

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Greens are pro-science. Our policies on everything from climate change to eradicating bovine TB are based on the best possible scientific evidence. But just because science allows us to do something, that does not mean that we should do it. We oppose nuclear power and the release of genetically modified crops into the environment. We need to balance our scientific and technological abilities against the social, economic and ethical consequences of using them – including their impact on future generations and other species.

Greens will support the development of technologies that have strong social, economic and environmental benefits. That is why we support investment in energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy, which will be vital in helping to secure improvements in people's quality of life and to combating climate change.

We would:

- Ensure that *adequate government funding* goes to research on major *environmental* issues such as climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, and less is spent on military research.
- Ensure that basic research is adequately funded and is not controlled by large corporations, and gradually increase *public spending* on scientific research from 0.5% to 1.0% of GDP over the next ten years.
- Ensure that scientific research is conducted *ethically*, with regard in particular to human and animal welfare.
- *Publish freely* the results of all publicly funded research.
- Prevent the *patenting* of genes and living organisms.

### What scientists say

So... the Green Party... a party of sentimental tree-huggers? Yes, we do love trees, and many of us take great moral and spiritual solace from the natural world. But we are also a party of science, and we listen to scientists. Here is what the Royal Society, the UK's pre-eminent scientific body, said in its 2012 *People and the Planet* report (pp. 7–8):

*'First, the world's 1.3 billion poorest people need to be raised out of extreme poverty. This is critical to reducing global inequality, and to ensuring the wellbeing of all people...*

*Second, in the most developed and the emerging economies unsustainable consumption must be urgently reduced. This will entail scaling back or radical transformation of damaging material consumption and emissions and the adoption of sustainable technologies, and is critical to ensuring a sustainable future for all...*

*Third, global population growth needs to be slowed and stabilised, but this should by no means be coercive.'*

We agree. In the General Election you can vote for the only real party of science or for the parties of neo-liberal economic ideology, which believe in the illusion that we can continue to expand forever on a finite planet.

## WASTE AND RECYCLING

Reducing the amount of waste we produce and being more careful about how we dispose of it has benefits for our planet, our economy and society as a whole. We want to move towards a jobs-rich circular economy with as much waste minimisation as possible.

We would:

- *Reduce* what we use, *reuse* it when we have finished with it and *recycle* as a last resort.
- Provide the *framework* and the infrastructure to help people make more positive choices.
- Use taxation and regulation to ensure that products and packaging are designed with a view to what happens to them when they stop being useful and packaging reduced. We want *waste designed out* and *fixing things* – making them last – *designed in*.
- Follow Scotland in banning *waste food* and other organic material being sent to *landfill*.
- Increase national *spending* on recycling and waste disposal by about 50%, an extra £4 billion a year, so that we can do away with damaging incineration and landfill.
- Aim to *recycle 70% of domestic waste* by 2020 as a move towards a zero-waste system.