



This is what the Progressive Green Party stands for

Dear voter in Valkenburg aan de Geul,

Our community faces challenges. Aging of our inhabitants. Balance tourism and quality of life. Tasks from national government to municipality, but with less money. Tourism is the largest economic engine. Covid19 that had and has an influence on that. And this summer a major new challenge has been added: our existence in the Geul watershed area.

Social, green and sustainable. Those are the three basic values of the Progressive Green Party. We take them into account in all our decisions. Can everyone join? Is it good for nature? Is it wise for the next generation?

The Progressive Green Party has been campaigning for the climate for years. We are always pointing out the need. Climate adaptation, heat stress, water management. Very specific. Stop the paving of the municipality. Plant more trees. Separate rainwater from wastewater. Give more room to the Geul. Let green be green. We notice that our message is increasingly being heard by other political groups, aldermen and civil servants. And now there's the water disaster. Now is the time, now we have to keep going.

How do we do that? Our councilors choose fair and positive politics. Focus on the content. Friendly to people. We think along, we ask questions and suggest alternatives. We accept responsibility and govern. Does everything have to be different? No! Keep what is good. Improve where necessary.

Vote for the Progressive Green Party, vote list 4!

With social, green and sustainable regards,

Hilde Baaij, party leader



Our five themes for 2022 - 2026

1. Take care of each other

It doesn't matter where your crib is. What training you have followed. How much money is in your bank account. Whether you are religious. Whether you vote right, left or center. What sex you are or who you fall in love with. Whether you have a disability. Everyone should be able to participate in our society. Everyone counts but should participate also.

2. Protective of nature

The municipality of Valkenburg aan de Geul is unique in the Netherlands. Where else can you find hills, hillside forests, quarries and such beautiful nature? Special animals such as stag beetle, badgers and slow worms live here.

3. Governing Together

The municipality, that's all of us. Residents, entrepreneurs and the board are jointly responsible for how things are going in Valkenburg aan de Geul. Living together, working together, recreation together, thinking together for solutions.

4. Living well

Living is more than a roof over your head. Everyone has the right to an affordable home in a pleasant living environment. Our community attracts many visitors. This generates income for the municipality and entrepreneurs. But it also brings challenges in the amount of traffic and noise. Balance is the keyword.

5. Take care of the future now

We are sustainable. Take care of our future now. Our world is in transition. Our handling of the earth and the raw materials has a major impact for our children, grandchildren and the generations to come. We want to keep the earth livable and affordable for them, also in Valkenburg aan de Geul.



Elaboration of our five themes 2022 - 2026

1. Take care of each other: Everyone participates!

1A. Poverty Reduction

Poverty also occurs in a prosperous country like the Netherlands. Poverty has serious consequences. Poverty, for example, reduces the chance of an education and affects your living situation and your health. Shame, social isolation, loneliness, stress and depression can be a consequence of poverty. Children who grow up in poverty are five times more likely that their children will also end up in poverty later on. All the more reason to tackle poverty further. In 2020, Valkenburg aan de Geul chose to invest in social care (in people). That means higher costs now, but hopefully better care and financial gain for the municipality, which prevents more expensive care in the future.

Action points

- Increase awareness of poverty schemes. So more people can use it.
- Continue with preventive activities. Think of family coaching, youth coaching and exercise coaching.
- Enable dispensing of clothing, food and menstrual products.
- Investigate the possibility of lending toys.

1B. Meeting places for young and old

A healthy living environment has room for encounters. Mutual contact is not self-evident for every target group. We want to encourage this.

Action points

- Place wheelchair tables near housing for the elderly.
- Create and maintain playgrounds in every core and neighborhood.
- Realize an indoor youth center.
- Support more activities for the elderly to combat loneliness.
- Make Social Sofas or mosaic sofas together in all cores.

1C. Accessible to everyone

Inclusion means that people with disabilities participate in society and belong. In an inclusive society, people with disabilities can do exactly the same things as people without disabilities. In an inclusive society there are no special facilities for people with disabilities. All facilities are accessible to everyone. Everyone can use it independently.

Action points

- Collaborate more intensively with the organization Unhindered. This organization helps to make buildings and public space accessible to everyone, regardless of disability.
- Create a Local Inclusion Agenda.
- Aim for simple Dutch in all municipal communications.
- Initiate the Arriva Join Pass. This is a transport solution for minimum wage earners, status holders and re-integrators for paid work.

