct human consumption.

7. Mandatory, full-disclosure of food and fiber labeling. Labels must identify GMO (genetically modified organisms), use of irradiation and pesticides, and country of origin.

8. We support rotational grazing, cover-crop rotations, nitrogen-fixing systems and the replacement of fossil fuel by renewable energy as it is developed.

9. We oppose the forced distribution of GM seeds and growth of GM crops. The consequences of their use have not yet been adequately researched to prove their advantage over natural/diverse crops.

10. We support the seeding, growing, harvesting and marketing of Hemp. Hemp has no drug or medicinal use; it is easy to cultivate, fast growing and has many commercial uses - none of them harmful in any way.

11. We support true cost pricing in food production. Damage to health and the cost of pesticides, antibiotics, soil erosion from over cultivation, water pollution from drainage of factory farms and long distance travel to bring food to market, all comprise the true cost price of food production.. Locally grown food that is organic, non-factory and not genetically-modified gives us better food and costs less than highly processed food.

J. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ecological systems are interlocking and interdependent from the bottom of the food chain to the top. Nature's survival strategy allows adaptability which itself results in biological diversity.

Our stewardship requires that we not disrupt ecological systems to the degree that they cannot renew and maintain themselves. Our protection of this biological diversity requires that we not disrupt them to the degree that they cannot sustain themselves.

1. We oppose the U.S. demands to amend the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) for the benefit of the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries in regard to intellectual property and technology transfer rights.

2. We oppose monopolistic production of high-tech hybrid seeds that take away the farmers right to grow his own crop using his own seeds and replacing diversity with monoculture.

3. We oppose international trade agreements (NAFTA, GATT and the WTO in particular) that protect transnational, corporate control of the intellectual property of genetic material, hybrid seeds, and proprietary products.

K. FORESTRY AND LOGGING

Nature's green cover is essential to sustaining life on the planet. Part of our stewardship of Nature is protecting and sustaining the world's forests.

The cutting of rain forests for lumber and clearing forests for agriculture in many parts of the world threatens the climate and environmental health the planet. Multi-national corporations have little or no regard for their stewardship obligation.

We support the following:

1. Overhaul state and U.S. Forest Service rules to empower them to protect and use our forests to ensure their sustainability. Forests are a renewable resource that will not be renewable if not properly protected.

2. Prohibit logging roads, paid for by taxpayers, in forests that have been declared wilderness.

3. Ban any harvesting of Ancient Forests.

4. Tax the sale of raw wood, pulp, chips, carts and slabs abroad to restore the making of wood products here in America. And restore the jobs to make them.

5. Subsidize local watershed-based mills.

6. Use goats or sheep grazing to control undergrowth rather than herbicides.

7. Support indigenous forest people and protect their gathering practices for food and medicine.

8. Halt the destruction of rain forests in third world countries and forgive the debts of those countries.

9. Require labeling that identifies the nature of and origin of lumber products.

L. OCEAN PROTECTION

Mining the ocean of its many products without limit or care is destroying the huge resource to the world that the oceans are.

We support the following:

1. The U.S. government should sign the Laws of the Sea Treaty that establishes the global sharing of ocean resources.
2. The National Oceans Protection Act, which bans offshore drilling to a distance of 50 to 175 miles from U.S. shores.
3. Ban drift-net and long-line fishing, and ban the importation of fish and fish products caught by drift-nets.
4. Ban ocean transportation of nuclear and toxic wastes.
5. Map undersea toxic dump sites and investigate methods of rendering them harmless.
6. Phasing out U.S. factory trawlers and subsidize sustainable, community-based fishing.
7. Ban importation of coral products and the destruction of breakwaters.
8. Continue the ban on international whale trade, and all sea life threatened with extinction.

Chapter IV. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMICS

The Green Party stands for community-based economics and regional trade. The only model of true economic security is for a community and area to be largely self-sufficient in the production of its necessities.

We call for an economic system that is based on a combination of private businesses, decentralized democratic cooperatives, publicly owned enterprises, and alternative economic structures, all of which put human and ecological needs alongside profits to measure success, and are accountable to the communities in which they function.

Community-based economics constitutes an alternative to both corporate capitalism and state socialism. Recognition of limits is central. We support not "free trade," which places the desires of transnational corporations above national laws, but "fair trade," which protects communities, labor, and the environment.

A. ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

No economic system is sustainable unless it accommodates the ecosystems on which it depends. Our current system, based on the notion of perpetual economic expansion on a finite planet, is seriously flawed. We support environmental and social responsibility in all businesses, whether privately or publicly owned, with the goal of every act of production and commerce being sustainable and restorative.

