

# THE ECOLOGY PARTY

## Constitution (1977)

1. Name
  - i The name shall be 'The Ecology Party'
  - ii Branches of the Party shall be called 'The (geographical) Ecology Party, but the name 'The Ecology Party' shall always be used for national electoral purposes
2. Object

To promote the aims of the Ecology Party
3. Aims
  - i To establish the system and policies of government on the Philosophical Basis of the Party as expressed in its manifesto
  - ii To that end to win seats at elections for local, national and European governments
  - iii To organise any activity which will publicise and further the first two Aims, particularly by gaining members
4. Membership
  - i Membership is open to any person over the age of fifteen (15) who subscribes to the Philosophical Basis of the Party as expressed in its Manifesto
  - ii Membership shall be of the national Party, but it shall be administered by local branches where they exist. A member may, however, choose not to be associated with a branch, in which case his/her membership shall be administered nationally
  - iii The subscription for membership shall be fixed annually by each branch separately, but it shall include a capitation fee determined by the Annual General Meeting and Annual Conference of the national Party for remittance to the funds administered by the National Executive Committee on behalf of the Party nationally
  - iv A membership card shall be issued as a receipt for the fee
  - v Only members who have paid the appropriate subscription may vote on the business of the Party or hold office in it
5. Organisation
  - i The United Kingdom shall be divided into twelve Areas, namely the nine Standard Regions of England - Northern, Yorkshire and Humberside, North West, West Midlands, East Midlands, East Anglia, Greater London, South East and South West - and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Each Area shall elect a member to the National Executive Committee
  - ii Each Area shall be itself a branch, or comprise branches corresponding to each Parliamentary constituency, or some grouping thereof, or, alternatively, corresponding to each London borough, Metropolitan District, County District, Scottish District, or some grouping thereof
  - iii Branches within an Area may co-operate with each other in any way they wish, and, in particular, shall determine the mode of selecting the Area's member of the National Executive Committee
  - iv The National Executive Committee shall be elected annually and shall comprise one member from each of the twelve Areas and all elected councillors and Members of Parliament of the Party ex officio (up to a maximum of six, beyond which a process of selection shall be devised) and three members elected by national ballot
  - v No member may be elected on the national ballot for more than three consecutive years

- vi The National Executive Committee shall elect a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other officers as its business may require
  - vii The National Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year, either at a Headquarters or in circuit around each of the Areas. Its meeting shall be open to all members of the Party as observers, and the Committee may invite any other person to attend as adviser
  - viii A quorum of the National Executive Committee shall comprise four Area members and three other members; an extraordinary meeting may be called by ten or more members
  - ix The business of the National Executive Committee shall be governed by Standing Orders. In particular, every effort shall be made to reach decisions by consensus, but in its absence matters will be decided by a simple majority vote. The Chairman shall have a casting vote, but not a regular vote
6. Policy making
- i The Party shall hold an Annual General Meeting and Conference each Autumn which shall be the supreme policy-making forum of the Party. Its procedure shall be governed by Standing Orders, which shall include provision for voting to be representative of the Party at large
  - ii Policies and operational decisions shall be expressed and promulgated in the form of manifestos, policy documents, resolutions and action plans, and shall not be inconsistent with the Philosophical Basis of the Party as expressed in its Manifesto, unless this be changed by the vote of two thirds of members voting at an Annual General Meeting and Conference
  - iii It shall be the duty of the National Executive Committee to implement the decisions of the Annual General Meeting and Conference, and to act on all matters as may be necessary in the spirit of these decisions
  - iv The general practice of the Party shall be to encourage the greatest possible autonomy for each branch in its organisation and in its pursuit of the Aims of the Party, but the Annual General Meeting and Conference, or a two thirds majority of branches at any time, may decide to remit to the National Executive Committee for the time being final and binding powers in defined areas of policy, campaign strategy or administration. These powers shall lapse if not specifically renewed at an Annual General Meeting and Conference
7. Revision of the Constitution
- The Constitution may be revised by a two thirds majority of members voting at an Annual General Meeting and Conference

NOTE: This Constitution was adopted at the Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Birmingham on 24 and 25 September 1977. The 1977/78 National Executive Committee (known as the 'interim' National Executive Committee) was elected by those present in the spirit of the new Constitution, and was empowered to use its discretion in implementing it in stages during the year