

→ 2007 green electoral initiative

A. CLIMATE AND ENERGY CHANGE (10 pts)

1. Will you support a moratorium on proposed coal-fired power plants and the transition of existing ones to renewable energy sources as a means to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions and help in the international effort to contain global warming? Will you also support a moratorium on other greenhouse gas emitting sources such as "sanitary" landfills, "waste-to-energy", cement kilns, etc?
2. Will you support a strong renewable energy legislation with high and binding renewable energy targets that will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and assure genuine energy security for the country's future?
3. What legislative measures (i.e. demand side management, market incentives, Integrated Resource Planning) will you initiate to mainstream energy efficiency in the country?

B. WATER (10 pts)

1. Are you willing to commit a specific percentage of your Countryside Development Fund (CDF) for the development of septage and sewerage management, treatment and infrastructure?
2. The pollution of our sources for clean water (e.g., freshwater, groundwater) is exacerbating the water crisis, with the prospects of severe water shortages in the future looming large. What legislative measures would you propose to ensure stricter protection of our aquifers (groundwater), as well as providing stiffer penalties to polluters of water sources?
3. What steps will you undertake to ensure people's fair access to water and guard against monopoly?

C. SOLID WASTE (10 pts)

1. The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (R.A. 9003) mandates the closure of all dumps and the establishment of Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) or ecology center in every barangay or cluster of barangays. Six years after the law took effect, the country remains littered with more than 1,000 open and controlled dumps. To date, only 1,723 MRFs or ecology centers exist in the country's 42,000 barangays. What legislative action will you take to ensure the effective implementation of RA 9003?
2. Thousands of families subsist by collecting discards from bins and dumps. R.A. 9003 barely responds to the waste pickers' socio-economic, health and other needs. How do you plan to plug this legislative loophole in R.A. 9003 so that waste pickers, including itinerant and dump based waste pickers will be recognized as integral players in the ecological and safe management of discards?
3. Will you support legislative measures that will compel companies to phase out toxic substances in their products, in packaging and in production systems as well as institute take back systems for their end of life products (e.g., computer waste etc.)?
- 4) Do you support banning certain types of plastics and disposables which contribute to our worsening waste problems? What are your views regarding slapping a kind of "sin" tax on disposable plastics packaging, taking into account that citizens and taxpayers are currently shouldering the costs of disposal of these types of waste materials?

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D. TOXIC WASTE TRADE & JPEPA (10 pts)

1. Malacanang has submitted the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) to the Senate for ratification. Considering the concerns raised by different sectors over the absence of democratic consultation and participation of civil society, and also regarding the toxic and nuclear waste trade, and other exploitative provisions under the proposed treaty, will you vote to reject or ratify JPEPA? Why?
2. Parties to the Basel Convention adopted in 1995 the Basel Ban Amendment which prohibits the transboundary movements of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries for any purpose. The Philippines is a party to the Basel Convention but is yet to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment. Will you initiate and support the ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment in the 14th Congress, and work to amend RA 6969 which contains a loophole that allows toxic and hazardous wastes to be sent to the Philippines for "economic reasons"?
3. The dumping of post consumer goods from developed to poorer countries containing toxic wastes, such as electronic waste, is becoming a global concern. There are efforts underway in the developed world, particularly in Europe to hold manufacturers of these products responsible for the take-back and proper recycling of their products at its end-of-life. Will you support legislative measures that will hold manufacturers accountable for their products at end-of-life?

E. GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs) (10 pts)

1. What steps will you take to protect the country's biodiversity and public health from the contamination and unpredictable adverse effects of the release and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture and food?
2. Despite widespread rejection of genetically modified (GM) rice in markets worldwide, illegal genetically modified rice is being sold in Philippine supermarkets and approval for the use of another GM rice strain for food, feed and processing is currently pending at the Bureau of Plant Industry. Do you support the introduction and commercialization of GM rice in the country?
3. Would you support the mandatory labelling of all products containing GM organisms sold in the Philippines?

F. SUSTAINABLE & ORGANIC¹ AGRICULTURE (10 pts)

1. Will you support a legislation that will remove subsidies to synthetic farm inputs as well as measures that would significantly reduce the use of pesticides and agricultural chemicals in the country? Will you support that these subsidies be re-channelled to the promotion of organic agriculture practices?
2. Will you support a legislation that will shift the DA's policy orientation from chemically based and synthetic agriculture towards the development of sustainable and organic agriculture as defined by Executive Order 481 or the Promotion and Development of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines?

¹ Organic Agriculture – "includes all agricultural systems that promote the environmentally, socially, and economically sound production of food and fibers. These systems take local soil fertility as a key to a successful production. By respecting the natural capacity of plants, animals, and the landscape it aims to optimize quality in all aspects of agriculture and the environment. Organic agriculture dramatically reduces external inputs by refraining from the use of chemo-synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals. Instead it allows the powerful laws of nature to increase both agricultural yields and disease resistance." Definition of IFOAM (International Federation of Agricultural Movements).

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G. LOGGING (10 pts)

1. What measures would you propose to advance community-based forest management and enforcement of laws against illegal logging? Do you agree that natural forests should be kept free from commercial logging or conversion into other uses?
2. Will you support a five year moratorium on commercial logging to allow our forests to regenerate and while our communities are trained to do community-based forest management and in monitoring their respective areas?

H. MINING (10 pts)

1. What legislative measures will you initiate to make mining companies accountable in the acute and long term impacts caused by their activities on public health and the environment?
2. Will you support a community-based, environment-friendly small scale mining legislation?
3. How do you intend to uphold the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) and National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) especially in the context of the said laws' outstanding conflicts and inconsistencies with provisions to the Mining Act?

I. AIR POLLUTION (10 pts)

1. Air pollution remains a serious threat to public health. What legislative step will you initiate to make the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 more effective? Would you support a ban on the importation of dirty, second-hand diesel engine?
2. What legislative measures will you propose that would mainstream the production and use of clean fuels, increase motor efficiency and reduce fuel consumption?

J. YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK RECORD (10 pts)

1. Please enumerate and describe your earlier and existing initiative(s) in the environmental field (not necessarily in the legislative area) including sponsoring, voting, history in congress with respect to environmental bills, environmental programs implemented, benefits for the environment, etc. Please include your party platform in the environment, if any.