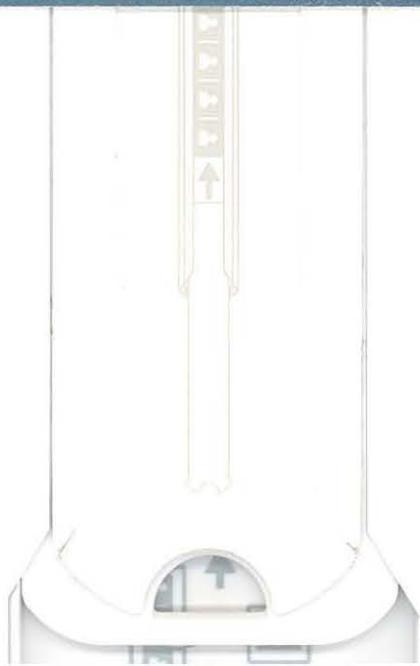


*Guarantee the Earth
Vote Green*



European Elections 1994

This prospectus is for those who feel that environmental well-being and the health of our children should be at the top of the political agenda. The European elections provide an opportunity to vote positively for a green future.



Making real progress

Addiction to industrial growth and consumerism is the root cause of most of our economic problems at national, European and global level. Yet we are continually encouraged to want more and more.

This so-called progress has created a wasteful culture of consumerism. Our world has been turned into a global factory where quantity matters at the expense of quality and where people exist only as numbers to make, sell and purchase things.

Green politics is about more than the environment. It recognises the importance of evaluating the development of an economy in relation to its effect on the natural environment. Only the Green Party puts this at the centre of its philosophy.

Envisaging a vibrant European Community

The Green Party welcomes the many positive initiatives taken at EC level including legislation which encourages the protection of human rights and international environmental issues. The increased co-operation between states which the EC engenders is a vitally important aspect of EC membership. The improved access and freedom of movement between states is also applauded. The Irish Greens favour the further development of a more democratic Europe. Green opposition to the Maastricht Treaty was based on a rejection of a union of states obsessed with free-trade.

As part of the Greens in Europe, Irish Green MEPs will work to:

- Further the protection of human rights internationally.
- Support the development of better understanding between states.
- Transform the EC into a more ecological entity.
- Encourage the decentralisation of industrial location.
- Promote small scale tourism developments in which Ireland will be seen as a prime eco-tourism centre.
- Direct resources towards public transport systems which are not fossil fuel and road dependent.



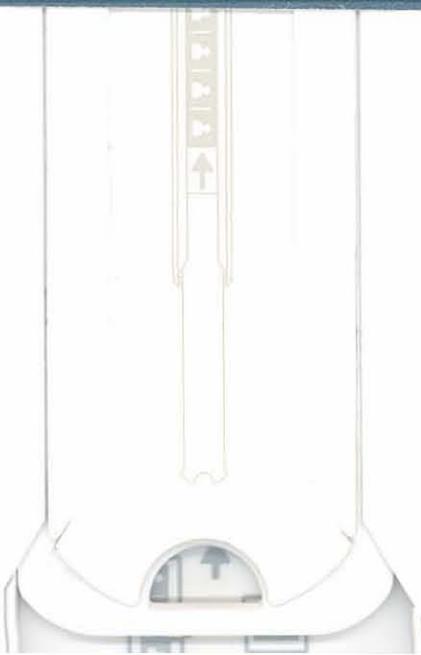
Saving the Earth



In Ireland, problems of air, soil and water pollution have become more severe. Waste disposal, fossil fuel emissions, toxic waste, both industrial and agricultural, are becoming ever larger problems in a country which prides itself on a green image. Local environmental acts have vital downstream spin-off effects and we must all work to prevent Ireland's green image from turning into a grey reality.

As part of the Greens in Europe, the Irish Green MEPs will work to:

- Develop an independent, publicly accountable Environmental Impact Assessment Agency.
- Place an embargo on new toxic industries and close existing chronically polluting or unsafe plants.
- End all grants and subsidies to those found polluting the environment.
- Detoxify all waste before disposal, at the expense of the originator.
- Ban all dangerous and untested pesticides.
- Create freedom of information on all pollution reports and allow public access to the associated files.
- Decentralise energy production and encourage renewable energy sources which are safe, inexhaustible, abundant and non-polluting.

