

PDA Environment and Sustainability Task Force

PDA vision statement about environment and sustainability

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As progressives, we stand for strong protection of the common good, including clean air, water, and soil, healthy ecosystems, a stable global climate, and natural treasures such as national forests, parks, and wilderness areas. We recognize the need to defend these assets actively through regulation and thoughtful planning, because market forces tend to undervalue them in the present and to ignore completely their long-term importance, and because a healthy environment is a birthright of all, regardless of ability to pay for clean air and water. We acknowledge that the impacts of environmental degradation often concentrate on the most vulnerable – developing embryos, children, and residents of poor urban and rural areas; we believe government must be aggressive in defense of victims of environmental injustice. And since ecosystems, watersheds, climate forces, and pollutants do not recognize political boundaries, we call for strong interstate and international cooperation on environmental protection.

We at Progressive Democrats of America believe in the building of a sustainable society where we meet human needs within the system in which we live – our planet. We believe that our planet is a closed system, not a system of unlimited resources. We believe in core values that include the treatment of all living things with respect, dignity, justice, and compassion. We commit ourselves to the building of a sustainable society that preserves and restores our natural ecosystems as part of the global community. -We believe that government – through careful planning, regulation, and economic and legal intervention -- must play a key role in promoting a long-term vision of sustainability.

Our Plan

For too long, environmental protection has been seen as inimical to economic progress and thriving industry. PDA believes that good environmental choices are also good business choices, if government acts responsibly to make the long-term costs and benefits of different choices clear to all participants and to assure the “triple-bottom-line” of environmental protection, social equity, and economic vitality. There are many examples of thriving “green” companies that are gaining the loyalty and trust of consumers and business partners precisely by making the right environmental choices. We promote policies that advance these aims and that expose the social costs of unwise environmental choices (such as endangering public health, toxic waste disposal, destruction of wildlife habitat, and depletion of finite resources).

Many individuals, governments, and organizations in the U.S. and abroad have already implemented effective measures to reduce consumption and waste of finite resources and to reduce the “ecological footprint” of their communities.

What is more, they are discovering that such changes also improve the quality of life for residents of those communities. PDA supports the implementation of such win-win policies at local, state, and national levels.