

Green policies are a breath of fresh air: Party commits to a Clean Air Act on Clean Air Day

To mark Clean Air Day the Green Party has committed to introducing a Clean Air Act as part of their manifesto commitments, which would set new air quality standards for the UK and enshrine the right to breathe clean air in law.

Greens point to a host of transport policies that would help rid cities of toxic air, including:

- Investing £2.5 billion a year on new cycleways and footpaths
- Adopting Travel England's aim for 50% of trips in towns and cities to be walked, wheeled or cycled
- Empowering local authorities to provide the bus services communities need and ensuring they have the funding to do so
- Ending the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2027 and their use entirely by 2035, together with an extensive vehicle scrappage scheme to help people make the switch to cleaner vehicles.

Co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"Toxic air affects many communities in towns and cities across the country. It's high time we cleaned up our act. That's why Green MPs will take our manifesto commitment to a Clean Air Act and push the next Labour government to give everyone the legal right to breathe clean air.

"Green policies are a breath of fresh air. We propose a series of sensible and achievable policies.

"Creating safe routes for walking, wheeling and cycling will encourage many more people to use active travel, especially children, so that these become healthy lifetime habits.

"Frequent, reliable, affordable and electrified buses also have a huge role to play in offering a viable alternative to the car. Not only will this clean up our air, it will be good for the economy. Every £1 invested in bus services is estimated to bring an economic return of £4.50. Greens also want to see free bus travel for under-18s.

"We also need to tackle the main cause of the air pollution in our towns and cities. Which is why Greens want to see an end to the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2027 and the introduction of an extensive vehicle scrappage scheme to help people make the switch to cleaner vehicles."

In the previous parliament Green MP Caroline Lucas and Green peer Jenny Jones

worked tirelessly to push a Clean Air Bill, also known as Ella's Law, which received strong cross-party support [3].

Denyer concluded:

“Air pollution is linked to 43,000 deaths per year in the UK. The World Health Organization recognises it's the largest environmental threat to our health. On Clean Air Day we owe it to the many communities blighted by toxic air to fix this problem.

“Greens offer these communities real hope and real change and Green MPs will work hard for a Clean Air Act in the next parliament.”

Notes

1. <https://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day>
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jun/14/children-nea-r-amsterdam-airport-inhalers-study>
3. <https://ellaslaw.uk/2022/12/13/leading-mps-sign-early-day-motion-in-support-of-ellas-law/>

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[Green Party Calls for action to end HIV transmissions by 2030](#)

The Green Party is calling for the next government to save money and save lives by:

- Making the HIV prevention pill (“PrEP”) available beyond specialist sexual health services, such as in GP services and pharmacies
- Continuing successful HIV testing programmes in A&E hospitals in areas of high HIV prevalence including London, Manchester, Blackpool and Brighton
- Launching a scheme to find and help the 15,000 people diagnosed with HIV who have lost contact with health services.
- Establishing a free postal STI testing service, as is available in Wales

The Green Party has today announced the policies needed to end new HIV transmissions by 2030, warning that the government's HIV Action Plan for England expires next year.

Figures compiled by the Terrence Higgins Trust show a dire situation for sexual health services:

- Sexual health clinics have had a 29% real terms cut during the Conservative government;
- 60% of people trying to get a prescription for the HIV prevention pill (PrEP) have to wait more than 12 weeks, and some people have acquired HIV while waiting;
- Some people resort to buying PrEP online.

The Green Party is calling for expanding access to the PrEP pill, so that it can be obtained via GPs and pharmacies, will dramatically reduce HIV transmissions while reducing demand on overstretched specialist sexual health services. In Brighton, a pilot scheme has brought the waiting list down to zero and freed up 1,000 hours of capacity at sexual health services, by allowing people to reorder their PrEP prescriptions using an app.

Routine HIV testing has been highly effective: detecting thousands of undiagnosed HIV cases and saving almost £4 for every £1 spent. NHS England estimated that £2.2 million spent on this scheme saved £8 million in care costs. But funding is uncertain for this scheme, and must be renewed next year.

Thousands of people with HIV have dropped out of treatment and are “lost” to the health system, with the UKHSA estimating almost 15,000 people were “lost to care” in 2022. The Terrence Higgins Trust and Elton John Aids Foundation estimate that an investment of £7 million over two years could find these people and help them restart treatment, saving significant lifetime care costs and onward transmissions of HIV.

Making free postal STI and HIV testing available across England would help increase rates of diagnosis by allowing people to test at home without needing to travel to a clinic. Postal STI testing is already universally available in Wales, but is a postcode lottery in England.

