



Press pack

June 2010

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about Green Alliance

Green Alliance is an influential environmental think tank working to ensure UK political leaders deliver ambitious solutions to global environmental issues.

We understand political decision-making and have helped to change policy bringing climate change and environmental issues into the mainstream.

While not a formal alliance we work closely with partners in the third sector, business and other spheres to advocate proposals influential on all sides of the political spectrum.

Our activities include research, advocacy and convening high-profile events with senior politicians and key influencers.

Based in London, Green Alliance has permanent staff, part-time voluntary interns and associates. Green Alliance is a charity and company limited by guarantee, governed by a board of trustees, which meets quarterly.

Green Alliance was named Think Tank of the Year in the Public Affairs News Awards 2009.

our partners



six strategic themes for 2009-2012

Political Leadership

Our Political Leadership theme focuses on securing political leadership and action that is needed to tackle climate change and other environmental problems.

Politicians have significantly underestimated the scale of the climate change challenge, and that of other environmental issues. Action is lagging dangerously far behind what the latest science tells us is needed.

In 2010-11 Green Alliance is:

- engaging with the new coalition government and key political figures following the general election, centred on the agenda for climate change policy outlined by the Last Parliament panel of experts.
- co-ordinating the collective messages to government from the leading environment groups around the top issues identified in The Green Standard manifesto
- running the Climate Leadership Programme, in conjunction with the Ashridge Business School, training MPs of all parties on the science and political challenges of climate change

Sustainable Economy

Our objective in the frame of this theme is to explore the opportunity to build a new sustainable economic model, one that is good for business, quality of life and the environment.

We are focusing on how a sustainable economy would work in reality and what the policy landscape would have to look like to make it happen. We are bringing together the major players on three critical elements essential to make the transition.

First, examining the ways to reward private investment in a low carbon and resource efficient economy, especially through the creation of a Green Investment Bank and reframed financial regulations to encourage a long term investment culture.

Second, analysing how public finance could be rebuilt with greater use of environmental taxes, and developing the case for more public support for these measures.

Finally, working with the third sector and business groups to identify policy to help develop the skills and expertise required in the UK workforce to deliver the sort of economic transformation a low-carbon economy requires.

Third Sector

The aim of this theme is to help strengthen the social foundations of political action, and bring the full power and unique influence of the third sector to bear on the political process to achieve action on climate change.

Last year we acted as the third sector chair and secretariat for the new joint ministerial and third sector task force on climate change, the environment and sustainable development. Its report in March 2010 *Shaping our future* set out a five year vision for how government and the third sector should work together. Now, focusing mainly on climate change, we are working with leading

organisations across the third sector to identify the barriers and the links between climate change and their issues, and new approaches to accelerate commitment and action.

Climate and Energy Futures

The period 2009-12 is critical for climate policy. We welcomed the 2008 Climate Change Act that set targets for action. But now we must ensure that the policy framework delivers on these goals. There has never been a more important time to engage with government on climate change.

The overarching aim of this theme is the need to develop the infrastructure necessary to secure a low carbon future for the UK.

Our work is targeting emissions reductions beyond 2010, concentrating on the future for coal and carbon capture technology, low-carbon heat, transport policy and the electricity network infrastructure.

Green Living

This theme focuses on the political opportunities for driving positive behaviour change.

Everyday individuals make decisions about travel, food, waste, energy and water. Collectively, these decisions in our own homes total 27 per cent of the UK's carbon emissions. By making more environmentally friendly individual choices, we have great potential to help combat climate change.

Working with a consortium of leading businesses, we are focused on showing the political parties that there are attractive policy opportunities in driving pro-environmental behaviour change.

Designing out Waste

We are promoting radically more efficient resource use through ambitious product and materials policy.

Waste is an intrinsic feature of our economy. We waste resources through inefficient design and use of products, and we waste the energy, water and money that goes into producing them. Yet, until recently, the UK has been concerned mostly with what to do about waste only once it has been generated, rather than focusing on how to eliminate it in the first place.

Green Alliance's work has led to major shifts in the UK's waste policy, most notably making the case for a higher landfill tax and promoting the concept of zero waste.

Now our focus is on product and system design changes that will speed the transition from a wasteful linear resource economy (extract-process-consume-discard) to one that values resources differently and uses them in a cyclical way. Ten major businesses and organisations that together represent all aspects a product cycle are involved in our Designing Out Waste consortium.

past achievements 1979 - 2000

- 1979** founded to “inject an environmental perspective into the political life of Britain”
- 1980s** persuaded the main political parties to produce their first comprehensive environmental policy statements
- 1980s** hosted Margaret Thatcher’s first meeting with environment organisations
- 1990s** led the joint lobby of environment groups for the first white paper on the environment
- 1990s** convened the cross sectoral campaign for better pesticide and GM regulation
- 1990s** led the lobby that helped to shape the new Environment Agency
- 1990s** hosted Tony Blair’s first speeches on the environment as party leader and prime minister

most recent successes

Green Alliance has **provided the platform** for many of the most significant political speeches on the environment recently, including Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Nick Clegg, David Miliband and George Osborne.

