



Local councils: Green becomes you.

Councillors elected on behalf of **ADPD - The Green Party** are guided by six basic principles that are core to Green parties worldwide, which are **ecological wisdom, social justice, participatory democracy, non-violence, sustainability** and **respect for diversity**.

We work to **strengthen transparency, good financial governance** and political will of local councils, and the strengthening of local democracy.

We work to keep residents informed about issues that matter to the locality.

We strive for **financial responsibility**, local councils should not take up projects which are not financially sustainable.

We will work to have **more indigenous trees in our streets, on public land** administered by the councils, and **in public gardens**. We will work on plans for the management and planting of trees in urban areas. It is a well-known fact that trees in urban areas help to purify the air, reduce noise pollution and reduce glare on sunny days. We will give streets back to the residents, in particular areas that are in the centre of these localities.

Within the framework for national politics, the local councils are responsible for decisions regarding residential streets. Streets in the centre of localities could be car-free, and such needs may vary from locality to locality. Residential streets should be safe for everybody, whether pedestrians or cyclists. To ensure safety, **speed limits in residential areas** should not exceed 30 kilometres per hour.

We will work to **increase pedestrianisation for cleaner air and safer urban areas**. This will mean the increase of bicycle racks around localities. Transport Malta should have a regularity role to supervise and assist local councils rather than replace them. Local councils should be in charge of overseeing the situation of chairs and tables encroaching public spaces, an issue which needs to be handled with the best interests of the local residents and the local economy in mind.

We will work to **protect open spaces in residential areas** and work towards greater accessibility and security on the roads. We will work to promote spaces and facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, the elderly, people with disabilities and reduced mobility, and families with young children. We will work towards having roads that serve people first, not cars.

Local councils should ensure that pavements are free from any obstacles, which frequently force residents to walk in the middle of the road, in particular residents who are vulnerable. Councillors working on behalf of **ADPD - The Green Party** consider accessibility for all residents as a top priority.

Councillors elected on behalf of **ADPD - The Green Party** will work for greater recycling through information campaigns and insistence on enforcement. Freecycling and thrifting are a priority for Green councillors, and we will work towards having regular collection of various materials for reuse or recycling, such as clothes. We will encourage **freecycling and thrifting**. We will be working on local strategies for **waste reduction**, in line with the National Strategy for the Environment 2050 in achieving the target for zero-waste by 2050.

Councillors elected on behalf of **ADPD - The Green Party** will work towards local council buildings and facilities that use clean energy and methods of water conservation. We will put pressure on authorities to stop the destruction of our towns and villages and the little countryside left. For this reason we are **against any extension of building zones**, and will follow every projected development anticipating any kind of impact on our localities. Our guiding principle here is that protecting the environment means a better quality of life for all.

We **oppose the current practice of a centralised government** maintaining control through Ministries, resulting in the weakening of the autonomy of local councils. **Local councils are not the customer care centres of the government**, and they should not be dependent on the whims of government ministers. Centralisation is the result of the politics of clientelism. We insist that Local Councils should be given government funding to finance suitable premises for their operations, services, and cultural activities. At the moment there is considerable discrimination in the way localities are treated, largely dependent on the whims of the Minister concerned and the government.

ADPD - The Green Party local councillors work towards more investment in public libraries, a sector which is sorely lacking in resources. We insist on greater cooperation with schools as well as local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). We work to increase the sense of community in our localities. Together with others, including NGOs, the local councils should organise **cultural, educational and sports activities**. **ADPD - The Green Party** councillors work towards the publication of informative signage and publications about historical sites in localities and promote the restoration and re-use of such sites. The principles guiding **ADPD - The Green Party** councillors are meant to serve the **common good of the people** and build a **sense of community**.