

Labour's eco policies a "bitter disappointment" say Greens

2. [Press Releases](#)

Responding to the [ranking of different party manifestos released today](#) by Britain's leading environmental groups, Green Party Co-Leader, Carla Denyer said,

"These rankings show what most of us already know.

"Greens are the party that has the strongest fully costed policies for the environment.

"If you want green, then you need to vote Green.

"Labour's green policies are bitterly disappointing, even in the context of the dire Conservative offering.

"Every single Green vote on 4th July will push the Labour government to be bolder and better on important issues – no more so than on the environment."

She continued,

"We've seen the Labour party U-turn on their once-flagship green policy of £28bn climate investment.

"And that's before they even get into government.

"The environmental NGOs are clear that Labour's lack of green funding hamstrings their offering.

"Without being honest about how they'll fund their climate policies, the Labour manifesto is all talk and no trousers.

"A group of Green MPs will work tirelessly in Westminster to defend against any further Labour U-turns, keep Labour honest, and make the case to invest in our future."

An overview of the analysis is available on the websites of [Friends of the Earth](#) and [Greenpeace UK](#).

24 June 2024 / 21 June 2024 by [Green Party](#)

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Only Greens have plan to give nature a voice

2. Press Releases

Responding to today's [Restore Nature Now march](#) in London, co-leader of the Green Party Carla Denyer said:

"The march in London today, calling on politicians to prioritise nature and climate, gets our full backing. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Action is essential and needed urgently.

"People from all over the country want to give a voice to nature in this election and Greens are the only party with a plan to fully do that. Green MPs will make it a priority to push for a new Rights of Nature Act.

"Greens are also the only party calling for water companies to be taken back into public ownership so we can end both the scandal of sewage pouring into our rivers and seas and stop billions in profits leaking out to shareholders and fat cat salaries.

"We also want to triple support to farmers over the next parliament so they can make the transition to nature-friendly farming and produce healthy affordable food.

"There would be no new oil and gas licenses under the Greens, and we want to introduce a carbon tax to make polluters pay and provide money to invest in the green transition. Greens have a plan for the UK achieve net zero by 2040 at the very latest."

Notes

See our manifesto commitments on Bringing Nature Back to Life: <https://greenparty.org.uk/about/our-manifesto/bringing-nature-back-to-life/>

Full manifesto: <https://greenparty.org.uk/about/our-manifesto/2024-manifesto-downloads/>

22 June 2024 / 22 June 2024 by [Andrew Bell](#)

[Press Releases](#)

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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-near-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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[Second phase of Ulster Canal project officially opened](#)

Junior Minister Pam Cameron and Infrastructure Minister John O’Dowd attended the official opening of Phase 2 of the Ulster Canal project in Monaghan today.