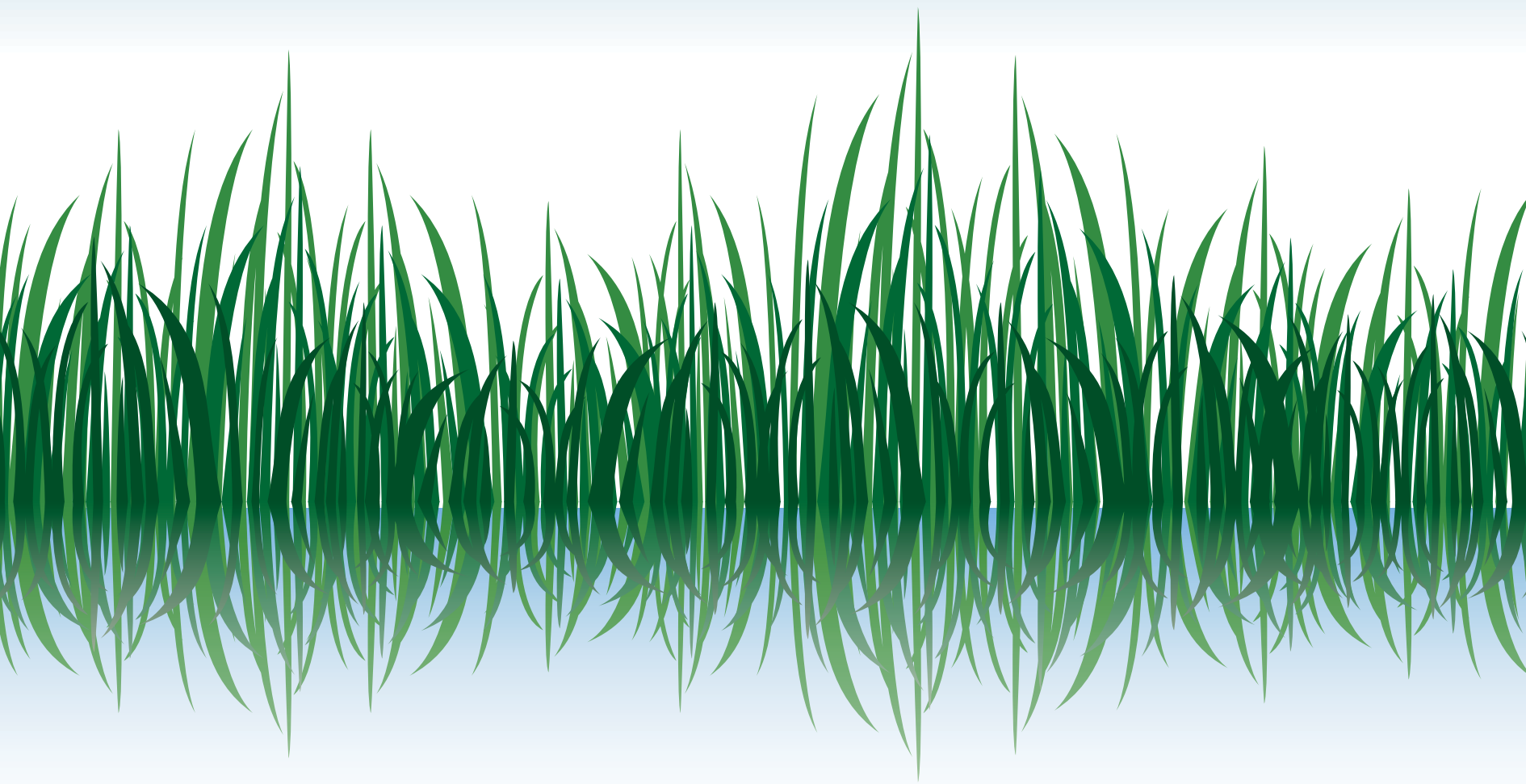


Our commitment



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

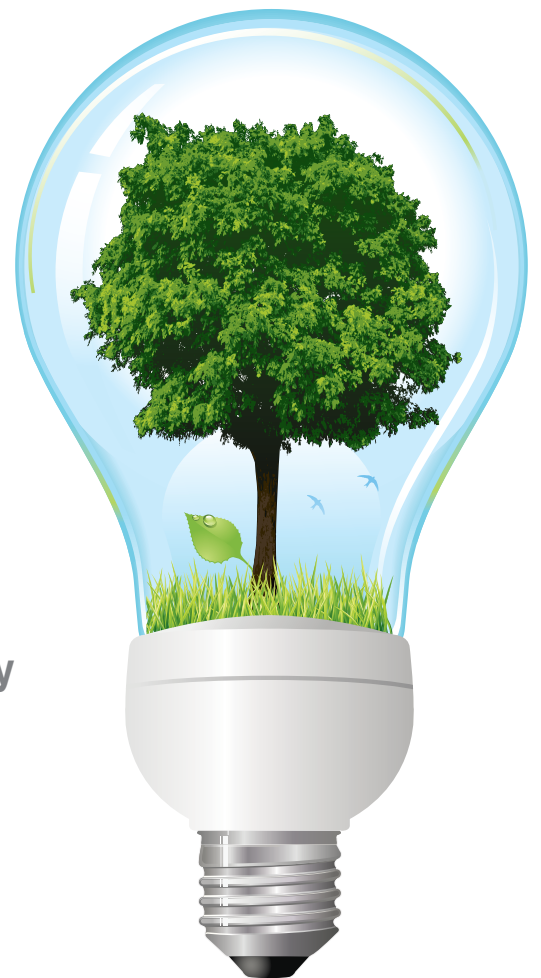
Environment

Tackling climate change is a priority for the Socialists and Democrats Group. It is not just a threat to future generations, but also a question of social justice.

We must reduce greenhouse gases or face the irreversible effects of global warming, hitting the poorest hardest. We must also work towards sustainable development, meeting our current needs without compromising future generations.

The cost of doing nothing will be far higher than taking effective action now and energy efficiency is key to reducing harmful emissions and protecting our natural resources. We believe that by taking positive action now, by reducing carbon emissions, switching to renewable energy sources or adapting our lifestyles, we will create new jobs and opportunities.

The S&D Group is working to raise awareness of how each of us can play our part in our daily routine through recycling, reducing or re-using waste, household energy savings, or by using public transport.



Video links

[Cancun Summit: European Socialists give the lead in climate talks](#)
with Jo Leinen and Dan Jørgensen

[Urgent need for European laws to protect forests](#)
with Kriton Arsenis



Energy

Energy efficiency is a long-term commitment for our Group's legislative work. We are convinced that by making the most efficient use of resources for Europe's citizens we can reduce emissions and save consumers money.



The S&D Group has been the leading progressive voice in the European Parliament:

- Tough new energy efficiency standards and labelling schemes on everyday items such as fridges, freezers, televisions and computers
- Improved fuel efficiency for tyres
- Mandatory efficiency requirements for heating, cooling and water use in new buildings and significant renovation work



Video links

[Energy producing sidewalks soon in European cities?](#) 

with Laurent Villerogue and Linda McAvan

[An Alternative Energy Summit – part 1](#)

with Sigmar Gabriel, Jeremy Rifkin, Martin Schulz, Marita Ulvskog

[An Alternative Energy Summit – part 2](#)

with Paul Magnette, Lena Sommestad, Folker Franz, Jo Leinen, Teresa Riera Madurell, Joël Decaillon, Marita Ulvskog