We **brought together over 40 businesses and voluntary organisations** to push for action on heat as a major contributor to emissions causing climate change. As a result the government committed to a new national heat strategy in 2009 alongside a package of new financial incentives.

We have **convened the Green Standard coalition** of the leading nine UK environment groups agreeing top issues for political attention. Our annual analysis of progress has attracted national press coverage and influenced the priorities and approach of the parties.

The national campaign **Ask the climate question** was led by Green Alliance in the run up to the 2010 general election, focusing on groups in marginal seats promoting climate change as an election issue.

Our Designing Out Waste consortium of ten major businesses and organisations made the **case directly to the Treasury for higher landfill tax**. The tax was subsequently

increased in the 2007 budget and will reach £72 per tonne by 2013. In June 2010 this consortium has **published recommendations to government on greener product policy**.

Our report *Unlocking a low-carbon Europe: perspectives on EU budget reform* (2010) featured articles from business, NGOs, social groups and think tanks, all **calling for a fundamental reform of the EU budget** to accelerate Europe's low-carbon transition. This was launched in the European Parliament and continues our influential role in the public and private debate on the future of the EU budget.

Green Alliance is **a leading voice in the UK and Europe promoting carbon capture and storage** (CCS) technology. We helped to secure a dramatic shift in UK climate change policy in March 2009, with a government commitment to new regulation and new funding for up to four CCS demonstration projects, together with the creation of an Office of CCS within DECC.

Green Alliance and NCVO were the joint **secretariat for a new government and third sector task force**, launched in March 2009, which reported on how government and the third sector to accelerate action on climate change and the environment.

Green Alliance was named **Think Tank of the Year in the Public Affairs News awards 2009**

Green Alliance led UK NGO **negotiations with the prime minister and other senior politicians** in the run-up to the 2009 Copenhagen summit.

The government is now proposing the creation of a **Green Investment Bank**, supported by all parties, a proposal first made by Green Alliance in 2009.

Green Alliance's policy team



Matthew Spencer
director

Matthew became the new director of Green Alliance in May 2010. His role prior to joining Green Alliance was head of government affairs at the Carbon Trust. He is a member of the government's Renewable Advisory Board.

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Thomas Lingard
deputy director

Thomas is responsible for managing Green Alliance's policy team and is pivotal in the shaping and delivering of the organisation's future strategy. He is on long-term secondment from a senior post at Unilever, where he had responsibility for sustainability issues and community involvement strategy.

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Rachel Cary
senior policy adviser

Rachel is leading the Climate and Energy Futures theme. She has worked on a wide range of climate change and energy projects, advising public and private sector organisations in areas from renewable heat to carbon trading.

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Chris Hewett
associate

Chris is on secondment from the Environment Agency, where he has been head of climate change. He leads Green Alliance's sustainable economy work and has been instrumental in the promotion of the Green Investment Bank and a low carbon economic recovery.

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Hannah Hislop
senior policy adviser

Hannah manages our Designing out Waste theme, which includes our work on policy innovations to green product policy and fiscal incentives for recycling. She is also working with Chris Hewett under the Sustainable Economy theme on our jobs and skills project.

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Hannah Kyrke-Smith
policy team assistant

Hannah provides administrative and research support to the policy team, with a current focus on the Green Living theme.

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Chris Littlecott
senior policy adviser

Chris is leading the expansion of our EU and international work, with particular focus on climate change. He also coordinates the activities of the European Environment Bureau's Network of UK NGOs.

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Laura MacKenzie
policy adviser

Laura works on our Political Leadership theme, she has organised the climate leadership programme of training for politicians on climate change. She is on secondment from the National Trust.

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Amy Persson
senior policy adviser

Amy joined Green Alliance in May 2010. She is a trained lawyer who has worked previously for the government of New South Wales, Australia, as special adviser to the minister for the environment and climate change. She leads Green Alliance's Political Leadership theme.

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Rebekah Phillips
senior policy adviser

Rebekah leads our Green Living theme. This includes projects with our Green Living business consortium, examining how the government could better communicate the problem of climate change to the general public, and work on people-centred behaviour-change policy.

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Sylvia Rowley
policy adviser

Sylvia is supporting the policy team primarily across the themes of Third Sector, Designing Out Waste and Green Living. She has an MA in Journalism, focusing on environmental and social affairs, and has written for publications such as The Guardian and The Ecologist.

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Faye Scott
senior policy adviser

Faye heads up Green Alliance's Third Sector theme of work. She also works on our Green Living theme focusing on homes and energy efficiency policy.

