GREEN OVER GREED

A GREEN VISION 2050

September 2025

ADPD

GREEN OVER GREED
A GREEN VISION 2050

INTRODUCTION

GREEN OVER GREED
A GREEN VISION 2050

INTRODUCTION

Vision 2050[1], published by government for public consultation, is based on the economic orthodoxy of limitless growth. It is above all else an economic strategy, in which the growth-at-all-costs economy is prioritised over everything else. The environment, education, culture and social development are portrayed as servants of economic growth. This document, **Green Vision 2050,** on the other hand, seeks to offer an alternative narrative, one integrating social, ecological, cultural and economic imperatives in policy making. It is based on the concept of wellbeing rather than growth. Green for all, rather than greed for the few, at the expense of the many. A Green-tinged capitalist or social democratic economic policy will not do the job. We can only reach our environmental and social goals with a truly Green economy that corrects the balance of power between civil society and big business, that overcomes the corporatist economy, forces the financial markets to shrink to size and breaks down the dominant paradigm under which the only thing that matters is economic growth.

The development of a Green Vision necessitates a serious consideration as to which investments are to be encouraged, which are discouraged and which are outright disallowed; what is taxed, what is taxed less and what is not taxed at all. Should income from labour be taxed less, and wealth and dormant assets be taxed more? A lower tax burden on wages, that is on income derived from employment, and a shift to taxation on resource use favours employees and employers, incentivises efficiency in resource use and can still provide the necessary revenue to support public services. Should a universal basic income covering basic necessities be introduced funded by a tax on resource use and on speculative activities? These are issues which have been avoided for too long. Which services and industries are encouraged and which must change, be reformed or be phased-out? Should short-term speculative finance, with its negative social and ecological effects be taxed through a Tobin tax? The choice is between an economy which serves us all, is socially just, ecologically sound and sustainable and an economy based on exploitation of people and resources, locally and abroad, one that implies the prosperity of some at the expense of others. The government's **Vision 2050** fails to tackle these issues. It conveniently ignores them as if they do not exist.

A green wellbeing economy addresses the large financial sector which encourages speculative behaviour. Unproductive financial capital is a burden on real investment in sectors which serve our social and ecological needs. It blocks or slows the transition to a social-ecological economy. An alternative Green Vision 2050 would encourage smaller, social and cooperatively organised forms of economic activity, especially cooperatives and other smaller companies oriented towards the common good. This type of economic activity is more likely to be able to produce in a participatory manner, without the short-term compulsion for profit maximisation at all costs to favour the few. Short-term profit maximisation will give us more of the same: overdevelopment, pollution, low wages, property speculation and mountains of waste; a scenario we have grown accustomed to. A Green Vision 2050 lays the ground for abandoning the subsidies of harmful industries. The tax burden on income derived from employment is reduced, instead shifting it to resource use, extreme wealth and capital accumulation, to encourage investment in socially and ecologically useful sectors. It offers an alternative to a productivist growth economy which requires land, minerals, energy and cheap labour on an ever-increasing scale. It would consider the effects of greed in Malta and the EU on the minerals, together with energy and labour sourced from other countries. Exporting social and environmental exploitation should not be an option.

1 https://envision2050.gov.mt/

Our **Green Vision 2050** is based on these 5 principles[2]:

Wellbeing - all people contribute to and share prosperity, not just a few.

Justice - the new economy should deliver equity within and between generations.

Limits and Planetary Boundaries - the new economy safeguards, restores and invests in our country's nature.

Efficiency and Sufficiency - production and consumption must be sustainable.

Good Governance - economies are guided by integrated, accountable and resilient institutions.

The challenges that we face in Malta are, in a microcosm, the same as those faced in Europe and around the world. The Mediterranean region has already surpassed the 1.5°C increase in average temperatures, and Malta included, is well on its way to desertification[3]. Climate change, with all the serious challenges it presents, is accelerating faster than predicted. In fact climate scientists warn there are only 10 years to keep global heating to a maximum of 1.5°C and avoid catastrophic impacts on people and the planet[4].

