



# Green Party

for the common good

## High Peak Greens July 2016

**On June 23rd, our country voted to leave the EU. The referendum campaign was bitter and the time since has seen chaos, confusion and recriminations. The result was close 50-48% in favour of leaving. In the High Peak, even closer. 50.5% for leaving and 49.5% for remaining.**

*“People in Britain are angry at the status quo – and they’ve expressed that anger by voting to leave the EU. “*

Natalie Bennett, Green Party Leader

But are we really so deeply divided? Most of us have among our friends and relatives people from both sides of the debate. We know that they care for many of the same things we care for – our beautiful environment, our health service, our schools, the hope of decent, safe, and rewarding work for ourselves and our children. Didn’t many people vote to leave because to remain would be interpreted as acceptance of the status quo? And that status quo is not providing what we want and for many of the most vulnerable is not even providing the bare necessities for survival. The Green Party chose to support remaining in the EU – not because of blindness to the faults of the EU, but because of benefits it has delivered for worker’s rights, health and safety, and the environment, because there are big issues such as climate change that cross borders and need collaboration.

*“Giving in and giving up is not an option when we still have a climate to protect, workers’s rights to uphold and our broken politics, as well as our broken communities, to mend.”*

Caroline Lucas MP

If we are to leave the EU, we need to come together to defend the NHS, our schools and our rights at work, to work for the changes that we want and need. Every one of us can play a crucial role in putting forward and sharing our views in active ways, and in conversations on the doorsteps with friends and neighbours.

You don’t have to join the Green Party - though since the referendum result, many have responded to the dignified and honest way in which the Green Party campaigned by joining the party or becoming supporters. Just get in touch with us locally or with the Green Party nationally for news and ideas of what we can do to rebuild our community and work for a sustainable economy with the well-being of people and the planet as its centre and goal.

## **A safe climate or unlimited growth – what's important to you?**

According to Kevin Anderson, a resident of High Peak and a world-renowned authority on climate change, there is little prospect of avoiding catastrophic climate change. Governments just won't move away from an economic model based on endless growth and increasing consumption and so global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by 60% since the problem was first recognised more than 25 years ago.

Last year's climate summit in Paris ended with climate change deniers completely discredited and agreement that "something must be done", Unfortunately, that "something" is just voluntary pledges. So, it's not certain they'll ever be made good – and even if they are, it's just not enough to prevent temperature rises of 3-4 °C. That would bring us heat that could melt electricity cables – and for many countries in the global south, millions of deaths.

There's a chance of preventing catastrophe but only with radical, immediate reductions in energy demand and replacement of all fossil fuels with renewables by 2050 with rich countries leading the way. The small remaining amount of fossil fuel that it's relatively safe for us to burn must be used to pull the world's poor out of poverty.

Whatever the arguments about the safety of techniques like fracking, using these new supplies of fossil fuels would be a disaster.

### **They must stay in the ground!**

It's madness to rely on the fantasy of a technologies such as carbon capture and storage that haven't even been invented. Existing technology can bring us efficiencies and governments must stop allowing the sale of inefficient products. Energy efficient cars reduce emissions by up to 70% and efficient fridges by up to 80%. But in the end, consumption must be cut. Because it's excessive consumption rather than over population that's the real problem.

Kevin never flies and reminds us that every time we do we are limiting the possibility to use energy to bring people out of absolute poverty. 50% of energy is used by the richest 10% of the world's population – and that includes many in our own country and not just the super rich. Do we really need all the things we buy?

### **What really matters in life anyway?**

Visit Kevin's website [kevinanderson.info](http://kevinanderson.info) for more information and search for kevin anderson climate on You Tube to watch his lectures.

## **Want to know more about the Green Party?**

### **National Party**

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk>

Contact <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/contact.html>

### **High Peak**

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