



#### **A. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY (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?

**Yes. However, we should further qualify this moratorium as gradual until a sustainable and equitable alternative is available for mass energy consumption. In as much as we support all efforts to reduce global warming, we should also consider the feasibility of our actions. We must note that climate change is a global issue that should be addressed collectively by every nation. In fact, the agreed 20 percent cut on carbon dioxide emissions by the European Union can only postpone warming by five years in this century but will cost an estimated \$180B a year until 2020. Given our economic situation, we cannot even afford at least one percent of such budget. While I agree with an equitable moratorium on coal-fired power plants, I suggest that we rather give more focus on empowering research and development on renewable and eco-friendly energy sources.**

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?

**Yes. Again, however, we should qualify the time table of our high target as gradual.**

3. What legislative measures (i.e. demand side management, market incentives, Integrated Resource Planning) will you initiate to mainstream energy efficiency in the country?

**Because energy efficiency is an issue that should be tackled with facts, the government and private sector should focus on empowering research and development of renewable energy sources. Studies and experiments on these energy sources (solar, wind, methane/biogas) could be conducted in semi-urban areas where cheap energy is a much-needed factor of continued development. When successful, these sources should serve as templates for replication in other rural areas.**

#### **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?

**The issue on water supply and distribution is an issue that should be tackled squarely from a holistic view of rural and urban planning. We are willing to commit our resources to an equitable project that will address this.**

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?



**While we would support equitable efforts to conserve water, the water crisis should be addressed the same way the energy crisis should – with an alternative. Research and development should focus on a long-term and sustainable clean water source or process, such as desalination.**

3. What steps will you undertake to ensure people's fair access to water and guard against monopoly?

**We should explore the possibility of a government and private sector equitable tie-up in establishing an effective business model or having a spot market for the water industry. Access to water supply should be thoroughly discussed with the private sector, since distribution is more of a corporate management issue than legislative.**

### **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?

**ON THE FIRST AND SECOND QUESTION: The issue of R.A. 9003 is an issue of implementation and therefore is rather an executory issue than legislative. Clearly then, our immediate response to address the problem is the strict enforcement of the law. At the same time, it should be reviewed for its merits for the past six years and be assessed if it is still equitable given our current situation. However, we should also alternatively address this issue by working with the private sector and exploring the possibilities of an equitable and cooperative business model for the solid waste industry that would also involve the waste pickers and their welfare.**

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.)?

**Yes**

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?

**Yes, we support the reduction of plastics and disposables use. However, instead of having a sin tax on disposable plastics packaging, we should rather embark on a comprehensive recycling plan, which could be part of a concerted corporate social responsibility effort.**



**This is in relation to my aforementioned suggestion to work with the private sector regarding the solid waste industry.**

**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?

**We would like to start first the discussions on the provisions of JPEPA before we reject or ratify it. I have serious reservations to the agreement and we want to be clarified on the conditions of this pact. Will it be in accordance to our Constitution, RA 6969 or Toxic Substance and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Act, or the Basel Convention which we are part of? These are just some of the questions that we need to address before we make an opinion on this agreement. When we resume Session this coming June, we will tackle the JPEPA and would have an informed opinion then.**

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"?

**Yes**

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?

**Yes. As mentioned above, post consumer good management could be part of a concerted corporate social responsibility effort on their part.**

**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?

**We support organic farming.**

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?

**No**



3. Would you support the mandatory labelling of all products containing GM organisms sold in the Philippines?

**Yes. It is a responsibility on the part of the producer to properly inform the public.**

#### **F. SUSTAINABLE & ORGANIC<sup>1</sup> 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?

**Yes on both accounts**

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?

**Yes**

#### **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?

**We should look into the feasibility of converting our natural forests into ecology parks, which could also benefit the people living around the area. Not only can we provide economic opportunities for them, but we could also ensure the security of our forests against illegal loggers. These parks could also be a joint-project between the government and private sector to make the use of our forests equitable to all (the government, the private sector and the community) without harming the environment.**

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?

**Yes**

#### **H. MINING (10 pts)**

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<sup>1</sup> 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).



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?

**We should ensure that mining companies are held accountable by requiring them to follow strict environmental and rehabilitation codes and ensuring that the mined area is restored to its original environmental state. Consequently, we could look into the feasibility of having these mining companies post a bond to be held in escrow until the reclaimed area's productivity is made evident. We should also require them to take careful measures to mitigate any kind of water contamination like having containment ponds, diversion systems, groundwater pumping systems, subsurface drainage systems, subsurface barriers or treatment facilities that would neutralize contaminated water.**

2. Will you support a community-based, environment-friendly small scale mining legislation?

**Yes. We could look into the possibility of developing an equitable and alternative business model for the mining industry that would enable small firms to engage in a community-based and environment-friendly mining. We could also study the feasibility of developing a spot market for the industry, having a middle management institution that would monitor the industry's activities or both to ensure environmental safety and sustainability.**

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?

**Because we value the right to life, liberty and property of the individual over the gains of corporate institutions, we should review the Mining Act and propose amendments to it that would enable the equitable participation of small firms in the industry and consequently provide opportunities and protect the rights of the communities involved in the area.**

#### **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?

**As Senate Majority Leader, we have been actively supporting the Biofuels Law since it was filed as a bill. Along with the implementation of the Biofuels Law and a review of the Clean Air Act, we should, again, empower research and development on alternative fuel source, like the Jatropha. These measures are gradual and equitable ways of lessening our dependence on fossil fuels.**

2. What legislative measures will you propose that would mainstream the production and use of clean fuels, increase motor efficiency and reduce fuel consumption?

**Fuels shortage should also be addressed with research and development, which we could do with the private sector. The continued Jatropha research is already a step forward after the implementation of our Biofuels Law. Similarly, we should conduct researches on motor vehicle efficiency and support mass transportation projects.**

#### **J. YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK RECORD (10 pts)**



**2007**  
**green electoral initiative**

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.

**Sorry, I don't have background on this to answer.**

The questions in the survey form were contributed by the Alyansa Tigil Mina, Basel Action Network Asia Pacific, Cavite Green Coalition, Concerned Citizens Against Pollution, EcoWaste Coalition, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Health Care Without Harm, Miriam PEACE, Mother Earth Foundation, Philippine Greens, and the Philippine NGO Council for Security and Fair Trade.