Greens support a major redesign of commerce. Everything recycles; there is no waste. Consumables need to be designed to be thrown into a compost heap or eaten; and durable goods to be disassembled and reassembled.

B. THE STEADY-STATE ECONOMY

Economic growth, as gauged by increasing Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is a dangerous and anachronistic American goal. The most viable and sustainable alternative is a steady-state economy, which is a stable product of population and per capita consumption. It does not preclude economic development, but is a qualitative process not gagged by GDP growth.

Since the global ecosystem will not be able to support further economic growth, an equitable distribution of wealth among nations is required to maintain a global steady-state economy. Inequitable wealth distribution leads to international conflict and the economic instability of some nations, which threatens the economic sustainability of all.

Our habit of consumption and disposal of "waste" must be reoriented toward the formula of: Re-duce, re-use, re-cycle, repair. Our need for quantitative measurement over qualitative well-being pushes us toward the market value of consumer items rather than the human value of education, health, art and other civic contributions to our culture.

Technological advances are an avenue to the upgrading of the quality of our lives. However, protection and restoration of nature's resources along with human well-being must be the principle that controls these advances. The economy could be measured using the rate of infant mortality, life expectancy of people, educational opportunities offered by the state, family stability, environmental data, and health care for all. Terms, such as the Index of Social Health Indicators, the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare, and the Genuine Progress Indicator have been suggested.

C. ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

Equally important, we must constantly align our economic system with democratic principles. When the harmony and balance between these two is lost, we fall victim to a lopsided financial system that undermines democracy. In effect, equal opportunity for all citizens; equal leverage in the market place; equal access to the public

goods and services that our government provides; and equal access to legal protection or restitution when citizens are harmed by corporate advantage or exploitation, are necessary to establish economic democracy.

Thus it is the function and obligation of a democratic government to protect these rights by legislation and regulation of the rules of the game, informed by the public will.

D. LIVABLE INCOME

We call for a universal basic income (sometimes called a guaranteed income, negative income tax, citizen's income, or citizen dividend). It would go to every adult regardless of health, employment, or marital status, in order to minimize government bureaucracy and intrusiveness into people's lives; the amount would be sufficient so that anyone who is unemployed can afford basic food and shelter; and local governments would supplement it where the cost of living is above the norm.

Also, training and employment programs must become public priorities and those unable to find decent work in the private sector should have publicly funded opportunities. A clear living wage standard should serve as a foundation for trade between nations.

E. CITIZEN CONTROL OVER CORPORATIONS

Corporations have accrued legal and political privileges that have no basis in the Constitution of the United States. Under cover of these extra-constitutional privileges, corporations accumulate vast financial resources, which they use to control our political, economic, and cultural life. They achieve this control by influencing and dominating the electoral, legislative, and regulatory processes of government, using their wealth to lobby elected and appointed officials and to manage the information media, thus subverting the democratic rights of the people.

A corporation exists only when a state government grants it a charter. In the 19th century charters were granted for the promotion of the common good, not for the exclusive good of the corporation's owners or executives. Many corporations today have abdicated their responsibility to the common good and have become severe threats to the environment, to sustainable economies, and to democracy itself. Corporations must be brought under local democratic control and be made responsive to the needs of the communities where they make, manage, and sell their products and services.

Smaller is generally better. Smaller corporations are easier to oversee and hold accountable. A corporation should be no larger than is minimally needed to fulfill its mission. Corporations seek economies of scale that work to the people's detriment when applied to labor. Subdividing job responsibilities to the lowest common denominator creates more low-skill, low-responsibility, repetitive work which may help a company's bottom line and improve service standardization; but also reduces workers to replaceable commodities and strips them of their creativity and, thus, humanity. Such jobs do not serve communities. Smaller corporations tend to require a larger proportion of higher-skilled employees, which is a community benefit.

The Green Party intends to end corporate rule and create real democracy. Current law and judicial decisions have clothed corporations with more rights and freedoms than those of natural human persons, allowing corporations to illegally and immorally usurp political power. We must reclaim our sovereign right to define corporations, not just regulate them.

We propose the following:

1. Eliminate the fiction of corporate personhood, through judicial review, legislative action, or constitutional amendment.

2. Modify or eliminate other corporate claims to constitutional protection, in clauses such as the Interstate Commerce clause, the Contracts clause, and the Takings clause.

3. Prohibit any corporation from paying or contributing, or offering to pay or contribute, directly or indirectly, any money, property, or anything of value to any political party, committee, organization, or individual, for any political purpose whatsoever, or for the purpose of influencing legislation of any kind, or to promote or defeat the candidacy of any person for nomination, appointment, or election to any political office.

