

WORK IN A GREEN ECONOMY

Looking at the kinds of work many people have to do, unemployment is far from being our only problem. Much work can be as soul destroying as unemployment itself. It's not enough merely to provide jobs. We need to provide **creative and purposeful work** for everyone.

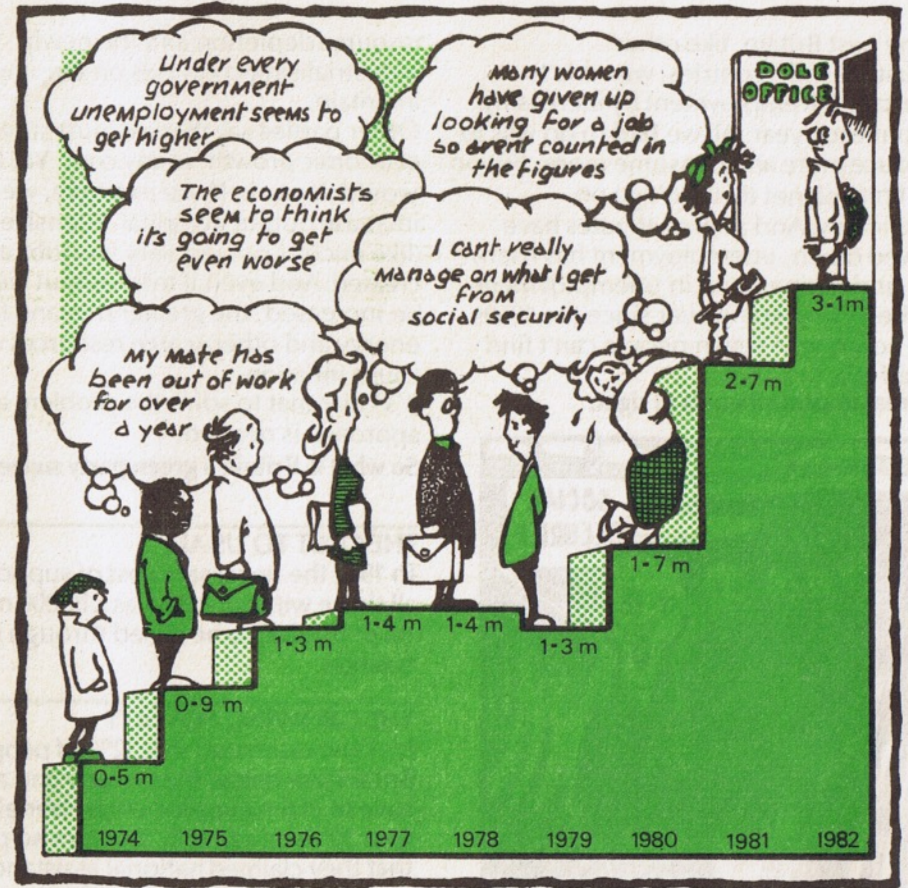
In the workplace there's more scope for employee participation, through shared ownership schemes and closer involvement in decision making. When democratically representing the concerns of workers, trade unions at a local level can take a responsible role, improving employees' welfare and ensuring that they are treated fairly.

In the future it's likely that people will become far less dependent on a single paid job for their income and security. There will be far more part-time working by both men and women and in general fewer hours will be worked. Automation may take over monotonous or dangerous jobs, enabling more time for leisure and also for working for oneself.

All too often skills in the home are not seen as 'real work', even when much of it reduces the need for earning (like growing food and DIY work) and makes people more self-reliant.

All in all it's a difficult task. These kinds of changes will only occur if people alter the way they see work and employment. And they'll have to be aided by government policies which take a whole new approach to our economic future. Only then will we see change

the Ecology Party



.... but what would the Ecology Party do about
UNEMPLOYMENT ?

**JOBS FOR THE FUTURE GOOD WORK LOCAL PRODUCTION FOR LOCAL NEEDS
SUPPORT THE ECOLOGY PARTY'S CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE**

Please send me: Membership details

Working For A future (£1) An informative book describing the basis of the Ecology Party's employment policy.

