

03/16/18. From: Don Fitz. To: Green Party of St. Louis. Draft 13B

[Please bring suggested additions with underlines and deletions with ~~strikethroughs~~ to Green Party of St. Louis meeting on March 21, 2018.]

Missouri Green Party Environment Platform – 2018

Overview:

Production and use of fossil fuels, nuclear power, toxins and chemical fertilizers threatens the survival of humans and millions of other species. It is imperative that we phase out destructive products, and clean up Missouri's air, water and soil while preserving its natural beauty and ensuring employment for all.

Section 1. Energy and Climate.

Accelerating climate change, a finite supply of fossil fuels, and the health burden of air, water and soil pollution tell us that it's time to correct the abuses that corporations and persons and groups in positions of power have put on the ecosystem. We can transform the way energy is produced and reduce the total energy used:

- a. Expand access to rooftop solar, community solar and wind electricity;
- b. Enact and promote convenient financing for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy in buildings;
- c. Require utilities to convert all energy production from fossil fuel and nuclear sources to localized solar power and wind power from the nearest available locations by 2035. This goal includes improvements in energy efficiency to reduce the need for energy, and energy storage for times when the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing.
- d. Have the Missouri Division of Energy conduct forums around the state to take public input on the most effective ways to reduce overall energy consumption and report the findings through multi-media methods.
- e. Ban all publicly funded subsidies to fossil fuel industries and to companies that produce toxic chemicals.

Section 2. Clean Air and Water, and Healthy Soil.

Discharging heavy metals and toxic chemicals into waters, air and soil is not healthy for humans and other living things. Air pollution from vehicles, factories and power plants causes asthma, respiratory disease and other ailments. Acid rain decimates forests and lakes. Heavy metals settle in rivers and make fish unsafe to eat. Herbicides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers disrupt and kill life in the soil.

Additionally, environmental harms disproportionately impact communities of color and low income communities which have been vulnerable to destructive corporate practices that lead to siting of landfills, incinerators, and a variety of industries that pollute the land, air and water, leading to high rates of cancers, chronic diseases and breathing conditions.

- a. Intensify penalties for water and air quality violators.
- b. Transition "chemical" agriculture to environmentally safe organic farming.
- c. Repeal state law 643.055 that forbids state clean air laws from being stricter than federal standards, and enact stricter air, water and waste rules that are necessary to protect public health and the health of Missouri's environment.
- d. Enforce clean air and water regulations with fines and shut-downs if necessary to curb repeat offenders.