



Constitution of the Sustainable Earth Council (SEC)

Preamble:

Today's society is being engulfed by an environmental crisis of its own making. Without concerted effort and global economic planning, the climate crisis will continue to worsen, affecting all. Even now we are experiencing the worsening of droughts and flooding.

Fixing the crisis will require economic planning not for the profits of corporations, but for the needs of many. Corporate-monopoly economic systems disproportionately contribute to pollution by placing greed and profits above nature and our planet. With science and centralized economic planning backed by the power of the federal government, we can mitigate future catastrophic effects of climate change.

The Sustainable Earth Council seeks to work with all working people and farmers to change destructive economic systems for the better. We seek to build a successful environmental movement by focusing on mass action, not only in the streets, but also on farms, factories, and in Congress

Article I: Name

The organization is named the **Sustainable Earth Council (SEC)**.

Article II: Membership

- **Section 1: Individual membership**

- Individuals that agree with the main principles and objectives in the Mission Statement and pay regular membership fees to the National Committee (not chapters) are members of the **Sustainable Earth Council (SEC)**.
- All members need to be involved in their regional chapter.
- A member in good standing is any individual that has paid the membership fee to the National Committee (not chapters) within the previous 12 months and who has neither resigned their membership nor been expelled for cause.
 - A member in good standing shall have all the rights of membership, including prior notice of all chapter meetings and the national meeting of members, the right to attend, to speak according to Robert's Rules of Order and to vote at chapter meetings, and the right to accept appointments for various positions in the **Sustainable Earth Council (SEC)**.
- Reasonable cause for expulsion includes, but is not limited to, actively agitating against the principles and policies of the organization.
- **Section 2: Chapter membership**
 - **Rights of chapters:**
 - Will be given a charter from the Executive Committee.
 - Shall have one representative on the National Committee of the **Sustainable Earth Council (SEC)**.
 - Chapter representatives to the National Committee shall be selected by the chapter and approved by the Executive Committee.
 - Shall be represented by voting delegates at the National Convention of the **Sustainable Earth Council (SEC)** Convention every four years.
 - The number of voting chapter delegates shall be determined by a formula established by the Executive Committee based on the proportional size of the number of chapter members in good standing. In no case shall any formula be established which results in a chapter being unrepresented at the National Convention.
 - **Responsibilities of chapters to members:**
 - A chapter is required to give prior notice to all members in good standing of regular chapter meetings.
 - A chapter may not deny a member in good standing the right to attend, to speak according to Robert's Rules of Order, or to vote at regular chapter meetings.
 - **Responsibilities of chapters to the national organization:**
 - All chapters of the **Sustainable Earth Council (SEC)** shall be responsible for adhering to and executing the general policies and programs of the

National Committee of SEC. Each certified chapter chair shall be responsible for giving regular reports about its meetings and activities to the Executive Committee and shall raise funds needed for the regular operation of the national organization of SEC. No chapter shall make public statements or take public positions on behalf of SEC unless directed by the Executive Committee.

○ **Membership dues and fees:**

- All individual membership fees are collected by the Executive Committee annually.

Article III: General Membership meetings occur as the National Committee sees fit. Meetings are open to all members. The meetings are managed by the SEC Executive Committee.

Article IV: Standing committees are established as the National Committee sees fit. Examples of standing committees include the Research committee and the Brochure committee.

Article V: The National Committee is the governing body of SEC. The National Committee is authorized to make decisions on all business and policy matters.

1. Duties and expectations. The National Committee approves policies, procedures, and plans for the organization; accepts proposals from the membership; brings in new members; and raises funds. National Committee members are also expected to participate in SEC activities such as: managing and attending general, district, chapter, committee, and National Committee meetings; volunteer staffing; fundraising and events; and publicizing SEC activities. The National Committee's overall responsibility is to help committees, districts, and chapters reach their goals and keep SEC "on track" by dealing with the administrative needs of the organization. **The National Committee will be led by an executive consisting of at least three people, including, at minimum, a chair and a secretary-treasurer. The secretary-treasurer position can be divided among two people in the form of a financial secretary position and a recording secretary position.**
2. Meetings. The National Committee will meet at least twice a year. A simple majority of the number of National Committee members shall constitute a quorum. National Committee members are expected to attend at least half of the National Committee meetings during the year.

3. Officers of the National Committee include the Chair, Vice-Chair, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Media Secretary, and Outreach Secretary.
 - a. **Chair:** The chair acts as the spokesperson for the organization, schedules meetings, invokes meetings of the executive committee for, and presides over, the National Committee and general meetings.
 - b. **Vice-Chair:** The vice-chair also works closely together with the chair and is expected to fill the role of chair when the chair is unable to perform their duties. They need to have records of all members of SEC including their email address and phone numbers. The vice-chair ensures that members are notified about meetings and that the agenda and related materials are shared.
 - c. **Recording Secretary:** The secretary takes minutes at meetings, distributes them to Executive Committee members within 48 hours, and keeps files of minutes on record.
 - d. **Financial Secretary:** They are tasked with reviewing finances and communicating with the National Committee on budgetary issues including dues payments.
 - e. **Outreach Secretary:** Is responsible for contacting and networking with other organizations promoting views aligned with those of SEC.
 - f. **Media Secretary:** Is responsible for dealing with the news including social media.
4. The National Committee will elect officers to the above positions.

Article VI: Districts and Chapters

Districts are geographical subdivisions of national SEC.

Chapters are subdivisions of districts that are, at minimum, the entire district of major urban areas, or other areas where SEC members are concentrated.

Districts are expected to hold organizational meetings quarterly, and chapters are expected to hold regular meetings (minimally once a quarter; chapters should meet more frequently during election cycles) to be attended by their executive committee, including at minimum a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Recording Secretary (other possible roles include Membership Secretary, Financial Secretary, Press Secretary), and their general body. Additionally, the executive committee will meet separately and regularly to establish the agenda for the following general meeting. In both meetings a simple majority shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII: Endorsing Political Candidates

- The National Committee will approve all candidate endorsements.

- Recommendations for endorsements can be made from the Executive Committee, the National Committee, District-level organizations, or the chapters themselves.
- Recommendations for endorsements will be provided to the National Committee if approved by a simple majority from the recommending body.
- Candidate endorsements require a two-thirds majority approval within the National Committee to pass.
- SEC bodies can only provide endorsement recommendations for the candidates running in the geographical areas they cover.

Article VIII: National Convention

The National Convention is the primary decision-making body of the **Sustainable Earth Council (SEC)**. The National Convention is the highest body of the Sustainable Earth Council. It will meet every four years in person and/or by video conference. Chapter Delegates will elect the National Committee for the next four years.

Chapters will elect delegates (See Article II; Rights of Chapters) for the National Convention.

Article IX: Activities and funds

The Executive Committee will vote to approve expenditures. The National Chair and National Financial Secretary may directly approve expenses under a predetermined limit as defined by the National Committee. The National Committee as a whole must approve any expenses which would create a major change in the budget.

The constitution and the by-laws may be amended by the National Committee of SEC, subject to two-thirds majority. At the next National Convention, these changes will be voted on for final approval, again requiring a two-thirds majority of National Convention delegates.