

## ESG GREENING AGENDA

Warnings given to Governments the world over by experts on climate change indicate urgent action must be taken to curb carbon footprints, reduce emissions and use alternative technologies to reduce the amount of fossil fuels consumed. The following recommendations are made by the ESG to all political parties running for election in 2007 in the sincere hope that political will is applied to all these areas and that the necessary investment is made to improve the immediate and long-term environmental prospects for all.

KEY AREAS: ENERGY – WASTE – POLLUTION - GREEN AREAS & DEVELOPMENT

### ● **ENERGY GENERATION:-**

#### **Short-term**

- Noise Insulation at OESCO Power Station
- Filters to be installed to reduce particulate and NO2 emissions from this and other power stations
- A deadline for the construction of new power plant to be set although more importantly- **a renewable energy report** to be commissioned urgently (similar to the MoD report) to establish options for Gibraltar and incorporate alternative technologies as soon as possible. To begin with, in the short term this could include removing any import duties from **solar panels and heaters** and also introducing grants to encourage homeowners. Modify grid to accommodate individuals wanting to use renewable energy technology.

#### **Short-term**

**CHP:** Combined Heat and Power- this is a technology that is simple and seeks to improve the efficiency of any existing energy generator regardless of the core fuel. Simple diesel engines are not efficient: the reason they have been chosen for Gibraltar is due to our size and due to the peak load use of energy. However the ESG promotes CHP as a technology that would increase the efficiency of our current energy production.

#### **Long term**

For Gibraltar to set our renewable energy goals and make these achievable in economic and practical terms and to do so in a visionary manner, NOT simply by following EU legislature. Govt must prioritise and invest in renewable energy systems and this should include a huge shake-up at the DTI, where many of the big and most impactful environmental decisions on trade and development are taken. The ESG understands that solar thermal, tidal, wind generators (small scale and numerous), solar panels, solar roofing, conservation of energy are all options which could service Gibraltar's energy needs. Information on the technological options to reduce our collective carbon footprint is widely available. What is needed is the political will and determination to implement these!

**Rising costs of oil and Gibraltar's expanding use and reliance on this natural resource (for potable water and electricity generation) highlights the urgent need for alternative technologies: this makes sense economically as well as environmentally.**

- **WASTE:**

**Short-term:**

**Clear guidelines on rubbish disposal and improved facilities**

**Recycling points for all waste** - Need to set up recycling facilities to foster sense of value in waste and ensure it can be re-used (makes economic and environmental sense).

**Immediate**

- **the construction of a modern environmental waste park/facility** to be prioritised by the elected Govt as promised by the Minister for the Environment in 2005 after the 1<sup>st</sup> Clean Up the World Campaign. Subsequent campaigns in 2006 and 2007 have shown that waste and littering as well as illegal dumping by contractors is as big an issue today as it was then demanding for action to be taken by policy makers, services and agencies and supported by the community.

**Immediate**

- **facilities** at the City Dump, Old Incinerator Site or Buena Vista to receive paper and cardboard and ensure this is then recyclable once it reaches Los Barrios which it currently IS NOT

- Introduce a **practical litter and waste policy** to manage and target the serious issues highlighted by the Clean Up the World campaign which in 2007 saw 500 volunteers collect 70 tons of mixed waste from our coastlines, green areas and underwater sites. This to include fining, educational campaign and increased facilities

- set up **recycling bins** with no more delay coupled with an awareness campaign to ensure people will use these properly once they are in place

**! Short to long term:-** Plans for a new incinerator to be made public with details of the life cycle assessment made on waste disposal management for Gibraltar and reasons for this decision. We currently send our waste to Los Barrios in Spain which separates rubbish for onward recycling. It would make sense to increase the recyclable element of our rubbish by separating at this end in proper facilities. The ESG welcomes open debate both with Government and contractors and agencies to discuss waste management as this is an issue of collective responsibility and involves and affects the entire community. Gibraltar residents already produce twice the amount of rubbish per person than the UK resident, which already fares poorly compared to some of its European neighbours. **ESG will submit a report on CUTW findings with recommendations for progress in this urgent matter**

## ● **POLLUTION**

**Because of the growing scientific evidence of pollution effects on health it is a Governments duty to try and eliminate and reduce all avoidable sources of pollution over and above EU requirements. Gibraltar's unique situation results in closer than usual proximity to sources of heavy pollution from power plants, bunkering fumes, traffic emissions, etc which makes pollution reduction measures all the more necessary.**

### - Short-term

**!- Bunkering fumes** and other impacts from intense marine activity, such as potential collisions, need to be addressed. The implementation of **vapour recovery systems** should be made conditional to all fuel activity to minimise harmful fumes. The ESG submitted technical solutions to Government 9 months ago. It is hoped that any future Govt will support the need for bunkering companies to invest in this technology without further delay. A hotline should also be set up with an answering service to ensure complaints about fumes are recorded.