1D. Economical on association life

Our municipality has many clubs/associations. They keep our centers liveable and healthy. Sport, exercise and culture are building blocks for our well-being. That is why we want to invest in this. Think of reading, making music, theatre, museum, sports and walking.

Action points

- Maintain existing subsidies.
- Keep your ears and eyes open for the concerns of associations.
- Pay attention to suitable housing for associations.
- Enable association memberships for all residents. For example, through a financial contribution.



2. Protective of nature

2A. Stimulating biodiversity

Biodiversity means a variety of animals and plants. It is the basis for all life on Earth. A diversity of plants creates a diversity of animals. More and more species are dying out, both plants and animals. This reduces biodiversity. We want to stop this.

Action points

- Realize sensible roadside policy:
 - Sow roadsides with flowers that attract insects.
 - Mow in phases and in places where necessary for safety and diversity.
- Connect natural areas. Make verges better. Plant trees in the built environment.
- Plant (perennial) native plants in borders and flower boxes.
- Fight the oak processionary caterpillar in a natural way. Hang nest boxes for birds.
- Only use leaf blowers to keep sidewalks and roads safe.

2B. Compensation scheme

Protected nature zones are subdivided into Gold Green, Silver Green, Bronze Green and National Landscape Limburg. One can apply for a permit for a plan that affects this protected zone. For example, an entrepreneur wants to build a shed in nature or an entrepreneur wants to expand his campsite. The municipality must then demand nature compensation. We consider this compensation to be insufficient at the moment. The amounts are low and the compensation does not have to take place in the immediate vicinity, it can also be done kilometers away. We both want to change this.

Action points

- Mandatory green compensation on site.
- Mandatory higher green compensation per paved square meter.

2C. Waste

Litter on land and in water harms nature, animals and people. It contaminates the soil or water and attracts pests. Animals eat it or get entangled in it. The problem is not just here. Waste ends up in the sea via rivers or the wind. Preventing litter is best. Cleaning up litter reduces the chance of even more waste.

Action points

- Provide information about waste prevention.
- Provide information about the circular economy.
- Place more and separate waste bins. Empty it more often.
- Continue to support initiatives such as Valkenburg Sprokkelt, sprokkelpunten and Nederland Schoon.
- Do not use waste granulate under footpaths in our five star landscape.

3. Governing Together

3A. good with money

You can only spend every euro once, so we have to use our money wisely. And by our money we mean the money of all of us.

Action points

- Organize a pilot citizen budget in 2022 or 2023.
- Aim for a balanced budget.
- Abolish dog tax before 2023.

3B. Getting started together

You know your environment best. We believe that more initiatives should come from society, rather than from the council chamber or the office. It is up to the city council to see everything in the bigger picture and to weigh interests. For large initiatives, project developers must first consult you. This also fits in with the development of the environmental law. Closing the gap between government and citizens.

Action points

- Make a policy plan for citizen participation.
- Support citizens' initiatives in core neighborhoods.
- Strengthen core consultations by allocating a freely disposable budget, for example for maintenance of completed projects.
- Involve residents on time in plans that affect them directly.
- Organize more think tanks with residents and entrepreneurs.
- Realize community facilities for each core with clear regulation.

3C. Communicate clearly

Communication from the town hall must be understandable for everyone.

Action points

- Aim for simple Dutch in all municipal communications.
- Inform residents about important decisions of the city council in the Mazjerang.

3D. Involve youth in local politics

Young people hardly participate in decision-making in our municipality. While they do have their own needs. They are also the potential councilors of the future.

Action points

- Set up a youth council for citizens 12-18 years old.
- Continue to work with primary education student councils.
- Continue with the Young Leader program.



4. Living well

4A. Housing according to need

Building for now with an eye to the future. There is currently a housing shortage. There is a need in every core for more homes for starters and seniors. All generations need a liveable core. At the same time, we must ensure that this is not at the expense of our beautiful nature and that we do not build for long-term vacancy.

Action points

- Carry out concrete housing plans per core neighborhood. This is based on housing needs surveys per core and in consultation with residents.
- Introduce compulsory self-occupancy for existing and new homes.
- Charge commuter tax (extra tax for a second home).
- Make duo buying possible in combination with the starter loans.
- Realize senior housing to promote the flow.
- Realize housing and care below the rent subsidy limit (for citizens with a small purse).
- Build as needed. Not every bit of green in a core has to be turned to stone.
- Simplify conversion to housing for vacant catering, business premises and monuments.
- Build nature-inclusive. So set up the environment for flora and fauna in the case of new construction.

