

Act!on



Election Special – How Green Are Your Candidates?

On Friday March 12th, a network of local Friends of the Earth groups invited prospective parliamentary candidates standing in all the constituencies in Greater Manchester to complete an online survey on ten key environmental issues. The candidates were asked whether they agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed, or disagreed with ten statements designed to cover a range of environmental issues, from biofuels and nuclear power to the proposed 'Robin Hood Tax' and use of a wellbeing indicator to replace GDP as a goal of government economic policy. They were also invited to comment on the questions. You can see a selection of the comments here (see right column).

We have received a total of 45 replies from 19 Liberal Democrat, ten Labour, eight Green and five Conservative candidates, as well as two candidates from the Trade Union and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) and one Independent, standing in constituencies from Bury to Cheadle and from Worsley to Oldham.

Inside, you can see a summary of the questions, as well as analysis of the results for the four main parties. (If you would like to see the full text of the questions we asked, go to <http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/election2010>) All parties with four or more candidates responding were given a percentage score showing their agreement/disagreement with the questions we asked them.

On the back page, you will see a list of hustings in Greater Manchester, where you will have the opportunity to ask your local candidates where they stand on issues that concern you.

I agree that nuclear power is not the answer - the long term toxic waste problems mean that we should look to invest in other forms of energy especially renewables.

Richard Scorer, Labour candidate, Hazel Grove

Deriving energy from waste should never be a substitute for reducing or recycling waste.

Stuart Bodsworth, Liberal Democrat candidate, Stockport

I agree that farmers in the UK should employ more sustainable animal husbandry methods and reduce the current reliance on imported feed.

Janet Clowes, Conservative candidate, Wythenshawe and Sale East

Evidence shows that above a modest income increasing wealth does not increase people's well-being. Using indicators other than GDP such as those developed by the NEF will allow us to much better tackle both environmental and social problems.

Gayle O'Donovan, Green Party candidate, Manchester Central

Moves to fully renewable, clean, safe and alternative energy strategies need to be adopted now, not tomorrow.

David Henry, Trade Union and Socialist Coalition candidate, Salford and Eccles

Forthcoming Hustings

Monday 26th April **Trafford Park**

Stretford and Urmston

5.30–7pm

Warren Bruce Court, Warren Bruce Road,
Trafford Park, M17 1LB

Contact details: 07779 091307

Matthew.Kershaw@gmchamber.co.uk

Monday 26th April **Altrincham**

Altrincham and Sale West

7.15pm

Navigation Primary School, Hawarden
Road, Altrincham WA14 1NG

Contact details: 07771 766848

Will@WSudworth.co.uk

Tuesday 27th April **Bury**

Bury South

6–7.30pm

Bury College Business Solutions, Link
House, Walmersley Road, Bury, BL9 5AE

Contact details: 0161 237 4451 or

Catherine.Fleetwood@gmchamber.co.uk

Tuesday 27th April **Old Trafford**

Stretford and Urmston

7.30–9.30pm

Old Trafford Community Centre,
Shrewsbury Street, M16 9AX

Contact details:

oldtraffordhustings@gmail.com

Thursday 29th April **Cheadle Hulme**

Cheadle

7.30pm

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church,
Ramillies Avenue, SK8 7AL

Submit questions by 27th April to the church
office or via chmc@talktalkbusiness.net

Friday 30th April **Chadderton**

Oldham East and Saddleworth;

Oldham West and Royton

12 noon to 1.30pm

Swallow Bower Hotel, Hollinwood Avenue,
Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 8DE

Contact details: 0161 237 4451 or

Catherine.Fleetwood@gmchamber.co.uk

Questions to ask your candidates

If you go to any of the hustings, but don't have any particular question of your own to ask your candidates, here are a few from National Friends of the Earth's Election 2010 campaign:

Do you agree the next government should listen to the Committee on Climate Change and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020?

Do you agree all councils should have Local Carbon Budgets to help them deliver their fair share of emissions cuts as part of meeting our national climate targets?

Do you think the Government-controlled Royal Bank of Scotland should stop investing in polluting fossil fuel projects?

Will you support the introduction of an incineration tax to reflect the damage that incineration causes to the environment?

The UK's imports of animal feed for intensive livestock production are destroying tropical rainforests. Would you help farmers switch to more planet-friendly farming by redirecting the £700 million that currently supports intensive livestock production in this country?

I hope you're now better informed about where the parties stand on the environment! If you have any contributions or ideas for future articles, please email me at newsletter@manchesterfoe.org.uk.
Damian

Manchester FoE is an award-winning campaign group working on issues relating to the environment and social justice. We campaign on issues with a local connection and also lobby for policy changes at local, regional, national and international levels. We work on a diverse range of issues including climate change, corporate responsibility, real food, trade justice, sustainable transport and aviation, and waste and recycling.

For more information about Manchester FoE and our campaigns, see www.manchesterfoe.org.uk