Among the challenges we face are rising sea levels, unpredictable weather and storms, extreme heat with its effects on infrastructure, energy use and production, desertification and lack of rainfall. Sea level rise is a reality all low lying islands and coastal areas are facing. A primary climate change challenge in the years to come will be a rising sea level as a result of which the coastline of the Maltese islands will recede inwards at a rate which is so far unknown. The coast is home to most of our maritime and tourism infrastructural facilities, all of which are consequently under threat. Even residential areas developed along and close to the coast, mostly slightly above sea level will be impacted. Our dependence on imports, even for basic goods, also exposes us to the negative effects of climate change on other countries. Inequality and poverty threatens global cooperation, fuels reactionary and nationalist politics and undermines the global cooperation needed to combat climate change and environmental destruction. We all know too well how easy it is for some to scapegoat and peddle a far-right, hate filled narrative of the perceived 'threat' of vulnerable migrant workers. This is ironic when we consider that these are the same powerless people who prop up our economy.

2 Green economic principles https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/assets/reports/GEC-Reports/gec-2020-10-year-strategy-v1.5-FINAL-34pp.pdf

3 Special Report on Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks in the Mediterranean (November 2024): Union for the Mediterranean https://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/energy-and-climate-action/medecc-scientific-reports-on-climate-and-environmental-change-in-the-mediterranean/

4 An IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels: https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

The Green Economy Coalition (GEC)[5] identified five systemic flaws in the economic system, namely:

- **Outdated metrics.** GDP growth and corporate profits dominate our assessments of how countries and companies are faring but provide limited real information;
- **Short-termism** in finance and politics prioritises instant returns over longer-term goals;
- **Overconsumption.** Our economies are built on using more materials to consume ever more things, and our infrastructure and pension debt rely on this model;
- **Fallacy of "trickle-down" economics.** Deregulation of markets has not delivered wealth for all, but has concentrated it in the hands of a few countries, companies and individuals;
- **Economic blind spots.** Mainstream economic models fail to value natural and social assets – such as clean water or healthy air, or informal work and unpaid care – yet these are vital to our economy.

Limits

The government's Vision 2050 assumes that limits do not exist. This is a fallacy. Green Vision 2050 takes into account the limits imposed on us by nature and the principles necessary for a wellbeing society. Fossil fuel use must be phased out. There cannot however be an endless increase in energy spending, whatever the source of energy. The first limit is therefore the fact that it is not possible to sustain a continuous growth in energy demand. The second limit is a result of so-called 'rebound effects'. That is a situation where a technological or social improvement allows us to use a resource more efficiently, resulting in the intensification of its use. For example, if fuel is very cheap, then more fuel is used, wiping out the efficiency gains. The third limit is the ecological footprint of services. It is wrong to assume that the shift from extractive and manufacturing industries to services will mean an economy which is completely dematerialized. Green Vision 2050 insists on careful and continuous planning and forecasting for the most efficient use of resources. The fourth limit is that of recycling. Green Vision 2050 implies choosing materials which can be reused in the most economic and efficient manner and phasing out materials which cannot be reused. The fifth limit are technological obstacles. Not all innovations are green and the expansion of market activity is not always synonymous with progress. Green Vision 2050 puts forward a post-growth economy; a society that no longer seeks GDP growth, but a dynamic equilibrium between human activity and the rhythm of nature. It means zero-carbon.

There are also social limits to endless growth. All economic processes do not just depend on nature but also on nurture, that is the capacity to care for ourselves and others. Past a certain point the more time spent producing commodities and services, the less we devote to wellbeing, family and community. Beyond a certain point expanding the economy means extending the logic of the market to social spheres that are not suited to it.

5 The GEC (www.greeneconomycoalition.org) is a coalition of trade unions, businesses, NGOs, UN agencies and citizen's groups, united by the belief that green and fair economies are possible, necessary, and achievable.

