

**THE TIME IS**  
**NOW**



**MASS LOBBY FOR CLIMATE,  
NATURE AND PEOPLE**

**WHAT YOU CAN DO AS OUR MP**

**As our MP, please do everything in your power to maximise action for our climate, nature and people, in the UK and globally.**

**We are facing a crisis.**

**The world is hitting record-breaking temperatures, and the poorest communities are being affected the most. The devastating decline in biodiversity is set to wipe out a million species. Our oceans are choking in plastic and our children are breathing toxic air. The science is clear and we are feeling the impacts.**

**The political response needs to be bigger and faster.**

**This is not a future problem: the time is now.**

**Please write to your party leader or leadership contenders and let them know that you support these actions:**

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## **1. Introduce immediate legislation**

To end the UK's contribution to climate change: rapidly put in place ambitious policies to phase out fossil fuels and slash emissions now to get us on track to net zero by 2045 at the latest.

To clean up our environment and restore nature: pass a flagship Environment Act, with ambitious new targets for healthy air, clean water, thriving wildlife, green spaces where people live and eliminating waste and plastic pollution.

Create a powerful, independent watchdog to make sure these are achieved.

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## **2. Scale up investment to tackle the climate and environmental emergency, fairly and democratically**

Ensure government spending of at least 2% of GDP per year for climate action and restoring nature, both at home and abroad, starting now.

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## **3. Put environment and climate action at the heart of the UK's international agenda**

Accelerate progress towards achieving global goals on climate change, nature protection and restoration, and sustainable development at the three major UN summits in 2020 and the G7 in 2021.

Rule out signing trade deals with countries that are not implementing the Paris Agreement or upholding human rights and environmental standards.

# **THE TIME IS NOW... FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

**We are calling for immediate bold policies and investment to get on track to net zero, and political support for a ten year economic programme and international climate action.**

The risk of climate change is now so great that it poses a threat to civilisation itself.

We welcome the government's decision to legislate immediately for net zero emissions. But we believe that the UK needs to start short term action now to enable us to go further and faster, and achieve net zero by 2045 at the latest.

We are in a race against time. To have a chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, the world needs to cut its carbon emissions by almost half by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.<sup>1</sup>

The UK is the second biggest historic emitter of greenhouse gases per capita since the industrial age began. We have a moral duty to reach net zero as soon as we can.

Getting to net zero emissions by 2045 is feasible and would demonstrate leadership on climate change.<sup>2</sup>

We support the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change that the UK's net zero target should account for aviation and shipping emissions and be achieved without the use of international carbon offsets.

Despite the UK's success in decarbonising its power sector, there has been little progress in reducing emissions from buildings, transport or agriculture. As a result, we are not on track to meet our legally binding targets, under the 4th and 5th carbon budgets. It is time for action.

## **A NEW TEN YEAR ECONOMIC PROGRAMME**

To meet the climate emergency, there needs to be a ten year programme of action to put us on the path to net zero emissions. This should be supported by the government spending 2% of GDP on protecting our climate and nature, and include the following actions:

### **Phase out fossil fuels and expand renewables fast**

The zero carbon transition should be at the heart of the government's economic, infrastructure and energy

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1 IPCC, 2018, *Summary for policymakers*, 'Special report: global warming of 1.5 °C'

2 Vivid Economics, 2018, *Keeping it cool: how the UK can end its contribution to climate change*

programmes. The expansion of fossil fuel extraction and its infrastructure should end, and fossil fuels should be phased out as soon as possible. Sustainable, renewable energy should be significantly ramped up. Sensitively sited wind and solar power generation should be tripled between now and 2030.

### **Transform home energy**

Zero carbon homes must become the number one UK infrastructure investment priority. Capital funding, regulations and financial incentives should be put in place for a ten year programme, to make every home highly energy efficient and roll-out affordable zero carbon heating systems. It should emulate the successful Scottish infrastructure programme for home decarbonisation.

### **Ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars, vans and motorcycles by 2030**

A 2030 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars, vans and motorcycles, and the rapid roll-out of fast charging points across the UK will help to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. Alongside more investment in public transport, cycling and walking, this will reduce the scourge of air pollution in our towns and cities.

### **Restore nature to reduce carbon emissions**

By planting trees, restoring peatland and salt marshes, protecting the ocean and developing a more sustainable food and farming model, the government can help to increase natural capacity to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Efforts to limit global warming and restore nature should go hand-in-hand, and start immediately.

