

Green Parties Around the World

The first national green party in the world, the Values Party, was started in the early 1970s in New Zealand. The first green party in the western hemisphere was formed in the Maritimes in the late 70s and was called the Small Party after E.F. Schumacher's book, Small is Beautiful. Coincidentally, current Green Party of Canada leader Elizabeth May was the founder of the Small Party as well as one of its first candidates for public office, running against Deputy Prime Minister Allan J. MacEachern on Cape Breton Island. In Britain the first green party was called the Ecology Party. When the West German green party, die Gruenen, crossed the five percent vote threshold and entered the German legislature in the late 1970s, the green political movement started in earnest. There are now over 100 green parties worldwide, and green members of parliament have been elected in many countries including Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, Italy, France, Germany, and Finland.