

Platform

Pacific Green Party of Oregon

Approved by convention October 7, 2006



Achieving peace, justice and a sustainable environment will require that people work within present institutions while simultaneously creating new ones. The Pacific Green Party respects the diversity of approaches necessary to attain these goals.

The Pacific Green Party has been created because of the inability or unwillingness of existing parties to address the fundamental problems of our region and the legitimate needs and aspirations of its people. We accept the challenge of infusing the present system with accountability, future focus, and ecological wisdom.

Bylaws Article I - Preamble, Purpose and Methods

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1. Preamble and Key Values

The Pacific Green Party of Oregon recognizes that our state, our nation, and our world are in crisis. This platform outlines a program of courage and commitment to remedy this situation.

As a society, we are extracting resources from and dumping waste into our environment at an unsustainable pace. Without an immediate and dramatic change in our practices, we risk nothing less than the collapse of the ecosystem on which we depend.

As we fail to live in harmony with the natural world, injustice is accelerating within our human community. Our economic system concentrates unprecedented wealth and power in the hands of a very few while violence, illness, and oppression rob many of the opportunity to thrive. The democratic system, our birthright and a cornerstone of our party's philosophy, continues to be eroded.

To create a true democracy, substantial reforms are necessary at all levels of government so that elected officials become fully accountable to the people electing them. We believe that robust civil societies, springing from dynamic community involvement, are the foundations of free and democratic cities, states, and countries.

In order to reverse the concentration of political power and create a dynamic democracy that is capable of meaningful social and economic reforms, We the People must:

- return policy-making and implementation to the most local level of government that is capable of addressing a given issue;
- expand the role of neighborhood associations in municipal politics; and
- recruit, train, and organize citizens to participate more fully and effectively in political processes.

The Pacific Green Party is a genuine alternative political voice, based on green values such as peace, harmony, diversity, community and responsibility. Together we can change our course to create a better future for ourselves and for future generations.

The Ten Key Values of the green movement motivate all of our policies:

- Grassroots Democracy
- Social Justice
- Ecological Wisdom
- Nonviolence
- Future Focus and Sustainability
- Respect for Diversity
- Decentralization
- Community Based Economics
- Feminism and Gender Equity
- Personal and Global Responsibility

Because of the synergy and overlap between these values, we have organized this platform to correspond to the first four values, also called the Four Pillars. Our platform begins with a brief section dedicated to national and international issues and concludes with an outline of our economic program for Oregon.

2. Note on National and Global Issues

The issues of concern to Pacific Greens are not limited to Oregon. Insofar as it is informed by grassroots input from all state Green parties, we refer to the platform of the Green Party of the United States, currently available at <http://www.gp.org>.

In order to develop a global economy in which nations, local communities and individual workers can acquire and retain control of their own destinies and can build prosperity in an ecologically sound manner, We the People must:

- repeal GATT, NAFTA, and the FTAA; and abolish the World Trade Organization;
- compel the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to finance sustainable development that supports human and labor rights, provides for basic health care and education and benefits the citizens of recipient countries;
- require that all future trade agreements include guarantees that strong labor and environmental standards will be applied and strictly enforced, that local autonomy will be respected and maintained, and that trade disputes will be resolved through open and democratic processes;
- support nongovernmental organizations that strive to protect worker rights and the environment and that monitor businesses and certify high standards of behavior;
- terminate all research, development, production and testing of nuclear weapons;
- protect the health of all who work in or live near nuclear weapons complexes; and
- clean up or contain all contaminated nuclear weapons sites.

We specifically and emphatically demand:

- that the U.S. Congress act immediately to address the critical **global warming and climate change** issues and **ratify the Kyoto Accord**, drastically reduce our defense budget, phase out all military bases not specifically functioning under a UN resolution to keep peace;
- **bring home our troops** stationed abroad, except for the military assigned to protect a U.S. embassy; and
- repeal the **USA PATRIOT Act**.

