



Transport

Access for all without harming the Earth

The way our society is currently organised means that many of our basic needs, such as work, school, leisure and shopping, are further away than they should be.

This is not just a question of transport, but also of planning. Facilities should be accessible to all who need them without excessive travel. We need to support local businesses and more facilities should be provided locally, not in distant developments using up green fields outside communities.

More and longer journeys encourage excessive use of cars, lorries and aeroplanes. They produce many of the worst pollutants. These are major causes of global warming and bad for human health.

Walking and cycling, which should be a healthy and enjoyable experience, are now often too dangerous because of our polluted and congested streets.

Public transport has been progressively run down. Chronic under-investment, deregulation of bus services, the closure of many rail lines and then the privatisation of the network, have all played a part in this.

The Green Party is committed to access for all, not just mobility for some. That means:

- ▶ providing more facilities locally, reducing the need to travel.
- ▶ helping people use electronic communications to access facilities and employment from home.
- ▶ providing a truly integrated transport system which will enable people to travel where they need.
- ▶ providing a sustainable transport policy that will enable people to travel in a way that does not endanger the well-being of others or the environment, and brings communities together rather than dividing them.

How can I travel more sustainably? I just don't have the time.

Three quarters of journeys made are still under 5 miles, and half under two miles. Most local journeys, especially in cities and towns, can be made more quickly by bike than car, while a train can take you further in less time than driving if it is properly integrated with other public transport and with routes for walking and cycling.

Trains and buses are so expensive, unreliable and inconvenient for my journeys.

We want an integrated transport system to ensure there is the reliable and convenient service that we all need. We would bring the rail network back into public ownership and regulate bus companies. Fares should be cheaper, including subsidies where necessary, to encourage car users to switch to public transport.

What about walking and cycling? I don't feel safe on the roads these days.

We would enforce slower speeds on the roads to make both even safer, and build more cycle routes and pedestrian areas.

But don't we need more roads, especially by-passes, to reduce congestion and create jobs?

No, more roads simply encourage

people to drive further. They move and extend the problem rather than solving it. New roads can take business and jobs away to more distant facilities, leaving a degraded town centre with more unemployment. We would encourage small local firms and transfer freight onto rail and waterways from roads, where it causes damage and congestion.

What about flying? Those cheap flights mean I can go anywhere now.

Aeroplanes cause more damage to the environment than any other form of transport, because the upper atmosphere is much more sensitive to pollution than at ground level. Flying is cheap not least because its fuel is currently exempt from tax - we would ensure all the costs of flying were included in its costs, and would stop the continual expansion of airports.

How can we afford a greatly improved transport system?

Currently, transport taxes and charges go nowhere near covering all the costs that transport imposes on society, such as congestion, damage to our health and pollution. A greener transport system would lead to a large reduction in these costs. We would also adhere strictly to the 'polluter pays principle', requiring transport users to pay for the costs that we all have to live with.

To join the Green Party or obtain copies of our manifestos or other policy leaflets please contact us at **Green Party, 1a Waterlow Road, London. N19 5NJ.**

Telephone: 020 7272 4474 or visit our website at **www.greenparty.org.uk**

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