

Essex GreenView



Green Party

European Election:
Thursday 22nd May

Election Leaflet from Essex Green Party

Let's Make a Change Green Euro Team for the East

"The Green Party is working for a better future. As your Green MEP I will fight to protect our natural environment and support local communities."

Rupert Read, Lead Euro Candidate



Rupert Read,
Lead candidate

Robert

Fiona

Jill

Ash

Marc

Mark

"We should bring public transport under public control – so investment goes into improving services."

Fiona Radic

"The Green Party is working for a healthier society: clean air, safe streets and a better quality of life."

Jill Mills

"We need to radically reform the financial sector to work for us."

Mark Ereira-Guyer, from Essex

"The Green Party wants an economy that meets our local needs and supports small businesses rather than continual growth for the big corporations."

Robert Lindsay

"I want to see investment in apprenticeships and lasting jobs in renewable energy, local farming and caring professions."

Ash Haynes

"I want a more equal society where no one has to rely on foodbanks."

Marc Scheimann

European Election: Greens Can Win

The European election is held under a proportional voting system so **Every vote counts.**

It's Close

9%

Green vote last time

10%

Votes needed to win

Last time round the Green Party needed just 1% more to win a seat.

Your vote can make a difference this time.

Vote GREEN on 22nd May – every vote counts!

In the European election, parties gain seats based on the percentage of votes cast. This is fairer than the 'first past the post' system used in General elections.

There are seven Members of the European Parliament for Eastern region, which includes Essex. Each party puts forward a 'regional list' of candidates. Electors have one vote. The parties are then allocated a number of MEPs reflecting the share of the vote they receive.

If one in ten people vote Green, a Green MEP should be elected for our region.

www.eastern.greenparty.org.uk

Includes links to local Green Party websites

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Poll Position

A poll of people's voting intentions suggests that the Green Party could be on course to winning an MEP seat in Eastern region.

The poll, conducted by leading market research company ComRes, put the Green Party on 12% and the LibDems on 7%. If this is reflected in the European election on 22nd May then the Green Party's Rupert Read will win the MEP seat currently held by the LibDems.

Greens a Major Force in EU

The Green Party holds 48 seats in the European Parliament. The Green MEPs come from across Europe – including London and the South East of England – and are part of the fourth largest political group. They have more influence than the Conservative and UKIP MEPs, who are in smaller political groups.

Green MEPs play a constructive role in working for a better future. In the last five years they have:

- Won tougher climate change targets and environmental standards
- Secured a cap on bankers' bonuses
- Campaigned against cuts to public services
- Helped ban animal testing for cosmetics
- Pushed through a ban on bee-killing toxins

You can read more about Green MEP achievements at: www.greens2014.eu

What are you voting *for*?

Sometimes it seems as if politics can be a negative business. If you vote for Labour, the Conservatives or UKIP you know what you are voting against.

If you vote Green, you can also be clear what you are voting against: against growing inequality in society, against nuclear weapons, against trade rules that only benefit big business... against politics as usual.

But by voting Green in the European election you can also be clear what you are voting *for*:

- For** clean air, safe streets and a better quality of life
- For** strong local communities, fair pay and protection of public services
- For** democratic reform of the EU, so more decisions are made by elected MEPs rather than unelected bureaucrats
- For** international action to address climate change
- For** an economy that meets our local needs, conserves the earth's resources and values the natural world
- For** promoting peace in Europe and the wider world

Want more information? A Vote Green poster? Interested in joining or getting involved?

Contact Eastern Region Green Party:

eastern@greenparty.org.uk

27 Clarendon Road, Norwich, NR2 2PN

Rupert's Pledges to You

The Green Party's lead candidate has published three reports highlighting key issues he will address if elected as your Green MEP:

The full reports can be read online at: www.eastern.greenparty.org.uk

End the Food Crisis

Demand for food banks is on the rise across Eastern region. Rupert Read is challenging the welfare reforms that are forcing more people to turn to food banks.

Food prices have doubled in the past ten years, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation. Government welfare reforms are pushing more people into poverty. As a result use of food banks has grown substantially.

Rupert Read said: "We need a Living Wage for those in work and a decent welfare system



Green Party Leader Natalie Bennett visits Norwich Foodbank

that enables everyone to get enough to eat. We also need to address the root cause of rising

food prices by producing more food locally with less reliance on expensive oil."

An Energy Revolution

Green energy will create thousands of jobs and regenerate our coastal towns.

Rupert Read is calling for investment in renewable energy to avoid a long term cost-of-living crisis caused by the end of cheap oil.

The Green Party is calling for an 'energy revolution' to create a clean, renewable energy supply for the future. The plan includes investment in tidal, wave, wind and solar power plus measures to reduce energy use to replace outdated fossil fuels and nuclear.

Rupert Read said: "It is only green measures that can address the 'cost of living crisis'



Rupert Read visits the Orbis Energy Centre in Lowestoft to discuss marine based renewable energy projects

because fossil fuels are just going to go on getting more and more

expensive. We can also create thousands more jobs in this region in green energy."

A Transport Revolution

Rupert Read has set out a plan for a Transport Revolution. He is arguing against new road building in the region and calling for investment in public transport, walking and cycling.

Rupert Read has a vision for an efficient, reliable and green transport system. His five-point plan would support local businesses, commuters and families:

- 1) Return railways to public ownership.
- 2) New EASTERN card, modelled on the OYSTER card that has proven so successful in London.
- 3) Electrification of



Green campaigners call for railways to be re-nationalised

railways and re-opening of lines. 4) Re-regulation of local bus services – again, copying the successful London

model. 5) Investment in cycling and walking routes and car share schemes in local communities.

What Green MEPs Would do for Essex

Address Flood Risks

The Green Party would:

- Claim the available but untouched EU money for flooding mitigation
- Reinstate the 1,700 Environment Agency jobs that were recently cut

1,700 jobs have been cut at the Environment Agency, despite severe floods in recent months that have affected our region, including Clacton and Southend.

The Green Party has unveiled a ten-point plan for dealing with the floods. This includes reversing the Environment Agency's cuts and increasing its budget from

available EU funds which currently remain unclaimed. This would enable the agency to effectively protect communities from the impact of floods and coastal erosion.



Recent flooding in Clacton

Save Our Children's Centres

The Green Party would:

- Safeguard budgets for Children's Centres as a matter of priority
- Fight for parents to have better parental leave and more flexible working

The Green Party has been campaigning to save Children's Centres in Essex which are threatened with closure. Essex County Council plans to close 11 centres and reduce

hours at a further 37.

The centres help provide childcare services for vulnerable and low income families and they help parents access health visitors, community midwives

and family support workers.

Green Party members have been actively supporting local residents' campaigns to protect centres around the county.



The Green Party campaigned to protect Roundabout in Witham

Oppose Incineration

The Green Party would:

- Support clean methods for treating waste
- Improve recycling facilities and introduce a tax on packaging

The Green Party has consistently opposed plans for a waste incinerator at Rivenhall and is pressing for clean alternatives to the burning of waste.

Green MEPs would press for investment in improved recycling facilities, to help households recycle more materials, and would also support a tax on packaging to reduce the amount of waste produced.

There are also clean ways to deal with the waste that is left over. The Green Party is arguing for a range of local facilities where business and household waste can be mechanically and biologically treated to

reclaim usable materials and compost much of the rest.

Compared to an incinerator, this approach involves far fewer lorry journeys, no burning and would create more jobs.

Delivered by local Green Party volunteers