Green Pillars

Although at first glance the four pillars in the government's Vision 2050 (also referred to as enVision 2050), seem somewhat 'green', a closer look at the details reveals a business as usual scenario, and a limitless growth mindset with some greenwashing. Resource use is hardly tackled, education and public services are seen as servants of the market, and land and sea as exploitable commodities. We are proposing four alternative pillars which go beyond the current undisputed paradigms of more growth, more market, more individualism and ultimately greed.

ENVISION 2050	GREEN VISION 2050
Pillar 1 Sustainable Economic Growth	**Green Pillar 1** **Beyond Growth:** **A Wellbeing Economy**
Pillar 2 Accessible Citizen-Centred Services	**Green Pillar 2** **Beyond the Market:** **Public Services** **which Enhance Wellbeing**
Pillar 3 Resilient Country & Modern Education System	**Green Pillar 3** **Beyond Individualism:** **Strengthening Community** **& Education**
Pillar 4 Smart Land & Sea Usage	**Green Pillar 4** **Beyond Greed:** **Stewardship of our Environment**

GREEN PILLAR 1

BEYOND GROWTH: A WELLBEING ECONOMY

1

GREEN PILLAR 1
BEYOND GROWTH: A WELLBEING ECONOMY

A wellbeing Green economy looks beyond GDP growth and corporate profit margins. Green Vision 2050 is based on the values of an economy which is reoriented towards protecting nature and enhancing wellbeing. A Green Vision 2050 aims for an intermediate target of 50% share of renewable energy by 2030, from various sources, including the setting up of clean energy communities. This entails accepting limits and a move towards a post-growth mindset, on the way to a zero-carbon economy by 2050.

While government's plan includes 4.5 million tourists by 2035, a Green Vision 2050 envisions a planned reduction in tourism, an increase in the tourist tax to fund urban regeneration administered by the regions and local councils, and a plan for quality, long-term employment in the sector, rather than dependence on cheap labour models. An overdependence on the so-called gaming sector, which is a euphemism for online gambling is also not in the interests of the country. The sector should be managed and not encouraged to expand without limits. The regulation of gambling will become more onerous all over the world, and it is irresponsible to keep expanding the sector. Malta has a special responsibility in the shipping and maritime sector. As one of the largest flag-states it is one of the major polluters in the shipping industry worldwide. Malta can be a leader on the international stage, in pushing for investment in emission reduction and greener fuels for the industry. This entails international cooperation and also the creation of jobs in the sector, from R&D to technical careers. Measures intended to intensify use of resources, including land and sea, are contrary to a Green Vision 2050. A Green Vision 2050 prioritises greening economic sectors, such as energy, food and transport, so they recognise dependencies on nature and mitigate their impact on our climate and environment. This includes implementing sectorial carbon budgets in these and all other sectors. The main focus should be on resource and energy efficiency, the shift to a fully renewable energy system and a circular economy[6]. Investment in Clean Tech[7] needs to be speeded up. Keeping public funding in line with the goal of climate neutrality and focused on the green industrial transition will be key to guaranteeing that there are no stranded investments.

A Green Vision 2050 significantly strengthens sectors that are not exclusively interested in profit such as social services, non-profit organisations and cooperatives. According to EU figures available online some 10% of businesses in the EU operate in the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) sector[8]. In some EU countries housing cooperatives characterise the housing market. Other operators in the sector are cooperative banks, welfare centres and charities. The SSE sector includes economic organisations that do not seek only to maximise profit, but instead choose to focus particularly on cooperation, self-organisation and the common good. These include businesses like Wikipedia and Mozilla, who make knowledge or open source software available. Other trends which are now mainstream in Europe are organic food and car sharing. A Green Vision 2050 supports and strengthens the SSE sector through specific and targeted legal, regulatory and financing initiatives. Employee buyout mechanisms, through investment banks, of companies which close a plant to maximise profits should be seriously considered. Various models exist which can be explored. State-owned economic operators will lead by example. Wherever the government plays a significant role in a business or organisation, be it a bank, the energy and water, and investment companies, the organisation should pursue ambitious sustainability strategies. It makes no sense for the state to pass sustainability strategies, laws

6 Clean Tech Action Plan: https://www.greens-efa.eu/en/article/press/europes-green-tech-revolution-greens-efa-plans-to-power-the-first-electro-continent

