

1. THE TEN KEY VALUES

The following are the Ten Key Values of the Green Movement in the United States. They center around what are called the Four Pillars: Ecology, Community, Democracy, and Nonviolence. The wording of these values has varied from place to place and from time to time, and their interpretation is a matter for ongoing discussion, but they cover basically the same territory however they are phrased.

ECOLOGICAL WISDOM

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY

NONVIOLENCE

FEMINIST VALUES

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

DECENTRALIZATION

FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL

OPPORTUNITY

PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS AND

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The mission of the Wayne County Green Party Committee is to promote these values within, and by means of, the electoral process. To that end, we hereby present to the citizens of Wayne County a “Green Platform for Wayne County,” enumerating our vision for a Greener future for Wayne County. The “planks” of this platform have arisen from our discussions among ourselves and with our fellow citizens regarding the issues facing Wayne County. In some cases, they represent only desired outcomes; in others, we recommend specific methods for achieving those outcomes. In some cases, these planks can only be brought to fruition by government action; in others, we call for citizens to take up the responsibility instead. This document is not intended to be limiting; the items listed here represent those on which we have been able to generally reach consensus as a group, and individuals may have their own opinions about any individual item.

2. SPECIFIC PLATFORM PLANKS

Note: In this section, the planks are organized according to the “Four Pillars” mentioned above. Some planks may be applicable to more than one area.

ECOLOGY

- ✓ We encourage more ecological education, both in school curricula and in the public sphere as a whole. We urge citizens to take full advantage of the wide array of locally available resources for increasing environmental awareness.
- ✓ We encourage municipalities to take greater control over and responsibility for the maintenance of the ecosystems entrusted to their care. This applies to zoning, planning, road construction, and other infrastructure issues.
- ✓ We encourage the adoption of economic development policies that guarantee the maintenance of a sustainable quality of life in Wayne County.
- ✓ We encourage an increase in the scope of the recycling program in Wayne County, covering more materials and making participation more widespread. We encourage all public agencies to increase their use of recycled materials. (For instance, all schools and county and municipal governments should be using at least 50%-post-consumer recycled paper where possible.)
- ✓ We encourage the adoption of organic methods in gardening and farming. We discourage the deployment of genetically modified (GMO) crops in Wayne County.
- ✓ We support and encourage conservation easements, land trusts, and other mechanisms that encourage the preservation of open space.
- ✓ We encourage citizens to be proactive in monitoring local environmental conditions.
- ✓ We support alternatives to fossil-based fuels, and encourage local power generation.
- ✓ We encourage the use of sustainable building techniques, and encourage their inclusion in local building codes.
- ✓ We encourage the use of alternative waste management systems such as greywater systems and composting toilets.
- ✓ We call for increased supervision and regulation of off-road vehicles such as snowmobiles and ATVs, and encourage their users to exercise responsibility and

respect for the law, private property, and the environment.

- ✓ We support public transportation, and encourage carpooling.
- ✓ We call for the conversion of public vehicles to alternative fuels such as biodiesel.
- ✓ We oppose the use of genetically modified or irradiated foods in school meals.

DEMOCRACY

- ✓ We support the establishment of Environmental Advisory Councils in all townships.
- ✓ We strongly encourage greater proactivity on the part of county and municipal governments in keeping their citizens informed about events, plans, and developments that may affect their quality of life.
- ✓ We strongly encourage governmental policies and procedures that make government more accessible, more responsive, more responsible, and more accountable to citizens.
- ✓ We encourage greater citizen participation in the workings of government.
- ✓ We support term limits for elected officials.
- ✓ We support the right of the people to recall elected officials when necessary.
- ✓ We support civil liberties, and strongly oppose present efforts to limit those liberties in the name of homeland security. We support the idea of our local governments joining the hundreds around the country who have passed resolutions opposing the USA PATRIOT Act.
- ✓ We support the continued devolution of power, and oppose attempts by state government to limit or undermine township or county authority. At the same time, we encourage cooperation both between and across levels of government, and stress what is to us an obvious reality, that we must take the interests of our neighbors into account when making decisions.
- ✓ We support increased voter participation in elections. We encourage exploration of alternative voting methods; in particular, we support Instant Runoff Voting, and urge its adoption where possible. We suggest that a participation threshold of “50% plus one” of registered voters be required for an election to be certified as valid.
- ✓ We encourage citizens to make their opinions known to their local elected officials, their state and federal

representatives, and their fellow citizens. We further encourage citizens to relearn the art of public discourse, sharing perspectives in a way that forwards discussion and increases understanding.

COMMUNITY

- ✓ We support greater accessibility of public spaces, commercial enterprises, etc.
- ✓ We encourage the development of locally-owned and locally-operated enterprises.
- ✓ We encourage local production, and local consumption. In particular, we strongly support the Farmers' Markets and community-supported agriculture.
- ✓ We strongly encourage increased volunteerism.
- ✓ We support the idea of restorative justice, and strongly encourage alternatives to incarceration. We oppose mandatory sentencing, "three strikes" provisions, and other measures that interfere with the ability of the justice system to respond appropriately to individual cases.
- ✓ We support adequate funding for public libraries as critical to the maintenance of a well-informed citizenry.
- ✓ We support a tax policy that provides for adequate funding of public services while distributing the tax burden more equitably among citizens. We support alternative tax payment methods. We support decreased reliance on property taxes to fund schools; however, increases on sales or income taxes should be structured in a non-regressive, if not actually progressive, way.
- ✓ We encourage increased arts education, and the development of cultural resources.
- ✓ We support the idea of lifelong learning, and encourage educational institutions to increase opportunities for adult education.
- ✓ We encourage education in media literacy, and the development of critical thinking skills.
- ✓ We support greater involvement of students in the life of the community.
- ✓ We support literacy programs.
- ✓ We strongly support diversity education and increased multicultural awareness, and strongly oppose any attempts by white supremacist or other racist organizations to establish a presence in Wayne County.

- ✓ We reaffirm the separation of church and state.
- ✓ We encourage the establishment of programs to facilitate the welcoming and integration of newcomers to Wayne County.
- ✓ We encourage increased neighborhood preparedness for dealing with natural or other emergencies. We support adequate funding for first responders, public health workers, and other key personnel who would be critical in responding to terrorism or other large-scale disruptions.
- ✓ We support the concept of quality health care for all. We believe that all US residents have a right to medical and hospital care, including preventive services, regardless of income or ability to pay.
- ✓ We particularly support efforts to provide health care for all children.

NONVIOLENCE

- ✓ We support Victims' Intervention Project and other programs that address domestic abuse.
- ✓ We oppose cuts in veterans' services. We support programs that address the problems encountered by military families.
- ✓ We encourage civic diplomacy, including the development of Sister City relationships with other communities around the world.
- ✓ We encourage the teaching of conflict resolution and peer mediation techniques both in schools and the larger community.
- ✓ We support anti-bullying efforts in schools.
- ✓ We encourage draft-age students to find out about conscientious objection, and urge high school guidance counselors to make CO information as available to students as military recruitment information is.
- ✓ We support economic development policies that do not encourage increased reliance on military spending.



A Green Platform for Wayne County

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**Please contact us with your
comments and suggestions:**

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