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Green Politics and Climate Change: Analysis of Political Party Strategies on Environmental Issues

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Abstract: This article analyzes the strategies of political parties in Indonesia in responding to climate change issues through a green politics approach. The research was conducted using a qualitative method based on literature studies and document analysis of manifestos, campaign programs, and party statements ahead of the 2024 General Election. The results show that although environmental issues have begun to be included in the political agenda, their implementation tends to be symbolic and inconsistent. Factors such as the influence of economic elites, weak public pressure, and minimal ecological literacy also hamper the implementation of progressive policies. To strengthen green politics, internal party reform and active community participation are needed in monitoring and promoting the environmental agenda in a sustainable manner.

Keyword: Green Politics, Climate Change, Political Parties, Environmental Policy.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change has become a global issue that demands collective responsibility, both from developing and developed countries. This issue is no longer limited to environmental issues, but also touches on political, economic, and social aspects broadly (Dryzek, 2013). In this context, political actors, including political parties, play a strategic role in directing public policy towards environmental sustainability.

In Indonesia, the impact of climate change is increasingly felt with the increasing intensity of hydrometeorological disasters such as floods, droughts, and forest and land fires (KLHK, 2023). Climate change also affects vital sectors such as agriculture, maritime affairs, and public health. This situation demands an adaptive and mitigating policy response from political stakeholders.

As the main institution in the electoral democracy system, political parties have the power to design and influence the direction of environmental policy. Political manifestos, party visions and missions, and campaign platforms are instruments to convey their commitment to climate change issues. However, various studies show a gap between political rhetoric and real implementation in environmental policy (Wicaksono, 2023).

In the last few elections, environmental issues have begun to receive attention, but are often only cosmetic or symbolic. Political parties tend to take advantage of the popularity of climate change issues to attract the sympathy of young voters or urbanites who care about sustainability, but without being accompanied by concrete steps at the legislative or executive level (Pepinsky, 2020).

Lack of public pressure and minimal political-ecological literacy among the public make political parties less motivated to make environmental issues a priority agenda. In fact, the presence of civil society, environmental NGOs, and academics can be a countervailing force that encourages party accountability in mainstreaming green politics.

Therefore, it is important to conduct an in-depth study of how political parties in Indonesia formulate their strategies in responding to climate change issues, especially ahead of the 2024 General Election. This study will provide an overview of the party's commitment to the environment and open up space for evaluating the sustainability of green political strategies in the future.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with literature study and document analysis methods. Data were collected from sources such as party manifestos, work programs, digital campaign materials, political speeches, and articles from relevant mass media and academic journals. Literature searches were conducted through platforms such as Google Scholar, Mendeley, and the official websites of political parties. Data analysis was carried out thematically to identify the extent to which and how environmental issues are integrated into the party's political agenda.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

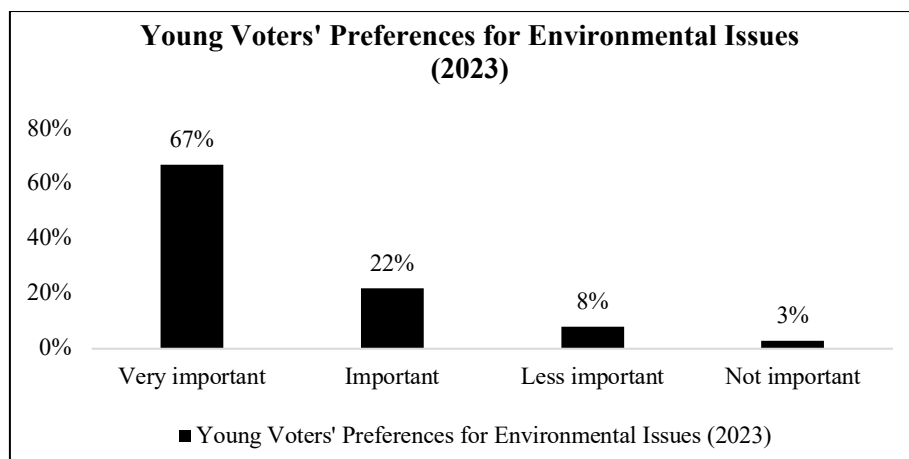
Environmental issues have begun to gain space in the platforms of major parties such as PDIP, Nasdem, and PKB, but the majority are still limited to campaign rhetoric and have not been translated into concrete policies (Wicaksono, 2023). Several parties have made renewable energy and emission reduction agendas their flagship programs, but there is no clear and measurable roadmap or target (Yanuar, 2024).

Table 1. Environmental Program Commitments Party Indonesian Politics Ahead 2024 Election

Party Political	Issue Environment in the Manifesto	Energy Program Renewable	Strategy Campaign Environment
PDIP	There is	Not yet measurable	Social media, rhetoric general
Nasdem	There is	Yes, but No Details	Campaign community local
PKB	Limited	No There is	Focus on agriculture

Source: Processed data from the manifesto and official website party (2024)

The dominance of economic oligarchy in party structures is a major obstacle in pushing an environmental agenda that is oriented towards long-term interests (Mietzner, 2021). The high level of civil society and young voters' participation in climate change issues has not been strong enough to pressure parties to adopt serious environmental policies (LSI, 2023).



Source: LSI, 2023

Figure 1. Young voters' preferences regarding the importance of environmental issues in determining political choices

Parties that try to highlight green politics issues often do so only for electoral differentiation, not because of ideological commitment or environmental sustainability (Pepinsky, 2020). Not all parties have internal units or institutions that focus on environmental issues, making it difficult for parties to develop institutional capacity in designing and overseeing environmental policies (WALHI, 2024).

Legal instruments such as Law No. 32 of 2009 have not been used optimally by parties as a reference in compiling environmental political agendas (Law No. 32 of 2009). Social media is an effective tool for parties to voice concerns about environmental issues, but it also has the potential to be a greenwashing strategy without real policy follow-up (Dryzek, 2013).

Data from LSI (2023) shows that 67% of young voters want parties that care about environmental issues, but their choices do not fully reflect expectations of party performance on this issue. Several parties such as NasDem and PKB have shown progress in compiling community-based environmental programs, but realization in the field is still hampered by budget constraints and coordination between agencies (NasDem Party, 2023).

Document analysis shows that parties tend to avoid commitments on sensitive issues such as mining moratoriums, land conversion, and industrial pollution that have high political and economic implications (Wicaksono, 2023). Going forward, strengthening green politics in Indonesia depends on the consolidation of environmental actors, internal party reform, and increasing political-ecological literacy among voters and party cadres (WALHI, 2024).

CONCLUSION

Green politics strategy in Indonesia is still symbolic and has not become a priority agenda in practical politics. In order for climate change to be taken seriously, political pressure is needed from the public, media, and civil society to demand consistency and accountability of parties in the environmental agenda. Internal party reform, the use of measurable environmental indicators, and the integration of science-based policies are important steps to strengthen green politics in Indonesia.

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