We affirm the positions of the Green Party of the United States calling for an **immediate end to the occupation of Iraq** (and any other wars not declared by Congress) and the **impeachment and criminal prosecution of the Bush administration**. The reckless, greedy policies of the Bush administration, enacted in the name of a never-ending “War on Terror,” threaten to destroy everything Americans have traditionally valued, from democracy to equality to the most basic human rights.

3. Grassroots Democracy

The Pacific Green Party strongly advocates for open, honest, accessible, responsive, and fair government of, by, and for the people of Oregon. We emphasize decentralized, direct and deliberative processes at all levels of our democracy, with final authority firmly in the hands of Oregon's citizens.

Our proposals for supporting an informed, involved and empowered public fall into three main areas: eliminating big money corruption in politics; protecting the healthy diversity of the political, media, and intellectual commons; and reforming the electoral process.

a. Voter-Owned Elections and Campaign Finance Reform

At every level of government, decision-makers are increasingly beholden to wealthy special interests. Multinational for-profit corporations have particularly strong influence. In order to restore genuine democracy, we propose a bold program of campaign finance reform. We the People demand:

- **public financing of all campaigns for public office**, for all candidates demonstrating a minimum level of public support;
- strict limits on campaign contributions and “gifts” to officeholders;
- **prohibition of all campaign contributions from organizations**, such as corporations and unions, in both campaigns for office and initiative/referendum campaigns; and
- **prohibition of paid signature gathering for initiatives and referenda, and lowering the number of signatures required to place an initiative on the ballot.**

b. Informed Citizens and Media Reform

The right to vote is meaningless without informed citizens. Voters have a right and a responsibility to know about the candidates and issues on which they are voting. We the People demand:

- **equal time.** All media outlets that have been granted access to public resources, such as radio and television stations, should be required to provide free airtime to all candidates and to both sides of initiative/referendum issues;
- limitation of broadcast media outlet ownership. Since the number of radio frequencies is finite, allowing one entity to control more than one of them limits the diversity of views available. **No single entity should be allowed to own more than one broadcast outlet** in the same locality;
- **public access to broadcast media.** Some portion of airtime on broadcast and cable television must be made available to citizens who would not be able to afford advertising time. This includes encouragement of local broadcast media (such as low-power neighborhood radio stations) and **adequate funding of public media;**
- **fair Internet access for all.** The Internet is part of the information commons and must not grant special privileges, such as priority traffic handling, for users who can afford to pay more than others;
- “sunshine laws” granting **citizen access to records of all government decision-making.** Exceptions may be made in an extremely small number of situations involving privacy and security.

See also: Education

c. Election Reform

Our elections and our government do not live up to our ideals of free and open democracy. We are particularly concerned with mechanisms that shut out diverse opinions. We the People demand:

- **instant runoff voting (IRV).** The current plurality voting system gives the office to the candidate receiving the most votes, even if that candidate did not receive a majority. IRV is far less likely to elect a candidate whom most of the voters regard as the *worst* choice;
- **proportional** allocation of Oregon’s **Electoral College votes.** Eventually we would like to see the **Electoral College eliminated and the President elected** by direct vote of the people;
- **proportional representation.** Some or all of the seats in the Oregon legislature should be allocated to parties based on the percentage of the vote received by those parties. This allows groups that are not concentrated in any one district to obtain representation;
- **reduction of ballot access barriers** for third parties and independent candidates. This includes the **repeal of HB 2614**, which places unreasonable restrictions on independent candidates;
- **drawing of all redistricting maps by a special nonpartisan body.** Many legislative races are uncontested due to gerrymandering by Democrats, Republicans, or both. An election with only one candidate on the ballot is meaningless;

- **voting rights for all**, including prisoners. Voting is a safe way for prisoners to participate in society as part of their rehabilitation;
- **repeal of Oregon’s “double majority” rule**, which unreasonably obstructs tax measures;
- continued use of Oregon’s **mail-in ballot system**. We oppose the use of paperless electronic voting machines, the operation of which cannot be independently checked; and
- random hand audit of ballots.