Transport

Most European citizens live in towns and cities, 60% living in cities of more than 10,000 inhabitants. Urban travel creates 40% of all CO2 emissions from road transport and up to 70% of other pollution from transport.

The S&D team is committed to pushing the 'Europe and Cities' programme to adopt an integrated transport policy that puts walking, cycling and public transport first. We support extending congestion charging systems, increasing pedestrian areas and promoting walking and cycling in all European Cities. Cycling and walking not only helps to reduce CO2 emissions and energy consumption but can be very valid alternatives to public transport.

Video link

[Meeting new challenges for European transports, it's time to act! \(comment on Commission's White Paper\)](#)
with Saïd El Khadraoui



S&D Group Secretariat in action



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Our actions so far...

1. Eco-friendly materials

- All our promotional items are environmentally sourced and recyclable and meet social and employment standards.
- Our purchase orders now include environmental clauses with certified standards.
- We now use FSC-certified paper for all printed materials (*the Forestry Stewardship Council is an independent, not-for-profit organisation promoting the responsible management of the world's forests*).



2. E-mail and pop-up reminders

We have established a system of sending an E-mail reminder to turn off all lights and computer equipment after leaving the office (every Thursday when leaving Strasbourg and before holidays).

3. Reducing printers

We are successfully completing the last phase of the project to have one shared printer per office. Our goal is to make all printers shared.

4. Take the stairs!

Staff are encouraged to choose the healthy way of getting around – why wait for the lift when you can get there yourself?



4. Open Days with a recycling theme

For 2010 and 2011s Open Days we ran fun, interactive workshops based on recycling. Rather than handing out armfuls of disposable freebies, we encouraged visitors to create and customize their own unique bags, folders, boxes and toys, giving old PSE promotional materials a new life.



