### CURRENT 2016 PLATFORM:

### ****IV. Economic Justice and Sustainability (2016)****

### A. Ecological Economics

To create an enduring society we must devise a system of production and commerce where every act is sustainable and restorable. We believe that all business has a social contract with society and the environment — in effect a fiduciary responsibility — and that the concepts of socially responsible business and shareholder democracy can be models for prospering, successful business.

1. We call for an economic system that is based on a combination of private businesses, decentralized democratic cooperatives, publicly owned enterprises, and alternative economic structures. Collectively, this system puts human and ecological needs alongside profits to measure success, and maintains accountability to communities.
2. Community-based economics constitutes an alternative to both corporate capitalism and state socialism. It values diversity and decentralization.  
     
   Recognition of limits is central to this system. The drive to accumulate power and wealth is a pernicious characteristic of a civilization headed in a pathological direction. Greens advocate that economic relations become more direct, more cooperative, and more egalitarian.  
     
   Humanizing economic relations is just one aspect of our broader objective: to shift toward a different way of life characterized by sustainability, regionalization, more harmonious balance between the natural ecosphere and the human-made technosphere, and revival of community life. Our perspective is antithetical to both Big Business and Big Government.
3. Greens support a major redesign of commerce. We endorse true-cost pricing. [*See section E.1. True Cost Pricing*] We support production methods that eliminate waste. In natural systems, everything is a meal for something else. Everything recycles, there is no waste. We need to mimic natural systems in the way we manufacture and produce things. Consumables need to be designed to be thrown into a compost heap and/or eaten. Durable goods would be designed in closed-loop systems, ultimately to be disassembled and reassembled. Toxics would be safeguarded, minimally produced, secured, and would ideally have markers identifying them in perpetuity with their makers.

2014 Version of #4:

1. Sustaining our quality of life, economic prosperity, environmental health, and long-term survival

demands that we adopt new ways of doing business. We need to remake commerce to encourage

diversity and variety, responding to the enormous complexity of global and local conditions. Big business

is not about appropriateness and adaptability, but about power and market control. Greens support small

business, responsible stakeholder capitalism, and broad and diverse forms of economic cooperation. We

argue that economic diversity is more responsive than big business to the needs of diverse human

populations.

2016 Approved Version of #4:

1. The Green Party seeks to build an alternative economic system based on ecology and decentralization of power, an alternative that rejects both the capitalist system that maintains private ownership over almost all production as well as the state-socialist system that assumes control over industries without democratic, local decision making. We believe the old models of capitalism (private ownership of production) and state socialism (state ownership of production) are not ecologically sound, socially just, or democratic and that both contain built-in structures that advance injustices.

Instead we will build an economy based on large-scale green public works, municipalization, and workplace and community democracy. Some call this decentralized system "ecological socialism," "communalism," or the "cooperative commonwealth," but whatever the terminology, we believe it will help end labor exploitation, environmental exploitation, and racial, gender, and wealth inequality and bring about economic and social justice due to the positive effects of democratic decision making.

Production is best for people and planet when democratically owned and operated by those who do the work and those most affected by production decisions. This model of worker and community empowerment will ensure that decisions that greatly affect our lives are made in the interests of our communities, not at the whim of centralized power structures of state administrators or of capitalist CEOs and distant boards of directors. Small, democratically run enterprises, when embedded in and accountable to our communities, will make more ecologically sound decisions in materials sourcing, waste disposal, recycling, reuse, and more. Democratic, diverse ownership of production would decentralize power in the workplace, which would in turn decentralize economic power more broadly.

Here was the voting for this update to the adopted 2016 Platform:

LINK: <http://gp.org/cgi-bin/vote/propdetail?pid=835>

http://gp.org/cgi-bin/vote/propresult?pid=835

### Proposal Details

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| **Proposal ID** | 835 |
| **Proposal** | 2016 Platform Amendment Proposal Ecological Economics |
| **Presenter** | Platform Committee Sponsored by North Carolina Green Party |
| **Floor Manager** | Jan Martell |
| **Phase** | Closed |
| **Discussion** | 05/16/2016 - 06/05/2016 |
| **Voting** | 06/06/2016 - 06/12/2016 |
| **Result** | [Adopted](http://gp.org/cgi-bin/vote/propresult?pid=835) |
| **Presens Quorum** | 32 0.6666 |
| **Consens Quorum** | 66 0.6666 of Yes and No Votes |

#### Background

This new platform plank removes the old wording entirely and addresses the economic inequalities, social inequalities, and productivism of both capitalism and state socialism and emphasizes grassroots democracy in the workplace. This workplace grassroots democracy has been largely absent from the Green platform, and many believe it is the way forward for a truly ecological economy and a new system.  
  
This new platform plank does not promote expropriation of privately owned small businesses and should not be interpreted as such. Rather, the plank outlines the type of businesses and type of economy we would like to create.

#### Proposal

To amend Chapter IV. Economic Justice and Sustainability  
 1. Ecological Economics  
 Paragraph 4