4. Social Justice

Human rights encompass the legal and political rights afforded by a free and democratic state, as well as the economic rights to life’s necessities, such as food, housing, education, and health care.

Injustice occurs when societal members are denied benefits to which they are entitled or when burdens are unfairly imposed on them. We realize that achieving a just society will require deep cultural shifts toward the acknowledgment of limits, the value of sharing, and the essential requirement of prevention of injustice. We must take collective action against the resistance of the powerful to a just sharing of the commons.

a. Human Rights

Freedom of speech and assembly, freedom of belief, and freedom from fear and want are the foundations of justice and peace. For these reasons, we believe that human rights should be protected by the rule of law. We the People demand:

- recognition of **Native American land and treaty rights** as agreements between sovereign nations;
- **the rights of immigrants** to worker protections, education, health care, due process and a path to citizenship. Immediate family members must not be separated by deportation; and
- **resistance to the passage of unconstitutional laws in response to the threat of terrorism**. Such laws include expansion of police powers, intensified criminal penalties, and increasing government secrecy and surveillance.

See also: Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

b. Education

All citizens have the right to affordable access to the highest level of education they are able and willing to attain. Oregon citizens deserve a quality educational system with adequate and equitable funding so that all levels of public schools are safe, well equipped and staffed by appropriately trained professionals. We the People demand:

- **increased compensation for teachers** and improved teacher support, training, mentoring and working conditions;
- curricula that make the connections between our rights as individuals and our responsibilities to others;
- the teaching of **communication skills, conflict resolution, environmental awareness, and respect for diversity**;
- **elimination of student “tracking” and of making significant decisions about schools, teachers or students based primarily on test scores**;
- **prohibition of corporate advertising** and other influence in public schools;
- **opportunities for continuing education and job training** for all adults, especially unemployed people;
- a comparable level of funding for each student in all schools;
- support for community and parental involvement in education decisions; and

- prohibition of military recruitment in schools and military influence over topics of academic research.

c. Health Care

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of good health. We acknowledge that personal health depends on public health and that public health requires the health of the natural, built, and social environments. The health status of others provides benefits to all, including future generations. We the People must:

- **use precautionary, preventive approaches** in decisions regarding public and private health concerns;
- **monitor toxic chemical facilities and prohibit locating such facilities near residential areas, especially minority and low-income communities;**
- recognize that **comprehensive health care**, not tied to employment and including medical, vision, dental, mental health services and hospitalization, **is a basic right for all Oregonians;**
- **create a single-payer health care system** managed by a representative group of stakeholders;
- ensure that our health care system includes medical providers such as doctors, nurse practitioners, hospitals, and clinics; ensure that this system provides a wide range of options and services, including access to all licensed health care practitioners;
- guarantee the right of all patients to choose their health care providers;
- guarantee the right of all patients to make personal medical decisions, including those involving abortion and the end of life;
- continue support for Oregon’s **Death with Dignity** law;
- **mandate** coverage for contraception in all health plans, to reduce the need for abortions and improve women’s and children’s health. An eventual single-payer health care system would also provide this benefit;
- **protect the right of women to choose a medical abortion;** and
- **ensure the availability of rehabilitation and adaptive aids, to allow those with disabilities to achieve maximum independence.**

See also: **Drug Policy and the “War on Drugs”, Population**

d. Nondiscrimination

We acknowledge the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. We seek to end all discrimination based on economic class, race, gender orientation, disability, age, spiritual belief and all other forms of cultural fragmentation. We the People must:

- **strengthen and strictly enforce anti-discrimination legislation;**
- **allow all couples, irrespective of sexual orientation, to marry and adopt children;**
- continue **affirmative action** programs to remedy past and present discrimination in employment, housing and education; and
- require employers to provide all workers with **equal pay** for comparable work, based on skills, effort, responsibilities, and working conditions.