**! Transport and Traffic emissions** - Traffic is clearly a crisis at the moment - Focus should be on reducing vehicular traffic and associated fumes by encouraging healthier forms of transport/mobility- needs a sustained Government campaign, promotion, disincentives, and alternatives - For all political parties to give due regard to a detailed document prepared by the ESG, GONHS and FoE/Gib under the **“In Town Without My Car” campaign** with recommendations and potential solutions submitted to the Minister for the Environment in 2007 and available on the ESG website: [www.esg-gib.net](http://www.esg-gib.net) -

### Short-term

**! Bay Pollution** - Gibraltar Government to support the ESG's complaint to the European Commission regarding the dangerous operational standards of the **CEPSA Oil Refinery** and associated petrochemical installations - MEP's and now MP's from the UK are lending support to what is clearly a regional environmental problem.

### Short-term

**!-Epidemiological studies** - Urgent need for independent, **cross-border epidemiological (health) studies** to be carried out to establish links between industrial pollution and elevated mortality rates in the bay. A bay wide petition of close to 14,000 signatures was handed to the Gibraltar Government and to the Spanish authorities in 2007 as part of a sustained campaign by a 14 strong cross border coalition of NGO's and various other organisations (**Plataforma for Epidemiological Studies**).

### Short to long-term

**Environmental Agency** to be invested with independent powers to regulate private and Government activity - and appoint the agency with specific goals to assess the health effects from chronic pollution sources in Gibraltar (not only comply with EU legislation)  
This can be only happen if the Agency is charged with actively working towards the elimination of all avoidable pollution sources.

- **GREEN AREAS:**

**Short term:**

**Upper Rock Management Plan-**

GONHS was commissioned to produce an Upper Rock Nature Reserve Management and Action Plan which was completed and submitted for consideration in 2005. Measures such as Wardens and Ape management measures contained therein are among several measures which are clearly essential and should be implemented without further delay

-**Protection** of existing green areas and inclusion of new green areas in heavily concreted areas throughout Gibraltar essential both for our biodiversity as well as quality of life for the resident population

-**Enforcement** of Nature Protection laws in Gibraltar

-GSD Government had pledged to launch **tree replanting schemes** which would be extremely welcome

- **DEVELOPMENT**

**Short to long-term**

Greening up of our urban areas and roads, green buildings, roofs, energy and water conservation measures to be introduced without delay. Public DPC meetings to be introduced.

**Short to long-term**

-**Green building measures** to be legislated into existing protocols and regulations.

We have lost opportunities with the several large constructions currently underway in Gibraltar but could apply these to the Eastside development as well as the new airport, for example as well as all future projects under consideration at present.

- **Development plan** for Gibraltar. This has been called for by the ESG for many years now and its recent publication is therefore appreciated. However, given that the previous plan was produced in 1991 and that 16 years have since passed - together with the intense level of building and reshaping of Gibraltar's infrastructure, this development plan is reporting on decisions which have already been taken - not providing much space if any for public participation. Lack of green areas, protection of trees and old buildings, impact on roads, and non-implementation of green building measures by Gibraltar authorities to developers have caused many micro environments around Gibraltar to be radically altered often with little sensitivity. The proposal by ESG and other NGO's for open DPC meetings could ensure that specific and unpopular developments and major projects would not get the green light.

- **Gibraltar's unique situation requires unique solutions.** The community should be involved in all major decisions. Another important issue is for the need to **carry out an EIA for all new developments** to check the impact of the "existing environment" on new developments, something not currently required. **Some examples:** *residential developments, schools, playgrounds etc. have been set up in completely inappropriate areas such as next to Dockyard, power stations, airport, waste oil plants and main arterial roads.*

## ●GENERAL

### Short-term

- Need for **Cross Border Bay Emergency Plan** fully exercised and published-

-**Cleaning contracts** to be revised and made public

- **Litter and Upper Rock wardens** - essential

### Short and long term

- A sustained **media campaign** to be launched to reduce, reuse, and recycle - promote “green” choices on how the community can reduce environmental impact as well as help improve quality of life -within Government and the private sector -certain initiatives were started some time back but not clear what progress is being made on this

-Examine **best environmental options** for disposal of our sewage; exploring use as biomass and energy potential, for example

-Explore options to current **water desalination** if any - invest in water conservation measures

### Short-term

**Environmental Impact Assessment to be published** on airport and eastside reclamation

**Long-term**- Set up a system of proper maintenance and upkeep in refurbished as well as green areas (sadly currently regarded and treated as waste ground); sealing off private lands ensuring these are managed and cleaned by owners

### Ongoing

**Nuclear free Gibraltar** - while tied to sovereignty Gibraltar should nevertheless declare herself to be a nuclear free zone as any emergency plan would be impossible to carry out successfully

- **Government Environmental Charter** to be translated into action and a **timeframe** set for ALL Govt departments and agencies to embrace sustainable practices and to lead by example. The aim should be to reduce Gibraltar's carbon footprint and should require active participation and support by all government departments, the business sector as well as individuals
- **Climate Change Forum set up** by Government should report its findings to the community with its concerns and recommendations as this is clearly of huge public interest and affects us all

Green Roofs: <http://www.greenroofs.org/> City Farming: <http://www.journeytoforever.org/cityfarm.html>

Biofuel Production: <http://www.journeytoforever.org/biofuel.html>

Oil Depletion: [www.survivethefuture.net/peakoil.htm](http://www.survivethefuture.net/peakoil.htm)