### **Protect jobs and vulnerable people**

The transition to a zero carbon economy offers great opportunities for businesses and jobs. The success of the offshore wind industry is a good example of a new industry that can regenerate economies and offer new, highly skilled jobs. But transition is not always easy, so the government will need to play an important role in helping to reskill workers and ensure that no communities or vulnerable people are left behind

## INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION

The government must put climate justice at the heart of the UK's international diplomacy and development programme, including at the upcoming UN climate summits. It should:

Allocate at least £1.76 billion for international climate funding in developing countries every year.<sup>3</sup>

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Urgently establish new and additional sources of finance to ramp up support for the developing countries suffering the worst consequences of climate change.

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Align all UK international support (such as Export Finance and Overseas Development Assistance) with commitments to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

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Rule out signing trade deals with countries that are not implementing the Paris Agreement or upholding human rights and environmental standards.

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The briefing was written by The Climate Coalition on behalf of organisations campaigning for net zero by 2045.

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3 House of Commons International Development Committee, 2019, *UK aid for combating climate change*

# **THE TIME IS NOW... FOR STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS**

**We are calling for a flagship Environment Act with ambitious, legally binding targets for healthy air, clean water, thriving wildlife, green spaces where people live, and waste and plastic pollution.<sup>4</sup> It must create a powerful, independent watchdog to make sure these targets are achieved.**

Nature is declining and ecosystems are deteriorating globally at rates unprecedented in human history. We are witnessing this on our own doorstep, with extinctions of bee species and plummeting numbers of popular animals, like hedgehogs and nightingales.

This is also a crisis for people, as we are bound inextricably with the natural world and dependent on it for clean air and water, healthy seas, land for growing food and places to live. As one example of the challenges we face: 2.6 million school children in the UK are now breathing toxic air.

The UK must act urgently, with ambitious policies to tackle this environmental crisis and play our part globally. We already know the solutions, such as launching a large scale tree planting programme, designating areas where nature's recovery is prioritised, reusing resources and replacing polluting transport with cleaner alternatives.

The environment must be at the heart of government decision making, so it cannot be forgotten when political attention moves elsewhere. This requires new objectives enshrined in law, legally binding targets to enhance our environment and robust institutions to hold current and future governments to account.

## **TESTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ENVIRONMENT BILL**

Draft clauses for the first part of a new Environment Bill were published in December 2018, but these fell well short of what is required. It must provide legal commitments to ensure that our environment is healthy and resilient, alongside mechanisms that drive change across government and business.<sup>5,6</sup>

It must establish bold and legally binding targets for healthy air, clean water, thriving wildlife, waste and plastic pollution, and our global footprint. It should progressively

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- 4 Greener UK's headlines for the content of a Westminster Environment Bill, October 2018
  - 5 House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, Pre-legislative scrutiny of the Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill, April 2019
  - 6 House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, Pre-legislative scrutiny of the Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill, April 2019

improve and enhance the environment, create a strong and independent body to make sure laws are followed and establish new nature recovery networks across England.

**The Environment Bill must:**

Include high level objectives, setting out in law commitments to ensure the environment is healthy and resilient for the benefit of people and wildlife

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Create a framework for legally binding targets, to achieve the objectives with robust mechanisms for delivering, monitoring and reporting on them, including through five year milestones.

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Engage the private sector in the effort to deliver on environmental objectives by requiring companies to undertake due diligence.

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Establish nature recovery networks across England, translating national aims into real change on the ground.<sup>7</sup>

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Guarantee that environmental standards will not be weakened.<sup>8</sup>

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Create a strong and independent environmental watchdog: the Office for Environmental Protection provided with multi-year budgets, and give parliament a greater say on approving its funding and appointments.<sup>9</sup>

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Provide a transparent mechanism for the public to make complaints when environmental law is breached, and empower the Office for Environmental Protection to challenge the substance of government and public authorities' decisions in court if necessary.

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Include climate laws in the remit of the Office for Environmental Protection.<sup>10</sup>

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7 Greener UK, March 2019, 'Why the Environment Bill must enable a strategic approach to environmental planning'

8 Greener UK, October 2018, 'Briefing on non-regression in the Environment Bill'

9 Greener UK, March 2019, 'The funding of the Office for Environmental Protection'

10 Greener UK, September 2018, 'Why the proposed new environmental body should enforce climate law'

Strengthen the clauses on environmental principles and ensure they achieve a high level of environmental protection.