e. Social Services

Poverty and homelessness are on the rise in Oregon, with one in four children living under the poverty level and 12% of Oregonians facing hunger. Many families are now reaching the limits of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) federal workfare program that replaced welfare during the Clinton administration. In order to reverse the trend of growing injustice to our most vulnerable citizens, We the People must:

- **restore and fully fund domestic discretionary programs such as TANF, food stamps and programs for persons who are unemployed or disabled;**
- **allow exemptions from work requirements** for welfare recipients pursuing higher education, for homeless people looking for housing, for victims of domestic violence who need time to find safety and independence and for single parents of small children;
- ensure the existence of an adequate supply of **affordable housing** through public subsidies, rent controls, and other means;
- strengthen and enforce **tenants' rights**, including a ban on evictions without just cause; and
- expand community-based **services for homeless people.**

f. Worker Rights

In order to individually and collectively empower workers and promote their dignity, We the People must:

- guarantee workers the right to organize and bargain collectively through democratic unions;
- guarantee workers the right to establish councils that have access to all relevant information about their businesses and that participate in the management of their businesses;
- strictly enforce robust health and safety standards in the workplace;
- guarantee equal wages for comparable work, a harassment free workplace and affordable day care services;
- set and maintain a living individual and family wage that guarantees the dignified life we envision; and
- establish a Superfund for Workers that will sustain and retrain those who are dismissed without cause, especially loggers, fishers, and other workers who are displaced by the loss of a natural resource base.

See also: **Equitable Distribution of Resources**

5. Ecological Wisdom

The Pacific Green Party of Oregon recognizes that humanity is a part of the Earth's ecosystem. Nature requires protection both for its own sake and because it is essential for our survival. We must live as humble stewards of our environment, not as arrogant masters of a resource to be exploited and consumed. It is essential that we reduce our environmental impact, both on a per-person basis and by stabilizing the human population at a sustainable level.

Where new technologies and policies are involved, we subscribe to the *Precautionary Principle*, as defined in the 1998 Wingspread Statement: "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof. The process of applying the Precautionary Principle must be open, informed and democratic and must include potentially affected parties. It must also involve an examination of the full range of alternatives, including no action."

a. Population

Every step we take to reduce our per-person environmental impact only buys us time to get our exploding population under control. We must do this ourselves, by reducing the birth rate, rather than waiting for the death rate to increase via plagues, wars and starvation. We the People must:

- **provide free birth control** for all who desire it. Licensed pharmacists must be required to fill such prescriptions; and
- **educate and empower women.** Many studies have shown that these are among the best ways to reduce population growth.

See also: Health Care, Equitable Distribution of Resources

b. Energy

The human need for energy continues to grow. The burning of fossil fuels is an unsustainable option, both because oil reserves are rapidly dwindling (**peak oil**) and because of the ongoing catastrophe of climate change. In order to develop methods of using energy in an ecologically viable manner, We the People must:

- establish carbon taxes to internalize the costs of fossil fuel use and to accelerate the transition to alternative fuel sources;
- adopt aggressive standards for automotive fuel efficiency;
- eliminate the commercial and military use of nuclear power;
- **promote energy conservation.** A variety of techniques are available now, from compact fluorescent light bulbs to mass transit to line drying of clothes. These can be encouraged through tax incentives;
- **design efficient new buildings** to reduce energy consumption in construction, lighting, heating and so on. This includes **co-generation**, wherein energy is produced where it is used and the otherwise wasted heat is used to heat the building;
- use and fund research into sustainable and minimally polluting **alternative energies and fuels**; and
- **prohibit nuclear fission** as a means to generate energy.

c. Clean Air

In order to improve air quality, We the People must:

- safeguard and expand The Clean Air Act to ensure the reduction of urban smog, acid rain and ozone depletion;
- establish pollution taxes based on emission levels;
- ratify The Kyoto Accord on global warming and exceed its requirements for the reduction of greenhouse emissions; and
- enforce and accelerate the elimination of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting chemicals.

