**Introduction**

**What is a green economy?**

A green economy would help create hundreds of thousands of well-paid green-collar jobs. It would be the new jobs of the future, paying people to do green things. It would be a new way of doing business in which we do not need to pollute to grow economies. It would be a way of doing business that makes sense and is good for our planet.

For too long rich countries have been using more than their fair share of the world’s resources. This means less for poorer people – and they’re the worst hit when the environment is damaged.

The green revolution could help end the growing disparity between rich and poor.

**Friends of the Earth wants a healthy planet and a good life for everyone on it.**

You might wonder what the economy has to do with this. Here’s how it links up.

The economy should provide us with the basics for a good life. But we can’t have a good life without a healthy planet and the food, clean air and fresh water it gives us. If our economy damages the environment, our quality of life is affected.

That’s what’s happening now. For too long it’s been cheap and easy to pollute. This is destroying people’s health and livelihoods.

**Energy security**

A green economy would promote low-carbon energy sources over dirty fossil fuels.

At North Sea and gas run out, the UK will be increasingly dependent on supplies from volatile parts of the world. By investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency, we can reduce our reliance on oil and gas – protecting families from the yo-yoing costs – and cut our carbon emissions.

**Climate justice**

We’re campaigning to make this happen. With your support we can help develop and deliver a green economy that works for people and the planet.

**Protection of the natural world**

A healthy planet not only gives us food, but also clean air, a stable climate and fresh water. The forests and precious raw materials are under threat. We need an economy that respects the real value of goods and services nature provides for us: estimated to be worth US $33 trillion a year – so that trash ing them is the longer cheapest option.

**Friends of the Earth**

We’re also pushing the Government to provide funding for renewable power and energy efficiency, with the revenue needed to help developing countries in tackling climate change. One solution is to ensure new money through a tax on the financial sector. This so-called Robin Hoods Tax would help stabilize financial markets and provide the UK with money needed to help developing countries grow cleanly and cope with climate change.

**Energy security**

A green economy would promote low-carbon energy sources over dirty fossil fuels. As North Sea oil and gas run out, the UK will be increasingly dependent on supplies from volatile parts of the world. By investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency, we can reduce our reliance on oil and gas – protecting families from the yo-yoing costs – and cut our carbon emissions.

**Protection of the natural world**

A healthy planet not only gives us food, but also clean air, a stable climate and fresh water. The forests and precious raw materials are under threat. We need an economy that respects the real value of goods and services nature provides for us: estimated to be worth US $33 trillion a year – so that trash ing them is the longer cheapest option.

**Making things fair**

Poverty won’t end until the world is delivered in such a way that poorer communities can enjoy the same benefits. We’re fighting to ensure this happens.

We’re always pushing for financial incentives to help us all and deliver a green economy. That’s why we’re working to ensure that the UK’s financial sector is more environmentally and socially responsible.

**Finance for green electricity**

We want the financial sector to support our vital campaigns. And there are many other ways you can help us financially. These include getting a Friends of the Earth credit card, signing up to Good Energy for green electricity, shopping with us, or holding a fundraising event.

**Climate justice**

We’re campaigning for the UK to make good on its promises to support developing countries in tackling climate change. One solution is to ensure new money through a tax on the financial sector. This so-called Robin Hoods Tax would help stabilize financial markets and provide the UK with money needed to help developing countries grow cleanly and cope with climate change.

**Better rules**

We’re pushing for policies to promote efficient use of the world’s natural resources, such as wood and metal. We also want big business to consider its environmental and social impacts. We’re fighting to ensure this happens.

We’re the organisation that led the successful campaign for the UK Climate Change Act – a law that commits the Government to deal with climate change. Two hundred thousand people from across the UK joined our Big Ask campaign to make this happen. With your support we get things done.

**WHAT WE DO**

We’re a campaigning charity, working all over the world to protect the natural world and change the way we live and work. We campaign to create a future where the economy works. We campaign to create a future where the economy works. We campaign to create a future where the economy works.

**Support Friends of the Earth**

**Easy ways to help change the world**

**Changing our individual behaviour can help, but we’ll have even more impact if we all work together to change politics.**

That’s why Friends of the Earth asks you to support us in our work. Here’s how you can help.

**Take action and campaign with us**

From simple actions to joining groundbreaking campaigns, you can help make the environment better for everyone.

**Make a donation or regular contribution**

A regular direct debit is a great way to support our vital campaigns. And there are many other ways you can help us financially. These include getting a Friends of the Earth credit card, signing up to Good Energy for green electricity, shopping with us, or holding a fundraising event.

Keep your finger on the pulse

Sign up for our email newsletter for the latest news, campaign actions and greener lifestyle tips delivered straight to your inbox.

Do all this and more at

www.foe.co.uk

www.foe.co.uk/shop

or phone 020 7468 1555

**“I saw people campaigning on The Big Ask and thought – I could be doing that as well. I’ve loved being part of the campaign... seeing so many people coming together and the effect of it.”**

Jenny Clagdon, local Friend of the Earth group volunteer.
What would a green economy look like?

