

ANSWERS TO THE 2007 GREEN ELECTORAL INITIATIVE QUESTIONS

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A1

Yes to moratorium on coal-fired power plants until the technology to capture and sequester carbon dioxide emissions is invented and put in place. However, I have strong doubts if there can ever be "clean coal";

Yes to all proposals and programs (including international agreements) which seek to reduce our country's greenhouse gas emissions. Global warming is a problem that affects the entire world and the present as well as the future generations of human beings. The success of any government effort or initiative to reduce global warming is dependent on the political resolve of the Chief Executive and the cooperation of the citizenry. Everyone must do his/her part to reduce global warming through conservation and the use of alternative energy methods;

A major push for energy conservation must be made, as this is the easiest and least costly way of saving energy. Conservation in lighting, through insulation and new energy-saving architectural designs, and the use of energy efficient appliances are some of the most obvious areas where this could take place.

A2

Yes to renewable energy legislation;

A3

Encourage and support research and development on renewable energy sources in the country;

Use tax laws as incentives for energy conservation and/or adoption of renewable energy initiatives.

Use of tax laws as disincentive for wasteful use of energy;

Explore and support solar power, hydro power, geothermal power, wind power, biofuels;

B1

No problem with the use of CDF for septage and sewerage management, treatment, and infrastructure, preferably in Gawad Kalinga sites.

B2

Identification of our aquifers;

Education campaign on how aquifers are being polluted by human activity;

Pass law making direct and indirect pollution of aquifers a crime;

Penalize people who violate the law(s) so that they will know that the government is serious in

protecting aquifers;

Regulate construction and use of deep wells, as well as waste disposal and use of chemicals and

fertilizers;

DENR to assign a specific division to focus on aquifer protection;

Possible legislations to be enacted and/or strengthened: Water Pollution Act; Marine Protection Act;

Sanctuaries Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act;

An Act

Prohibiting Ocean Dumping;

B3

Recognize the people's basic right of access to water;

Recognize water as a national resource not susceptible of private appropriation / ownership;

Strict regulation of whatever “water rights” may be recognized under the law, making sure permits do not result in monopolies;

C1

Full budgetary support for RA 9003;
Educational campaign on what RA 9003 provides;
Empower barangays to enable them to comply with RA 9003;
Provide tax incentives to manufacturing companies undertaking a buy-back scheme and/or recycling system;

C2

Integrate waste-pickers into the Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) and/or ecology centers and recycling facilities by making them first priority in the hiring of employees / workers therein;

C3

Yes to elimination of toxic substances in all stages of the production system as well as to mandatory take-back rules;

C4

Penalize the use of plastics through a polluter’s tax (sin tax);
Encourage the use of bio-degradable plastics;
Encourage “back to paper” use;

D1

I cannot ratify JPEPA because of the senseless provisions which allow use of our country as dumping ground for the toxic and hazardous wastes of Japan;

D2

I am in favor of the Basel Ban Amendment;
Toxic and hazardous wastes should not be allowed into our country even for “economic reasons” as the social, environmental, and health costs to be incurred by the Filipino people subsequent to their entry would definitely be more than the so-called “economic benefits” from such questionable trade policy in RA 6969;

D3

I will support mandatory take-back / recycling laws to be imposed on manufacturers of goods sold in the Philippines;

E1

Support further scientific studies by Philippine scientists, on the subject matter of GMOs;

E2

While our scientific community is still studying this matter of GMOs, let us go slow in the introduction and commercialization of GMOs, including GM rice, in our country;

E3

If GMOs are to be sold in the Philippines, they must be properly labeled as such so as to protect the preference of consumers especially those who do not want to touch / consume GMOs;

F1

Let us discourage the use of synthetic farm inputs, pesticides, and other agricultural chemicals;
Government's resources should be re-channeled instead to organic farming / agricultural practices;

F2

Let us all support the Promotion and Development of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines;

G1 and G2

I am for total log ban for 20 years;
Conversion of forest lands to other classification should only be by law not by administrative measure;
Strengthen forest guards through adequate budgetary support; prioritize hiring of local residents as forest guards; allow NGOs, barangays officials, and ordinary citizens to bring charges of violations of environmental laws including anti-illegal logging;

H1

Strict environmental compliance rules for mining companies even before issuance of authority to operate;
Mandatory periodic review of mining practices;
License to operate must be revocable at any time on the ground of violation of environmental laws and regulations;
Mandatory obligation for mining companies to rehabilitate their mining sites for other productive and safe uses;

H2

Yes to community-based, environment-friendly small scale mining legislation involving the barangays in their supervision and regulation;

H3

The IPRA and the NIPAS are superior to and have priority over the Mining Act;

I1

Monitor strict compliance with the Clean Air Act of 1999;
File charges against violators of said law;
Yes to the ban on the importation of dirty second-hand diesel engines;

I2

Promote use of hybrid or multi-fuel source vehicles;
Promote use of bio-fuels;
Promote use of mass transportation;
Promote use of bicycles;
Reduce dependence on imported oil by promoting local sources of energy;

J1

Observance of “no littering” and garbage segregation in my personal life;
Active in socio-civic work on the environment through the Jaycees and the Rotary, e.g.,
clean up of Manila Bay, greening of the National Highways, reforestation projects, etc.

Environmental Platform:

Total Log Ban coupled with reforestation campaign
Use of alternative and renewable energy sources
Use of tax system to discourage polluting and wasteful activities
Promotion and support for continuing scientific studies on various environmental
issues
Prevent exploitative mining practices and other uses of our natural resources
Recognition of access to water as a basic human right
Preservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the Philippine
environment for the enjoyment of the present as well as future generation of
Filipinos

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