7 https://www.cleantech.org/what-is-cleantech/

8 Social economy in the EU: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/proximity-and-social-economy/social-economy-eu_en

and regulations while failing to demand the same basic standards from its own organisations or those in which it holds shares and influence. A Green Vision 2050 sees the state as setting the standard for sustainable investments. The government needs a clear, transparent investment strategy for all public assets. Sustainable investment on the part of the state can become a benchmark for private investors. Government and public authorities should consider the sustainability of the products and services they buy, and favour sustainable products and services and not just take the cheapest offer. The state should also set the pace by making sure that appointments to state owned enterprises are not the result of nepotism and party allegiance, but are based on competence and ethical standards.

No type of economic activity – private, co-operative or state – will automatically have the effects we desire. Power, unsustainable business and unethical trade exist everywhere. A Green Vision 2050 will look into strengthening competition policy that breaks down concentrations of power in the market, alongside a clear state framework that steers the economy in a sustainable direction and demands good corporate governance from private, state and co-operative businesses alike.

We need to break the cycle of short-termism and integrate social and environmental priorities in financial markets and products. Financial markets in their current form impede Green transformation. The financial sector is meant to make services available to other sectors of the economy. Actors on the financial market use this system to make money from money and to skim a profit from the real economy, making less funding available for sensible projects beneficial to society, wellbeing and the environment. Profit is privatised, losses are socialised, and retail investors and taxpayers are the victims. It is imperative that the financial sector must go back to its purpose of providing services to society. Green transformation requires this to happen, otherwise money will not be able to be efficiently and steadily directed into sensible social investments. Targeted rules for systematic evaluation of ecological and social considerations are needed to ensure money flows from the financial markets into the right kind of investments. Investment prospectuses should provide investors with important investment information in an easy-to-understand format, including information on social and environmental targets.

The Central Bank of Malta in its Policy Note 2/2025[9] notes that investment in green initiatives in the 2024 financial year is low. It is not enough to meet decarbonisation and other related targets, such as energy efficiency and circularity. 85% of firms allocated less than 20% of their total investment to green initiatives, with projections for 2025 showing only 12% of firms planning to allocate more than 20%. The Central Bank's report also notes that many firms are not adequately calculating their carbon footprint, which limits their ability to develop clear sustainability strategies.This needs to change. Carbon footprints, carbon budgets and mandatory targets, in line with Malta's obligations and tied to incentives and disincentives are necessary. Otherwise the so-called 'free' market will 'decide' in favour of the dirtiest, cheapest, low wage business model.

9 Firms' contribution to a carbon neutral economy - Evidence from a survey amongst Maltese firms: https://www.centralbankmalta.org/policy-notes-2025

GREEN PILLAR 2

BEYOND THE MARKET: PUBLIC SERVICES FOR WELLBEING

2

GREEN PILLAR 2
BEYOND THE MARKET: PUBLIC SERVICES FOR WELLBEING

A Green Vision 2050 brings to the fore the need for a politics and policies which look at the challenges we face as a whole, as an 'ecology'. In other words: systems and relationships between issues become paramount. Ecologism steers clear from industrialism or the indiscriminate and careless use of resources to supposedly 'create wealth', the state capitalism of the old left and the laissez-faire and damaging individualism of the right, or indeed, the neither here nor there extreme centre.

Health policy is one area in which it may be easier to picture the relationship between climate change, our natural and urban environment, and our quality of life. There is a growing drive to frame the concept of health as a function not only of 'healthy bodies' but also as conditional on the health of the ecosystems which all of us as humans find ourselves in. The need for such framing has only increased in urgency over time, especially in recent years with the onset of climate change and growing awareness of the plethora of environmental problems facing the world today.

A Green Vision 2050's outlook on health is based on the 'One Health'[10] approach to health policy and has as its goal the achievement of optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. 'One Health' recognises that we cannot divorce the natural world from the human-made world. Should the natural world not function properly negative impacts on the human ecosystem include challenges in, among others, food safety, the ethics (or the lack of it) of industrial farming, controlling zoonosis (that is, diseases which cross over from animals to humans), the decline of natural ecosystems that can lead to cascade events that spiral out of control, and antibiotic resistance.

