

A GREENER PERSPECTIVE

OUR MANIFESTO FOR CORNWALL



Cornwall Greens
Bagas Gwer Kernewek

SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

POLLUTION • BIODIVERSITY • CLIMATE CHANGE



WHAT WE STAND FOR:

- Policies that put the environment first
- Protecting ecosystems by encouraging biodiversity
- Improving air quality and combating air pollution
- The ethical treatment of all animals
- Sustainable food production and natural resources

We are proud of Cornwall's unique landscapes, and are committed to choices that put our environment first.

Everyone can contribute by making small changes, such as increasing household energy efficiency or recycling, but pressure to build new housing and infrastructure can threaten the preservation of Cornwall's green spaces.

Cornwall Greens will defend the natural environment and steer new developments toward suitable brown-field sites. We will encourage

developers to use local building materials which, as well as being better for the environment, will benefit the local economy.

Our councillors will also support schemes to phase-out the use of fossil fuels, particularly oil, in Cornwall.

WE WILL:

Prioritise oil-heated households for energy efficiency measures and alternative fuels with the aim to minimise the use of oil in Cornwall.

The European Union has provided significant protection for our beaches. We will ensure that the standards set out in the Bathing Water Directive are maintained following our withdrawal from the EU.

WE WILL:

Ensure Cornwall Council and South West Water maintain standards outlined by the EU Bathing Water Directive.

Protecting the environment is at the very heart of our ethos, and our councillors will take every opportunity to ensure that wildlife and local habitats are able to thrive. We support all opportunities to improve ethical and sustainable practice, and to protect the diversity of life found in our natural habitats.

Cornwall is vitally important to UK agriculture, and our farmers can lead the way in pioneering methods that work in balance with the natural world. We support farmers adopting the very highest

standards of ethical treatment of animals in their care, and want to reward farms and fisheries that use sustainable approaches.

WE WILL:

Develop an agricultural policy that prioritises ethical and sustainable practice.

We are pleased that Cornwall Council has started to make steps towards limiting the use of nicotine-based pesticides, and Cornwall Greens will ensure that plans to eliminate the use of chemical pesticides on council-maintained land are honoured.

WE WILL:

End the use of neonicotinoids, chemical pesticides and herbicides by Cornwall Council, and look towards a county-wide ban.

Flooding is an increasing risk as climate change makes weather patterns more extreme and unpredictable, and can devastate natural resources and the lives of those affected. Our councillors are committed to developing ways to reduce flooding within local communities, particularly using the natural world to counteract the damage caused by over-development.

WE WILL:

Implement an anti-flood study to include planting trees to combat the effects of groundwater saturation.

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

DEVOLUTION • INCLUSION • HERITAGE



WHAT WE STAND FOR:

- Devolution of amenities to local communities
- Keeping income-generating assets in public hands
- Supporting vulnerable people within communities
- Ensuring local facilities remain available
- Developing opportunities for local enterprises, including farming and fishing

The sense of community in Cornish towns and villages is inspiring.

But, as funding is cut, and Cornwall Council devolves the management of key services to town and parish councils, it's increasingly important to ensure that communities work together to find solutions that benefit their residents.

We need a greater level of collaboration between Cornwall Council, town and parish councils, local business, community groups, unions, charities, faith groups and the volunteer sector, as well as much clearer signposting to the support and services available.

We recognise that many members of the Cornish community are at risk of isolation, including first-time parents, those needing residential support, and young adults who cannot afford to live independently.

We want to bring our communities together by developing inter-generational housing initiatives, to support the needs of all citizens of Cornwall.

WE WILL:

Provide more children's centres to support parents and encourage learning through play.

WE WILL:

Prioritise developments which include 50% of houses meeting life-time standards and adaptable homes requirements, and explore opportunities for inter-generational housing initiatives.

Community centres have always been part of the fabric of small towns and villages, providing a vital social hub for the community. We want to develop the role of these spaces to be more inclusive for people of all ages and circumstances, and make them more responsive to the needs of the community.

Multi-use spaces can also be used to provide youth drop-in facilities, freecycling and freelending (of occasional use items), as well as being a place for community education programmes such as free classes in low-cost cooking and home budgeting.

WE WILL:

Create, refurbish or develop multi-use community spaces, responding to local needs.