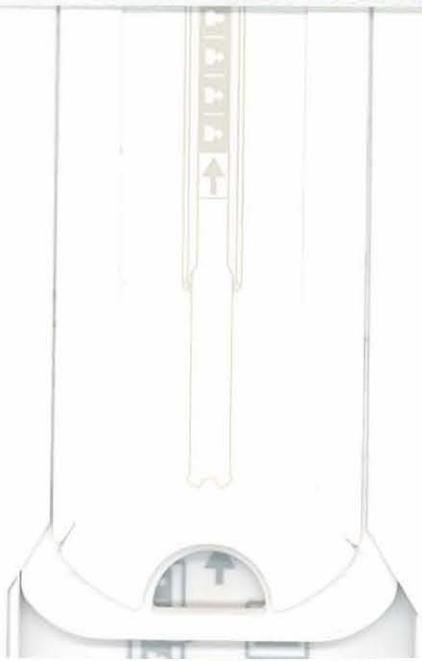


Fighting unemployment and poverty

The nature of work and the redefinition of what contributes to a fulfilled, healthy person in society is fundamental to any attempt to address the grave problem of unemployment in Ireland and the EC. The current social welfare system in Ireland perpetuates the poverty it was allegedly set up to alleviate and must be replaced by a system which encourages self sufficiency rather than dependency.

As part of the European Greens, the Irish Green MEPs will work to:

- Encourage employment and enterprise grants for smaller job creation projects, not solely in manufacturing, and to push for an end to large-scale subsidy of multinational companies.
- Replace the present social welfare system with a General Basic Income (GBI) which would allow people to take part-time work without penalty.
- Encourage worker's co-operatives, co-ownership schemes, and family enterprises run on a participatory basis.
- Achieve a reduction in the working day, week and year and encourage job sharing.





Advancing women's rights

The Green Party recognises that women are still struggling for equality in most areas of their lives and that women do not necessarily want to be like men. Women want to be judged according to their own skills and values and to be respected in their own right.

As part of the European Greens, Irish Green MEPs will work to:

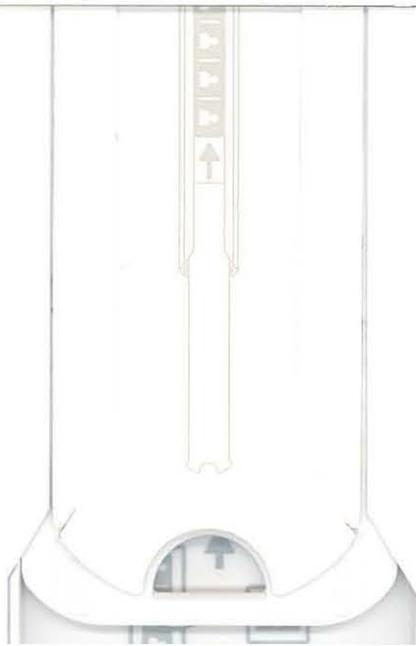
- Establish equal opportunity in every area of life to ensure that women contribute fully to the development of a better future.
- Ban sexist advertising and pornography.
- Provide full and proper sex education.
- Create availability of comprehensive medical services for women, to include safe forms of contraception.
- De-medicalise childbirth and pregnancy.
- Provide legislation dealing with violence against women as a priority and establish that life without such violence is a basic human right for women.
- Dismantle the patriarchal system by which subtle and overt forms of sexism oppress men and women.

Promoting health

The Green Party believes that health and illness cannot be successfully tackled in isolation from the environmental and social conditions under which people live. Green health policies endeavour to promote preventative health care and well being of individuals and communities.

As part of the European Greens, Irish Green MEPs will work to:

- Create a sense of personal responsibility for health and the development of alternative therapies.
- Provide a comprehensive system of health education especially in the fields of alcohol and drug abuse, occupational health, and nutrition.



