

How To Progress: in The Green Party of England & Wales

**Elect Her
&
50:50 Parliament's
Handbook:**

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Progressing In Politics

Introduction

[Elect Her](#) is a multi-partisan organisation that works to motivate, support & equip women in all their diversity to stand for elected office in all spheres of government, providing them with the knowledge, confidence, and skills they need to do it.

We demystify the process of standing for elected office and motivate women to create action plans for standing for political roles.

[50:50 Parliament](#) is a friendly network that works with all of the political parties helping women progress in politics. 50:50 Parliament has been campaigning for women to have equal seats and equal say since 2013 and provides women with confidence and connections to take the next step towards selection.

It's more important than ever to have more women standing and being elected in all spheres of government and we want to signpost you as you establish what part you want to play in that.

The political parties have lots of internal support and networks and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to access them. This guide has been designed for women in our community who are aligned with the Green Party of England and Wales to help you understand how to access different areas of support, community and training as you progress within the party.

If you find additional groups or networks that you've been part of that are missing from these pages, [please get in touch with our team](#) so we can update this guide.

ELECTHER

50:50
PARLIAMENT

1.

The

Green Party

If you are a woman in the Green Party, there are loads of opportunities within the party and its affiliate groups to meet other like-minded women and receive advice on how to progress in politics. Here we hope to help you to navigate the party and the fantastic support that is available to you.

Getting Started

Getting started is often the hardest part of the journey. Here are a few steps that you can take in order to get the ball rolling.

First up, if you haven't done so already, join the Green Party of England & Wales [here](#).

- [Take a look at Phase One](#) on the Elect Her website.

- [#SignUpToStand](#) on the 50:50 Parliament website to receive access to their regular support and the community of other women looking to progress in politics. Once you have clicked on #SignUpToStand, you will receive a 'Personal Political Profile' and access to regular party-specific workshops, as well as being paired up with a 50:50 buddy as part of a peer-to-peer support network. You will also be invited to their session offering bespoke support to women from minority groups.

Ready To Get Involved

So you've got the ball rolling and joined your local party, but what are the next steps on your journey?

- Get in touch with your local Green Party. Once you've joined as a member you should receive emails introducing you to your local party and its officers. Each party has its own website so try to do some research to find members in your local area. [Find your local party here.](#)

- Sign up to volunteer with election campaigning for your local party. Go along to a local meeting, get some door knocking experience under your belt or help with leafleting. If an election is called, volunteer for your local candidate's campaign.
- Take a position in your local party - Chair, Membership Secretary etc. Learning about how local parties work will really help you on your journey. Getting your name known by local members is also key as they will be the ones voting for you if and when you want to put yourself forward for election in the future.
- The party offers regular training sessions so sign up for as many as you can. You will learn a lot and it's a great way to meet like-minded activists.
- Attend a party conference - this happens every autumn, and is a multiple-day event with panels, talks and networking opportunities. You also have the opportunity to vote on motions to create Green Party policies.

- Attend the Green Party's annual Policy Fest. This event allows members to take a deeper look into the Green Party's policy making process and discuss the ideas the party has to shape policy. [You can find all the Green Party's policies here.](#)
- [Take a look at the Ready To Get Involved resources](#) on the Elect Her website.
- [Join the 50:50 Parliament Bitesize meetings](#) that take place every month.
- You should receive a login to the Green Party portal which has lots of resources. Check out the Green Party online training recordings which give you loads of advice and information to support your party participation.

The Green Party has a variety of different special interest groups and networks focused towards under-represented groups in UK politics. [You can receive updates by signing up here.](#)

- [Green Party Women.](#)
- [Feminist Greens.](#)
- Young Greens are the youth and student branch of the party – [join them here](#), and [get in touch with Young Green Womxn.](#)
- [Greens of Colour.](#)
- [LGBTIQA+ Greens.](#)
- [Green Party Disability Group.](#)
- [Green Seniors.](#)
- [Jewish Greens.](#)
- [Muslim Greens.](#)
- [Greens for Animal Protection.](#)
- [Green Party Trade Union Group.](#)

The Green Party is governed by various committees;

The Green Party Executive (GPEx) is responsible for the overall and day-to-day direction of the party. The (co-) leader and deputy of the party sit on this committee alongside other executive roles.

The Green Party Regional Council is made up of two representatives from each region and provides a space for dialogue between regions, support and general wellbeing of the party, and advises the Green Party Executive. Learn more about the Green Party Spokespeople [here](#).