Preserving Cornish heritage through the development of the Cornish language, the protection of historic sites, and the celebration of local festivals are at the heart of Cornish identity. We will encourage communities and schools to explore these events and traditions.

We support the exploration of our natural heritage through informal learning and play, and want to enable people of all ages in Cornwall to be inspired by nature.

WE WILL:

Establish outdoor centres offering the chance to play and learn in a natural environment.

The farming community is vital to the economy and identity of Cornwall, and young people must be encouraged to gain the skills and experience needed to pursue a career in farming.

WE WILL:

Promote agricultural apprenticeships to encourage careers in farming.



PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVICES

HEALTH • TRANSPORT • EDUCATION

WHAT WE STAND FOR:

- A fully-funded and publicly owned NHS
- Improved services for social care and mental health support
- Proportional representation in all elections
- Accountability and transparency of local government
- Non-selective education and disbanding MATs

People living in Cornwall deserve to have access to high-quality, affordable, inclusive public services.

We wholeheartedly support the NHS, and we firmly oppose the gradual privatisation of health care that is currently taking place at both a national and local level.

We support an integrated health and social care strategy that ensures the physical and mental wellbeing of all Cornwall residents. In particular, we recognise the need to improve mental health services, particularly those for young people, with more early intervention strategies to avoid escalation where possible.

WE WILL:

Increase access to support groups, talking therapies and 'social prescription' activities, run by well-qualified practitioners.

We will campaign for greater transparency and accountability from democratic services. Cornwall Council has been heavily criticised for using funding ineffectively, so we will be working to provide better value-for-money to taxpayers, without resorting to privatisation.

WE WILL:

Promote council-run, social enterprise, not-for-profit and cooperative services within Cornwall to ensure the most cost-effective use of funding.

The Devolution Deal brings opportunities to devise an integrated transport service, and we are committed to ensuring that bus services reliably meet the needs of our communities.

Our transport network must offer faster, reliable and more frequent services, with a greater focus on linking towns across Cornwall as an alternative to private car use.

Providing the most sustainable and environmentally sound solutions is vital: we will support all opportunities to make cycling to work safer and more convenient for commuters, and to replace fossil fuel technologies with electric alternatives.

WE WILL:

Campaign for all new road improvements to include adequate cycling lanes or off-road routes, and for subsidies to support workplaces to develop cycling-friendly facilities (installation of changing facilities and secure bike storage).

We value the outstanding work of local teachers and schools in ensuring that young people have the opportunity to learn and develop in a safe environment, and condemn the development of Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs), which redirects funding to Executive Principals' pockets instead of the classroom and young learners.

We believe in inclusive and accessible education for all young people and would oppose the development of grammar schools within Cornwall. Learning is an exciting, spontaneous and personal journey but the pressure of exams and a content-driven curriculum is putting young people under ever-greater stress.

WE WILL:

Support all local opportunities to integrate academies and free schools with the Local Education Authority.

As part of our commitment to education, Cornwall Greens will support post-16 and adult education initiatives, to ensure that people of all ages have access to education and training opportunities.



IMPROVING EVERYDAY LIVES

HOUSING • LOCALISM • WELLBEING

WHAT WE STAND FOR:

- A real living wage for everyone
- Limiting second homes
- More social housing for those who need it
- Making healthy life choices
- Promoting local produce
- Protecting sports and leisure facilities

We want everyone living in Cornwall to have the highest possible quality of life.

This is no easy goal, because many people in Cornwall battle with higher property costs while earning lower wages. Access to comfortable and affordable housing, including social housing for those who need it, must be prioritised.

We encourage creative solutions to housing, such as limiting second home purchase and promoting self-build projects, with stricter guidelines to ensure that new developments include homes that are truly 'affordable' for the average earner in Cornwall.

WE WILL:

Protect new-build, self-build and affordable housing from being purchased as second homes, and streamline the process for self-build projects.

Social housing is being sold off, and we desperately need Cornwall Council to invest in housing for the most vulnerable. Failure to do this forces ever more people into the private rental market, with many living in sub-standard conditions. We think that landlords should be made accountable for providing quality accommodation.

WE WILL:

Set minimum energy efficiency requirements on all new housing built in Cornwall, and make landlords accountable for meeting these requirements in all rented properties.