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Co-ordinate with proposals in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to ensure a joined up, transboundary approach to managing shared environmental resources.

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Be introduced to parliament swiftly to allow enough time for scrutiny and improvement before the end of the proposed Brexit transition period.

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## **OTHER IMPORTANT LAWS AND POLICIES**

If the government grasps the opportunity, the Environment Bill could be a historic piece of legislation. But there are other important laws and policies that need strong green threads running through them to achieve this. The government must also:

**Put the environment at the heart of the Brexit negotiations:** a high level of environmental protection and recovery should be a core objective of the future relationship between the UK and the EU.

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**Deliver ambitious agricultural reform:** the Agriculture Bill is an unprecedented opportunity to revitalise the countryside in a way that meets the needs of people, farming, food and the environment, for generations to come. It must protect and enhance the ecosystems that underpin sustainable farming: our soils, freshwater and natural habitats.

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**Seek trade deals that reflect the high standards the public demands:** the government must establish a trade policy, anchored in primary legislation, which safeguards the environment, provides transparency, and gives parliament and civil society a voice in trade negotiations.

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**Put sustainability at the heart of fisheries policy:** the Fisheries Bill must be amended to ensure truly sustainable and accountable fisheries management that minimises impacts on the marine environment and enables coastal communities to thrive.

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This briefing was written by the organisations working on Greener UK's Environment Act campaign.

# **THE TIME IS NOW... TO INVEST IN THE SOLUTIONS**

**We are calling for the government spending review to ensure at least 2% of GDP per year is committed to climate action and restoring nature, both at home and abroad, starting now.**

Climate change and the continued destruction of the natural environment threatens the lives and livelihoods of billions of people, and impacts wildlife and ecosystems here in the UK and globally. Without action now, today's young people and future generations will inherit a deteriorating and much degraded planet. The UK cannot solve these problems alone, but we can do as much as we can and inspire others to do likewise.

Governments have invested tens of millions, but the climate and environmental emergency means this level of investment has not been enough. Whilst tens of billions are being allocated to damaging infrastructure projects, such as HS2 and new roads, nature's decline and climate change have been overlooked. Spending on protecting the only planet we have must be a priority.

The next spending review is a chance to increase government investment in climate and nature protection. The Committee on Climate Change has advised the government that a total investment of 1-2% GDP per year is needed on climate change alone. The costs of not investing will be much higher, while the benefits of this spending will be significant. Much of the additional investment needed could be reallocated from projects that damage the environment and people's health.<sup>11</sup>

Here are some examples of where additional government spending is needed urgently:

## **REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT**

Transport is the largest source of greenhouse gases. It is also a major source of air pollution, responsible for up to 36,000 early deaths each year in the UK.<sup>12</sup>

Investment is needed in electric vehicle charging infrastructure. But even a rapid transition to electric cars will not reduce carbon pollution fast enough. More public transport is needed, particularly buses. Over 3,000 bus

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<sup>11</sup> Committee on Climate Change, 2019, *Net zero: the UK's contribution to stopping global warming*

<sup>12</sup> British Safety Council, 2017, *Impact of air pollution on the health of outdoor workers*

routes have been cut or reduced in England and Wales since 2010, and fares have skyrocketed. Experts have said at least an additional £1.3 billion per year is required.

Physical inactivity costs the UK £7.4 billion per year and is responsible for one in six deaths, so investment in cycling and walking is money well spent.<sup>13</sup> The UK should be spending around £50 per person per year on cycling and walking infrastructure.<sup>14</sup>

## RESTORING AND PROTECTING NATURE

While the government does spend money on nature protection, a higher level is needed. Degraded peatlands and salt marshes need to be restored, new nature recovery networks should be established and the UK's Marine Protected Areas and designated land-based wildlife sites need to be restored and policed. At least £2 billion more per year should be spent on nature restoration alone.<sup>15</sup> The £3 billion currently spent on farming should be retained to 2028 and redirected to support nature-friendly farming.<sup>16</sup>

We need at least 30,000 hectares a year of new tree planting, including in and around our towns.<sup>17</sup> The right trees in the right place benefit nature, aid flood defences, capture carbon and reduce air pollution. While some of the funding for this can come from paying farmers to farm differently, much will need to be additional public expenditure.

