



Natural Resources

Zero Waste Strategy and the Doorstep Recycling Bill

(Originally passed – Spring 2003 Conference)

Conference notes:

1. In avoiding the waste being produced, that the Government institutes regulations to reduce unnecessary production of goods which are not needed for a good quality of life
2. That New Labour's latest strategy for waste management would involve, by 2020, recycling only one-third of the UK's waste, land-filling one-third, and incinerating one-third
3. That, under this scheme, Britain in 2020 would be 20 years behind even today's best practice
4. That Western Australia is aiming to achieve zero waste by 2020, and Canberra by 2010, and Massachusetts aims to reduce its municipal solid waste by 70% by 2010
5. That many businesses already have zero waste schemes in place, most notably Toyota, Xerox and Hewlett Packard.
6. That a recent Green Party report concluded that the UK could create 50,000 jobs in Green waste management by 2020 if we pursued a zero waste strategy.
7. That Parliament will be voting tomorrow on a new bill to promote kerbside recycling.

The Green Party therefore:

1. Urges all MPs to support the Doorstep Recycling Bill.

2. Urges the government to adopt a UK-wide zero waste strategy as outlined in the Green Party's report *Laying Waste to Britain?*, which includes measures on abolishing incineration except in cases, such as medical waste, where there are no other possible options.

3. Instructs the External Communications Coordinator to continue to publicise the party's views on this subject.

Britain's waste crisis

(Originally passed – Spring 2004 Conference)

1. A European Directive (1) on the disposal of electrical items such as TVs, computers and toasters will come into effect in August 2004, with the result that member states will have to set up a collection system to recycle these items with no charge to private households.

2. Another European Directive in effect since November 2003 (2) requires that all vehicles must be disposed of in a way that is environmentally sensitive.

3. That many recycling managers on local authorities have only just received their DTI consultation papers, causing concern that these Directives are not being implemented correctly at government level.

Conference:

1. Believes that the aforementioned European Directives on waste disposal presents the UK with a chance to implement best practice with regard to recycling.

2. Is concerned that if immediate steps are not taken there is a real danger that the UK may experience a backlog of old vehicles and electrical appliances, similar to the problem of fridge mountains.

3. Notes that the present government has had lots of time to prepare for these Directives, and yet appear to have left matters until the eleventh hour.

4. Calls upon the UK government to take the problem of waste more seriously. Furthermore, conference calls upon the government to provide more support to local authorities in their efforts to deal with waste in an environmentally sound manner.

Notes:

(1) The European Union's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE).

(2) The European Union's End-of-life Vehicles Directive.

Oil Exploration in Cardigan Bay

(Originally passed – Spring 2007 Conference)

This emergency motion calls upon the National Executive of GPEW to publicise and set forth nationally our opposition to the Department for Trade and Industry's plans to sell licences for oil and gas exploration in Cardigan Bay. Cardigan Bay is protected under European law as a Special Area of Conservation. It is home to a resident bottlenose dolphin population as well as other rare species. The DTI recently announced that it was carrying out further assessments on this proposal, but previous assessments

have failed to give full weight to the need to protect the bay from unnecessary disturbance. We are concerned that despite large amounts of local and national opposition the DTI may still grant licences which would allow as yet unknown companies into these specially protected waters.