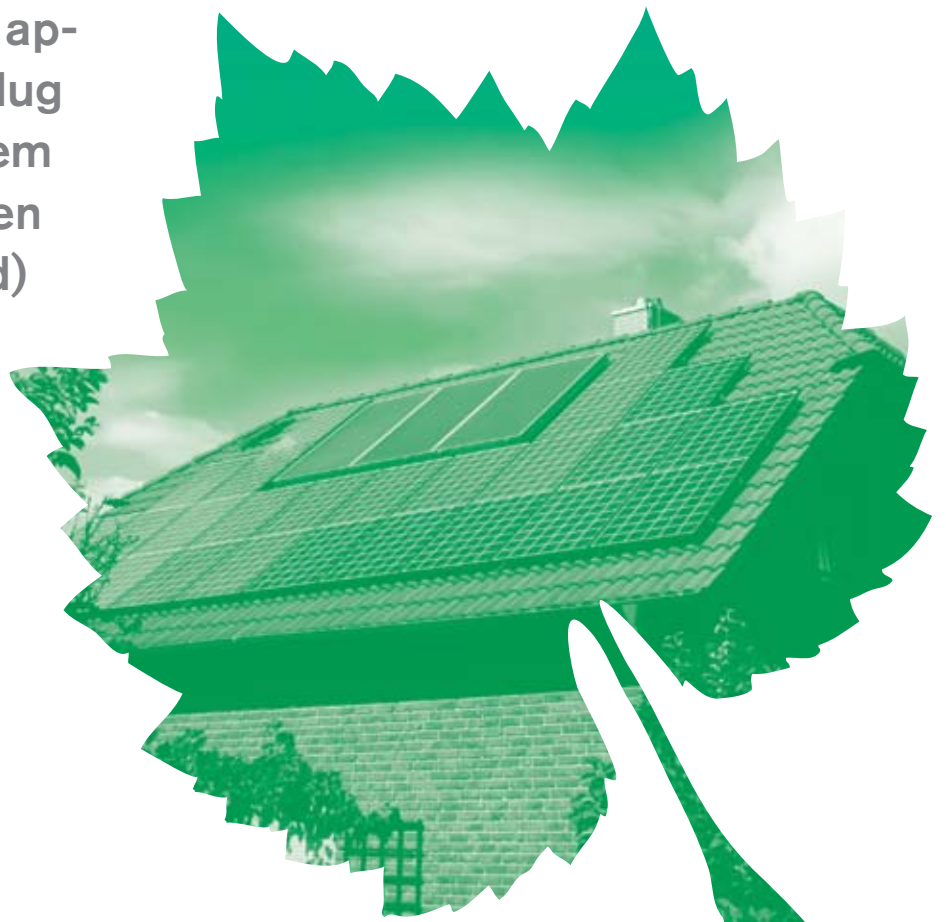
Going green



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Quick tips for a more sustainable lifestyle

- **Think before you travel.** Try to drive and fly less and put your bike and legs into use more often.
- **Save trips.** Write down a list of all errands you need to do and make only one trip to cover them all, instead of driving around the same route multiple times.
- **Buy less (and smarter).** You don't really need a new phone every year now, do you? Also, buy eco-friendly products with less packaging.
- **Cut your energy usage.** Try taking showers (instead of baths), drying your clothes naturally (and not in the tumble dryer) and turning down your thermostat by just one degree.
- **Switch off your appliances.**
If you plug a number of appliances into one multi-plug extension lead, turning them all off in one go (e.g. when you leave for a weekend) will become much easier and save more energy in your household.



- **Know what you eat.** By buying from local farmers, you not only support your local economy and eat seasonal produce but also help to reduce the greenhouse gases from products transported long distances. And when eating seafood, choose sustainable sources.
- **Invest in 'reusables'.** Most coffee shops will gladly pour your coffee into a reusable cup. Or, you can reuse the water used for washing fruits/vegetables to water your plants.
- **Recharge instead of dispose.** Rechargeable batteries reduce landfill and dangerous chemicals.



- **When thinking about your new car, think alternative.** Look into energy-efficient options, electric or hybrid cars, or even car-sharing-clubs (a great way of reducing insurance, road taxes, repairs, parking and petrol costs).
- **Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.**
- **Recycle.** Recycle not only your household waste but also your old furniture or clothes (second hand shops or charities will always be happy to receive your old things). Also – use recycled materials, such as toilet paper or print paper.
- **Network.** Join online forums, blogs and discussions to swap tips with other people working on reducing their footprint.



Sources

www.sustaindane.org

www.wwf.org.uk

McKinnon, J. (July 27, 2008)

Living a sustainable life – minimize damage



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