

# PRESS RELEASE



## **‘Greening the Manifestos’ launched by Tony Juniper at Sustainability Live 2014**

**Putting the environment at the heart of the economy** was the key message from the keynote debate at Sustainability Live 2014. The debate launched a major inquiry by the Society for the Environment, which aims to publish a report in the autumn on how environmental protection can best be combined with sustainable economic growth. Designed to be launched as the parties start to set out their stalls for the general election, it will show how it is possible to be green while generating jobs and growing the economy.

Leading environmentalist Tony Juniper chaired the debate as President of the Society. He said:

“We’re taking environmentalism from the ghetto, and putting it into all the mainstream disciplines. Today starts the process of gathering a rich set of ideas from all of you that we will offer the main political parties this summer; with strong proposals to put green growth to the fore.”

The panel comprised Sarah Nolleth, Director of the Prince’s ‘Accounting for Sustainability’ Project, Julia Groves, managing director of the Trillion Fund, Martin Baxter, Director of Policy for the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, and Robert Hunt, Executive Director at Veolia.

The panel agreed that the environment should not be regarded as a party-political issue, and called for greater leadership from the parties, who should be working together in a race for the top rather than the bottom.

Other points raised included:

- the need to counter the notion that the environment is a burden on business and characteristic of the Big State;
- the need for a circular economy, which returns resources to the UK and creates jobs;
- on incentivising good behaviour is better than over-regulation;
- energy subsidies should be set on a long-term basis, and there should be a level playing field with fossil fuels;
- giving people a stake in renewable energy (e.g. through the new green ISAs) is key to overcoming resistance; and
- education plays a vital role in embedding green behaviours.

After the debate, SocEnv CEO Alex Galloway said:

“The Election gives the parties the chance to join up their thinking on the environment and the economy. Today we heard how this can be done from leading experts in the field. We are going to capture their insights and invite everyone to contribute to an inquiry so that we can present all the parties with realistic and economically sustainable ideas for greening their manifestos.”

Anyone wishing to contribute to the inquiry can do so via the SocEnv website [www.socenv.org.uk](http://www.socenv.org.uk) or by tweeting @SocEnv\_HQ using the hashtag #GreenGov.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes for Editors:**

The Society for the Environment, which received a Royal Charter in 2004, regulates and sets the standards for the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) qualification in the UK. The CEnv qualification is available to members of the Society's 23 partner organisations. These partners include a diverse range of membership bodies which share a common vision of delivering sustainability through environmental professionalism. Further information can be found at [www.socenv.org.uk](http://www.socenv.org.uk)

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### Note for editors:

- 1) The Society for the Environment is a leading independent, non-political umbrella organisation for environmental and sustainability professionals. Our purpose is to support and champion the role of environmental professionals everywhere in the pursuit of a sustainable future. The 23 institutions and learned societies that form our [membership](#) represent hundreds of thousands of practitioners, working across a broad spectrum of disciplines and sectors.
- 2) For further information on the work of the Society, see the website [www.socenv.org.uk](http://www.socenv.org.uk). Alternatively, contact Alex Galloway CVO, HonFSE, Chief Executive of the Society for the Environment: tel: 0845 3372951 [chiefexec@socenv.org.uk](mailto:chiefexec@socenv.org.uk)
- 3) The members and Constituent Bodies of the Society for the Environment are:
  - Arboricultural Association (AA)
  - Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
  - Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)
  - Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
  - Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
  - Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
  - Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
  - Energy Institute (EI)

Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)  
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)  
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)  
Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)  
Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3)  
Institute of Water (IWater)  
Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)  
Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE)  
Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)  
Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)  
Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)  
Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE)  
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)  
Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE)  
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)