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Green Alliance's associates

Ian Christie

Ian Christie is an independent researcher, adviser and lecturer on sustainable development and environmental issues. He is also a visiting professor at the University of Surrey's Centre for Environmental Strategy and is a regular lecturer there. Since January 2006 he has been a part-time policy advisor to ministers and officials at the Department of Communities and Local Government, working mainly with the DCLG Climate and Sustainable Development Unit. He has worked on projects for many organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Previous positions include: joint head of environment, economy and waste management at Surrey County Council; deputy/acting director of the think-tank Demos; associate director of the Henley Centre for Forecasting ; and research fellow at the Policy Studies Institute.

He is a trustee or advisory group member for several environment and sustainability charities, including WWF-UK, the Environment Foundation, Groundwork Merton and Global Action Plan.

Chris Church

Chris works on ways in which policy and practice around climate and sustainable development issues translate into action at the local and community level. His work includes research, training, evaluation and project management. He worked for Friends of the Earth UK from 1984-1990 with responsibility for local and regional development and projects, before starting the Community Environment Associates consultancy. He is also a director of social enterprise Mapping for Change, an Honorary Research Associate at University College London (UCL), and a member of the London Sustainable Development Commission appointed by the Mayor of London. He carries out a range of community-focused work and has written five publications for the Community Development Foundation including the 'Plain English' certified guide to local sustainable development, 'A Better Place to Live'. He is chair of the Low Carbon Communities Network, a UK-wide network of 370 local organisations. He also works across Europe on sustainable consumption and production issues with the ANPED NGO network.

Julie Hill

Julie works with Green Alliance on projects including waste, producer responsibility, procurement and product policy. She has been with Green Alliance since 1985, including as director between 1992 and 1997. Her policy expertise also covers GM crops and agriculture, and she has previously been a member of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, Deputy chair of the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission, and a member of the GM Science Review Panel. She is presently a non-executive director of the Environment Agency for England and Wales, and a non-executive director of the Eden Project in Cornwall. She was awarded an MBE in 2001.

Jiggy Lloyd

Jiggy is an independent consultant in public policy, corporate strategy and sustainable development and has spent twelve years in policy-related roles in leading utility companies. She was group director for Sustainable Development at AWG; group head of environment at Severn Trent Plc; and government and environmental affairs adviser at Vivendi. She is currently



also a member of the Defra/Treasury Sustainable Procurement Taskforce; a trustee of Transport 2000; and a trustee and honorary treasurer of the Town and Country Planning Association.

Stuart Singleton-White

Stuart has more than 15 years experience in politics and the NGO sector. A seasoned campaigner he has successfully led the campaign to bring in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 2000 and the Draft Marine Bill 2004.

Stuart developed Plan International's first global advocacy campaign on Universal Birth Registration, securing the support of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. He successfully led the 1997, 2001 and 2005 general election campaigns in Reading, returning MPs to parliament on each occasion. He has also run a number of successful local election campaigns.

Stuart is a non-executive Director and Deputy Chairman of Reading Transport Limited which provides public transport services through Reading Buses, Newbury Buses and Goldline Travel. Find out more at www.themessagehub.com/stuart.htm

Derek Smith

Derek is a Director of SD Analytica Ltd, a consultancy specialising in the business impact of sustainable development and sustainable development in public policy. His experience includes environmental policy evaluation, research and development for UK government and the European Commission in areas such as product policy, resource productivity, and energy efficiency. He has wide-ranging experience with companies in the fields of risk management and assurance, auditing, and corporate reporting. His work with Green Alliance has included studies on sustainable procurement, a UK product body, and the comprehensive spending review.

From 1989-2002, Derek worked at Ernst & Young, where he was the head of the UK Environment and Sustainable Development group, within the risk management services department. From 1986-88, he worked at a Government relations consultancy in Westminster, and prior to that as a Research Assistant in the House of Commons.

Sheila Watson

Sheila Watson is director of environment at the FIA Foundation, a UK Charity committed to promoting sustainable mobility across the world. An economist, with many years experience as an advisor and consultant, her most recent role was as senior special adviser to the Labour government at DTI, Defra and latterly the FCO. During the 10 years she spent at the heart of government, she specialised in a range of environmental and resource protection issues from sustainable farming and food production to international climate security. Her former roles include deputy director of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, and policy researcher at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Rebecca Willis

Rebecca Willis is an independent researcher and vice-chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission. Her work focuses on environmental politics and policymaking at both a national and regional level. She has researched and written on issues such as climate change, energy policy, public attitudes to the environment, government spending and taxation, and the



environmental and social impact of new technologies. She was director of Green Alliance from 2001 to 2004. Before joining Green Alliance in 1998, Rebecca spent two years as a policy adviser at the European Parliament in Brussels, specialising in international environmental issues. Find out more at www.rebeccawillis.co.uk.



Trustees

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