

*A personal message from
Dr John Barry and Kelly Andrews*

Co-Leaders of the Green Party



Dear Voter

There has never been a more urgent time to support your environment. From coastal pollution to poor recycling facilities and a crisis in planning, the list of challenges is endless.

Many of Northern Ireland's waters are under threat from pollution from poorly treated sewage:

- ✗ Sewage from the 60,000 people in Bangor is discharged untreated into Belfast lough
- ✗ Beaches along the north coast are littered with human waste, toilet paper and sanitary towels
- ✗ Lough Neagh is the most polluted large lake in Ireland

While others offer rhetoric and broken promises, the Greens throughout Europe have forced complacent politicians and parties to sit up and take note. Local politicians and Direct Misrule Ministers have brought our local record on environmental protection into disrepute.

A House of Commons Committee recently found the Department of the Environment's leadership role on waste and recycling 'lamentable' and warned that local councils face the prospect of paying out millions of pounds in fines for breaches of the European Landfill Directive.

Local politicians have also let us down. Unionist politicians broke 2001 election promises on an independent environmental protection agency and championed the safety record of the Sellafield Nuclear Reprocessing plant in the face of massive popular opposition. Minister Nesbitt became a virtual cheerleader for the disgraced British nuclear reprocessing plant. Ireland's nuclear watchdog has warned that the Sellafield Nuclear Plant

will need to be monitored for the next 150 years and will remain a significant risk for three to four decades on the island of Ireland. It also concluded that the impact of a terrorist attack on the plant is 'unquantifiable'.

There has never been a better time to vote for the Green Party. Across Europe Greens in government are delivering more recycling, more support for clean energy, and more jobs in environmentally friendly businesses.

While others offer rhetoric and broken promises, the Green Party delivers.

We are committed to:

- ✓ Meeting Northern Ireland's environmental commitments and avoiding massive fines from Europe
- ✓ A massive drive to make recycling easier
- ✓ Ending pollution along the North Coast
- ✓ The creation of an Independent Environmental Protection Agency
- ✓ Greater transparency and public accountability in the planning service
- ✓ Resistance to unfair water charges

**Green Politics - The Politics You Can Trust
It's time to move on - Together
Dr John Barry and Kelly Andrews.**

**Local Government Elections
Thursday 5th May 2005**

Vote for a Change

A clear choice for

- ✓ **locally produced, safe food**
- ✓ **a clean environment and coastline**
- ✓ **public control of the water service**
- ✓ **an independent environmental protection agency**
- ✓ **promoting jobs and small business**
- ✓ **regeneration in rural communities**
- ✓ **opposing racism and sectarianism**
- ✓ **rejecting paramilitary violence**

the Green Party

Delivering real progress in national and local government across Europe

... a breath of fresh air

SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESS - REFORM THE PLANNING SERVICE - SAFE STREETS

END COASTAL POLLUTION - PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY - GREEN LIVING SPACES



Your Green Party candidate will work for:

Root and branch reform of the planning service:

We must protect our landscapes and coastlines in the face of unprecedented pressure from developers and weak planning controls.

Tax on plastic bags:

Thanks to the efforts of Green Party supporters in the Republic of Ireland, a tax on plastic bags has virtually eliminated the use of plastic bags and generated lots of money for sound environmental schemes.

Racism and sectarianism – two faces of the same coin:

Greens across Europe have been at the forefront of campaigns to raise awareness of racism and protect minority communities. We are supporters of close cooperation between local communities and the police, through partnership.

Bringing Children closer to the environment:

Too many children are deprived of opportunities to enjoy safe streets and green spaces. It's time to plan and create communities with children in mind.

Recycling and waste reduction:

A House of Commons Committee has lent support to the Green Party's view that our recycling record is the worst in Europe – and little is being done to improve our performance. It's time to make recycling and waste minimisation a priority for business and government. The Green Party will accelerate efforts to trans-form public procurement to support recycling and green purchasing.

Independent Environmental Protection Agency:

We are the only region in these islands without an independent agency to bring polluters (including government departments) to account.

Public control of the water service:

Public outrage at proposals for a 'tap tax' and the prospect of privatisation is fully justified. Local people must not bear the burden of Government under-investment and waste. Any new system must be based on fairness and 'ability to pay'. We are also advocating an abolition of Crown Immunity which protects Government departments from prosecution for environmental neglect.

Environment at the heart of local government:

Reform of public administration is an unprecedented opportunity to place sustainable development at the heart of local government. It's time to put the environment and quality of life at the heart of all decision-making on development, the economy and local infrastructure.

Green opportunities – Green business:

Greens jobs and green businesses are worth billions of dollars. It's time for local councils, partnerships and economic development agencies to capture some of the job opportunities in renewable energy, eco-tourism, energy efficiency, organic products etc.

Rural Communities – Sustainable Livelihoods:

The key to the future for our rural communities is town and country solidarity and support for new economic activities. The Green Party is taking a lead in supporting energy crops, eco-tourism, local heritage, environmental initiatives, and training for rural entrepreneurs.

The Green Party – Party of Government

The Green Party is one of the biggest political movements contesting these elections.

We work closely with our elected colleagues in the Scottish Parliament, the London Assembly and in Dáil Eireann.

Green Party representatives make up one of the most influential groups in the European Parliament. We have also served in a number of European Governments, and currently serve in the Social Democrat/Die Grunen coalition Government in Germany.

Green Parties campaign across the UK and Europe for clean government and a clean environment. We work hard for local control of local communities and accountability at all levels of administration.

“Unlawful, irrational and an error of law”

Robert McCracken QC's description of recent Northern Ireland planning decisions

Find out more about the Green Party in your area:

Visit our website: www.greens-in.org

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Join the Green Party today and make a difference!