There is also the Conferences Committee, which organises conferences, and the Campaigns Committee, which manages campaigns for the party.

Regional Field Organisers work across the UK at connecting those wishing to contribute towards saving the planet.



2.

**Getting
Ready to
Stand**

OK, so you're starting to think that maybe you would like to consider being a candidate in the future. Perhaps there is a local election in your area in 12 months time, what should you be doing now in preparation for that?

- Build connections within your communities - these are the people who will advocate, support and campaign for you when the time comes. Volunteer for local organisations. Make calls for another candidate.
- Research what spheres of government you are interested in. This could include, MP, Councillor, a School Governor, a Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate, a Mayoral Candidate, a GLA Candidate, a Senedd or Member of the Scottish Parliament Candidate. Elect Her's My Political Future programme has loads of resources to help you understand the different roles which might suit you - find those and the My Political Future self led programme [here](#).

- These are great tools that will help you to connect with your community and document your achievements. Set up your political social media platforms - X, Facebook, Instagram etc. Be aware that your social media will come under scrutiny if selected as a candidate. Worried about online abuse? [Check out Glitch](#) - an amazing charity working to end online abuse and championing digital citizenship. [Access the Digital Self Defence resource that Glitch and Elect Her have created](#) to help you feel safe whilst creating your political profile online.
- [Join Elect Her's Peer support circles](#), a 7 part programme that supports you to reflect on how to build a team, your public presence, telling your story and building influence whilst preparing to stand for election in the future.
- Familiarise yourself with Green Party Policy. You can read up [here](#).
- Read the [Guide to Being a Green Councillor](#).

- Watch this great video - [How To Be a Green Councillor](#).
 - Speak at a party conference or participate actively in some way that suits you.
 - Take a look at the [Getting Ready to Stand](#) resources on the Elect Her website.
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3.

Selection

&

Election

There will come a time when you are ready to put yourself forward as a potential candidate whether it is for a local, regional, devolved or national election. We are here to cheer you on as you do it! We call this the selection phase - as your party needs to select you to be the candidate and then the election phase as you run a campaign to become elected.

The team at Elect Her provide training, community and support to women who are specifically at the selection and election stage. Find out more on our website [here](#) where we detail the training, workshops and candidate clinics that we schedule around the electoral cycle.

There are multiple sources of information available within the party to support you as you consider and prepare to stand as a candidate.

- [Guidance on how to get elected.](#)
- [The Association of Green Councillors](#) provides support to Green Party Councillors and those aspiring to become elected.

- The Local Government Association (LGA) has an Independents Group who support those wishing to stand as Independents for smaller parties such as the Green Party. You can access more info about them [here](#), where you'll find access to peer support, resources and events.
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Standing For Office

How to stand as a councillor or an MP for the Green Party:

The process of standing: As the structure of the Green Party of England and Wales is devolved, the process for selecting candidates for elections is led by each local party at grassroots level, with varying timelines. So the best piece of advice is to get involved in your local area and find out what is happening and when!

Don't forget to stay in touch with the Elect Her team once you are selected as during election cycles, additional programming, training, funding and support becomes available that can support you during your time as a candidate.

4.

Financial Support

It costs a lot to stand for election. Your local party should support the costs of your campaign, printing leaflets and posters, etc., but there are often additional personal costs. Elect Her also runs Fund Her, a grant giving scheme for women from marginalised communities who require additional financial support on their journey to elected office. You can find out more [here](#).

[Disability Wales host the Access to Elected Office Fund](#) for people in Wales with a disability that face additional financial burdens on their election campaigns. [Contact their team here](#).

Unfortunately, there is currently no access to elected office funds available for disabled people in England.



Contact.

Support, structures, processes and groups around the associations and national party are changing and evolving all the time. If you know of spaces of support, discussion and interest within the party that you think we should add to this guide then please do get in touch.

We are also looking to add to the collection of images which are currently featured in this guide as it continues to grow. If you have images of yourself and other women within your community that you'd like us to feature in this guide, please submit them to us via the link on the following page.

Images should be of a high quality and contain credits in the email.

We have worked to gather all of the information that we have learnt over the past few years about how to get involved in the Green Party of England and Wales, but we need your support to continue to develop this work.

Please contact the team:

community@elect-her.org.uk

with ideas and feedback you might have.



Credits.

We are enormously grateful to all of those individuals in our community and in the political parties who have shared their knowledge, experience, insights and images, to enable us to create these guides. Including, but not limited to:

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