Feeding the whole world

The maximisation of yields, specialisation and intensive methods of production encouraged by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are extremely destructive environmentally. Economic support and encouragement of organic and bio-dynamic farming methods must be pursued to ensure an environment wherein a multiplicity of wildlife is encouraged in order to maintain a natural equilibrium and develop a more labour intensive industry.

The Green Party recognises how current GATT proposals will multiply the bad effects of CAP with devastating results for the producer or small to medium sized farmer and also for third world countries. There must be sustainable and fair forms of trade and co-operation based on self reliance rather than on unlimited world trade and this should form the basis of the transformation of GATT.

As part of the European Greens, Irish Green MEPs will work to:

- End the production of surpluses in a wide range of commodities which cause environmental degradation in the rush for higher yields.
- End the protectionism of European markets.
- Ensure production of secure food supplies as a basic premise for any future agricultural policy.
- Establish a right to know about methods of production, food quality and country of origin of all produce for consumers.

Act locally - think globally
Vote Green



Re-vitalising rural communities

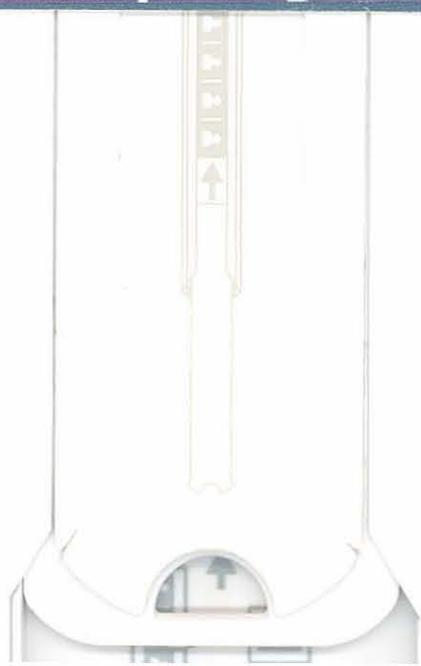
The two greatest periods of flight from the land in Irish history have taken place during the famine of the nineteenth century and during the last ten years. National and EC policies have led to a dismantling of the rural infrastructure, with the closure of local post offices, libraries and banks. This is generating a sense of marginalisation which is eating away at the soul of rural culture. The hallmark of a healthy society is when a balance is struck between the needs of rural and urban populations.

As part of the European Greens, the Irish Green MEPs will work to:

- End the isolation of rural communities by reversing the extinction of the rural way of life in Ireland and other peripheral regions within the EC.
- Halt the social and economic attacks on rural infrastructure.
- End job destruction programmes which target the small scale food producer in rural Ireland.

Green politics is about:

- Ensuring a secure and decent livelihood for everyone, by putting people before profit within a stable economy.
- Living within the physical means of the earth.
- Building self-reliant local communities and regions away from centralised bureaucracies.
- Developing a new sense of values which are more spiritual and are about rediscovering real quality of life in terms of personal rather than material growth.



Green Party candidates for the European Parliament elections



Munster

Dan Boyle is a youth and community worker and was the first Green Party Councillor elected to Cork City Council where he is a member of the Arts, Environment, Roads, Transportation and Safety Committees. He is the Green Party spokesperson on Local Government and lives in Cork with his wife Bláithín Hurley and their daughter Saoirse.



Dublin

Patricia McKenna is a teacher and is the Green Party spokesperson on Justice and Human Rights. She is active in the areas of EC matters, Foreign affairs and Women's issues and she is co-secretary of the European Greens and a campaigner on Neutrality. She lives in inner city Dublin.



Leinster

Nuala Ahern is a counselling psychologist and is the Green Party spokesperson on Health. She is the Green Party Councillor on Wicklow County Council. Nuala is a member of Earthwatch; Greenpeace; Irish Wildlife Conservancy; An Taisce; and Wicklow Environment Group. She lives in Greystones with her husband, Barry Ahern.



Connaught/Ulster

Richard Douthwaite is a writer and journalist and lives in Westport, County Mayo with his wife Mary McGrath. He is active in the areas of Economics, Forestry, Fish Farming and Energy.

Irish Green MEPs cannot hold any other seat of national public representation.

Contact the Green Party at Green Party Head Office
5a Fownes Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 677 1436 Fax: 679 7168