Jobs For Keeps (25p) A summary of the party's approach to employment.

TOTAL ENCLOSED (inc. 20p postage & packaging) £

Name

Send to Ecology Party, 36-38 Clapham Road, London SW9, or to Branch contact below:-



A CHALLENGE FROM BRITAIN'S GREENS

the Ecology Party

BREAKING WITH THE PAST

In the past Britain, like other industrialised countries, was able to maintain full employment by increasing output each year. All we had to do was to produce more and consume more. But on our finite planet this can't go on indefinitely. And as growth rates have slowed down, unemployment has risen. The underlying trend in unemployment has been worsening ever since the 1960s and now one in seven people can't find a paid job.

No real improvement is in sight.



The crisis is so bad that traditional methods of increasing employment are inadequate and largely irrelevant. An increase in public spending to boost up our economy and a few tax cuts scattered here and there won't solve our chronic problems.

But it's not right for the Government to sit back, blaming 'the world recession' or claiming that British workers are 'uncompetitive'. The real problem is that our governments haven't begun to understand **our changing world** and the effects of centralisation, automation,

resource depletion and the newly industrialising countries on employment in Britain.

Other parties say that we must strive for economic growth, at any cost. Yet this wouldn't work. If, for example, we increase output in capital-intensive sectors (like nuclear power) very few jobs are created. And even if total output were to be increased, the greater demand for energy and other scarce resources would cause inflation.

It's clear that to solve the problem a fresh approach is needed.

So what is Britain's green party suggesting?

THE COST TO US ALL

In 1982 the necessary cost of supporting all those without jobs was £15,000 million. All of this has to be raised through higher taxation.

THE GROWING POVERTY

It's now estimated that 12% of people in Britain live below the poverty line and have to claim supplementary benefit. Yet over 30 years ago only 3% were so poor that they claimed national assistance.

It's essential that we dramatically change our throwaway society and look again at the type of goods we make and how they are produced. An industrial system which involves irresponsibly ripping up the planet cannot be sustained indefinitely.

WORKING FOR A FUTURE

In an 'ecological' or 'green' economy small-scale industry would flourish, with production geared particularly towards meeting local needs – thereby reducing wasteful transportation and increasing consumer choice. Craft skills would be encouraged and products made to last. And much more work would be provided through developing small-scale farming, producing the food we need. The task is difficult. Unemployment can't be solved overnight. But our policies below at least would ensure that everyone could have work in the foreseeable future. Most important of all we're offering jobs which will last.

Jobs for the future.



Sharing the work: Share work more fairly by encouraging shorter hours and part-time jobs. Increase incentives to job splitting. Bring in a National Income/Tax Credit Scheme to replace tax allowances and welfare benefits, providing material security by guaranteeing a minimum income for all.

Tax improvements: End the present tax on jobs by phasing out employers' National Insurance contributions **completely**. Zero-rate VAT immediately on all repair work. Raise the threshold for small firms substantially. Tax the use of raw materials, not people.

Local jobs: Channel the community's savings directly into small local businesses by setting up Community Savings Banks. Attack centralisation by breaking up monopolies and offering adequate incentives to people starting up businesses, particularly co-operatives. Encourage local production for local needs.

Socially useful production: Direct public funds away from nuclear weapons and large capital-intensive schemes, which result in few jobs. Spend the money on essential housing repair work and on staffing improvements in hospitals and schools – our real needs.

Greater self-sufficiency: It's time to end the myth that Britain could ever compete with low wage nations. Reduce unnecessary international trade through selective tariffs, building up work in this country and helping to shield Britain from unstable world trends.

Recycling, re-use and repair: Making better use of our existing resources is usually more labour-intensive than making new products. Energy conservation work would offer far more jobs than building more nuclear power stations. Recycling schemes have great potential for employment. Greater incentives to repair and maintenance work could provide thousands of jobs.