4. Rewrite state corporate codes to confirm that a corporation's responsibility is primarily to its workers and to the community where it operates, and that it is a public entity and must act in the public interest or have its charter revoked.

5. Strengthen corporate law to allow for the charter revocation or banishment from states of corporations which are deemed contrary to the public good, or which are convicted of repeated violations of law, including activities that would normally be considered criminal for any individual to conduct.

6. Encourage the partitioning of all corporations through legislated incentives to a size that supports the

highest standards of living among the local populace where the corporations operate, and encourage higher proportions of stakeholders to become shareholders by promoting worker buyouts of corporations. Provide agency powers to force such changes on any corporation that is found to be in willful or negligent violation of any public statute, policy, or law by any level of government. End corporate welfare such as tax havens, subsidies, and unmonitored government contracts for corporations run for profit.

7. Protect and strengthen the people's rights and control over their Commons, such as forests, water, air, radio frequencies, data formats, internet protocol, and electronic distribution, and to defend these public resources from corporate commodification.

F. TAXATION AND TRUE COST PRICING

In keeping with the Green principle of economic democracy, the first obligation of government is to design a tax system that is progressive not regressive; that allows wealth to accrue but does not exempt the wealthy from paying a proportionate share of the wealth accrued; that closes all loop holes and escape clauses for the very rich and corporations; that taxes incomes from their sources, not just salaries. Government regulation is the countervailing instrument that forestalls the constant drift of wealth and advantage to the few and prevents the rest of society from sliding into dependence on the financial advantage of those few.

Corporations focus on revenue growth at the expense of nearly everything else. Even breaking the law can be justified when the fine for being caught is less than the profit to be made. We must motivate the business community to act responsibly towards the people and the Earth. One way is true cost pricing and the other way is fair taxation.

1. True Cost Pricing (TCP) includes all costs into the price of a product, including hidden environmental and social costs. TCP implementation would include:

a. Environmental taxes such as the Carbon Tax. TCP as a basis for decisions on government projects and in Environmental Impact Statements.

b. Integrating TCP into domestic regulations and international trade agreements. Product labeling to inform consumers of the total cost.

c. Enforce laws that exist to prevent environmental and social damage.

d. Mitigate regressive effects on the poor.

2. Fair Taxation:

a. More progressive taxation; relieve the burden on those less able to pay.

b. Raise corporate taxes; the corporate share of taxes has fallen from 33% in the 1940s to 7%.

c. Tax breaks that promote sustainability and social responsibility.

d. Carbon Taxes on fossil fuels, ranging from coal (highest) to oil to natural gas. Their regressive nature would be offset by funding public transportation, weatherization, housing and education.

e. Enact the Tobin tax on financial transactions across borders.

f. Decrease taxes on labor as an incentive for employment.

g. Decrease the mortgage income tax deduction and re-establish the inheritance tax.

h. Revenue neutrality in tax changes; we are not proposing a bigger overall role for government, however certain activities are under-funded.

i. Shifting tax changes gradually.

j. Decentralized collection and use of taxes.

k. Taxes should be "transparent," that is, a simple system resistant to the machinations of special interests.

G. DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

The homogenization and globalization of our economy is more detrimental than beneficial to the principle of decentralization. The principle of decentralization calls for community-based economics that aim toward self-sufficiency first, with regional and foreign trade coming next. The backbone of community-based economics is small business, local banks that invest in local commerce, credit unions, cooperatives and family farms. In effect, economies of scale in which the wealth generated in a community feeds back to community prosperity and enrichment.

1. We support local production and local distribution wherever feasible. Government investment and tax relief should be available to help local business get started and become self-sustaining.

2. Local business must be protected from predatory pricing and undercutting by chain stores.

3. Financial incentives should assist cooperative enterprises such as consumer co-ops, credit unions, incubators, micro-loan funds, local currencies, and other institutions that help communities develop economic

projects.

4. Local governments need investigative and legal authority to compel businesses that wish to operate within their jurisdiction to abide by local laws.

5. Local governments need authority to approve or disapprove large economic projects case-by-case based on environmental impacts, local ownership, community reinvestment, wage levels, and working conditions.

6. Public land and buildings are public property that should be available for public purposes and should only be leased to private interests when the public declares the property has no public use.

7. Municipal and county governments should have the authority to set standards of human rights, health and safety and environmental protection that are higher than federal or state minimums.

