

# Agenda

Imagine 100-200 Greens gathering once a quarter with only 36 hours or so to get things done. At least two hours should be reserved for sleep. Eating will probably take another six hours, getting lost and being late another one or two.

As in most other Green meetings, statewide agenda are jam-packed with items and overly ambitious given the time constraints.

Many efforts have been made to streamline the agenda. The most significant step was giving the statewide Standing Committees - not individuals or regions - the task of bringing proposals to the plenary floor.

Any proposal seeking precious plenary time must go to a Committee for consensus process and prioritization. The Coordinating Committee, the Standing Committee facilitators and the local group hosting the statewide meeting work together to determine which Committees will receive plenary time.

Proposals which do not fit into the mandate of an existing Committee may be forwarded to the Coordinating Committee, which like any Standing Committee, has the ability to bring proposals to the floor.

The practice of sending draft proposals to locals for deliberation has proven impossible for most statewide hosting groups and ineffective, as most proposals undergo significant change in Committee over the weekend's course.

The rhythm of the statewide has evolved from a committee-plenary debate-back to committee-back to plenary debate lock-step to a more even-paced two-day waltz: the Committees work on Saturday and the plenary debates on Sunday. More and more, Committees are convening their own weekend sessions between statewide meetings. The more concerns we can address in the microcosm of Committee, the easier it is to pass proposals in plenary.

Play by play, the statewide weekend goes typically as follows:

## **FRIDAY**

1. Coordinating Committee meets to hammer out draft agenda and assign facilitation teams for Saturday. Two gender-balanced facilitation teams are picked, one for morning and one for afternoon. New and seasoned facilitators are often paired, drawn from the Coordinating Committee or other delegates with interest and experience.

2. Other Committees may hold meetings, as the statewide weekend is often the only time all members can meet.

3. Social gathering for delegates, observers and local Greens.

4. Arrivals check in and receive housing assignments.

## **SATURDAY**

1. Registration of delegates and observers, usually accompanied by on-site continental breakfast for slight charge.

2. Greeting by local hosting group and opening ceremony

3. Facilitators select assistants from among the delegates, including time-keepers, scribes and vibes-watchers. A quorum is established.

4. The draft agenda is presented, explained and ratified. Since hours were spent the previous night openly hammering out this draft, input from the floor should be limited to critical, unforeseen or overlooked details.

5. The minutes of last statewide, circulated to locals in advance, are open to last-minute corrections and approval.

6. Regional representatives give reports on projects, actions, success stories.

7. Education segment: an informational presentation on some aspect of Green politics or state law.

8. Committees meet to discuss proposals and business. These groups meet in two or three clusters, so that delegates may attend more than one. The same groups are clustered at every statewide so that delegates in more than one group can continue to attend all meetings.

9. Lunch somewhere between Committee clusters.

10. Committees give reports on sessions to the plenary. Draft proposals should be available for informal discussion that night.

11. Evening meal, informal caucus or Committee meetings, speakers and/or social events.

12. Coordinating Committee meets to evaluate progress of meeting, draft Sunday's agenda and assign facilitation teams.

## **SUNDAY**

1. Registration and continental breakfast

2. Presentation and ratification of agenda

3. Committees meet for final consensus

4. Plenary session with time divided between Committees. Some Committees may have proposals, some will not. Others may request plenary time to make a presentation or conduct open discussion or brainstorming.

5. The date and region of next meeting is confirmed

6. Review of decisions made and tasks taken

7. Closing evaluation and ceremony

8. Coordinating Committee meets for final evaluation

The agenda should come as no surprise to the well-prepared delegate. Make sure to get copies of any mailings from your regional Coordinating Committee representative. Any input to the agenda should be channelled through this rep to the agenda-setting sessions of the Coordinating Committee Friday and Saturday nights.