d. Clean Water

In order to preserve and restore valuable sources of clean water and the natural habitats of aquatic species such as endangered salmon, We the People must take a strong stand for the health of Oregon rivers by:

- strengthening existing pollution discharge laws;
- developing and implementing comprehensive watershed management plans;
- restructuring the industrial, agricultural, and municipal water rates to encourage efficient water use;
- expanding the use of passive and natural systems (such as wetlands) for stormwater and wastewater treatment;
- encouraging a transition to the agricultural and residential use of drip irrigation;
- developing an infrastructure to support the appropriate re-use of “gray” and “black” waters; and
- requiring the installation of water-efficient appliances and fixtures in all new construction and encouraging the replacement of water-inefficient appliances and fixtures in older buildings.

e. Urban Land Use

In order for urban environments to provide residents with a high quality of life that has minimal impact on the surrounding ecosystems, We the People must:

- promote high-density communities that prevent urban sprawl and that incorporate urban design for livability and beauty;
- develop communities that encourage interaction and involvement, that incorporate mass transit systems, and that minimize dependence on automobiles;
- retain and aggressively pursue open spaces, parklands, farmlands, private forestlands, and green belts;
- resist pressure to expand Urban Growth Boundaries; and
- **repeal Measure 37**, which prevents Oregonians from collectively making land management decisions.

f. Wilderness and Biodiversity

In order to preserve and expand the capacity of regional and global ecosystems to provide humanity with sustenance and enjoyment while allowing natural evolution to continue, We the People must:

- strictly enforce The Endangered Species Act and expand its scope;
- permanently protect all remaining pristine public lands;
- repeal The Mining Act of 1872 and tax the extraction of oil, gas, and minerals;
- eliminate logging on all public lands. Ban the construction of new roads and the use of herbicides in public forests;
- mandate the use of sustainable logging practices on private forestlands;
- re-introduce native species into areas from which they were eradicated;
- control the intentional and unintentional transport of species in order to prevent the introduction of non-indigenous species;
- maintain the international ban on commercial whaling;
- ban the trade in coral reef species;
- create international accords that reduce fish harvesting to sustainable levels; and
- **prohibit oil and gas drilling off our coast and on public lands.**

g. Waste Management

In order to move towards the elimination of wasted resources and hazardous waste, We the People must:

- strengthen Superfund legislation and adequately fund it;
- adopt and enforce standards for public reporting of the production, transportation, use, and disposal of toxic substances;
- require producers and consumers of industrial, agricultural, and household hazardous materials to fully document the trade, use and safe disposal of these materials;
- adopt and enforce standards for the use of home and garden pesticides;
- establish resource extraction taxes to encourage the re-use, recycling, and reduced use of raw materials;
- require manufacturers to take responsibility for the full life cycles of their products; and
- increase percentages of recycled post-consumer content in products.

h. Sustainable Agriculture

In order to establish an ecologically sound agriculture that maximizes regional self-reliance and supports family farm communities, We the People must:

- encourage strict standards for organic and biodynamic certification and support organic and biodynamic farming;
- support soil conservation practices such as contour planting, crop rotation, and composting;
- promote Community Supported Agriculture programs;
- ban the research, production and consumption of genetically engineered substances and organisms
- ban the use of Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH);
- ban patent claims on naturally originating organisms and plants;
- legalize and encourage the cultivation of hemp;
- end the expansion of corporate agribusiness at the expense of family farms. Eliminate subsidies (including irrigation) to corporate agribusiness; and
- establish taxes on non-organic fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides.

i. Transportation

Goods and people must be moved around. We currently rely far too heavily on trucking and on private automobiles. The latter is an inefficient policy, requiring people to spend energy dragging thousands of pounds of steel with them wherever they go. We the people must:

- increase use of and funding for **mass transit**;
- **reduce implicit subsidies for trucking and private cars.** These subsidies include everything from road building to military deployments in oil-rich foreign countries. We would specifically eliminate the provision in the Oregon Constitution requiring that gas taxes be spent only on roads;
- establish pedestrian-friendly environments and safe, convenient bikeways;
- research and develop low-polluting or nonpolluting automobiles, powered by sources such as electricity, solar energy, fuel cells or hydrogen; and
- expand the national rail system for the transportation of goods and develop a national high-speed rail system for passenger service.