4B. Traffic

Our network of roads and paths is used intensively by residents, businesses and visitors alike. There will be a long-term mobility plan. This describes how traffic flows can best be managed. Our starting point is safe and clean.

Action points

- Where possible, separate cyclists and walkers while preserving nature.
- Make an inventory of where motorized (electric) traffic can use the roadway.
- Stimulate further electrification of tourism such as scooter rental and tourist trains.

- Look at the possibility of taking over provincial roads so that they can be made safer.
- Create safe bicycle paths on school routes from all core neighborhoods.
- Where possible, make parking spaces water-drainable and with solar panels.
- Reduce motorized traffic in the city center. So large parking spaces outside the center.
- Create a charging station policy. In this way you ensure a good and future-oriented charging infrastructure.
- Strive to electrify the municipal fleet where possible

4C Tourism and living environment in balance

Our hilly landscape is not just a place to live comfortably. It is also important for tourism, the largest economic engine of our municipality. It attracts visitors from all over the Netherlands and beyond. However, this should not be at the expense of nature and your enjoyment of living.

Action points

- Avoid large holiday parks. Smaller, high quality parks would be preferred.
- Limit noise pollution. Maintain quiet areas.
- Realize parking spaces on the edge of Valkenburg.
- Spread events better.
- Organize more small events that are also interesting for our own residents. Think of Living Statues, sidewalk chalk competition and fairgrounds.
- Ensure adequate supervision and enforcement.

5. Take care of the future now

5A. Safe living and working in a river basin

The summer of 2021 showed us how destructive a fast-flowing river can be. And no one knows for sure if it will happen again. This approach is too big for our municipality alone. We will have to work together with neighboring municipalities, the province, the water board and neighboring countries. We do not yet know what concrete measures will be needed. The Progressive Green Party will, however, think



along constructively with the college and the civil service. The Floods After Phase Plan is being implemented locally. The City Council is following this closely.

Action points

- Learn from what went wrong and improve where necessary. E.g. The Transformator House on Walramplein.
- Communicate clearly to residents and entrepreneurs.
- Use a good warning system.

5B. Climate-adaptive/targeted design

Prevention is better than cure. Be prepared for the changes to come. Think of more periods of drought, a lot of rainfall in a short time and higher temperatures.

Action points

- Plant more trees and perennials throughout the municipality, especially in the paved areas.
- Encourage greener gardens and driveways.
- Join the Steenbreek Foundation. This organization offers support in the sustainable greening of our living environment.

5C. Making homes more sustainable

Insulating your own home is the best way to contribute to the climate and reduce your energy bill.

Action points

- Unburden residents. Inform them better about the possibilities of sustainability and the financing thereof.
- Collect and share knowledge about making special homes more sustainable. Think of houses made of sandstone or monuments.
- Address landlords about their responsibility to make their rented houses more sustainable.

5D. Sustainable business

Many employment opportunities in our municipality are in catering and shops. They have had a difficult time with the corona measures and subsequent water disaster. Fortunately, these uncertain times have not led to entrepreneurs giving up. They are also busy safeguarding their businesses for the future. Sustainable or future-proof entrepreneurship is good for our planet and for our economy and employment. To restore and strengthen the economy and also support our affected residents, we have a number of suggestions.

Action points

- As a municipality itself, lead the way in sustainable entrepreneurship.
 - Give Global Goals a clear place in policy.
 - Draw up a policy for sustainable tendering and purchasing.
 - Buy fair trade and/or environmentally conscious.
- Stimulate local buying and recreation.
 - As a municipality, buy locally unless there is no other option.
 - Introduce the Valk pass or the Valkenburgse Activities and Local Bargains - pass.
 - Investigate whether there is a need for a hallmark in the form of a door sticker for entrepreneurs who use local products.
- Join Green Destination. Make Valkenburg aan de Geul a sustainable tourist destination.
- Investigate other economic trends.

5E. energy transition

Every municipality has to work with less energy and use and generate cleaner energy. In some areas this is easier than in others. Large-scale generation is less simple in our municipality. We therefore opt for:

Action points

- Look for good regional coordination.
- Look for energy generation options on business premises, parking lots and along highways.
- Stimulate forms of energy saving such as insulation. You don't have to generate energy you don't use.
- Involve residents in the entire energy transition to increase support