8. The U.S. is a federal system of government in which too much authority has gravitated toward the center. Decentralization depends on frequent re-affirmation to restore political and economic authority on the local level. To this end, the federal government must treat as capital investment: investment in the commons; reconstruction of the infrastructure of communities; and repair and expansion of transportation lines, especially rail lines between cities;

H. SMALL BUSINESS AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED

We support initiatives for forming small enterprises. Over the past two decades, all new net job growth has come from the small business sector. Many good companies (referred to as "socially responsible business") can present new ways that business can help create a sustainable world, while surviving in a competitive business climate.

We oppose discriminatory practices, which act to deny small business access to credit. Current tax policies often act to unfairly penalize small business. Government should reduce wherever possible unnecessary restrictions, fees, and red tape. The Paper Simplification Act should be improved to respond to the needs of small businesses and the self-employed. Insurance costs need to be brought down, including the full deductibility of health insurance premiums paid by the self-employed. Home-based businesses need to be assisted, not hurt, by out-of-date zoning ordinances.

I. WORK AND JOB CREATION

There is plenty of work to do that does not jeopardize our future and that can enrich our communities. We must encourage the creation of these opportunities. Sustaining our workforce is an essential element in the building a steady state sustainable economy.

The Green Party proposes that we provide everyone a sustainable livelihood. The need is for security, not necessarily jobs. The artificial dichotomy between employment and unemployment has become a tool of social leverage for corporate exploiters, who use it to justify harmful industries. Many workers have been forced into work that is irrelevant, socially harmful, or environmentally unsound. We also promote job creation, since many people will need jobs for their security.

To transition to sustainable livelihood, we support: alternative, low-consumption communities; including a reinvigorated homesteading movement, shared housing, local currencies and barter systems, local non-profit development corporations; universal health care coverage; subsidizing consumer items that contribute to autonomy, such as renewable energy devices; and providing information about alternatives to jobs.

For creating jobs we propose: reducing taxes on labor; adopting a reduced-hour work week; subsidizing renewable energy, energy conservation and non-polluting, low impact transportation systems, and minimizing outsourcing to other countries.

We support the "Superfund For Workers" program designed by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union to provide income and benefits for workers displaced by ecological conversion and other forms of displacement. It must be clear that this is not funded by taxpayers but by the affected industries.

J. BANKING AND INSURANCE REFORM

Lending institutions are chartered by the state to serve the best interests of communities. The government should ensure that all have access to banking services, affordable loans, and small-business supporting capital. We oppose disinvestment practices, in which banks move money out of local communities, and support the extension of the Community Reinvestment Act, especially its provisions to provide information on affordable housing and small business loans, loans to minority-owned enterprises, and investments in community development projects. We support disclosure laws, anti-redlining laws, open criteria used in making lending decisions, and chartering local publicly-funded community development banks.

We call for insurance industry regulation to reduce the cost of insurance and to rein in bad faith insurance actions, including the widespread practices of legal avoidance of obligations and price fixing. Health insurance must be fully transportable from job to job. We support initiatives in secondary insurance markets to expand credit for development in inner cities, affordable housing, sustainable agriculture, and family farms.

K. PENSION REFORM

Working people - who collectively own over \$3 trillion in pension monies (in effect deferred wages) - should control how and where their funds are invested. Pension funds are gigantic capital pools that should, with government support, be used to meet community needs and directly benefit workers and their families.

Corporate-sponsored pension funds (the biggest category of funds) should be jointly controlled by management and workers, and draw a rate of return that justifies the investment.

We call for a secondary pension market that insures pension investments are made in socially beneficial programs; and that create new jobs through cooperative models of public-private partnerships.

L. ANTI-TRUST ENFORCEMENT

We support strong and effectively enforced anti-trust regulation to counteract the concentration of economic power. Unchecked market power leads to corruption, self-serving abuse of the democratic political process, price gouging, loss of productivity and jobs, reduced competitiveness, and an array of predatory market practices. Media mergers have been ineffectively challenged. Financial markets have become particularly vulnerable to "insider trading." Securities and Exchange Commission regulation of these markets has seriously fallen short.

The Federal Trade Commission must oversee mergers where the combined sales of the companies exceed \$1 billion. The Justice Department must redefine "relevant market share" in assessing mergers.

M. ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND DEFENSE CONVERSION

We should move our nation's research and development budget, both private and public, toward civilian use and away from military use. We support research initiatives in transportation, environmental monitoring, laser communications, high speed computers; new industrial applications; advanced communications, alternative energy, non-toxic battery technology; waste management and genetic mapping (with "Genome" project results in the public domain). We support space programs but advocate a reduction of human-staffed space flight due to the high cost and risk for human life.