Investment in nature has high returns. It reduces flood and drought risks, improves health, increases agricultural productivity, helps to tackle climate change and benefits the rural economy.

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13 Public Health England, 2014, *Everybody active, every day*

14 L Sloman and L Hopkinson, 2019, 'Segregated cycleways and e-bikes – the future of urban travel', Transport for Quality of Life and Friends of the Earth

15 Vivid Economics, November 2018, *Keeping it cool: how the UK can end its contribution to climate change*, an analytical report for WWF

16 RSPB, National Trust and The Wildlife Trusts, October 2017, 'Assessing the costs of Environmental Land Management in the UK: final report'

17 Committee on Climate Change, May 2019, *Net zero: the UK's contribution to stopping global warming*

## CLEAN ENERGY AND WARM HOMES

Energy efficiency has been significantly underfunded over the past decade and the move from gas to eco-heating has hardly started. Every billion of additional public spending could unlock £4 billion of private investment in energy saving measures. Homes will be warmer, energy bills reduced for millions of households and carbon emissions cut.<sup>18</sup>

To ensure clean electricity for all homes and industry, further investment is needed. The UK's support for renewable energy has resulted in dramatic cost reductions. Now is the time to build on this success, with investment in other technologies, such as floating offshore wind, enabling the UK to lead one of the global industries of the future.

## SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL ACTION

As one of the world's wealthier countries, the UK must pay its fair share in the international effort to tackle climate change and nature loss. The UK's climate finance is a lifeline for vulnerable communities in the world's poorest countries who have done the least to cause the crisis, yet suffer its worst effects. At the very least, the spending review needs to commit £1.76 billion annually to support developing countries in taking climate action, and this must not come from the aid budget alone. The UK should also begin to commit funds for global nature restoration and protection.

This briefing was written by the organisations involved in The Time Is Now mass lobby.

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<sup>18</sup> E3G, 2018, *Silver buckshots? Opportunities for closing the gap between ambition for, and policy and investment to drive, UK residential energy efficiency renovation*

# **THE TIME IS NOW... TO BE A GLOBAL LEADER**

**We are calling for the UK to lead international efforts to tackle the climate and environmental emergency over the next 18 months. This means agreeing ambitious action at home, inspiring others to follow and providing financial support to poorer countries.**

The UK is not doing this alone. 2020 is a critical year for global action on climate, environment and poverty. In this year, important UN summits on climate change and biodiversity will take place, piling the pressure on all countries to strengthen their climate action plans and come together to address global biodiversity decline. It is the deadline year for Nationally Determined Contributions to be strengthened and for long term targets to be set out ahead of the COP26 climate summit, expected to take place in November 2020.

## **18 MONTHS OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**23 September 2019 UN Climate Action Summit:** world leaders will provide concrete plans for how they will increase climate ambition at national level.

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**October-November 2019 'Refilling' the international Green Climate Fund:** this is the first replenishment of this fund, designed to be the leading channel of climate finance from developed to developing countries.

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**Spring 2020 Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ):** a treaty will be agreed on the governance of the high seas.

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**July 2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** this is an opportunity to extend environmental SDG targets, in alignment with the post-2020 Convention on Biological Diversity framework.

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**September 2020 Heads of State Nature Summit:** world leaders will declare it is no longer acceptable to continue to degrade our planet.

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**October 2020 COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity:** a chance to put forward a strong voluntary national contribution and drive political ambition to support an ambitious global biodiversity framework.

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**Late 2020 COP26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** the UK has bid to host this critical UN climate summit. It is the last chance to raise ambition before the Paris Agreement comes into force and to better integrate nature-based solutions to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change.

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**2021 G7 UK:** the UK will host this G7 summit.

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## **Further actions you can take to support these asks:**

- **Keep the issues in the public eye by submitting parliamentary questions**
- **Sign, promote and champion Greener UK's MPs' Charter for the Environment**
- **Push the BEIS Select Committee to carry out an inquiry into progress against the net zero target**
- **Write to the new prime minister calling for these asks to be actioned**
- **Keep communicating with your constituents about the work you're doing on climate and the environment**

This document contains the asks delivered to MPs by people participating in the mass lobby of parliament, organised by Greener UK and The Climate Coalition, on 26 June 2019.

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