A Green Vision 2050 through public services and public health policies ensures a healthy, active lifestyle and a nutritious diet, through better food, access to safe air and water and urban green areas. This requires a multisectoral transdisciplinary manner, a 'One Health' common approach adopted by policymakers, health professionals, scientists, engineers, architects and other professions that could improve health and wellbeing for society at large, while mitigating significant health risks that emerge from poor environmental health. The principles 'One Health' is based on are 'before treatment' policies, that is seeking to prevent health problems in the first place, rather than trying to cure the health problems that erupt later, caused by humans themselves. Most urban spaces today are congested with traffic, crowded with little open space access (which when present is often in the form of a concrete patch) and poor building design. Food security in Malta is increasingly precarious, with an overdependence on imported food. Maltese farming communities are often an afterthought, secondary to infrastructure projects that are, more often than not, increasingly obsolete and contrary to a greener, more sustainable future. Adopting a 'One Health' approach will benefit the Maltese public, the ecosystem in Malta at large and the wellbeing and quality of life of us all.

Opportunities in this area are multiple. Malta should insist on the establishment of an EU-based public research laboratory facilities and manufacturing capacity to ensure that essential medicines, medical equipment and testing are constantly accessible. Commercialisation of scientific knowledge should not hinder public health, ever. Cooperation should prevail over competition. Medical research should be based on universally accessible open science. This includes accessibility of scientific knowledge to public entities. A One Health approach to health, together with EU-wide rules which ensure the accessibility of science and research, made possible by the infrastructure, including the education system, paid for by the public, is the way forward.

10 One Health is an integrated, unifying approach to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It uses the close, interdependent links among these fields to create new surveillance and disease control methods. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/one-health

Improving healthcare, social support, and mobility systems in a Green Vision 2050 is based on the reconsideration of its urban priorities. The 15-minute city concept reimagines the urban fabric in order to prioritise people over cars, in the process reducing the carbon footprint. The aim is to encourage and where possible create self-sufficient communities, where all basic needs and essential public services are just a walk, or a bike ride away from your home, as a result slowly addressing our addiction to the car which we would need less and less. This is a practical application of urban proximity, as a result of which cities move away from the use of fossil fuels into a vehicle free era. It is the mobility modal shift we require in this day and age to effectively deal with the emissions linked to private transport. Whereas it is not always easy to apply these ideas in established urban areas where land use patterns and infrastructure are already in place, a Green Vision 2050 envisions policies which encourage small businesses in our localities to stay open for business notwithstanding the stiff competition which they continuously face from big business. There are ways in which they can be assisted to overcome the difficulties they face, and these should be sought and implemented. This is not only in their own interest but more in the interest of the community they serve.

A related concept is that of 'Complete Streets'. Streets are seen as an integrated part of our localities, not a single-use conduit devoted to rapid car travel. These streets strengthen communities by making streets and public spaces more inviting. Green stormwater infrastructure such as rain gardens and permeable pavement can be integrated into Complete Streets design to reduce stormwater runoff. Making our streets safe — not just *safer*, but *safe* — demands a wide-ranging approach that touches all aspects of the system and leaves no stone unturned. A Green Vision 2050 ensures that our localities are equipped to live up to present day challenges. Ensuring their self-sufficiency is one objective which improves wellbeing.

Successive governments' policies allowing the conversion of hotels into speculative luxury developments and schemes incentivising the sale of property to foreign investors and multimillionaire Maltese passport purchasers have exacerbated the situation. It is simply corporate welfare for speculators at the expense of all of us. In the meantime the needs of the vast majority of people living and working in Malta are largely ignored. A Green Vision 2050 calls for an integrated strategy aimed at reorienting the housing system away from the pursuit of profits above all and towards actually meeting the social need for housing. On a wider level economic incentives should be re-directed to sectors which invest in the training of their workers, in technologies which increase energy efficiency and efficient use of resources, and which are investing in the circular economy and providing socially useful products and services. The hoarding of 'value' in dormant assets should be actively discouraged and disincentivised. Investment should be re-directed towards socially and ecologically useful endeavours.