A federal Technology Assessment Office should examine how technology fits in with life on Earth, in our neighborhoods and in our daily lives. We oppose patenting or copyrighting "life-forms," algorithms, DNA, colors or commonly-used words and phrases.

Advanced telecommunications technologies, such as fiber optics, broadband infrastructure, the Internet, and the World Wide Web hold great promise for education, decentralized economies, and local control of decision-making. Broadband Internet access should be open to bidding, not simply the current choice between cable or telephone company monopolies; should be a utility, like water and sewer; and should end the "digital divide" that keeps low-income folks from access.

Open-source software will achieve security in the face of threats brought by corporations and individual criminals. It should be illegal for a government agency to create and store information vital to its operations in a format it doesn't control. Governments should always consider storing information with open-source software, instead of only commercial vendors and software. We support protection of software (free or proprietary) by means of the copyright; but we strongly oppose granting of software patents.

Nanotechnology, the science of manipulating matter at the molecular level, is poised to provide a new industrial revolution with vast consequences; but it is being pursued largely outside of public debate, risking great harm and abuse. We call for a halt its development until the following conditions are met:

a. Open public debate about the implications and of democratic control mechanisms which would regulate its development.

b. Expanded research into the environmental and health consequences of exposure to nano-scale materials and development of technology and precautionary safety measures to contain and monitor them.

N. NATIONAL DEBT

Since 1980, our national debt has grown from approximately \$5 trillion to over \$9 trillion. An unmentioned portion of that debt comes from US Treasury "borrowing" from other branches of government, such as the Social

Security Trust Fund. Although national debt itself is not detrimental, the current level of debt is way out of proportion to government revenue and made worse by the over 20% of revenue that goes to pay interest on the debt. Servicing the debt has undermined the safety net and dangerously delayed the restoration of domestic infrastructure. As taxes on working people have been unfairly increased, many important public services have been sharply reduced. We must revitalize the public sector! We have blindly borrowed money to sustain our global "policeman of the world" posture and the military intrusions and wars that policy entails. Working people and small businesses are shouldering a disproportionate amount of the debt burden. We call for a stop to this transfer of wealth from the taxpayers to the wealthy.

The Green Party supports:

1. A comprehensive approach to debt reduction. Fund domestic needs first.
2. Cutting the Defense budget in half, ending no-bid contracts, ending support of a mercenary army, ending investment in new nuclear weapons, ending support of manned space exploration.
3. Increasing discretionary spending, especially protection of benefits for children, low-income, elderly, disabled, mentally ill and veterans benefits.
4. Rebuilding infrastructure including funds for public housing, public transportation, public water supply, environmental protection, energy conservation and renewable energy. A federal capital budget should be created.
5. Re-writing the tax code to regain balance in wealth distribution and to reverse corporate control of the government and the economy.
6. Invest in public education and in free universities to prepare our youth to take control of scientific and technological advances.
7. Entitlement reductions for those who can most afford them, by means testing, etc.

O. GREENING THE DOLLAR BY MONETARY REFORM

To reverse the privatization of control over the money issuing process of our monetary system; to reverse its resulting concentration of wealth and income; to place it within a more equitable public system of governmental checks and balances; and to end the regular recurrence of severe and disruptive banking crises (such as the current so called "Sub Prime" mortgage crisis); the Green Party moves to:

1. Nationalize the 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks, reconstituting them and the Federal Reserve Systems Washington Board of Governors under a new Monetary Control Board in charge of the U.S. Treasury's Comptroller of the Currency division, presently responsible for U.S. Government oversight of banking. All new money is to be created and initially put into circulation only by the U.S. Government. The private creation of money, or credit which substitutes for money, will cease and with it the reckless and fraudulent practices that have led to the present banking crisis.
2. The Monetary Control Board will redefine bank lending rules and procedures to end the privilege banks now have to create money when they extend their credit, by ending the fractional reserve system in an elegant, non disruptive manner. Banks will be encouraged to continue as profit making companies, extending loans of real money at interest, but no longer creating what passes for money by loaning their credit.
3. The new money that must be regularly added to the system as population and commerce grow will be created and spent into circulation by the U.S. Government on infrastructure, including the "human infrastructure" of Education and Health Care. This begins with the \$1.6 trillion the American Society of Civil Engineers warns us is needed to bring existing infrastructure to safe levels. Per capita guidelines will assure a fair distribution of such expenditures across the U.S.A., creating good jobs, re-invigorating local economies and re-funding government at all levels. As this money is paid out to various contractors, they in turn pay their suppliers and laborers who in turn pay for their living expenses and ultimately this money gets deposited into banks, which are then in a position to make loans of this money, according to the new regulations.