**[Jonathon Porritt](http://www.parliamentspeakers.com/speaker/jonathon%2Bporritt%2BCBE)**

**Environmentalist**

Jonathon Porritt is an evironmentalist and writer who appears frequently in the media, writing in magazines, newspapers and books, and appearing on radio and television regularly.

He was born in London, and educated at Eton College and Magdalen College, Oxford. Despite training as a barrister, he decided to become an English teacher in West London.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, he was a prominent member of the Ecology Party. As chair of the UK Ecology Party (now the Green Party) from 1978 to 1984, he presided over changes that made the party much more prominent in elections. Under his stewardship, membership grew from a few hundred to around 3,000.

In 1984 his first book, *Seeing Green*, was published. In this year he also gave up teaching to become Director of Friends of the Earth in Britain, a post he held until 1990. From 1993-1996 he chaired Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future then known as UNEP-UK.

After the Greens achieved 15% of the European Parliamentary vote in 1989, he became a strong public advocate of change in the Green Party. In particular, he advocated a more professional organisation with identifiable leaders.

He also backed the election of Cynog Dafis, the joint Plaid Cymru-Green MP for Ceredigion

With Sara Parkin and Paul Ekins he founded Forum for the Future in 1996, a sustainable development charity. In 1997 he was appointed the inaugural Chair of the incoming Labour government's Sustainable Development Commission from which he retired in September 2009.

He has also supported the Forests Now Declaration, which calls for new market based mechanisms to protect tropical forests.

From the time at which he founded Forum of the Future, Porritt withdrew from party politics to concentrate on his non party political roles. In March 2009 Porritt spoke at the launch of the South West Green Party European Election campaign in Bristol, he stated that he had always remained a member of the Green Party and that now was the correct time to reaffirm his support.

Since leaving the SDC, Porritt has publicly supported the report Prosperity Without Growth.

He acts as advisor to many bodies on environmental matters, as well as to individuals including Prince Charles and Stuart Rose, the chief executive of Marks & Spencer, advising on that company's forward strategy. He is a board member of Wessex Water.

Porritt is on the advisory board of *BBC Wildlife* magazine and actively supports the efforts of experts promoting renewable energy and sustainable development such as Walt Patterson. He is a former Chair and current President of sustainable development charity Sustainability South West. From 2000 - 2009 he was chair of the Sustainable Development Commission, set up by the UK Prime Minister Tony Blair. He is a patron of the Optimum Population Trust. A substantial re-write of his bestselling book *Capitalism: As if the World Matters* was published by Earthscan in September 2007. In July 2008 he became an honorary graduate of the University of Exeter.

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