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THE NATURE OF THINGS

# Green Groups Have Lots of Ideas for New Leadership

By [Tom Palmer](#)

Today is election day.

Unsurprisingly, environmental groups championing different issues are offering suggestions for the next President.

Wildlife protection, energy and more are on their agendas.

As you may have read, environmental groups have been unhappy with the Bush administration over topics ranging from simple philosophical differences to more serious issues such as suppression of scientific data that supported decisions the administration opposed (one of the cases involved Florida panther protection).

Now the groups' agendas are focused on looking ahead. Here's a sampling.

Defenders of Wildlife ([www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)) lists these points:

End the political manipulation of science.

Responsibly manage America's federal lands.

Safeguard America's rarest plants and wildlife

Make America a leader in addressing global warming and its impacts.

Restore America's role as a global leader in wildlife conservation.

Restore our connection to nature through education and proper stewardship of our shared federal lands.

Encourage private landowners, states and tribes to conserve wildlife and habitat

A group called Clean Air-Cool Planet ([www.cleanair-coolplanet.org](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org)) calls for making climate change a priority in the next administration and to use the administration's "bully pulpit" to advance action on the issue.

Some specific actions include picking a transition team before inauguration that will concentrate on climate change, working with Congress to push aggressive research on reduction of carbon emissions and doing more to work internationally on climate issues.

Greenpeace USA ([www.greenpeace.org/usa](http://www.greenpeace.org/usa)) is pushing for increased investment in renewable energy and conservation, which a recently released report said could create a multibillion-dollar industry and cut future fuel costs by trillions of dollars.

The World Wildlife Fund ([www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)) urges the next administration to take a lead on climate change by opposing deforestation, doing more on cap-and-trade programs and making more preparations to anticipate the impact of climate change on agriculture, ecosystems and cities.

As the political commentators say, time will tell.