GREEN PILLAR 3

BEYOND INDIVIDUALISM: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

3

PILLAR 3
BEYOND INDIVIDUALISM: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

The government's Vision 2050 envisions education as a servant of the economy and the interests of others ("demands of industry…"), rather than expanding the interests and horizons of young people as a starting point. It sees people as present or future cogs-in-the wheel of the economy rather than as participants in society. A Green Vision 2050 prioritises education that unlocks potential that helps people to flourish. A Green Vision implies that digitalisation and AI in education therefore, are considered as tools and not 'values'; as ends in themselves. Technologies on their own do not bring about flourishing and wellbeing. It cannot become subservient to technologies. Education needs to remain in the driving seat. We propose three principles on which we believe that educational interventions, policies and strategies should be based:

1. Voice and empowerment - the ability to express one's thoughts and aspirations effectively, and participate in the life of the community to the full. Education, in ways adapted to each educational level, should strengthen the capacity of democratic participation where the person participates in the decision-making process from an early age. Education for active citizens cannot be reduced to producing workers that fit the system. An education strategy that attaches importance to the development of students' capabilities for voice changes the narrative that educational institutions simply train people "because this is necessary for the economy". A Green Vision 2050 envisions an education where young people find the space to flourish through an increased sense of belonging, ownership and voice, away from a race against time that denudes the educational experience from critical reflection, skill and knowledge development and community experiences. An exaggerated focus on content needs to be replaced by a problem-posing education that allows for a dialogic approach, and space for personal and cooperative inquiry. Such a system recognises the diversity and different abilities, interests and different modes of learning, at different levels, and within different disciplines A Green Vision also implies that educators are trusted; top down approaches are increasingly replaced by cooperative models that imply participation, and increase ownership. In this respect, a Green Vision views the development of cooperative schools as a long overdue development in the Maltese educational landscape.

2. Skills for social, ecological and economic transformation - the goal of skills planning, to the extent to which this is actually possible, should shift from "planning for profit" and therefore producing profit-facilitating "obedient workers", to planning for the social, ecological and economic transformation necessary for a fairer society. What matters changes from serving the current profit-at-all-costs model of the economy , to how it should serve people, communities, society and caring for our common home. What skills are needed for an economy that serves people, their health, both physical and mental? A Green Vision focuses on socially useful and dignified work and community development; a social economy which is strong, resilient and the characteristic that gives us the edge.

3. Educational institutions at the service of society - educational institutions should primarily be at the service of society, offering a range of courses to meet and develop a range of interests of different students. They should be rooted in the country's socio-cultural context. "Instrumental" education is only one dimension of education, which we feel is given disproportionate attention in Vision 2050 with the risk of sidelining critical aspects of education that are not traditionally associated with economic development viewed in a myopic sense. The intrinsic value of education as freedom that humanises should be given greater importance, and should underpin all strategies in education.

Strengthening communities, has also been described in the other pillars. An important aspect, increasing social cohesion and togetherness is making space for culture, in the widest sense of the word in our communities. Non-commercial drop-in community spaces, well run and accessible public libraries, community centres offering various activities, particularly community-led activities that promote a culture of encounter, should be the building blocks of a Green Vision. Culture cannot be reduced to run of the mill large commercial events that pump economic growth. Variety, informality and accessibility should feature prominently. New models need to be developed based on partnerships between all tiers of government, the private sector, NGOs and the community. Supportive systems are essential and culture should be an integral component of urban regeneration, community cohesion and integration, particularly of marginalised communities including migrants. A Green Vision 2050 requires planning for the supply of affordable creative spaces, from the more formal studios and workshops, to more informal community spaces as part and parcel of urban planning.