Making rented and owned properties more energy-efficient is another priority, to help those living in Cornwall cut their energy costs.

WE WILL:

Undertake an awareness campaign to encourage people to use less energy in their homes, in order to make personal energy savings.

WE WILL:

Instigate an insulation programme for all buildings, including listed buildings.

Cornwall has a thriving agricultural industry and we want to help people make informed decisions about the food they buy.

Buying locally produced food is good for our economy and our environment, and we want to support local farm shops and farmers' markets, which help consumers to access local, affordable produce.

WE WILL:

Promote farm shops and farmers markets to limit distribution costs, raise awareness of the carbon footprint of imported food, and promote seasonal produce.

Sport is another powerful tool for social engagement and a great way to combat isolation, as well as helping to avoid physical and mental health problems and improving general wellbeing.

Austerity has hit sports and leisure facilities hard, through cuts and privatisation. We are committed to defending these vital services and promoting the health and social benefits they offer.

Libraries, arts centres and sports centres are not luxuries – they're at the heart of thriving communities. We want them to be properly funded, but we also support creative, community-led initiatives that can help to save them from closure.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

CORNWALL'S BIGGEST RESOURCE



WHAT WE STAND FOR:

- Clean energy
- Affordable energy initiatives that provide income for local communities
- Investment in renewable energy and research
- Promoting electric vehicles, including bikes
- Improving air quality through reduced fossil fuel consumption

Renewable energy has enormous potential for Cornwall's economy.

By taking full advantage of our capacity to produce solar, wind and wave power locally, Cornwall can produce more than enough electricity to meet local needs, with any surplus being sold to national energy companies.

Climate change is an urgent concern, and we want to ensure that Cornwall prepares for a reduction in fossil fuel use as soon as possible. Renewable energy offers the greatest opportunity to provide Cornwall with much-needed income while also growing local employment.

WE WILL:

Work towards ensuring that 100% of Cornwall's electricity needs are provided by renewable energy.

WE WILL:

Divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewables within the Cornwall Council pension scheme and other Council investments.

WE WILL:

Include meadow space on renewable energy sites to promote natural habitats for wildlife.

Renewable power production offers an opportunity to protect our environment, and strengthen our economy, for generations to come. We must ensure that future building developments make use of renewable alternatives and innovative technology.

WE WILL:

Prioritise carbon-neutral development proposals for all new housing in Cornwall.

WE WILL:

Prioritise development proposals with south-facing roofs and windows to maximise solar gain and encourage future solar panel installation for all new housing in Cornwall.

Renewable energy from solar farms and wind turbines doesn't just help save the planet, it's also great for local communities.

Through the decentralisation of the energy market, communities are able to benefit directly from locally-owned renewable power initiatives and invest the profits into local services.

CASE STUDY:

The rural district of St Ives in south east Cornwall gets an annual payment totalling thousands of pounds from a local solar farm, which has recently paid for new playground equipment.

In addition to this, a nearby wind turbine also contributes significant funding to community groups. This demonstrates the immediate benefits of renewable energy to our local communities.

As well as providing a clean and sustainable source of power for Cornwall, renewable energy can become a major export creating thousands of much-needed jobs locally. Income from selling energy to the rest of the UK can be used to replace funding lost from EU convergence funding and central government, and will increase our self-reliance.

Cornwall blazed a trail of innovation during the industrial revolution. We now want it to be at the forefront of the global movement away from fossil fuels that are wreaking havoc on our climate and towards a greener, cleaner and more economically stable future.

Cornwall Greens believe in a political system that puts the public first – a society capable of supporting everyone's needs.

A society where everyone has access to a secure job, a safe and affordable place to live and access to public services that are run for people, not for profit.

Through investment in renewable energy we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, leading to a stable and sustainable economy that protects our planet from climate change.

By supporting the Green Party in Cornwall you can help us build a society that works for the common good.

 Search for: Cornwall Greens

 @CornwallGreens

 getintouch@cornwallgreens.org.uk

www.cornwallgreens.org.uk



**NO VOTE, NO VOICE
HAVE YOUR SAY**

Register to vote online
(it only takes 5 minutes)

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Layout & design: www.designbygreg.uk