

# The Green Standard

## Tests for environmental leadership

**As leaders of environmental organisations with over five million supporters, we welcome the fact that the environment has risen up the political agenda. This reflects an increasingly strong public interest in matters ranging from local recycling to international climate change. Politicians ignore this interest at their peril. Voters have made it clear that they want effective action to tackle environmental problems. The prosperity, cohesion and wellbeing of our society depend on it.**

In our view, **no mainstream political party** in the UK has yet developed an approach to environmental issues that matches the breadth or the **urgency** of the crisis that society faces.

The responsibility for developing **new ways to live and prosper** – ways that do no harm to the environment – is shared by government at all levels, and by business, civil society groups and individuals. We recognise our own responsibilities, and will do more to mobilise the public into playing their full part. **But only national government can lead** a collective effort on the scale necessary to bring about a sustainable lifestyle for all.

This is a subject that can be fired in the first place by political debate and **action**. That is why **we have come together** to highlight the primary challenges that any political party must grasp if it is to be credible on environmental issues.

Our agenda begins with climate change. This is the **most pressing threat** facing the global community, with potentially devastating impacts on our economies, societies and the natural world. And the protection and enhancement of our countryside and wildlife is also of prime importance, not least because they are deeply valued by society and embedded in our culture and values.

We will work together and separately to develop and promote effective responses to six principal challenges that lie ahead, and we will **publish regular assessments** of how each political party is approaching them. We look forward to a robust public debate and **we hope that all parties will embrace and deliver on these challenges.**



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England



**Friends of  
the Earth**



**GREENPEACE**



THE NATIONAL TRUST



WOODLAND  
TRUST



## Tests for environmental leadership

### 1 UK action on climate change

Achieve reductions in UK carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of at least 3% year on year, en route to a low-carbon economy based on energy efficiency, renewable sources of energy and decentralised energy.

### 2 International action on climate change

Provide international leadership to restrict global temperature rises to 2°C and ensure worldwide emissions are falling by 2015.

### 3 Green living

Make it cheaper and easier for individuals to reduce their environmental impact through tax, regulation, information and other powers of government.

### 4 Natural environment

Protect and enhance the beauty, accessibility and wildlife of the environment in our countryside, towns and seas through incentives, regulation, investment and other powers of government.

### 5 Planning

Value, support and develop our planning system as a democratic tool for protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment of our countryside and towns.

### 6 Environmental tax and subsidies

Green the tax system by increasing the amount of revenue from taxes that reduce environmental damage, and eliminate environmentally perverse subsidies.

**For more information contact**

[greenstandard@green-alliance.org.uk](mailto:greenstandard@green-alliance.org.uk)  
[www.green-alliance.org.uk](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk)