

THE GREEN PARTY

MANIFESTO²⁰₂₆



 Green



A Green government. **FOR ALL OF US.**

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Our vision is an Aotearoa that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi, where power and wealth sit with our communities, and where people and the rest of nature thrive together.

Aotearoa has enough for all of us. Our government should work for people and planet, not the greed of corporations and their shareholders.

For the past three years we've seen a Government on the side of the super-rich and the most powerful corporations.

Climate action cut, protections for nature gutted, and decisions handed to lobbyists and donors while families struggle with power bills, rent and groceries.

We've been told our entire lives that a fairer country is impossible by those profiting from things staying exactly as they are: unequal and unfair.

But New Zealanders know better. Politics belongs to those who turn up, and in communities across the motu, people are turning up demanding action.

This manifesto is our plan for a Green government to harness the energy for change, built on three priorities: affordable living, healthy nature and real democracy.

Affordable living, because we can have affordable electricity, housing, transport and groceries if we take on mega-corporate profits, and only the Green Party are willing to do that.

Healthy nature, because since the beginning we have worked to protect and restore our

water, forests, air and soil. And real democracy, because laws should be made for regular New Zealanders, not those who can afford to buy access to shape the rules in their favour.

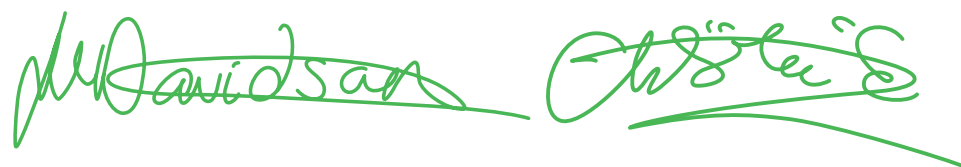
Paid for by a plan that will tax the super-rich and mega-corporations, help fund critical social services, and cut income tax for 96 percent of people.

None of this would be possible without the hopes, ideas and passion of Green Party members, and the movement they've built. This manifesto is their work, and their commitment to change in Aotearoa.

That change is not hypothetical. Last time the Greens were in Government, we took more action on climate than the previous three decades of governments combined, secured the biggest ever boost to funding for protecting native plants and wildlife, and delivered Aotearoa's first plan to eliminate family and sexual violence.

A party vote for the Green Party puts more Green MPs and Ministers around the decision-making table to reverse the damage from the last three years and fix the rules so they're on side of people and planet.

Outlined in this document is a plan to do what is necessary. Protect what we all love. Ensure everyone's needs are met. And make life better for all of us here in Aotearoa.



Marama Davidson | Chlöe Swarbrick

Green Party Co-Leaders





Children

Thriving tamariki and rangatahi

The Green Party will work to build a system that puts tamariki, rangatahi and whānau first.

Our tamariki and rangatahi deserve to be loved, nurtured and safe. They should be connected with their whānau, cared for and free to express their authentic selves, no matter where they live. We know we have enough to ensure tamariki are free from poverty and supported through every step of their unique journey. Supporting tamariki means ensuring whānau and communities have everything they need to support their wellbeing.

We have a shared responsibility to make sure tamariki voices are heard, centred and reflected in all decisions that impact them. Tamariki deserve a skilled, well-supported workforce that is trauma informed, culturally responsive and properly trained.

Tamariki Māori are disproportionately impacted by a child protection system that excludes meaningful partnership and underinvests in culturally grounded, whānau-led solutions. A functioning system should centre whakapapa and identity, with whānau and hapū resourced to lead decisions affecting their tamariki.

The Green Party reflects our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi by addressing the inequities tamariki Māori face in everyday life and in the state care system.

Our plan

1. Legislate so that the child's voice is central in all decisions that matter to them by using the Child Impact Assessment Tool consistently and fully incorporating the Rights of the Child into legislation.
2. Increase the Best Start payment and extend it to every child under three as a universal child benefit for the early years.
3. Elevate workforce safety by funding training and a workforce development strategy prioritising Māori, Pacific, rainbow, disabled and community provider pathways.
4. Improve access to both diagnosis and support services for children with disabilities or learning support needs.
5. Amend the Oranga Tamariki Act so that it protects tamariki Māori and explicitly embeds whānau participation in decision-making to exercise iwi or hapū authority.

Climate action: emissions reduction

Bold action and solutions that hold polluters to account



The Green Party will drive meaningful action, cutting climate pollution and making big polluters pay.

We will ensure that polluting corporations pay for Aotearoa to electrify our economy. By rapidly phasing out fossil fuels, we can ease cost of living pressures and decrease our vulnerability to global price shocks.

Under the leadership of a Green Minister for Climate Change, emissions began to drop. But now, the current Government is deliberately making choices to take us off that track. In Aotearoa, progress towards our domestic climate targets is at risk. Our international reputation has been tarnished due to this Government's decisions to weaken our climate targets and exempt our biggest polluters from paying for their greenhouse gas emissions, undermining international agreements we have signed up to.

Decades of climate inaction shows that a hands-off government will fail to decarbonise our economy and secure the future everyone deserves. The market will not respond to the climate crisis at the scale or pace we need, and won't give fair outcomes for those most affected.

We need political leadership that stops emissions at source, makes polluters pay, and focuses all government institutions on limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

The Green Party will implement climate solutions that tackle the root causes and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We will remove economic incentives that encourage and enable climate pollution.

Our plan

1. Strengthen the Zero Carbon Act by requiring the government Budget process to be consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, gross emissions reduction targets and international commitments.
2. Empower the Climate Change Commission to directly set unit supply in the Emissions Trading Scheme, in line with emissions budgets. Align the government Budget process with the National Adaptation Plan and Emissions Reduction Plans.
3. Introduce a price on agricultural emissions to ensure methane reduction targets are met, with financial and technical support for on-farm emissions reduction.
4. Reform the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to restore credibility to the market by phasing out the free allocation of units, removing and forestry offsetting so the system functions as a genuine 'cap-and-trade' system and redirecting funding from the reformed ETS to an improved Government Investment in Decarbonising Industry Fund.
5. Ensure Aotearoa meets our Paris Agreement commitments through strong domestic action and, if necessary, environmentally and socially responsible initiatives overseas.
6. Improve public transparency on the costs of inaction by including the fiscal impact of the Nationally Determined Contribution obligation in the financial statements.



Climate action: resilience + adaptation

Keeping Aotearoa safe and prepared

The Green Party will prepare all New Zealanders for the impacts of climate change.

We will ensure that everyone is comprehensively supported through both the transition to a zero emissions economy and increasingly severe weather events like cyclones.

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time. Across Aotearoa, we are already feeling the impacts of more intense and frequent storms, flooding and drought with devastating consequences.

Marae and community groups are often on the frontlines of the emergency and clean-up response, but these groups are not supported by the Government to proactively plan and adapt.

People are worried about rising insurance prices, and what happens when disaster strikes, particularly those living in increasingly flood and slip exposed areas. They have not received any clarity from the Government about help that might be available down the track when they need it.

Climate change means that some areas are not safe to build in, nor to keep living in, and so retreat is the only safe option in the long term. But again, the Government has failed to help communities facing this uncertain future with any support, plans or guidance.

The Green Party will provide this much-needed clarity.

We will ensure that any National Adaptation Framework is anchored by Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We will support the autonomy and self-determination of hapū, iwi and community organisations to develop and implement their own climate change response plans.

The Green Party will ensure that local government and communities are comprehensively funded to respond to their climate adaptation challenges.

Our plan

1. Ensure climate adaptation planning affirms tino rangatiratanga and upholds the mana motuhake of whānau, hapū and iwi over whenua, wai and taonga by appropriately funding a Māori Climate Resilience Fund.
2. Expand the role of the Natural Hazards Commission to include cover for climate-related weather events and ensure it plays a key role in managing community-led adaptation and retreat.
3. Prioritise long-term, nature-based solutions over short-term engineering solutions, and increase funding for hapū, iwi and community organisations to deliver these.
4. Ensure planning frameworks give effect to the need for climate adaptation in the approach to land and water use, together with supporting ecosystem restoration and conservation.
5. Establish a dedicated fund for central and local government to implement climate adaptation and resilience measures, including funding for partnerships with tangata whenua and community organisations.
6. Scale up support for, and work with, neighbouring countries in the Pacific to adapt to climate change, and advocate for an international agreement on the rights of people displaced by climate change

Conservation and biodiversity

Protecting and restoring plants, animals and ecosystems



The Green Party will protect our precious whenua, moana and taonga species from corporate exploitation.

Aotearoa is home to natural taonga found nowhere else in the world. Our ngahere (forests), awa (rivers) and moana are central to our national identity and way of life.

The Luxon Government has made it easier for corporations to plunder and tear up te taiao (nature), putting private profits ahead of our treasured native wildlife. Meanwhile, many of our native species are on the brink of collapse. Without urgent action, we're at risk of losing them forever.

The Green Party will work towards protecting 30% of land and oceans because we know the mauri and health of te taiao is foundational to the wellbeing of our people, our climate and our communities. We will achieve this by giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and recognising tangata whenua as the original and ongoing kaitiaki of Aotearoa.

New Zealanders deserve to experience our national parks and hear the calls of our native manu for generations to come. That's why the Green Party will ensure conservation decisions are made for the public good, not in the interests of private profiteers.

We won't just restore what's been lost. We will invest in an Aotearoa where people and nature flourish together.

Our plan

1. Reform conservation and wildlife protection laws to give effect to Te Tiriti, elevate Indigenous-led land stewardship and ensure the conservation management system prioritises halting and reversing nature loss in Aotearoa.
2. Ban new mining on conservation land, including stewardship land.
3. Expand funding for Jobs for Nature – Mahi mō te Taiao to protect our biodiversity and create thousands of regional jobs.
4. Protect all remaining natural wetlands in legislation, including coastal wetlands and estuaries, and implement a plan to restore at least 30% of degraded wetland area, prioritising areas most important for biodiversity recovery and community resilience.
5. Fund Action for Nature, the implementation plan for the biodiversity strategy, and implement national guidance to protect indigenous biodiversity, including the protection of taonga species.
6. Increase overall public conservation funding, including increasing funding and support for the Predator Free 2050 goal.



Culture and creativity

An Aotearoa that values artists

The Green Party will invest in the arts, creativity and culture that make Aotearoa vibrant and unique.

Our art, artists and creatives tell the stories of our communities and help make sense of the world around us.

This government has starved the sector of support. Too many of our creatives are working without the certainty of a stable income, and many lack access to the training and education needed to foster their skills and talents. Steep cuts to Māori arts and broadcasting have left them to scale down or to fend for themselves.

Those governments have seen the arts as a nice-to-have, rather than central to our identity as New Zealanders. They've rolled out the red carpet for big overseas studios, sending funds offshore, while local and Indigenous artists are left to struggle.

Arts, culture and creativity are vital for creating vibrant cities and communities. Like other community infrastructure, the arts, culture and creative sectors need proper support.

It is time for artists and creatives to be valued, respected and recognised for their work. The Green Party will fund the arts properly and ensure artists have the long-term sustainability, training and venues that are necessary to build an audience and a meaningful livelihood.

Together, we can support the people behind the books, music, movies, shows and images that tell our stories.

Our plan

1. Require that all publicly funded projects pay at least the living wage to artists, and expand paid artist residencies.
2. Provide stable funding for creative organisations and events such as Te Urungi, including long-term funding for significant creative initiatives such as Te Matatini and Polyfest.
3. Provide sustainable long-term arts funding that is not reliant on gambling revenue, alongside alcohol-free venues for performers.
4. Support and invest in repatriating taonga currently overseas back to iwi, hapū and whānau Māori, as well as keeping taonga in Aotearoa.
5. Establish infrastructure across ministries to strengthen our creative and cultural economy and maximise opportunities for local artists.
6. Increase funding for quality, non-commercial public media that nurtures and promotes our talent and creativity as a nation, including sustainable funding for Radio New Zealand and Whakaata Māori.
7. Increase resourcing for student, community, regional, Māori and Pacific media and radio.

Democracy

Politics for people, not big money



The Green Party will ensure that our democracy represents the people, not wealthy corporate interests.

Our democracy should work for everyone, not just the wealthy few.

Around the world, democracy is under threat by would-be dictators and corporate power.

Successive governments have meddled with our electoral rules for their own self-interest and failed to curb the influence of big corporate interests in politics. This government has actively invited those big corporates in to write the rules in their own favour.

The richest few can spend millions trying to influence Ministers, while politicians weaken our donation laws, make it harder to vote and strip thousands of people of their right to vote in breach of their human rights.

The Green Party is committed to a democracy that upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the vision of Matike Mai Aotearoa, creating a decision-making process that reflects genuine partnership.

We can create a more representative democracy by transforming our constitution, expanding voting rights and banning big money from politics.

Our plan

1. Resource a national conversation for constitutional transformation that upholds He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as our founding constitutional documents, utilising Matike Mai Aotearoa to facilitate community discussions.
2. Uphold the right to vote by extending the voting age to 16, extending the right to vote to all people in custody and restoring enrolment up to election day.
3. Entrench the Māori electoral seats to guarantee Māori representation in Parliament and extend the time in which Māori can switch rolls.
4. Reform electoral funding by limiting donations to registered voters, increasing public financing of campaigns and capping a donor's donations at a level that does not risk donor influence over policy.
5. Strengthen the rules and transparency over political lobbying, including through a lobbyist register and a code of conduct.



Digital technology

Technology helping, not harming

The Green Party will hold digital platforms accountable to protect us and our information.

Digital environments should support our wellbeing, connect our communities, protect our privacy and respect our sovereignty and nature's limits.

The choices we make on how to deploy and use technology should be under democratic control, not defined for us by overseas corporations who prioritise shareholders over citizens. All of us have been exposed to harmful and toxic content that damages our mental health, weakens trust between people and splinters our shared reality.

Data centres running AI models threaten to suck the world's energy and clean water sources dry. Intellectual property and Māori culture are exploited and stolen by unaccountable platforms. Companies from social media giants to those storing our health records collect more information about us than required while proving that they can't be trusted with it.

Many of these platforms have become digital infrastructure necessary to access essential services, yet aren't adequately regulated nor owned by Aotearoa. Many of us still face barriers to using these platforms at all.

Successive governments have left these platforms alone because they think it's too hard, or they've wasted their time on false solutions.

The Green Party will take a harm-reduction approach to digital technology. We will hold digital platforms accountable to protect us and our information, so all of us can access and enjoy the benefits of digital services without compromising our privacy and our online safety.

Our plan

1. Regulate social media platforms to address harmful content and behaviour by introducing a Digital Duty of Care. This will require algorithmic transparency and accessible and responsive complaints systems, as well as strengthening enforcement with an independent national regulator.
2. Regulate artificial intelligence to ensure its use is safe, transparent and accurate, including stronger rules around 'deepfakes' and scam material.
3. Crack down on tax avoidance and the offshoring of profits by multinational tech giants such as Meta, Amazon and Microsoft.
4. Adopt and implement the Māori Data Governance Model and Māori AI Governance Framework from Te Kāhui Raraunga across the public sector to protect Māori data sovereignty.
5. Strengthen obligations on data-holders to protect user and biometric data, increase penalties for privacy breaches, and strengthen enforcement powers for the Privacy Commissioner to better protect personal information.
6. Expand media and digital literacy education, and equip New Zealanders to navigate AI-generated media and other emerging digital technologies.
7. Reduce barriers to digital inclusion and ensure all communities have access to the internet, suitable devices and offline alternatives for essential services.

Disability

An accessible Aotearoa for all



The Green Party will build an Aotearoa where disabled people are valued and they and their whānau live with dignity and autonomy.

An Aotearoa where disabled people and whānau have access to the services they need — like transport and good quality housing — means everyone can thrive in caring communities.

Our current laws, policies and social norms mean disabled people are often denied the same rights as others and are excluded from places and activities non-disabled people take for granted. These barriers are often worse for tāngata whaikaha Māori and for disabled people from marginalised communities.

The current Government has made it harder for disabled people to access the support they deserve and which enables them to participate equally in life and their communities.

The Green Party is ambitious in its plan to create a more accessible Aotearoa by building on the Enabling Good Lives framework and grounding our approach in Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Our approach will operate on a high-trust model and apply to all disabled people, including those with disabling conditions who do not currently access support.

The Green Party is committed to an Aotearoa where disabled people and whānau thrive in caring communities.

Our plan

1. Introduce a disability rights law based on Te Tiriti with enforceable accessibility standards.
2. Provide easily accessible and timely income support to meet all disability-related living and medical costs, regardless of relationship status and cause of disability.
3. Address homelessness and work towards all disabled people being able to live in safe, accessible, affordable housing in the community of their choice, including by setting robust universal design standards for public and private housing.
4. Make getting around accessible, including by continuing to fund the 75% subsidy for the Total Mobility taxi scheme, making it easier to use and increasing the number of mobility vehicles to meet demand.
5. Draw on the Enabling Good Lives approach to guide how government agencies work with disabled people. Remove barriers to accessing the essentials like health care, transport, inclusive education and disability support for all who need it.
6. Ensure national and local emergency response plans address the needs of disabled people.
7. Uphold legal capacity for everyone, moving from legal capacity assessments to rights-based systems of supported decision-making.



Drug law reform

Putting health first to keep people safe

The Green Party will take an evidenced, health-based approach to alcohol and other drugs to reduce harm in our communities.

Successive governments have tinkered around the edges of our drug laws but largely left them unchanged from the ‘war on drugs’ approach of 50 years ago. Newsflash: they’re losing the war on drugs. This approach has been punitive and has not reduced harm or demand. Instead, it fills our courts and prisons, diverts money away from public health services and leaves frontline services chronically under-resourced. It makes the problem worse.

Drugs exist and people use them. It’s a political decision to either try and reduce the harm that can arise and help make people’s lives safer, or leave people faced with stigma and fear that stops them from reaching out for help.

It’s past time to overhaul our drug laws and replace them with an evidence-based approach that prioritises the health of people. We will increase funding for mental health and addiction services and put a fence up at the top of the cliff, instead of handcuffs at the bottom.

Our plan

1. Repeal and replace the Misuse of Drugs Act with an evidence-based approach that reduces harm, treats drug use as a health issue and provides for regulated access to cannabis for personal use.
2. Ramp up funding of harm reduction and addiction support for people who want to reduce or stop their drug intake, including through kaupapa Māori, rainbow, youth and harm reduction programmes.
3. Work with local government and service providers — focused on safe drug use, addictions and social housing — to support town centres negatively impacted by drug use.
4. Enable a licensing system for psychedelic treatment and recognise taonga status of our native psilocybin species.
5. Pass Good Samaritan laws that allow people to call for help without fear of punishment. Legalise and fund other overdose measures including increasing the availability of naloxone and medically supervised consumption spaces to reduce harm and save lives.
6. Implement stronger regulation for vape retailers to protect young people and children, including by restricting maximum nicotine concentrations, restricting flavours, and keeping vape stores out of the vicinity of schools and kura.
7. Replace the Land Transport (Drug Driving) Amendment Act 2025 with an impairment approach to reduce harm from all causes of driving impairment.
8. Phase out all alcohol advertising and sponsorship, including at sporting and cultural events, and use funding from the alcohol levy to establish a well-resourced national harm-reduction campaign.

Education

An Aotearoa where everyone can reach their full potential



The Green Party will support an inclusive education system that uplifts everyone.

Education is a public good and a lifelong right, not a commodity. The Green Party believes education must foster curiosity, creativity and confidence. Education should support every person to discover who they are and how they can contribute to a just, sustainable world.

Education plays a vital role in building social cohesion and democratic life, and should be planned and funded to deliver this. Schools, kura and early learning centres should be places of belonging where diverse cultures, identities and experiences are valued.

Unfortunately, today’s education system treats education as a competitive market and learning as a means to a narrowly defined end. When decisions are driven by standardisation, ranking and market forces, it erodes trust, sidelines creativity and reinforces exclusion.

The Green Party champions an education approach grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi and universal human rights, where inclusion is foundational. This system honours tino rangatiratanga, embraces te reo Māori and mātauranga Māori, and ensures Māori voices and communities are central to decisionmaking. Disabled people, rainbow communities, migrants and refugees, and others facing structural barriers are fully supported to learn, belong and thrive. Educators’ voices and expertise are central to decisions at all levels.

In the well-resourced system we will build, education supports lifelong learning, strengthens wellbeing, and is a force for transformation of individuals, communities and society as a whole.

Our plan

1. Make early childhood education free and provide it as a public good like schooling, removing the market and stopping corporate interests from running for-profit centres.
2. Reset the Government’s rushed and ideological curriculum and assessment reforms, reverting to the original direction of Te Mātaiaho and ensuring qualification reform follows curriculum reform.
3. Expand the criteria for access to learning support. Establish a single agency to coordinate and resource specialist supports for learners with health and disability support needs. Implement all actions in the ‘Framework for Action: A quality education for all’.
4. Expand Ka Ora, Ka Ako as a first step towards providing a warm and nutritious locally made lunch to all schoolchildren.
5. Support rangatiratanga to provide an education system driven by whānau needs, allowing space for whakapapa-based decisions, and working towards a Māori Education Authority governing and funding all Māori medium and Kaupapa Māori education.
6. Support the workforce so all teachers and educators have fair wages and staffing levels that support quality teaching. Co-develop a long-term workforce plan with the sector.



Energy

Powering Aotearoa with affordable renewable energy

The Green Party will fix our broken power system so that people, not profits, come first.

Aotearoa can be a nation with energy independence, where everyone has access to affordable, reliable, clean renewable energy. The Green Party will ensure our energy system prioritises public good, so the benefits of our renewable resources stay with people, rather than driving corporate profit.

Our reliance on both fossil fuels and a profit-driven market exposes households to global shocks and rising costs. Instead of fixing these, the current Government has reopened fossil fuel drilling, handed out fossil fuel subsidies and slowed the transition to clean, homegrown energy that we urgently need. Regular people are left paying more for a system that serves corporate interests first.

The Green Party will speed up the electrification of our energy system and fix the rules of the energy market so public wellbeing comes before corporate profits. We will grow renewable generation like wind and solar, support community- and Māori-led energy projects, and improve energy efficiency so homes are warmer and bills are lower. Rural communities and farms can be more resilient, affordable and efficient by shifting to electric powered machines.

By ending our dependence on fossil fuels and putting communities in charge of their energy, we can build a fairer, more resilient future where clean energy is locally controlled and where everyone can afford to warm their homes.

Our plan

1. Put public wellbeing outcomes first in legislation to guarantee the power system works for people, not profits.
2. Establish a renewable energy infrastructure agency to ensure security of supply and lower prices for households, businesses and industry.
3. Increase resilience by enabling greater distributed solar and batteries for households, marae and suitable public buildings, and supporting community-led energy planning.
4. Ban new fossil fuel extraction, end subsidies for fossil fuels and cancel the LNG terminal.
5. Establish a single energy regulator and a Ministry for Energy, focusing on affordable, secure and sustainable energy with equitable access and Te Tiriti-based frameworks that enable Māori and community involvement, ownership and leadership in energy projects.
6. Work with industry to decarbonise and encourage demand response and energy efficiency.

Environmental protection

Protecting and restoring nature



The Green Party stands for a healthy environment as the foundation of healthy communities.

In Aotearoa, our environment is the foundation of our communities and our identity. We all rely on clean rivers for safe drinking water. Our native forests and wetlands help reduce flooding. Healthy soils and abundant oceans provide kai. When our freshwater, native bush and moana thrive, we thrive too.

Luxon's coalition Government has been the most environmentally damaging in a generation, prioritising private profit at the expense of te taiao (nature).

They have fast-tracked destructive mining projects in wild places and scrapped our Ministry for the Environment. They have changed laws to more easily allow the killing of native wildlife where it stands in the way of development, and allowed rivers, lakes and groundwater to become more polluted. Environmental laws have been gutted, alongside the dismantling of shared decision-making processes that honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The Green Party will strengthen environmental protections, uphold Te Tiriti and restore te taiao. Protection and restoration of our environment is the foundation of our future.

Our plan

1. Implement strong evidence-based limits for ecosystem health, secure the role of Te Tiriti and affirm the role of tangata whenua as shared decision-makers and kaitiaki in the new resource management system.
2. Repeal the Fast-track Approvals Act and revoke consents for fast-track approvals for new coal, gold and seabed mining projects.
3. Restore a standalone Ministry for the Environment. Increase resources for the Environmental Protection Authority to identify risks to the environment and human health, and for compliance, monitoring and enforcement to ensure polluters are held accountable.
4. Update air quality standards to bring Aotearoa in line with international standards and to protect human health.
5. Work towards eradication of biosecurity incursions, specifically wilding pines, Caulerpa, and yellow-legged hornets.
6. Re-establish resources for the Community Environment Fund to support grassroots environmental education and action.



Food, fibre and forestry

A regenerative approach that puts people and nature first

The Green Party will support sustainable farming and forestry that protects our environment, communities and livelihoods.

We can have a thriving, sustainable food and fibre sector that prioritises mātauranga food production, creates food security, keeps our waterways healthy and provides good jobs for our rural communities.

But for decades, successive governments have encouraged increasingly intensive farming and forestry, prioritising short-term profits over long-term wellbeing. Industrial dairying is our biggest climate polluter and contaminates our drinking water with nitrates. Family-run businesses struggle while large corporate farms profit at the expense of people and planet. Weak rules for forestry have allowed slash to devastate communities when heavy rain hits, damaging homes, infrastructure and waterways. Rural communities are left to clean up the mess.

Solutions exist. The Green Party has campaigned for decades to feed our communities, while reducing the negative impacts of agriculture on nature and the climate. We championed a new regulatory approach to help the organic sector grow.

It's time to support Aotearoa to shift to regenerative farming and forestry. The Green Party will help farmers phase down intensive practices and ensure the forestry sector can provide good jobs, while also protecting communities and waterways.

Our plan

1. Increase support for farmers to transition to more sustainable forms of agricultural production through finance mechanisms such as low-interest loans and grants.
2. Back Aotearoa-grown natural fibres, including wool, by using them in the construction and refurbishment of schools and public buildings, and establishing a contestable fund for sustainable fibre manufacturing and innovation.
3. Ban palm kernel expeller and ensure all supplementary feed is sustainably sourced and does not strain the carrying capacity of the local environment.
4. Prevent land from being used beyond its capacities by implementing strong controls on clear-fell of plantation forestry, working to transition extremely erosion-prone land to indigenous forestry and establishing a National Soil Strategy that sets direction on soil use, policies and research.
5. Support the local wood processing sector to manufacture higher-value timber products from plantation forestry, such as cross-laminated timber for construction and turning slash into solid biofuels, retaining regional employment and development.
6. Work with Māori-led forestry organisations to support investment in forestry and restoration of forests on whenua Māori and recognise tangata whenua customary use rights in indigenous forestry according to their tikanga.
7. Establish a biodiversity credits scheme that supports landowners to undertake restoration and protection of land as a voluntary revenue alternative to the Emissions Trading Scheme. As part of this, prioritise marginal whenua Māori where agreed by landowners.

Freshwater

Healthy water for drinking, swimming and gathering kai



The Green Party will put the health of freshwater and communities first.

Our rivers and lakes should be clean and teeming with life. Everyone should be able to turn on their tap knowing their water is safe to drink, swim in their local awa (river) without getting sick and fish or gather kai from waterways. Clean, healthy freshwater is the foundation of the health of our people and our environment.

Aotearoa has lost most of its wetlands, and many of our lakes and rivers are in extremely poor health. Luxon's coalition Government has accelerated this decline by scrapping many protections for freshwater, stopping council plans to restore waterways and weakening standards for wastewater discharges. Meanwhile, many communities can't drink what comes out of their tap, face regular boil water notices or can't swim in their local awa.

These have been deliberate choices to prioritise a wealthy few over the wellbeing of everyone. While polluters profit, communities pay the price through unsafe drinking water, polluted swimming holes and native fish like whitebait and tuna (eels) threatened with extinction.

The Green Party will reverse the decline in the health of our freshwater with strong controls on pollution, support for more sustainable farming, and action to restore wetlands, lakes, and rivers. We will ensure everyone has access to safe drinking water.

Our plan

1. Implement strong, evidence-based national bottom lines for freshwater for both human health and ecosystem health to address pollution including lowering the nitrate limit for drinking water.
2. Reinstate Te Mana o Te Wai to prioritise the health of freshwater in decision-making and regulation and to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
3. End all subsidies and public funding for big new irrigation and dam projects and review resource consents where water levels have dropped too far to support a healthy river.
4. Strengthen environmental performance rules for wastewater discharges to ensure lakes, rivers, beaches and coastal areas remain swimmable.
5. Ensure the drinking water regulator is funded and given the mandate for robust and transparent monitoring, reporting and enforcement in the protection of drinking water sources.
6. Support greater resilience from floods by increasing funding for adaptation and allowing for a 'room for rivers' approach and using natural systems like wetlands to protect communities.
7. Phase out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser and take action to reduce stocking rates on a catchment basis to improve the health of rivers and drinking water and reduce climate pollution.



Gender equity

For a more equal Aotearoa

The Green Party will take action to advance gender equality and ensure women and gender minorities are respected and treated fairly.

Aotearoa has made decent progress to make this reality come to fruition, but we have a way to go before women and gender minorities can be truly equal in this country. Life is unfair and unsafe for too many – single mothers are vulnerable to hardship and homelessness, gender-based violence is increasing, and women continue to get paid less than men for equal work.

Changes the coalition Government have made have worsened the position of many women and gender minorities. The Government's changes to pay equity shifted the goal posts and balanced their budget on the backs of our lowest paid working women. Wāhine Māori are overrepresented in the justice system for crimes of poverty, worsened by the coalition Government's policies. Gender minorities have been attacked and used as a political distraction by Government parties.

The Green Party are proud of our legacy championing solutions to the inequities women and gender minorities face. In Government we championed the first-ever plan to eliminate family violence and sexual violence, Te Aorerekura. We worked with the former Government on pay equity legislation, getting ACC to cover birth injuries, and extending parental leave.

But there is more to do. We will undo the Government's changes to pay equity to ensure working women are paid fairly. We will work with wāhine Māori to address disparities and injustices in health, justice, work and pay, learning from the ongoing Mana Wāhine Waitangi Tribunal inquiry. We will fund treatment and diagnosis of pelvic pain including endometriosis and properly resource front-line organisations to end family and sexual violence in Aotearoa.

Ensuring women and gender minorities are safe, respected and valued in Aotearoa benefits all of us. The time to act is now.

Our plan

1. Close the gender and ethnic pay gaps by undoing the Government's changes to the pay equity regime and resuming claims, pay transparency measures, and comprehensive pay gap reporting.
2. Increase the Best Start payment and extend it to every child under three as a universal child benefit for the early years.
3. Fund one-stop-shops that provide pā harakeke wrap-around services for whānau throughout hapūtanga, after birth, first stages of life, and navigating parenthood.
4. Work towards diagnosing and treating endometriosis faster, including by developing formal clinical guidelines for diagnosing and treating endometriosis and other pelvic pain, and by funding specialised clinics across Aotearoa.
5. Resource kaupapa Māori solutions and community-led solutions to family and sexual violence, that have been developed by disproportionately impacted groups, including women, Pasifika, rainbow, and disabled communities.
6. Amend the Crimes Act to criminalise coercive control, amend the definition of consent, and preclude a defence of reluctant consent to affirm that consent must be free and voluntary, and can be withdrawn at any time while ensuring these changes cause no further harm.
7. Increase paid parental leave to 15 months for the primary caregiver, with additional ring-fenced leave for partners, while also increasing payments.

Global affairs and trade

A safer, greener, fairer future for people and planet



The Green Party will ensure that Aotearoa always stands up for what's right on the world stage.

Aotearoa can be a global voice for peace, freedom, democracy, justice, global solidarity and collective action on climate change.

Unfortunately, every corner of our planet is threatened by war, the climate crisis and the rise of authoritarian regimes.

Aotearoa was once an independent voice against nuclear weapons and American militarism. But the Luxon Government has instead turned a blind eye to atrocities and authoritarians and has deepened our military integration with the United States.

Aotearoa must challenge the imperialist ambitions of aspiring powers that plunge the lives of ordinary people into chaos and hardship — not join them.

The Green Party will take an independent and principled approach to foreign affairs and trade that sees Aotearoa leading the world on climate action, nature protection and Indigenous and human rights.

We will work with our Pacific neighbours to create a safer, greener, more just world. Together, we must uphold the international rules of law and our collective obligations for each other and the planet.

The Green Party will always work to support communities facing conflict, human rights abuses, the destruction of nature and the worsening impacts of climate change.

Our plan

1. Restore an independent foreign policy that stands against human rights abuses wherever they occur and upholds peace and justice.
2. Focus defence policy on climate change responses, humanitarian responses and environmental monitoring.
3. Decouple military and security frameworks from the United States, including declining to participate in AUKUS and withdrawing from Five Eyes.
4. Support Pacific sovereignty and independence and oppose the militarisation of the Pacific.
5. Recognise Palestine as a state and sanction Israel.
6. Stand with decolonisation and democracy movements globally, especially those of Indigenous peoples in our Asia-Pacific region.
7. Implement the Trade For All agenda, including democratic scrutiny of trade agreements, and enforceable recognition of our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, workers' rights, human rights and climate commitments.
8. Urgently progress climate change initiatives through international institutions, which include reducing patent protections on green technologies and negotiating an international approach to climate border adjustments.



Health

Accessible care to support everyone's health

The Green Party will ensure our health care system is equitable, accessible and properly supported.

Aotearoa has enough to ensure that everyone, everywhere can access timely health care from a supported workforce.

But for years successive governments have underinvested in health services, leading to lengthy wait times and unsafe conditions for the health workers who look after us. Hospitals are understaffed, and GP clinics — important for helping people stay well, not just get better — are so stretched they are closing their doors to new enrolments.

The current Government has reversed decades of progress to provide equitable health care for Māori. Māori are forced into a health system that underserves them and is misaligned with their hauora aspirations.

Private provider costs are locking whānau out of primary health care. This causes health issues to unnecessarily escalate because they are not detected early. Hauora Māori and social service providers are underfunded and restricted by overly prescriptive contracts.

Good health allows all of us to live enjoyable, meaningful lives. The Green Party will expand access to essential primary and dental care. We will work with and fund kaupapa Māori approaches to end health inequities.

Our plans for children, housing, incomes, energy and transport will all support people to keep well by ensuring everyone can access safe, warm homes, nutritious kai and a transport system that encourages active ways of getting around.

It's time to put a fence at the top of the cliff and support people so they don't have to rely on ambulances at the bottom.

Our plan

1. Ensure public health care services are accessible for all with a focus on prevention and early screening, diagnosis and treatment for non-communicable diseases, such as kidney disease, cancers, diabetes and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.
2. Fund mobile health care and mental health care clinics, diagnostics services and dental vans to ensure rural communities are able to access health services regularly, including during and after civil emergencies.
3. Work towards a publicly delivered, fully free provision of dental and primary care services, including by-Māori for-Māori community clinics.
4. Fund one-stop-shops that provide pā harakeke wrap-around services for whānau throughout hapūtanga, after birth, first stages of life, and navigating parenthood.
5. Stop overly rigid Hauora service contracts and commit to working with Iwi Māori Partnership Boards and Hauora Māori to simplify and improve funding arrangements for providers of health services for whānau, hapū iwi and hapori.
6. Increase sustained funding for Pharmac so that it can invest in new medicines and health care devices to enhance treatment outcomes and quality of life.
7. Expand the Minor Health Conditions Service to help pharmacies treat common health issues and update the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services to encourage pharmacists to give appropriate medical advice by compensating them fairly.
8. Ensure all health care workers have fair wages, fund pay parity for primary care nurses and hauora providers, and set safe staffing levels to support worker wellbeing and quality of care for patients.
9. Work towards diagnosing and treating endometriosis faster, including by developing formal clinical guidelines for diagnosing and treating endometriosis and other pelvic pain, and by funding specialised clinics across Aotearoa.
10. Increase funding for data and digital infrastructure and capability in the health sector, and regulate and hold private providers of infrastructure to high standards of privacy.

Housing

Safe, warm, affordable homes for everyone



The Green Party is the only party with a credible plan to ensure everyone can afford a warm and safe place to call home.

We all need somewhere to call home — a place to rest, to share with our loved ones, to make a life or to watch our kids grow up.

A warm, safe home is a basic right. But successive governments have allowed housing to become a get-rich scheme for a lucky few, and a source of misery and expense for hundreds of thousands of others.

Far too many families are forced to pay through the roof to rent homes that make us sick, and a generation has been locked out of ever owning their own home. This didn't happen by accident. It is the consequence of decisions made by successive governments to privilege the wealthy few at our expense.

The Green Party will fix renting to make healthy homes affordable for all of us, and put the interests of people before those of property speculators and investment landlords. We will build thousands more warm, sustainable and affordable homes in the places people want to live.

Our plan

1. Build tens of thousands of new public homes, significantly increase accessible public housing stock and fund more papakāinga to be built on whenua Māori.
2. Make rents more affordable by limiting annual rent increases to no more than 2%, and link rents in a new tenancy to what the previous tenants paid.
3. Strengthen the Healthy Homes Standards and enforce them with an independently certified Rental Warrant of Fitness.
4. Expand immediate wraparound support such as housing first, transitional and supported housing services, and guarantee same-day accommodation placement for people experiencing homelessness.
5. Require councils to collaborate with communities, including mana whenua, to provide sustainable, walkable, mixed-use urban areas and enable enough new affordable homes within existing urban areas to meet the needs of the next generation.
6. Reverse generous tax benefits for landlords and property speculators that encourage housing to be treated as an investment, rather than a basic right.



Immigration + refugees

Welcoming, safe and fair pathways to make Aotearoa home

The Green Party will make sure that everyone who comes to Aotearoa is treated with respect and dignity.

Migrant workers are not disposable, and deserve a fair go to settle in Aotearoa. If any one of us feared for our life or our family or strived for a better life, we'd hope that we'd be supported to take that big step.

But because of the rules put in place by successive governments, too many migrants and refugees are exploited, denied basic rights and unfairly targeted by immigration compliance officers.

Meanwhile, multimillionaire investors are exempt from many of the same immigration requirements that stop ordinary workers from putting roots down in their community.

The current coalition Government wants you to turn against your migrant neighbour, instead of the billionaires wrecking the planet.

The Green Party will create fair and achievable pathways to residency for all people coming here to work, ensure nobody is unfairly separated from their families or their communities, and scrap the rules that fuel exploitation and abuse.

The Green Party will ensure that asylum seekers arriving in Aotearoa after escaping war or persecution are treated with dignity, and supported to rebuild their lives as part of our communities.

Our plan

1. Create residence pathways for migrants who have settled long-term, including for people living in Aotearoa whose visas have expired.
2. Abolish the Acceptable Standards of Health requirements, so that migrants and refugees are not discriminated against based on their health conditions or disabilities.
3. Allow migrant work visa holders to switch employers and remove the 12-month stand-down period that requires workers to leave Aotearoa between visas.
4. Unite families by clearing the backlog for refugee family reunification, expanding work rights for partners, restoring birthright citizenship and removing income barriers to sponsoring a parent visa.
5. Implement Māori aspirations for an immigration system based on Te Tiriti, including devolving resources and decision-making to hapū and iwi to strengthen traditional whanaungatanga connections. Provide Te Tiriti education to new migrants and refugees.
6. Progressively increase the refugee quota to 5,000 by 2029, increase funding for refugee resettlement programmes and create a humanitarian visa for family of New Zealanders in conflict zones.
7. Resource Immigration New Zealand to clear tier 1 and tier 2 family reunification categories and process asylum claims quickly, and stop the unjust detention and electronic monitoring of asylum seekers.

Incomes

Liveable incomes made possible through a fair tax system



The Green Party will guarantee a decent income for all and pay for it with a fair tax system.

No matter what we do or where we live, everyone should have enough to put food on the table, a safe place to call home and the ability to live a good life.

There is enough for everyone to be well, but right now, thousands of children are going to bed hungry. Families are struggling to pay the rent or mortgage and keep their homes warm. Students are forced to skip meals to make ends meet. The cost of living is only getting tougher under this Government.

The resources we need to lift every family out of poverty are already there. But the Luxon Government has prioritised tax cuts for wealthy landlords and their rich corporate mates instead. This is a political choice.

The Green Party will transform our social welfare systems and create tens of thousands of jobs, so families are looked after at every stage of life.

The Green Party will guarantee a liveable income for everyone. Whether you're in work, unemployed, disabled, sick, a caregiver or a student, we will ensure you can pay the bills and live a decent life. We can pay for it by making big corporations and the wealthy few pay their fair share in tax.

Our plan

1. Reform the Social Security Act to uphold the dignity of those who need support and ensure everyone has a secure income and a decent standard of living. Implement a high-trust operating model at Work and Income.
2. Increase benefits to liveable rates, individualise benefit entitlements and abolish benefit sanctions.
3. Extend ACC to cover income support and treatment for injuries, disability and illnesses regardless of origin.
4. Strengthen Working for Families by boosting the rate, reducing abatements and extending tax credits to families who are out of work.
5. Make income tax settings fair and progressive, by introducing a tax-free threshold, reducing tax rates for low- and middle-income earners, and increasing the top rate of income tax.
6. Introduce a super-rich tax of 2.5% on net wealth over \$10 million so that multimillionaires pay their fair share.
7. Overhaul recoverable assistance so that grants are available for urgent needs instead of loans. Work towards writing off existing debt to MSD and ban attachment orders against beneficiaries.



Justice and community safety

Keeping communities safe through prevention and rehabilitation

The Green Party will make our communities safer by addressing the drivers of crime.

Our approach is to prevent harm happening in the first place. We will reform the justice system to make it fair, just and equitable.

The current Government's approach of packing prisons, restricting what judges can decide and neglecting much-needed rehabilitation only causes more harm and hardship.

Our communities are safer when everyone, especially young people, have access to the basics: food, health care, inclusive education, adequate incomes and a safe home environment.

The Green Party will keep our communities safe by prioritising rehabilitation, strengthening true accountability and tackling bias and discrimination in the justice system. Our policies to provide mental health and addiction services, safe and warm housing, and adequate incomes for all will help to address the root causes of crime.

Each person deserves to live free from violence, harm and discrimination. People should not be punished for being poor. We need a justice system that supports this basic premise.

Our plan

1. Resource evidence-based rehabilitation for anyone convicted of an offence, and ensure tikanga-based and restorative justice solutions (such as Te Pae Oranga) are available to anyone who wishes to access these.
2. Expand Te Ao Mārama to all courts in Aotearoa, and ensure specialist youth courts including the Rangatahi and Pasifika Courts, Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court, and New Beginnings Court are available to all who wish to access them.
3. End military-style academies, raise the age of criminal responsibility and ban the detention of young people in the company of adults in all circumstances.
4. Require body cameras for frontline police, strengthen powers for the Independent Police Conduct Authority, deliver de-escalation and trauma training for police, and increase resourcing for Māori Wardens and Pacific Wardens.
5. Improve community reintegration support for people leaving the criminal justice system, including housing, and increase the Steps to Freedom Grant to cover at least 30 years of inflation.
6. Extend legal aid and duty lawyers, better resource community law centres and make applications for protection and parenting orders free.
7. Enable judicial discretion in sentencing, including by abolishing mandatory minimum sentences, life sentences, preventive detention, limits on sentence discounts, three strikes and limits on when home detention can be imposed instead of imprisonment.
8. Implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019. Extend hate speech laws to cover religion, gender, disability and rainbow communities. Continue to oppose possession of military-style semi-automatic firearms.
9. Implement all recommendations of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, in consultation with people with lived experience.

Local government

Empowering local democracy



The Green Party will back local government to deliver community wellbeing.

Local government plays a vital role in shaping everyday life. When local democracy is strong, communities are stronger too.

Unfortunately, local government is under strain. Councils face growing financial pressure. Democratic engagement is declining and tino rangatiratanga is often sidelined in community decision-making.

At the same time, councils are the frontline of many challenges we face, from climate change to a lack of affordable homes. They are being loaded with new responsibilities — like emergency management — without the proper funding or support to do the job.

This has left councils forced to increase rates and charges to cover basic costs, when communities are already struggling with the high cost of living.

The Green Party will strengthen local democracy and rebuild trust in local decision-making through fairer elections, stronger participation and more community-led processes. We will provide fair and sustainable funding tools, and ensure community wellbeing is at the heart of what local government delivers.

We will work with local government — not against it — and treat councils with the respect they deserve as the democratic voice of their communities. By backing local democracy, we can ensure decisions are made by communities, not for them.

Our plan

1. Strengthen local electoral democracy by transferring administration of local government elections to the Electoral Commission, enabling 16-year-olds to vote and requiring the use of a single transferable voting system.
2. Reinforce councils' responsibility to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi by making the role of local government as a Te Tiriti partner explicit, and reinstate their ability to keep Māori wards for their districts.
3. Reject the proposed rates cap and enable a range of new funding and financing tools, such as a bed levy, congestion charging and GST from rates and growth.
4. Ensure that the 'four wellbeings' (social, economic, environmental and cultural) are core to the purpose of local government and empower councils by devolving further responsibilities from central government, with appropriate resourcing.
5. Enable greater use of community-based decision-making processes — such as citizens' assemblies — including greater community input in the process for local government reorganisation.



Māori centred

By Māori, for Māori

The Green Party will support Māori to make decisions about the destiny of their own whānau, hapū and iwi.

Tangata whenua lived undisturbed for centuries as hapū, creating tikanga unique to the whenua and focusing on the health and sustainability of their whakapapa. When tangata whenua thrive, so does everyone who lives in Aotearoa. Supporting ongoing kaupapa Māori approaches for Māori to fulfil their aspirations was affirmed and guaranteed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

When Te Tiriti was signed, it was assured that the relationship between tangata whenua and the Crown would mean no change in the way Māori choose to live their lives. However, successive governments continue to implement harmful actions which have eroded Māori social structures, contributed to the loss of traditional knowledge and created intergenerational inequities across many key metrics.

The current Government's legislative assaults have targeted tangata whenua from all sides. They have consistently ignored independent experts, the Waitangi Tribunal and their own advisors, who have warned that their actions will only deepen existing inequities and contribute to further racial divides.

It is time to remove the burden from Māori to keep reminding the Crown of their promises. The Crown must take accountability for their ongoing injustices against Te Tiriti and for using te iwi Māori as a political football.

The Green Party supports tangata whenua-led processes, actions and decision-making by devolving power and investing resources in all matters that affect Māori. We know that Te Tiriti and democracy are not contradictory, but complementary.

Returning whenua to its kaitiaki, and facilitating 'by Māori, for Māori' solutions to target inequities are ways we can uphold Te Tiriti while honouring the democracy that Aotearoa should be founded on.

Our plan

1. Devolve power and redistribute resources back to tangata whenua in recognition that Māori are the decision-makers and facilitators of the destiny of their own whānau, hapū and iwi.
2. Invest in outcomes that minimise the disparities and inequities tangata whenua face across the majority of social and economic outcomes.
3. Resource marae through a Marae Resilience Fund for Māori to lead initiatives for their people, wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and whenua in accordance with their own tikanga. Create ongoing funding for provisions for civil emergencies in recognition of being consistent community lifelines.
4. End perpetual leases on whenua Māori and amend the Public Works Act to prevent the acquisition of Māori freehold land, Māori customary land and lands within a reasonable proximity to marae, urupā and wāhi tapu.
5. Expand the learning, speaking and promotion of te reo Māori in both formal and informal settings to encourage the widespread use of the language across the nation.

Mental health

A safe, supportive and accessible care system



The Green Party will work to address the drivers of poor mental health, and ensure everyone can get safe, culturally relevant care when they need it.

Aotearoa should be a place where anyone in distress can access support, no matter where they are.

But right now, demand is skyrocketing, services are fragmented and workforce shortages are leading to long wait times and staff burnout. Prioritising private care in the mental health sector has led to increased costs and wait times too.

Our high rates of social inequality, child poverty, family violence, homelessness and climate anxiety are driving mental distress in our communities, particularly for young people.

It doesn't have to be this way. We have the tools to support liveable incomes, provide trauma support and end homelessness in this country to promote better mental health. We know what we need to do to face the existential threat of climate change head-on.

The Green Party will expand free services so cost is never a barrier. We will provide more funding to kaupapa Māori and Māori centred youth services so care is culturally relevant to our communities.

The mental health workforce will receive more support, staffing and funding to reduce burnout. This will allow harmful practices like seclusion to be phased out, to ensure acute mental health care is rehabilitative, not harmful.

Our plan

1. Expand free mental health services to all communities so everyone can access support when they need it. This includes expanding youth services like Piki, Mana Ake and Youth One Stop Shops throughout Aotearoa, Asian Family Services and dedicated support for postnatal mental health.
2. Implement the recommendations of the Every Life Matters – He Tapu te Oranga o ia Tangata Suicide Prevention Strategy, together with further actions identified as part of the kaupapa Māori response to suicide prevention with particular focus on people under 24.
3. Implement community care models and ensure mental health facilities are resourced adequately to enable phasing out the use of seclusion (solitary confinement) entirely, and increase the availability of early intervention to reduce the use of compulsory care.
4. Fund kaupapa Māori mental health and addiction programmes and ensure rangatahi Māori voice is represented in policy.
5. Link primary health and secondary mental health services with clear referral pathways in every health region and focus on areas which have disproportionate need.



Oceans and fisheries

Abundant oceans teeming with kaimoana

The Green Party will restore the mauri (life force) of our moana through bold marine protection initiatives.

The vast moana surrounding Aotearoa is a taonga. New Zealanders deserve to have healthy and thriving oceans, with abundant marine life that provides sustainable kaimoana.

Right now, our oceans are under severe stress. Overfishing, destructive bottom trawling, plastic pollution and climate change have driven marine ecosystems towards collapse. Iconic species like tipa (scallops) and koura (crayfish) are now functionally extinct in some places. Across the country, whole communities can't access local kaimoana because decades of overfishing has plundered stocks for profit.

The current Government has relentlessly prioritised short-term commercial profits over long-term ocean health. They have cut industry levies, allowed fishing in high-protection areas, delayed bans on bottom trawling and proposed drastic changes that would reverse our fisheries regulations.

The Green Party will always put the health of our oceans above corporate interests. We will place Te Tiriti o Waitangi at the centre of our approach to restoring the abundance of our moana. We will work towards every New Zealander enjoying the right to gather kaimoana and experiencing abundant marine life for generations to come.

Our plan

1. Protect at least 30% of New Zealand's ocean territory through reforming marine protected areas legislation to ensure it is fit for purpose and enables both tikanga-led tools consistent with Te Tiriti, and approaches to improve ocean health outcomes.
2. Phase out damaging fishing methods, starting by banning bottom trawling on seamounts, and banning set netting and dredging.
3. Ban seabed mining in the coastal marine area and the exclusive economic zone and maintain pressure for a moratorium on seabed mining in international waters.
4. Embed kaitiakitanga Māori in marine policy and operational management. Resource iwi and hapū to lead oceans protection and implement mātauranga- and tikanga-based projects for ocean conservation.
5. Reduce fisheries bycatch of protected species by ensuring cameras are rolled out on the entire fishing fleet and by setting fisheries-related mortality limits.
6. Ratify the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and support marine protection proposals in the high seas, Southern Ocean and throughout the Pacific.
7. Review the Quota Management System and move towards an ecosystem-based fisheries management model, in line with the Māori fisheries settlements.



Overseas New Zealanders

Cultivating Kiwi connections around the world

The Green Party will ensure all New Zealanders living overseas can feel connected to home.

More and more New Zealanders are leaving for overseas, particularly as a result of the current Government's choices.

The Luxon Government has forgotten that they are supposed to represent the 15% of New Zealanders who live overseas too. While the cost of living has hit hard around the world, they decided to increase interest rates on student loans for New Zealanders overseas, making it harder for them to come home.

The Green Party understands that Aotearoa is about all its people, wherever in the world they are. We will ensure everyone living overseas is meaningfully connected to home, and can continue to have a say in our democracy. We will support tangata whenua to ensure they can always return to their turangawaewae, no matter where they were born.

Wherever we are in the world, Aotearoa is a special place that we should all feel connected to. It's time we took a compassionate approach to all our whānau living overseas.

Our plan

1. Enable a tikanga-based pathway for people who whakapapa Māori to establish Aotearoa citizenship, regardless of country of residence or birth.
2. Reduce and re-balance student loan repayments and interest rates for overseas student loan borrowers, extend the repayment holiday for overseas borrowers, and abolish border arrests for student loan repayment violations.
3. Extend the time that overseas New Zealanders can spend outside Aotearoa without losing voting eligibility.
4. Restore the 10-year period for time spent in Aotearoa New Zealand to be eligible for superannuation.
5. Pursue reciprocal health care, welfare support and visa waiver arrangements with other countries, and widen existing agreements to include temporary visitors.



Pacific Peoples

Deepening connections and uplifting communities

The Green Party will strengthen the relationship between Aotearoa and the Pacific through partnership grounded in respect, reciprocity and shared prosperity.

Aotearoa stands as a Pacific nation, grounded in deep and enduring whakapapa connections with Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

Pacific Peoples are central to our shared future. Their innovation, leadership and cultural intelligence will help shape a sustainable, inclusive and thriving Aotearoa.

Pacific Peoples are one of our most youthful and fastest-growing communities, yet systemic barriers mean too many face challenges in employment, housing, education and health. Current visa rules make it hard for Pacific people to visit their family here in Aotearoa. Too many Pacific workers are denied the dignity, protections and fair conditions they deserve.

Persistent inequities and underinvestment threaten to hold back prosperity and undermine our relationship with the wider Pacific. The current Government has cut climate aid funding and slashed targeted funding for Pacific initiatives.

This term the Green Party helped restore citizenship for thousands of Samoans by passing the Citizenship (Western Samoa Restoration) Amendment Act, securing a historic win for Pacific justice. But there is still much more work to do.

It's time for Aotearoa to show our Pacific identity with meaningful action that uplifts Pacific leadership, strengthens communities and deepens our relationships across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

Our plan

1. Extend visa-free travel to Aotearoa for visitors from the Pacific Islands.
2. Restore and increase the international climate aid funding Aotearoa contributes. Affirm and support calls by Pacific Island nations for stronger climate action in international negotiations. Resource tangata moana leadership on climate action within Aotearoa.
3. Replace the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme with an alternative that gives Pacific workers access to fair wages, housing and essential services, and provides for open work rights and residency pathways rather than being tied to a single employer.
4. Support the independence of West Papua and French-occupied Polynesia. Call for an Indigenous-led human rights investigation and a visit from the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. Support Pacific Island states with their marine protection initiatives, including by increasing funding support for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and supporting marine protected areas in the Pacific Ocean under the High Seas Treaty.

Public services

Strong essential services accessible to everyone

The Green Party will make sure that public services support the public good.

Investing in public services means investing in all of us. Public services are the way we make sure every person, whānau and community can live with dignity, security and real opportunity — not just those who can afford to pay.

For too long, underinvestment and privatisation have left essential systems stretched, fragmented and harder to access. Public services should be treated as investments in our shared future, not costs to cut. The Green Party will ensure that health care, education, housing, infrastructure and support for families are recognised as public goods that are planned and funded to meet people's needs, not shaped around private profit.

Aotearoa has enough to properly invest in the services and infrastructure everyone relies on and to ensure these services stay in public hands. Strong public services also require a strong, capable and independent public sector with a commitment to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Aotearoa can have an economy that works for all of us, where collective resources are used to improve quality of life, care for te taiao and give every community what it needs to thrive.

Our plan

1. Uphold Te Tiriti throughout the work of the public service, and fund Māori organisations, iwi, hapū and marae to run community and environmental initiatives that meet the needs and aspirations unique to their rohe (region).
2. Fund public services adequately to ensure that they are able to work in service of the public good, and that public services (and state-owned enterprises) remain in public hands.
3. Reform the public finance system to ensure that the fiscal management approach supports New Zealand's long-term resilience, the productive capacity of our economy, and ensures the health and well-being of everyone.
4. Affirm the importance of advocacy and monitoring done by independent commissions with expertise in an area, starting with restoring the monitoring role of the Children's Commissioner alongside its advocacy function.
5. Introduce standardised career progression, pay, community secondment opportunities and training across the public sector to improve staff retention and skills development, and ensure equal pay for equivalent roles.
6. Provide secure, flexible and full funding arrangements for the community sector, recognising the value of the work, and ensuring independence within a supportive legislative framework.
7. Improve training in Te Tiriti and te reo Māori for all public servants, resulting in consistency across all agencies.
8. Ensure that the public service is a leader in disability-responsive employment, including by providing resources and training to meet access needs and counter ableism.



Rainbow communities

Rainbow communities thriving with freedom, equality and respect

The Green Party will nurture an Aotearoa where everyone belongs and enjoys a safe, healthy and happy life.

All New Zealanders deserve to live with dignity, safety and the freedom to be themselves in a community where they belong. For takatāpui, rainbow, MVPFAFF+ and Pacific LGBTQI+, trans, non-binary and intersex people, this means more than symbolic support.

It means celebrating the joy of rainbow communities as well as addressing the inequities many experience. It means our public services must care for, include and uphold the mana of rainbow people. The deeply connected relationships between rainbow identities, whakapapa and whānau must also be acknowledged and allowed to thrive.

Barriers that stop people participating fully in their communities must be removed. Some Rainbow communities — including takatāpui, MVPFAFF+ and Pacific LGBTQI+ communities, disabled rainbow people, migrants, refugees, young people and intersex people — face overlapping and compounding barriers to a healthy life that must be recognised and addressed.

The Green Party believes that rainbow health care should be shaped by compassion, evidence and aroha — not fear or political division.

Decisions that affect communities should be made with them, not imposed on them. The Green Party will put people at the heart of political decision-making, ensuring those most impacted by policy are heard.

Our plan

1. Work with the different rainbow communities to develop appropriate health care services and strategies, built on cultural values and holistic models of care and wellbeing.
2. Increase resourcing for rainbow organisations, including dedicated support for Māori and Pasifika-led organisations, to support the development and delivery of services that reflect the diverse needs, values, and strengths of rainbow communities.
3. Resource clear pathways for timely, free, non-discriminatory access to all forms of gender-affirming health care based on informed consent and self-determination, including reversal of the ban on puberty blockers.
4. Promote the human rights of takatāpui, intersex and rainbow people, amending the Human Rights Act to clarify that all forms of sexual orientation, gender identity and variations in sex characteristics, are prohibited on grounds of discrimination, and implement the Law Commission's la Tangata report recommendations.
5. Prohibit all non-consensual and medically unnecessary surgeries or medical interventions on intersex people.
6. Reform laws and policies so rainbow asylum seekers, refugees and migrants can access legal gender recognition, partnership recognition, family reunification, and resettlement support.

Seniors

Happy, healthy and supported



The Green Party will uphold the mana of seniors by prioritising the support that enables equitable and fulfilling lives.

Seniors have cared for us and served their communities. Many continue to do so during retirement.

Every senior should be valued, connected and able to live with dignity. However, the Luxon Government has sidelined the needs of seniors, meaning many find themselves without the care and support they need. Some have no one to turn to.

Guided by manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, and led by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, we envision communities where seniors are recognised and celebrated as leaders and knowledge holders, actively shaping whānau, hapū and iwi life. Homes are warm, accessible and designed for connection across generations, while community spaces and marae-based centres foster belonging, learning and support.

We believe those who work in aged care must be respected and rewarded, with secure conditions that enable them to provide high-quality, compassionate support. Care systems should be equitable, culturally grounded, and responsive, ensuring Māori, Pacific Peoples and diverse communities can access services that reflect their values and tikanga.

The Green Party commits to a long-term, non-partisan vision where seniors thrive with dignity and autonomy in vibrant intergenerational communities, ensuring that ageing is a positive process.

Our plan

1. Launch a dedicated long-term strategy for the needs of an ageing population which encompasses the holistic wellbeing of kaumātua, elder abuse prevention, ensuring income is equitably accessed and sufficient to live comfortably, and the establishment of a state-owned, not-for-profit retirement village scheme.
2. Increase funding for community spaces and the establishment of facilities, programmes, education and volunteering opportunities that are accessible to seniors.
3. Expanding housing options by building more papakāinga, prioritising kaumātua on social housing waitlists, and ensuring housing designs are suitable for their needs — single-level and warm, with mobility features and room for intergenerational living.
4. Ensure support services are grounded in cultural values, and that home and community care workers are well trained, supported and paid equitably and fairly by including travel time.
5. Resource Māori, Pacific and migrant organisations to provide kaumātua care that is aligned with their values, cultural practices and tikanga.



Small businesses

Championing small, local enterprise

The Green Party will back local businesses, support sustainable industries and ensure small businesses have a fair shot.

When wealth is kept in local communities, we all benefit. But too often, small businesses face an economy that is stacked against them.

In the last year, we saw the highest number of business liquidations in almost 15 years. Local suppliers are being squeezed by the supermarket duopoly, while factories are closing and costing jobs. This is the story right across our economy.

Successive governments have built an economy where large international corporates can flourish, sending immense profits offshore, while small and local businesses fight just to keep the lights on.

The Green Party will reform our economic rules to back local businesses, even the playing field, and support sustainable, low-carbon industries to thrive.

Our plan

1. Revitalise 'Buy Kiwi Made' and expand country of origin labelling so it's easier to support local businesses.
2. Commit government departments to buying more goods and services from Aotearoa businesses.
3. Foster sustainable, low-carbon jobs in the information and communication technology sector by expanding access to grants and rebates for smaller sized firms.
4. Continue to invest in community-led regional development with a focus on sustainable building, regenerative agriculture and horticulture, improving low-carbon infrastructure, and iwi- and hapū-led economic activity.
5. Reform competition laws to create a fairer playing field for small businesses and to benefit consumers. Increase the resources and powers of regulatory agencies to investigate anti-competitive practice.



Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Advancing an Aotearoa that embraces Te Tiriti

The Green Party will put Te Tiriti o Waitangi at the heart of a modern Aotearoa founded on real partnership.

We envision an Aotearoa where our governing structures uphold the rangatiratanga of iwi and hapū, providing dignity for all. We can achieve this by demonstrating true partnership between tangata whenua and the Crown as intended by Te Tiriti.

Successive governments have consistently breached Te Tiriti. The resulting harm, lack of accountability and denial of Māori as equal partners mean that the Crown has not upheld its side of the partnership. When Te Tiriti breaches are ongoing, apologies for past harms are not enough.

It is our responsibility to acknowledge, take accountability and put right the wrongdoings committed by the Crown. These have led to worse outcomes for Māori in too many ways. We can't allow government to pretend that everyone is equal in this country when the exact systems that were created to oppress Māori are still operating.

The Green Party understands that He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti are the foundation for an enduring constitutional partnership. We acknowledge the need for ongoing dialogue to build the awareness, understanding and vision that will give life to Te Tiriti in Aotearoa.

Our plan

1. Amend the Treaty of Waitangi Act to recognise that Te Tiriti is the authoritative text and that Te Tiriti works in conjunction with He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni.
2. Implement genuine Te Tiriti-based decision-making models across government and resource iwi and hapū to participate as partners rather than as advisors.
3. Reform the Treaty Settlements process by amending the settlement policy guide for negotiators to enable fair negotiations and just reparations without ceding sovereignty, removing any clauses that refer to 'Full and Final settlement', ending the 'large natural grouping' approach to Treaty settlements, and validating hapū rangatiratanga.
4. Increase resourcing for the Waitangi Tribunal, providing them with the power to make binding recommendations for the return of Crown and Private land to iwi, whānau and hapū.
5. Facilitate the return of whenua outside of Treaty Settlements that was wrongfully alienated from tangata whenua, including through exploring a right-of-first-refusal process that enables the return of private land to iwi, hapū and whānau at point of sale.



Tertiary education

Opportunities for everyone to learn and grow

The Green Party will support student success by overhauling tertiary education.

We all benefit when somebody takes on tertiary study, contributing original thought and their skills to our communities, hapori (community), country and the world.

Unfortunately, successive governments have forced universities and polytechs to make deep cuts to the courses and services students need to succeed.

At the same time, they have normalised student poverty, leaving students struggling to pay the rent and eat a decent meal.

Choosing to study shouldn't be a commitment to years of stress and hardship. Tertiary education should be the springboard into a meaningful career and the expansion of human knowledge.

The Green Party will overhaul the tertiary education sector, so our institutions are sustainable and operate in the public good.

That means a tertiary education system where it's affordable to study, students get the support they need to succeed, and staff have good pay and working conditions so that everyone can benefit from a world-class tertiary education system.

We can ensure that we have a thriving tertiary sector that looks after students, staff and the communities they serve – because tertiary education should be for everyone.

Our plan

1. Support students with a universal student income, including at postgraduate level, and ensure courses that require work placements pay students at least the living wage.
2. Overhaul funding for the tertiary sector to ensure it delivers rigorous research, a wide range of course options, quality teaching, comprehensive student services, decent pay and conditions for staff, and full participation of disabled students.
3. Empower polytechnics with adequate funding and strong local control to meet workforce and community needs, and protect courses, campuses and staff from cuts.
4. Expand free apprenticeship programmes, reduce student loan repayments and work towards fees-free tertiary education and a student debt write-off.
5. Ensure all tertiary institutes uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and deliver equitable outcomes for ākonga Māori (Māori students). Expand the Māori and Pasifika Trades Training programme, and fully resource Whare Wānanga to increase opportunities for kaupapa Māori education.
6. Return to default student union membership and develop a governance model for tertiary organisations in which staff, students, communities and tangata whenua govern together.

Transport

Easy, sustainable ways to get around



The Green Party will invest in modern, sustainable, and affordable transport options.

This will make it easier and cheaper for people to safely get around our cities and regions.

