



Conferences

Engaging the Membership

A membership organisation requires some form of Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which officers can report back to the members, agree accounts, and be held to account.

For a political party the AGM is often held as part of a Conference giving the membership some say over the strategy of the party.

When PEOPLE was founded in 1973 the founders were explicitly NOT trying to create a new political party, they were trying to create a 'movement' to fight elections. Lesley Whittaker discovered that you did not have to be a formal political party to contest elections with a common group name so they decided to not create a 'party'

Although they initially rejected a formal constitution or an AGM, they did see the need for holding conferences at which the membership could engage with the running of the party.

The first official conference of the political green movement in the UK was held by PEOPLE in June 1974 in Coventry.

In November 1975 the Ecology Party National Executive Committee (NEC) decreed that "*a formal AGM to be held at each annual conference.*" thus effectively formally introducing annual conferences.



Conference 1978

The 1979 Conference held in September decided that a second annual conference primarily to discuss policy matters would be introduced in the Spring. Thus, the pattern of two conferences each year was established - a spring conference to focus on policy and an autumn conference to be the AGM and hold elections for officers as well as debating and approving policy.

The Green 2000 Constitution in 1991 made provision for delegate conferences rather than all paid up members being entitled to attend and vote. This was overturned in 1999 and once again any member could turn up and vote.

Conference Locations 1973 to 2018

Year	Spring/Only	Notes	Autumn AGM	Notes
1972		In September The Ecologist organised a Movement for Survival conference in London. The aim was to recruit organisations to sign up to Movement but in the event more individuals than organisations attended.		
1973		PEOPLE attempted to organise a "Jigsaw" conference in Birmingham in June, again attempting to interest organisations in joining PEOPLE as associates to build a political movement. The conference was cancelled when advance bookings fell far short of expectations.		
1974	Coventry (June)	PEOPLE's first conference/AGM between the elections. 70 attended. First Manifesto ratified for use in October		
1975	Coventry (June)	Name change to Ecology Party agreed. First MfSS ratified. J Tyler joins NEC		
1976	Sheffield (Sept) Cross Hill	Only 27 attendees - the party at a low ebb. NEC instructed to focus on developing regional and local structures with the aim of replacing themselves by a national assembly of delegates. Steve Lambert joins NEC, Whittakers drop out.		
1977	Birmingham (Sept) University House	50 paid-up members attended. New Constitution ratified, founders stepping aside. Conference agreed that the Party must appear and act nationally (reversing the previous conference view). J.Porrirt & D.Flemming join NEC, Goldsmith drops out.		
1978	Birmingham (Sept) University House	101 attendees		also in Jan the first regional conference held by SW Region in Exeter, 40+ attended.
1979	Stoke (Sept) Keele University	200+ attended. London office agreed but elected leader rejected by 95-92 votes (2/3rds needed). Petra Kelly guest speaker.		
1980	Manchester (April) University	Policy Conference, also genesis of the Gatherings	Cardiff	
1981	???		???	
1982	Bridlington		Bridlington	
1983	Malvern		???	
1984	Southport		Southport	
1985	Dover	combined with Euro Green Congress	Dover	Name change to Green Party
1986	Malvern		???	
1987	Newcastle		Birmingham Aston Uni.	
1988	???		???	
1989	London Porchester Hall		Wolverhampton Civic Hall	
1990	???	(also Coventry EGM on constitutional issues)	Wolverhampton Civic Hall	
1991	Bridlington Spa Hall		Wolverhampton Civic Hall	adopted Green 2000 constitution
1992	Bridlington Spa Hall		Wolverhampton Civic Centre	
1993	Wolverhampton Civic Centre		Hastings White Rock Theatre	GPRC strategy doc approved
1994	Southport The Floral Hall		Hastings White Rock Theatre	
1995	Weston-super-mare Winter Gardens		Southport The Floral Hall	
1996	Dover Town Hall		Hastings White Rock Theatre	
1997	Scarborough The Spa Complex		Hastings White Rock Theatre	
1998	Scarborough The Spa Complex		Weston-super-mare The Winter Gardens	

1999	London Conway Hall		Southport The Floral Hall	
2000	Scarborough The Spa Complex		Weston-super-mare The Winter Gardens	
2001	Chesterfield The Assembly Rooms		Salisbury Salisbury Arts Centre	
2002	Scarborough The Spa Complex		Lancaster St Martins College	
2003	Llandrindod Wells The Pavillion		Lancaster St Martins College	
2004	Hove Town Hall		Weston-super-mare The Winter Gardens	
2005	Chesterfield The Winding Wheel		Lancaster St Martins College	
2006	Scarborough The Spa Complex		Hove Town Hall	The leader debate part 1
2007	Swansea Brangwyn Hall	The great Leader debate -> referendum agreed. Support Swansea Lagoon not Severn Barrage. Seize the Day play.	Liverpool Liverpool Hope Uni	
2008	Reading The Town Hall		London SOAS	First Leader Election result. Ken Livingstone appears on a panel. Green New Deal introduced & adopted.
2009	Blackpool The Winter Gardens	Cavernous venue but bargain basement hire charge!	Hove Town Hall	
2010	London The Arts Depot, Finchley		Birmingham Conservatoire	
2011	Cardiff The Angel Hotel		Sheffield Hallam University	
2012	Liverpool The Adelphi Hotel	Venue reminiscent of "The Shining"	Bristol Council House	
2013	Nottingham East Midlands Conf.Centre	40th Birthday Party. Founder present. There was cake!	Brighton Hilton Metropole	Venue too expensive for evening hire so food and entertainments elsewhere
2014	Liverpool St.George's Hall	Local fracking activists attend	Birmingham Aston University	Lost in a maze of twisty little passages and the marquee springs a leak.
2015	Liverpool ACC	Over 2000 attended.	Bournemouth International Centre	Post-election blues - low attendance=financial loss but weather & marquee on beach was good.
2016	Harrogate International Centre	Criticised as "middle class" venue, but the right size	Birmingham University of B'ham	Conference split between sites on campus
2017	Liverpool ACC	Joint congress with Global Greens and European Green Party. The Fab Beatles play.	Harrogate International Centre	GPEW awards ceremony
2018	Bournemouth International Centre	Snowed out but soldiered on	Bristol City Hall	BE HERE NOW!



Weaving a Green Web



Never West of Weston
Only once North of Lancaster
Never in East Anglia

