

GreenAction Utah recognizes the need for and supports the following:

Affirmative Action

- Retention of inclusion goals for women and minorities in government hiring and procurement when all other qualifications are equal--similar to the preferences given to veterans.
- Maintaining employment programs whose goals are to achieve a workforce that reflects the diversity of the community.
- Promoting equal employment opportunity through education and examples of successful programs, but also pursuing Court imposed remedies and legal retribution where necessary.
- A realistic assessment of our future economy and employment in the post-industrial age.
- Proportional representation as an affirmative action towards achieving fair representation for all. Electoral systems promote patterns of inclusion or exclusion and, so, GreenAction Utah supports the goals of the Voting Rights Act.

Criminal Injustice

- Abolish the death penalty.
- Restore judicial discretion in sentencing, as opposed to mandatory sentencing.
- Repeal state "Three Strikes" laws.
- Prisons should be the sentence of last resort, reserved for violent criminals. Those convicted of non-violent offenses should be handled by other programs including halfway houses, electronic monitoring, work-furlough, community service and restitution programs. Substance abuse should be addressed as a medical problem requiring treatment, not imprisonment.
- Private prisons should be illegal. Corrections Corporation of America ranks among the top five performing companies on the New York Stock Exchange during the late 1990's, and operates the sixth largest prison system in the country. These prisons treat people as their product, and provide far worse service than government run prisons.
- Prison officials must institute and enforce policies that discourage racism, sexism, and homophobia in prison.
- Establish elected or appointed independent civilian review boards with subpoena power to investigate complaints about prison guard as well as community police behavior.
- Maximize restrictions on police use of weapons and restraining techniques such as pepper spray, stun belts, and choke holds.
- A moratorium on prison construction. Saved funds to be used for alternatives to incarceration

Employment

GreenAction Utah calls for a revised employment system:

- Raise the minimum wage to a livable level.
- Legislate equal pay for equal work.
- Support small businesses and cooperatives.
- Emphasize local job training programs, a shorter work week and job sharing.
- Pass laws prohibiting hiring and firing decisions based on
- Enforce the anti-trust laws.
- Redefine the GNP (Gross National Product) to include services which benefit society but are not presently remunerated; such as birthing, child rearing and homemaking. [see the Economic Measurement plank]
- Convert to a civilian economy while supporting defense workers during the conversion process.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Rights

People have a basic right to decide their own sexual orientation. GreenAction Utah regards heterosexism—the belief that the only legitimate form of sexual

interaction is between men and women— as a violation of human rights and dignity. GreenAction Utah demands full rights for all sexual groups by:

- Promoting the social values of tolerance and acceptance to help eliminate anti-gay hatred.
- Promoting a constitutional amendment to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

We should amend all anti-discrimination laws to include protection for sexual minorities.

- Legalizing lesbian and gay marriages.
- Giving lesbian and gay couples an equal opportunity to adopt children.
- Ending discrimination based on sexual orientation in all branches of the military.

- Providing for the special needs of senior gays through social service programs.
- Supporting the development of lesbian and gay studies at all levels of the educational system.
- Including lesbian and gay sensitivity training in the teacher certification process.
- Promoting positive images of gay youth, and establish gay youth centers and gay counseling.
- Fostering positive visibility of gays and lesbians in the arts, television, radio and film.
- Establishing, expanding and actively enforcing anti-hate crime laws.
- Abolishing art censorship to allow free homo-erotic and gay-positive expression.

Homelessness

Homeless people have the right to full acknowledgment of their human dignity and a voice in the decisions that affect them. Homelessness reflects an area of total failure in our society. Today homeless people are hounded, threatened and often can not obtain badly needed services. Though affordable housing could help alleviate the problem of homelessness, the homeless have needs that go beyond housing.

