



A Green and Pleasant Land

We live in a beautiful country, but we aren't protecting it well enough. Some people face devastating floods, while others have drought conditions every summer. Bird, animal and plant habitats have been destroyed. We're polluting the air and seas. This isn't fair for our children and grandchildren who deserve to inherit a country worth living in. Liberal Democrats will change the way we protect the environment so everyone has fair access to clean water, clean air, and open spaces. We're the only party that takes seriously the responsibility of protecting our natural inheritance. We will protect your health by cutting pollution. We will end landfill by reducing all waste, packaging and increasing recycling. We will change the planning system so homes aren't built either in dangerous flood areas, or where there isn't enough water, and our precious open spaces are protected, in towns, villages and the open countryside, too.

Protect the land with local planning decisions. We will scrap Labour's Planning Act and return decision-making to local people, scrapping the Infrastructure Planning Commission and giving people the right to appeal against decisions in favour of development. We will ensure land that matters is protected and there is open space for all of us and for nature too.

Manage water for everyone. Many areas need protection from flooding, while others face drought. We'll stop house building in major flood risk areas. In areas where there isn't enough water we'll introduce compulsory smart meters, which will help people use less and pay less. We'll crack down on the big water companies so they waste less, too.

Zero Waste, no more landfill and a lot more recycling. Landfill isn't fair for future generations – it destroys our natural landscape and stores up problems with pollution. We will set targets for "zero waste" so that we never squander land in this way again. That means much more recycling, much less packaging, and a huge increase in "anaerobic digestion" technology to generate energy from food and farm waste.

Save lives by cutting air pollution. 24,000 people die every year because of air pollution. It's unfair that they and their families suffer. We will improve your health by cutting pollution. We will cancel plans for a third runway at Heathrow and other airport expansion in the South East. We will move to revenue-neutral road user pricing over the longer term to reduce congestion and city centre pollution.