

CHAPTER 2

A DECENT LIVELIHOOD: A ONE-PLANET ECONOMY

Imagine having a secure, fulfilling and decently paid job, knowing that you are working to live and not living to work. Imagine coming home to an affordable flat or house, and being valued for your contribution and character, not for how much you earn. Imagine knowing that you and your friends are part of an economy that works with the planet rather than against it. Imagine food banks going out of business. Imagine the end of poverty and deprivation. The key to all this is to put the economy at the service of people and planet rather than the other way round. That's what the Green Party will do.

WHAT IS THE ECONOMY FOR?

The main issue for many at this election is the economy. Many people have very practical worries:

- Is my job secure?
- Will our family have enough this month to pay the bills and put food on the table?
- Can we keep paying the mortgage or the rent?
- Will we have to continue to work unreasonably long or unpredictable hours?
- Is my pay fair compared with others?
- Will my benefits be cut?
- Will I ever get a pension?
- Will I ever get a job with a future?
- Will I ever pay off my student loan?
- Will I ever find a decent place to live?
- Will the economy provide a decent livelihood long into the future for our children and grandchildren?

Our solutions to these worries are very different from the other parties. The Coalition parties and Labour agree on one thing about the economy: it's got to grow because growth is the answer to everything. If the costs include ruining our climate and countryside by exploiting shale gas, tolerating massive inequality and the insecurity of zero-hours contracts or massive underemployment – then too bad.

We don't agree with the growth objective. Our economic policy promotes a fair, just and more equal society while recognising that we live on a finite planet.

It's easy to forget the fact that everything we make and everything we buy comes from the Earth. And we have only one of them.