GreenAction Utah calls for measures to help the homeless:

- Expand community-based services for the homeless and make them more readily available.
- Repeal all laws that criminalize any facet of homelessness or helping the homeless.
- Abolish anti-sleeping laws, especially in areas which don't have adequate open space, shelter and sleeping areas for the homeless.
- Strictly enforce all the laws that are designed to provide for the homeless—such as the laws that require the opening of National Guard armories to the homeless during inclement weather.
- Allow the homeless to take part in decisions about long- and short-term solutions to their situation.
- Strengthen and increase funding of mental health and drug rehabilitation systems.

Human Rights

As adapted from the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights: All people are entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set out in this platform can be fully realized.

GreenAction Utah recognizes a negative inheritance from colonialism, reflected in prejudices based on race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, native tongue, religion, physical appearance, ethnic and national origin.

GreenAction Utah supports equal rights for all:

- The right of all people to equal opportunity and equal justice, including equal rights to housing, employment, child custody and child adoption, and self-determination.
- The right of all people to participate fully in the decision making processes that affect their lives.
- An intrinsic human right to respect and dignity.

Immigration

Immigration policies should be based strongly on human rights. Properly devised immigrant work policies can be of economic benefit to the worker and the host nation. **GreenAction Utah** supports these policies (as advocated by Cesar Chavez) which seek to integrate, rather than alienate, migrant labor:

- The U.S.- Mexican border should be recognized as an area of bi-national interdependence. This would be an authentic free-trade zone where people are free to travel for work, shopping or recreation.
- Seasonal labor demands country-wide should be allowed to be filled by foreign workers using work visas, with these workers subject to U.S. wage, tax and labor laws.
- We call for the repeal of Proposition 187, and we oppose the continuing legislative trend of reducing and/or denying services that are available to all other workers. We advocate voting rights for permanent residents, as was the law prior to World War I.
- We should acknowledge and celebrate the influence of diverse cultures in the mosaic that is the unique culture of our society.

Social Safety Net

GreenAction Utah calls for a reliable social safety net with benefits sufficient to meet basic necessities:

- Provide support, with out time limits, for those who are economically disadvantaged.
- Recognize Social Security as a human right as stated in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights—everyone has the right to a secure retirement.
- Do not require workfare outside the home for single parents of small children.
- Running households and caring for children is work, even though women have often performed such work without pay.

- Provide paid parental leave for one parent of very young, ill, or special needs children.
- Make quality child care available to all parents who are engaged in paid employment, higher education, or job training.
- Keep benefit levels up with inflation, and keep them sufficient to meet basic needs.
- Do not exclude immigrants from the benefits of the safety net. Everyone who lives here contributes to the economy through work, paying taxes and purchasing goods and services.
- Pay a living wage or the prevailing wage in industry, whichever is greater, for all people in compulsory work-placements (so-called “workfare”), whether the work is performed in the private sector, community service or otherwise.
- Allow exemptions from work requirements for welfare recipients pursuing higher education, homeless people looking for housing, or for victims of domestic violence who need additional time to find safety and independence.

Native Americans

GreenAction Utah supports full rights for Native Americans:

- Give Native American culture equal weight with European culture in our educational and socialization processes.
 - Support the 500 Years of Resistance Movement which seeks to tell the whole story about the arrival of European culture in the Americas.
 - Recognize treaty rights concerning hunting and fishing at subsistence levels, with catch sizes to be negotiated between tribes and the appropriate government agencies. Native treaty rights should always take precedence over commercial profits and foreign fishing interests.
 - Recognize Native American claims to ancestral remains and artifacts. Tribes should have full freedom to practice tribal religions on reservations.
 - Oppose oil exploration in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge due to its effect on native tribes, and to its threat to the environment and wildlife.
 - Oppose locating toxic dumps, nuclear tests and other undesirable workings of industrialized society on tribal lands.
 - Oppose the misuse of the criminal justice system, and the use of excessive force, to deny Native Americans their rights. Eliminate barriers to the full involvement of Native Americans in the decisions that will affect them.
- Support the American Indian Religious Freedom Act