6. Nonviolence

For Pacific Greens, nonviolence is not merely the absence of lethal brutality, but an active effort to live in harmony and mutual respect with other people and all living things. This includes sincere efforts to prevent and defuse confrontations, using conflict resolution principles, before they escalate to violence.

a. Military Forces

Oregon's own National Guard troops are needed here at home for search and rescue operations and for aid in times of natural disaster (e.g., earthquakes and tsunamis).

In order to achieve lasting peace and stability around the world and national security, We the People must:

- support the establishment of the Department of Peace;
- sign on to the International Criminal Court;
- abandon efforts to achieve worldwide military domination;
- establish a peacetime economy and reduce the total defense budget to less than \$150 billion;

- obey and extend all treaties that ban, reduce, or limit nuclear weapons. Work to eliminate all nuclear weapons everywhere in the world;
- renounce the first use of nuclear weapons;
- terminate all research and development of space-based anti-missile defense systems;
- approve the international ban on land mines;
- **restrict the President's ability to conduct military operations without the approval of Congress;**
- reduce U.S. involvement in the international traffic in military equipment;
- support and use nonviolent means to resolve disputes. Use military force only as the last resort and only to defend the United States or other nations from military aggression;
- vigorously promote all forms of disarmament;
- end military and economic support of corrupt and tyrannical regimes;
- structure foreign aid to support sustainable economic development, economic self-sufficiency and basic human needs;
- **prohibit military recruiting in public schools;**
- **prohibit in-state development of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and their components;**
- enforce strict mandatory cleanup of existing **nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons** sites; and
- **immediately recall all Oregon National Guard troops for Oregon service.**

b. Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

In order to create a criminal justice system based on prevention, restitution, rehabilitation, reconciliation and restorative justice (rather than one based on vengeance, excessive punishment; and forced labor) and in order to provide equal justice for all, We the People must:

- **emphasize prevention and rehabilitation** over incarceration;
- **provide mental health services outside the criminal justice system (for those who are not criminals) end treatment of mentally ill persons as criminals;**
- **repeal Measure 11 (mandatory sentencing).** Setting specific sentences is the role of the judicial branch of government, not the legislative branch;
- **end capital punishment.** This cruel and vengeful punishment has been shown to discriminate against minorities and to sometimes execute innocent victims;
- address the problems in the criminal justice system that are reflected in the racially unbalanced nature of the prison population;
- **strengthen laws against domestic violence, sexual harassment, and hate crimes.** Crimes against vulnerable segments of society must be punished harshly;
- **enforce a moratorium on new prison construction.** We also oppose the privatization of prisons.
- **end forfeiture of property of unconvicted suspects;**
- **establish community policing and citizen police oversight boards;**
- end the use of military-style practices by the police forces. **Expand gun violence prevention and nonviolence education for law enforcement personnel**
- mandate **nonviolence training for police;**
- **demand respect for the first amendment rights of peaceful protesters;**
- **demand protections for whistle-blowers; and**

- strengthen and enforce laws against corporate crimes such as fraud, defective products, pollution, and unsafe working conditions. Adopt laws that enable the judiciary to repeal corporate charters when the public interest is violated.