GREEN PILLAR 4

BEYOND GREED: STEWARDSHIP OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

4

PILLAR 4
BEYOND GREED: STEWARDSHIP OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental stewardship requires effective actions, and the reversal of policies in the government's Vision 2050. The actions required are creating and actually managing existing protected areas, replanting trees in a professional manner using local biodiversity, limiting development to achieve targets related to the climate and to wellbeing, and reducing harmful activities and pollution.

Targets include:

- Air: Sustain clean and healthy air
- Ecosystems: Protect and restore ecosystems functions, goods, and services
- Energy: Generate clean energy and use it efficiently, and reduce energy intensity
- Land: Support ecologically sensitive land management and development
- Materials: Consume less, reduce waste, and shift to environmentally preferable materials
- Water: Sustain water resources to ensure quality and availability for desired uses

Achieving these targets includes creating jobs, and shifting the burden of taxation from income to extreme wealth and resource use. The decarbonisation of the energy use of industry means implementing energy efficiency measures. It means identifying which processes need to be improved or changed to reduce energy consumption and eliminate waste. Environmental stewardship means meaningful new jobs, rather than the focus on tax evasion, ghost companies, the sale of citizenship or visas and an overdependence on gambling, euphemistically marketed as 'gaming'.

There is no need for more and more construction. A chunk of the increase in economic growth is the appreciation of value of properties. This is a dead weight, dormant assets which do not contribute to wellbeing, to society and to socially and ecologically useful and necessary investments. The construction industry must be cut down to size and speculation must be stopped in its tracks. There is no need for big land reclamation projects. This only further encourages land speculation and undesirable investment. This is not in the national interest, contrary to claims by the government.

The construction industry should be redirected to regeneration, maintenance, energy efficiency and retrofitting to achieve zero-carbon buildings as quickly as feasibly possible. All materials from buildings should be recovered for reuse or reprocessing. Urban planning in a Green Vision 2050 is focused on improving wellbeing.

Proper, professional management of what remains of Malta's natural areas is essential. Natural parks should live up to their name, open, well-managed, non-commercial spaces. Biodiversity conservation programmes and properly funded and professionally run rehabilitation of nature is a priority in a Green Vision 2050. This fits in with improving wellbeing. Human beings are part of the ecosystem. Being in direct contact with the natural world is an integral part of our normal basic behaviour. We need to pay more attention to our natural ties in order to maintain and reinvigorate our health. Our continuous contact with nature in its authentic unspoilt form helps us stay healthy.

CONCLUSION

GREEN OVER GREED
A GREEN VISION 2050

CONCLUSION

Let us be crystal clear. What is needed is a paradigm shift; a transition on a large scale, that includes an EU wide transition. We must resist attempts to put spokes in the wheels of this transition by corporate interests and their political allies. Malta should be loud and clear in this respect. What we need is a paradigm shift in economic policy. We need to fundamentally transform Europe's economy, renouncing the pressure for growth and redirect it together to ecological andsocial aims.

Reduction in resource use, penalising pollution, a reappraisal of taxation to favour companies according to social, ecological, democratic, and economic criteria as well as other public-interest criteria underpins our Green Vision 2050. Public and private finance should be geared to the transition to a green, sustainable, wellbeing economy. Issues of taxation, investment flows, and the accumulation of capital which stymie the urgently needed transition need to be tackled head on.

Our vision prioritises **Green over greed.**

A note on sources

This Green Vision 2050 was compiled by referring to various sources including, but not limited to, policy documents from the Green European Foundation, the European Commission, the One Health Global Network, 15-Minute City Project and the Green Economy Coalition. OECD, Central Bank of Malta and NSO reports were consulted. Policy documents and articles by ADPD-The Green Party candidates and officials and by the European Green Party and the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament were also consulted.

Other sources include:

Timothee Parrique (2025) Slow Down or Die, Profile Books.

Matthias Schmelzler, Andrea Vetter, Aaron Vansintjan (2022)
The Future is Degrowth: A Guide to a World Beyond Capitalism, Verso.

Ann Pettifor (2019) The Case for the Green New Deal, Verso.

Tim Jackson (2011) Prosperity without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet, Earthscan.

adpd.mt