# Green Party adopts eco-populist stance under Zack Polanski’s bold leadership



On Tuesday morning, Zack Polanski was elected leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, garnering 85% of the vote in a clear signal of the party’s desire to pivot sharply towards a more radical, populist stance. The 42-year-old London Assembly member and former actor, who has served as the party’s deputy leader since 2022, now champions an ‘eco-populist’ agenda that aims to challenge the dominant political narrative—an obvious attempt to mobilize disillusioned left-wing voters and expand their influence in a climate of widespread political frustration. Polanski’s rise exposes the Green Party’s increasingly confrontational approach and signals a direct challenge to the traditional parties, particularly Labour, which has failed to win trust amidst the current chaos in government.

Polanski’s campaign openly seeks to transform the Greens into a mass movement, drawing inspiration from the recent rise of Reform UK under Nigel Farage—an example of populist communication and electoral strategy that has proven effective in energizing middle and working-class voters. While historically dismissed as a niche environmental outfit, the Greens under Polanski are clearly positioning themselves as an anti-establishment force, targeting Labour’s declining credibility with messages rooted in socialism, wealth redistribution, and opposition to corporate influence. His leadership ambitions are bolder and more aggressive, emphasizing the need for the party to get "bolder and less timid," with a rhetoric designed to rally disenchanted voters who feel abandoned by the mainstream parties’ inability to address real economic and social concerns.

Polanski’s unapologetic stance on economic inequality and criticism of corporate elites mirror the populist tactics employed by Farage’s Reform UK. His agenda includes targeting oil companies, the super-rich, and calling for increased taxation of billionaires, alongside proposals to renationalize key utilities and impose stricter regulations on private corporations. Such policies signal an attempt to merge environmental concerns with a broader social justice narrative—a move intended to shake up the status quo and position the Greens as a formidable opposition to the current government’s failures. The party’s overarching goal is to win 30 parliamentary seats by the next election, a feat that will require a far more combative approach and larger base of support.

Leadership figures like Rachel Millward and Mothin Ali share Polanski’s vision of transforming the Greens into a significant political force, ready to challenge not only Labour but the entire establishment. His vocal criticism of Keir Starmer’s leadership as a “failing government” and openness to alliances with far-left factions, including Jeremy Corbyn’s newly formed party, underline a strategic shift aimed at capitalizing on Labour’s weakening position and the fragmentation of the left. This opportunistic approach reflects a broader pattern—an attempt to fill the void left by Labour’s ineffectiveness and to position the Greens as the true alternative for voters seeking radical change.

The rise of Reform UK—whose membership and social media influence, especially among younger voters on platforms like TikTok, have eclipsed the Greens—has only intensified Polanski’s push to dominate the opposition landscape. His leadership has called for the party to learn from Reform’s aggressive populist communication and direct engagement tactics, positioning the Greens as a vital counterweight to the far-right’s growing influence, climate denial, and corporate dominance. Critics are watching closely as Polanski’s natural charisma and unconventional background—trained in drama and community theatre—lend him an edge in engaging voters disillusioned by the mainstream parties’ failures. His proposals to withdraw from NATO and his broad anti-establishment stance further reflect an intent to derail the current political order.

As the Green Party embarks on this new, more confrontational chapter under Polanski’s leadership, the political terrain in England and Wales is set for upheaval. Their ambitious push for rapid expansion and their confrontational, eco-populist messaging threaten to shift the political landscape dramatically—exposing the hypocrisy and weakness of Labour and the complacency of the establishment. This is not just a new leadership—it’s a deliberate challenge to the failed political elite, aiming to reshape Britain into a battleground where populist dissatisfaction with the status quo is the driving force behind the future of the opposition.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2025/sep/03/can-the-green-partys-new-leader-galvanise-the-left> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/c72370ab-f30e-456c-a444-e49be40d5256> - Zack Polanski has been elected leader of the Green Party of England and Wales with 85% of the vote, pledging to challenge the Labour Party from the left. Known for his outspoken activism, Polanski emphasised his party’s commitment to economic and environmental justice, openly criticising oil companies and the super-rich. He aims to expand the Green Party’s presence in Parliament—especially targeting disillusioned Labour voters—with a goal of reaching 30 seats by the next general election. Polanski, formerly a deputy leader and London Assembly member, defeated Green co-leader Adrian Ramsay and MP Ellie Chowns. Under his leadership, the party plans to focus on socialism, wealth redistribution, and international justice, including condemning the war in Gaza. While declining to commit to an alliance with Jeremy Corbyn’s new far-left party, Polanski expressed openness to collaborations against a “failing Labour government.” However, he was critical of Labour under Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The Greens, currently polling at 10%, see growing potential in the fragmented political landscape. Polanski’s deputies will be Rachel Millward and Mothin Ali. His background includes training in drama and community theatre before entering politics.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/05/green-deputy-zack-polanski-launches-leadership-bid-with-uk-eco-populism-vision> - Zack Polanski, a leading Green Party member, has launched a surprise campaign to oust Carla Denyer and Adrian Ramsay as party leaders, advocating for the party to transform into a radical, mass-membership 'eco-populism' movement. Polanski, who has been deputy leader since 2022 and serves as a London Assembly member, believes the Greens need to be less timid and more bold to challenge Reform UK, which has a membership about four times bigger than the Green Party. He argues that the party should 'learn' from Nigel Farage, especially in terms of communication skills, and aims to make the Greens more visible and appealing to a broader audience.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/may/07/greens-reform-populists-left-zack-polanski> - Owen Jones discusses Zack Polanski's potential to lead the Green Party towards a more populist left-wing approach, similar to Reform UK. Jones highlights Polanski's natural communication skills and his ability to connect with people, suggesting that the Greens need to adopt a more combative approach to effectively challenge the status quo. He emphasises the importance of the Greens becoming a bold mass-membership political force capable of challenging Reform UK and Nigel Farage, and notes that Polanski's leadership could be key to turning around the fragmented and demoralised left-wing constituency.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/apr/29/alternative-greens-battle-reform-fed-up-voters-local-elections> - The Green Party of England and Wales is facing a challenge from Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, in attracting disillusioned voters. Zack Polanski acknowledges that Reform UK has been more effective in cutting through the political landscape, especially among younger audiences on platforms like TikTok. He argues that the Greens need to step up and show there is an alternative to the rise of fascism, climate denial, and corporate capital. Polanski expresses concern over the level of anger and apathy towards politicians and believes the Green Party has never been more important in this existential moment for the country.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2025/sep/03/can-the-green-partys-new-leader-galvanise-the-left> - Zack Polanski, the self-proclaimed 'eco-populist', became the new leader of the Green Party of England and Wales on Tuesday morning. The 42-year-old London Assembly member and former actor aims to build on the Greens’ recent electoral success and capitalise on the frustration and political homelessness felt by many on the left. The Guardian’s senior political correspondent Peter Walker discusses the buzz around the Green Party, the party's decisive backing of Polanski's call for faster expansion, and how the new leader views the rapid rise of Reform UK. Polanski also outlines his approach to Keir Starmer’s Labour Party.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zack_Polanski> - Zack Polanski, born David Paulden on 2 November 1982, is a British politician who has been the Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales since September 2025. He previously served as Deputy Leader from 2022 to 2025 and has been a Londonwide member of the London Assembly since May 2021. Polanski's political views are described as eco-populist, combining environmental politics and populism. He advocates for increasing taxes on billionaires, renationalising water companies, and regulating private corporations more. Polanski is also opposed to NATO and supports the UK's eventual withdrawal. In June 2024, he released a book titled 'Act Now: A vision for a better future and a new social contract'.