Carla Denyer, Co-Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, said:

“There’s a clear pathway towards ending HIV transmissions in the next Parliament. The simple, proven policies in our manifesto will save the NHS millions of pounds, but most importantly, they will save lives. The Green Party manifesto adopts the many sensible policies proposed by the Terrence Higgins Trust, and I am grateful for all their work to urgently improve the nation’s sexual health.”

Sian Berry, former Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, said:

“The government’s HIV Action Plan for England has nearly expired. Green MPs will campaign to end HIV transmissions in this five year Parliament, so that we can end HIV for future generations. The Green Party is calling on the next Government to end new cases of HIV by 2030 by increasing testing and making it easier for people to get their hands on the highly effective HIV prevention pill. These simple policies will save lives.”

Green Party Health and Social Care Spokesperson and GP, Pallavi Devulapalli, added,

“Zero HIV transmissions is within our grasp. We have the medical knowledge to make the UK a world leader and to be the first country to end all HIV transmissions. All we need is for the political will and upfront financial backing to make it happen. The Green Party has set out a series of proposals for how we can properly fund initiatives like this that will not only save lives, but also over the long-term it will also save the NHS money as well.”

END

Notes to Editor:

[1] The Green Party manifesto carries a commitment to “work towards no more HIV transmissions by 2030, advocating for a joined-up approach using proven actions, including access to the HIV prevention pill online, in pharmacies and from GP services. We will renew successful optout HIV testing programmes in A&Es in all areas with a high prevalence of HIV” ([Page 4](#))

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[Labour are “Fiddling while our NHS burns” warn Greens](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

Responding to [Labour’s announcement](#) that they plan to use NHS money to buy care home beds[1], Green Party Co-Leader, Carla Denyer, said,

“Labour is fiddling while our NHS burns.

“This rehashed plan barely touches the edges of the scale of investment needed.

“They’re correct to say that we need proper investment in social care to relieve the pressure on the NHS.

“But they are offering no honest solution to how they would tax people more to pay for the changes needed.

“Simply expecting NHS Trusts to cough up more money when budgets are already overstretched isn’t a solution.”

She continued,

“Years of underfunding have left over 400,000 people awaiting care and created 150,000 staff vacancies.

“Our Green social care investment plan of £20bn will restore dignity by

guaranteeing everyone free personal care in their home, massively reducing the number of people ending up in hospital in the first place.

Only the Greens are being honest about the huge investment needed to fix fourteen years of Conservative failure.”

19 June 2024 / 19 June 2024 by [Green Party](#)

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[Green Party pulls back curtain to reveal offer for arts and culture](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

The Green Party has today pledged an extra £5bn over five years for local government spending to keep local museums, theatres, music venues, libraries and art galleries open and thriving.

The Party says its Green MPs will push for VAT to be axed on local theatre and cultural events and for hospitality. Greens are also calling for musicians to have access to visa-free travel to the EU.

Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

“Our cultural and heritage venues have been victim to savage government cuts over the years. That’s why the Greens are pulling back the curtain to reveal our offer for arts, heritage and culture. We want to give local authorities a £5bn boost over 5 years to help keep local museums, theatres, small music venues, libraries and art galleries open and thriving.

“Arts, heritage and culture are important to many people’s enjoyment of life and help boost mental health and wellbeing. These sectors also make a valuable contribution to the UK economy.

“Green MPs will also push for cultural events – everything from theatre and museum tickets to gigs in local pubs – to be exempt from paying VAT. We also want to see hospitality served up VAT free. We believe this will give these sectors a much-needed further boost.

“Finally, since Brexit, British musicians have faced costly bills to obtain visas if they wish to play in some EU countries. Greens want visa free travel to the EU for musicians and will press the next government to negotiate an

arrangement for this at the earliest possible opportunity.”

18 June 2024 / 17 June 2024 by [Paul Corry](#)

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[Scrap to the two-child benefit cap urge Greens](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

The IFS have today warned that 250,000 children will be hit by the two-child benefit cap next year, rising to an extra half a million by 2029. Green Party Co-Leader, Adrian Ramsay, responded saying,

“Greens have unequivocally pledged to scrap the two-child benefit cap in our fully costed manifesto.

“Today I am urging the Labour Party to show real strength and conviction and join us in making this pledge.

“This one decision could lift 250,000 children out of poverty.

“The power to do this will be in Labour’s hands.

“But I want to be very clear.

“If they fail to do this, elected Green MPs will not let this rest.

“We will push them every day of the next parliament demanding that they do what is right.

“That is what a Green vote will enable – voices in parliament to keep Labour honest on these important issues.”

17 June 2024 / 17 June 2024 by [Green Party](#)

[Press Releases](#)

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