See also: Human Rights

c. Drug Policy and the “War on Drugs”

In order to reduce the violence, injustice, and violations of civil liberties that result from the costly and counterproductive “War on Drugs,” and in recognition that drugs are not just a problem affecting minorities and the poor, We the People must:

- **demand treatment of drug abuse as a public health problem rather than a crime;**
- **release from prison all who were convicted only of nonviolent, victimless drug crimes;**
- **provide drug and alcohol abuse treatment on demand** for all who request it; and
- **legalize marijuana use** by adults and regulate its sale.

d. Animal Rights

Cruelty against nonhuman animals is unacceptable, both because of their inherent rights and because those who abuse other animals often go on to abuse humans. We the People must:

- **enforce strong laws against animal cruelty;** and
- **demand humane treatment of food animals.** Cruel practices such as de-beaking and overcrowding, must be outlawed.

7. Realizing Our Values: A Sustainable Economic Program for Oregon

While considerable savings may be found in reducing military spending and subsidies for gigantic corporations, we recognize that taxation is a necessary part of government. This section outlines our tax program and our vision for moving toward a just, sustainable economy.

a. Taxation

In the famous words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, “Taxes are the price we pay for civilization.” Taxation serves three purposes: funding programs which benefit society as a whole (such as public schools), discouraging harmful practices (such as pollution), and countering the concentration of wealth that results from unregulated markets. We the People must:

- **maintain the Oregon estate tax on estates of over \$1,000,000.** People have the right to leave their children a legacy, but not a dynasty;
- **enact a more progressive state income tax.** The wealthiest members of society can and should pay more, the neediest less. We would specifically raise the income level below which no state income taxes are due;
- **reduce the use of regressive taxes (such as sales and property taxes);**
- **reform Oregon’s kicker law** to set aside any excess as a rainy day fund;
- **abolish the Oregon lottery** as state-sponsored gambling;
- investigate programs for taxation of point-source pollution; and
- **eliminate subsidies for resource extraction.**

See also: Clean Air (including Climate Change), Energy

b. Community Based Economics

We believe that our economy should be local and decentralized. The current system puts the reins of economic power in the hands of distant executives and stockholders. Furthermore, local manufacturing keeps money in Oregon and avoids the waste of shipping goods thousands of miles from the producer to the consumer. We the People must:

- create tax, loan and other policies that favor **small, local businesses over multinational corporations;**
- **encourage community agriculture**, including community gardens and farmers' markets;
- **demand that government agencies purchase local goods and services** whenever feasible;
- **end tax holidays and other give-aways to corporations.** If a business' location in Oregon depends on special treatment, that business is not committed to the community;
- organize more **People's Utility Districts (PUDs)**, which restore control of and profits from utilities to the local level;
- assist rural and resource-based communities in developing sustainable economies;
- promote sustainable job creation through watershed and habitat restoration and tree planting;
- support and promote small (especially cooperatively owned) businesses and nonprofit community service organizations;
- prevent any additional acquisitions of farmlands by corporate agribusiness;
- eliminate subsidies (tax concessions, special infrastructure development, etc.) to businesses that diminish the quality of life for Oregon residents through substandard labor practices, social irresponsibility, or environmental degradation; and
- eliminate subsidies to attract and expand businesses that primarily hire new workers from outside of Oregon.

c. Equitable Distribution of Resources

In order to ensure justice in the distribution of the goods and services of our commonwealth and the responsibilities of its maintenance, We the People must:

- ensure that all working parents have access to affordable day care services;
- provide opportunities for continuing education and job training to all adults, especially the unemployed and underemployed;
- fully fund Social Security, Welfare, and comprehensive health care programs for the unemployed and underemployed;
- **shift our economic orientation away from unsustainable increases in rates of consumption** and towards continuous improvement in quality of life for our communities, our families and ourselves;
- prohibit **predatory lending practices;**
- **guarantee workers the right to organize and bargain** collectively through democratic unions;
- set and maintain a **family wage;**
- **end corporate personhood, corporate welfare, and criminal impunity for corporations;**
- protect the rights of injured people to **sue negligent corporations; and**
- **establish a universal health care system.**