Aotearoa was once joined up by buses and a reliable passenger rail system. Fast, frequent and reliable public transport ran throughout our cities and towns.

After our rail network was sold off for private profit, it was returned to the people in disarray. Successive governments have failed to invest in our rail network or plan for the future in our urban areas. Our cities are now choked with cars, instead of flourishing with people.

People have been priced out of our central cities and now live in the outskirts, where they are poorly served by public transport and don't have safe walking and biking infrastructure. This has left so many with no option but to rely on cars to get around, adding to congestion and making people vulnerable to oil price shocks.

The Green Party will invest in transport for the future so we all have real options to get around our communities, wherever we live. We'll ease congestion with rapid buses and surface light rail in our biggest cities. We will fund councils to build linked-up bike networks, and invest in rail to move people and freight.

Giving people the freedom to take public transport or bike instead of being forced into cars will provide them immediate relief where it counts — their wallets.

Our plan

1. Transform public transport networks, including building mass rapid transit in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, and providing comprehensive bus lanes in all cities.
2. Invest in nationwide rapid rail for passengers and freight to connect regions and major cities and contribute to economic development and decarbonisation.
3. Introduce targeted subsidies for e-cargo bikes. Introduce e-bike sharing schemes in community hubs, to allow more families to save on transport costs.
4. Fund affordable, reliable, interregional rural bus services, and on-demand public transport, including by-Māori for-Māori public transport to serve kōhanga reo and rural schools.
5. Extend Community Connect to provide free fares for students and apprentices, community service card holders, everyone under 18, and all Total Mobility card holders.
6. Enable the provision of transport services publicly instead of for profit by replacing the Public Transport Operating Model.
7. Create safe walking and biking routes to all community hubs including schools through building more bike lanes and safe crossings, and lowering speed limits near schools.
8. Implement a phase-out date for the import of fossil-fuel powered vehicles, build more EV (electric vehicle) charging stations, remove regulatory barriers to EV car-sharing and re-introduce incentives for EV uptake.



Violence prevention

Keeping whānau and communities safe

The Green Party will make sure everyone can live a life free from violence and heal from trauma.

Our homes, whānau and communities should be places of aroha, care and safety — free from fear and harm.

Aotearoa has among the highest rates of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and child abuse. This disproportionately harms people in vulnerable professions and communities, and can have long-lasting impacts that are passed down through families.

The current Government has stalled progress on work initiated by the Green Party to prevent violence from happening. They have failed to deliver action, instead cutting funding to critical community-led services.

The Green Party will invest in stopping violence before it starts. Our approach will be safe, accessible and integrated, building on people's strength and with Te Tiriti o Waitangi at its heart. We will mobilise our communities to help and ensure our workforce is skilled and culturally competent.

New Zealanders deserve a government who are committed to ending violence in Aotearoa. We will invest in tailored specialist and whānau-centred services for victims and survivors focused on prevention, healing, recovery and restoration. This includes services to support those who have used violence to take accountability and change their behaviour.

The Green Party vision is an Aotearoa where everyone feels safe and supported.

Our plan

1. Fund the implementation of the action plan for Te Aorerekura: National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence, centred on Te Tiriti.
2. Resource kaupapa Māori solutions and community-led solutions to family and sexual violence, that have been developed by disproportionately impacted groups, including women, Pasifika, rainbow, and disabled communities.
3. Prioritise violence responses and prevention by improving workforce and broader public understanding of the drivers and signs of violence, and how to respond in ways that enhance safety and healing.
4. Amend the Crimes Act to criminalise coercive control, amend the definition of consent, and preclude a defence of reluctant consent to affirm that consent must be free and voluntary, and can be withdrawn at any time while ensuring these changes cause no further harm.
5. Restore relationship and sexuality teaching guidelines — including education on healthy relationships, diverse identities and sexualities, and affirmative consent — in all schools.
6. Increase funding for counselling and mental health support for victims, whānau, witnesses, defendants and legal professionals engaging in the justice system.

Welfare of animals

Caring for all animals that call Aotearoa home



The Green Party will keep animals safe from cruelty and suffering.

Animals should live a happy, comfortable life free from suffering.

Unfortunately, the Luxon Government has let big industry players write our animal welfare laws, putting corporate greed ahead of the wellbeing of animals.

Thousands of farmed animals are suffering unnecessarily because the standards that are meant to protect their safety aren't being upheld. Cruel and harmful practices are allowed to continue.

The Green Party will protect animals from practices that put profit ahead of their welfare. We have been the parliamentary champion for animal welfare for decades.

In recent years, we have fought for and protected the ban on live exports at sea and won the end to greyhound racing. We have been the leading parliamentary voice against mud farming, cruel imports and the caging of mother pigs.

The Green Party will transform our animal welfare protections to make Aotearoa a place where all animals are treated with care and respect.

We will prioritise ethical treatment so that all animals can live a good life no matter where they live — on farms, in our homes or in the wild.

Our plan

1. Create a new Commissioner for Animals to independently monitor and advocate for the rights of animals, and an independent ministry.
2. Resource the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to ensure all animal welfare codes genuinely comply with the Animal Welfare Act, and introduce stronger codes for farmed animals.
3. Phase out harmful activities including debeaking of hens, intensive winter grazing, factory farming, octopus farming, farrowing crates and rodeo.
4. Require that imported products meet the animal welfare standards of Aotearoa, including for cosmetics.
5. Introduce consistent, clear and enforceable standards for manufacturing claims about animal welfare and ingredients (such as 'free range', 'cruelty free' and 'vegan').
6. Retain the ban on live exports of farmed animals by sea and extend the ban to include live exports of farmed animals by air and wild-caught animals such as endangered tuna longfin eels.



Workforce rights

Employment protections and decent pay for all workers

The Green Party will protect rights, improve conditions and make things fairer for workers.

Work should provide dignity, security and a fair share in the prosperity we create together. Strong employment rights, decent pay and collective voice are essential for a thriving economy and a healthy democracy.

Workers should be valued for their contribution, protected from exploitation and supported to live well — not just survive.

Right now, too many people are locked into insecure, low-paid or unsafe work. Employers hold the balance of power and unemployment is used to suppress workers' fair expectations for better pay and conditions.

The current Government has launched a sustained attack on workers' rights — removing pay equity and fair pay agreements, cutting health and safety protections, and normalising insecurity. Meanwhile, industries producing important goods for Aotearoa are forced to close when international corporations aren't happy with their bottom line.

The Green Party will implement a workforce system built on fairness, democracy and care, restoring the balance between workers and employers. This means standing up for pay equity, safe workplaces and secure employment.

We will undo this Government's attacks on workers and build strong, future-focused employment protections. Our plan will support a flourishing economy that works for everyone — through the transition to a sustainable zero carbon economy.

Our plan

1. Strengthen worker bargaining power by changing employment law to default union membership. This means people automatically join a union when they start a new job, but can opt out later. Expand the right to strike, including for breaches of collective agreements and political and solidarity reasons.
2. Strengthen employment law to protect all workers' free time with a right to disconnect. Ensure protection from unwanted contact or surveillance out of working hours.
3. Explore legislating to put workers' representatives on boards of publicly listed companies.
4. Guarantee annual minimum wage increases that at least keep up with inflation. Pay all publicly funded roles a living wage. Work towards matching the minimum wage to the living wage.
5. Increase paid parental leave to 15 months for the primary caregiver, with additional ring-fenced leave for partners, while also increasing payments.
6. Protect platform and gig-economy workers by strengthening the test for whether a worker is a contractor.
7. Close the gender and ethnic pay gaps by undoing the Government's changes to the pay equity regime and resuming claims, pay transparency measures, and comprehensive pay gap reporting.

Zero waste

Building a sustainable circular economy



The Green Party will take action to reduce waste and protect the environment from pollution.

In a truly sustainable system, nature is protected rather than treated as a dumping ground. We can build a circular economy where waste is designed out and resources are valued and reused.

Under the current Government, progress towards our zero-waste future has stalled. Action on plastic pollution has ground to a halt, and funding for solutions has dried up. Corporations continue to make products that won't last or can't be repaired, filling up our landfills. Communities are left to deal with the pollution and impacts.

The Green Party has shown what's possible. In government, we banned single-use plastic bags and reduced food waste going to landfill. We increased the waste levy for the first time in over a decade and introduced mandatory product stewardship schemes. We also started work on a container return scheme.

We will build on this legacy by holding corporations accountable for the waste they create. This means both reducing waste, and requiring the recovery, recycling, reuse and redistribution of materials.

By supporting communities to lead local solutions, we will accelerate the transition to a sustainable and circular economy that allows people and nature to thrive.

Our plan

1. Establish strong product policy measures, including mandatory product stewardship, a beverage container return scheme, phase-outs of problematic products and comprehensive right-to-repair.
2. Direct revenue from the waste disposal levy into waste minimisation initiatives and stop diverting the local government portion to other purposes. Increase the levy to match international best practice and apply a consistent rate across all landfill classes.
3. Introduce a moratorium on waste-to-energy plants and explore energy generation from biogas associated with animal and plant wastes.
4. Build on proposed reforms of the Waste Minimisation Act to implement timely, binding, measurable and ambitious waste reduction targets. Ensure legislation gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Introduce comprehensive duty-of-care systems for the waste and resource recovery sector covering all waste streams, including hazardous waste.
5. Make greater use of discarded soil. Divert soil from landfills, where safe and appropriate to do so.
6. Prioritise local, mana whenua and community-driven solutions to resource recovery, implementation of national zero-waste strategies, and organic waste reduction, diversion and processing.

FOR ALL OF US.