Imagine a country with hundreds of thousands of new jobs in cutting-edge industries. A country where the air is cleaner and the streets are safer for pedestrians and cyclists. A country where everyone can afford to keep their homes warm. Imagine an economy that supports everyone’s needs.

Flash forward to 2020. A green economy has helped create this. Here’s how.

International agreement
In 2020: A safe global cap on carbon emissions with a fair share allocated to each country protects economies and people around the world from the worst impacts of climate change.

Green jobs
In 2020: Filling green energy and insulating homes and businesses boosts local economies – creating at least 70,000 green jobs across England and Wales. And that’s just the start. There are over 450,000 new jobs across the whole UK environmental sector – in low-carbon vehicle production, recycling, green buildings and renewable energy.

Green New Deal
In Northern Ireland we called on the Government to create thousands of new jobs by expanding the environment sector. The Green New Deal for Northern Ireland saw a solution to the recession of 2009, unemployment, rising fuel prices and climate change.

Ruling out bad practice
In 2020: Stronger rules for big companies require them to consider what they’re doing to people and the environment – not just profits.

Shell out
In 2009 Friends of the Earth Nigeria helped four men sue oil giant Shell for destruction of farmland and fisheries caused by oil pollution. Shell’s defence – that the Dutch parent company did not have jurisdiction over Shell Nigeria and was therefore not responsible – was overruled by the court. This opened the way for local people to claim compensation.

Meeting basic needs
In 2020: Policies on transport, food, electricity and heating ensure that everyone can afford to heat their home, buy good quality food and easily reach essential services such as schools, hospitals, work and shops.

Renewable energy
In 2020: Greater private and public investment makes the UK a world leader in renewable technologies. The sector employs hundreds of thousands of people and we’ve drastically reduced our dependency on polluting fossil fuels.

People power
Friends of the Earth in Wales helped collect thousands of letters backing action on green jobs and renewable energy. Thanks to this support, the massive Gwynt y Mor wind farm, eight miles off the North Wales coast, was finally given the go ahead in December 2008.

It’s easier being green
In 2020: Tax breaks and grants encourage businesses, communities and individuals to invest in energy efficiency and renewable power. Small green energy projects are common and emissions from running our homes have fallen.

Feed-in tariff
Thanks to a successful campaign by Friends of the Earth and our supporters, from April 2010 homes, small businesses and communities get paid for the electricity and heat they produce from renewable sources. Feed-in tariffs proved a successful way to boost renewable energy generation in 20 European countries – creating new jobs, saving money and greening the economy.

Renewable energy
In 2020: Greater private and public investment makes the UK a world leader in renewable technologies. The sector employs hundreds of thousands of people and we’ve drastically reduced our dependency on polluting fossil fuels.

People power
Friends of the Earth in Wales helped collect thousands of letters backing action on green jobs and renewable energy. Thanks to this support, the massive Gwynt y Mor wind farm, eight miles off the North Wales coast, was finally given the go ahead in December 2008.

It’s easier being green
In 2020: Tax breaks and grants encourage businesses, communities and individuals to invest in energy efficiency and renewable power. Small green energy projects are common and emissions from running our homes have fallen.

Feed-in tariff
Thanks to a successful campaign by Friends of the Earth and our supporters, from April 2010 homes, small businesses and communities get paid for the electricity and heat they produce from renewable sources. Feed-in tariffs proved a successful way to boost renewable energy generation in 20 European countries – creating new jobs, saving money and greening the economy.

Green New Deal
In Northern Ireland we called on the Government to create thousands of new jobs by expanding the environment sector. The Green New Deal for Northern Ireland saw a solution to the recession of 2009, unemployment, rising fuel prices and climate change.

Ruling out bad practice
In 2020: Stronger rules for big companies require them to consider what they’re doing to people and the environment – not just profits.

Shell out
In 2009 Friends of the Earth Nigeria helped four men sue oil giant Shell for destruction of farmland and fisheries caused by oil pollution. Shell’s defence – that the Dutch parent company did not have jurisdiction over Shell Nigeria and was therefore not responsible – was overruled by the court. This opened the way for local people to claim compensation.

Meeting basic needs
In 2020: Policies on transport, food, electricity and heating ensure that everyone can afford to heat their home, buy good quality food and easily reach essential services such as schools, hospitals, work and shops.

Greater investment in energy efficiency
In 2020: A multi-billion pound energy-efficiency programme means homes, schools, hospitals and councils all save money on fuel bills – and fuel poverty is a thing of the past. Making homes warmer also helps tackle problems like asthma among children.

Cosy numbers
Back in 2009 Kirklees Council in Yorkshire started offering free loft and cavity wall insulation to all homes in the area. By early 2010, 21,000 households had benefitted – saving an average of £150 a year each on fuel bills – and 120 people had found jobs in the sector. The overall economic benefit to the area was estimated at £50 million.

More on public transport, less on roads
In 2020: £2 billion is saved every year through less road-building. This money goes to improving public transport and providing safe walking and cycling conditions. Benefits include cleaner air, safer roads and healthier people – and that spells savings for the National Health Service too.

Together we can make this vision real. Turn over to find out about our campaigns and how you can get involved.