MP BRIEFING

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This Speak Up Week, events and meetings will be taking place with MPs across the country. This briefing will help make the most of your event and ensure it helps to...

SHOW YOUR MP THEY HAVE LOCAL PUBLIC SUPPORT TO BE CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

The majority of contact that your MP has with constituents will be about local issues like bin collections and local parks. So your MP is most likely to be interested in championing climate change if you can highlight that—and why—people in your constituency care about the issue. You can make your meeting locally relevant by talking about why you personally care about climate change, plus:

• Any environmental concerns that often come up when you talk with other local residents, such as at your church, on local Facebook groups, or as indicated in any local polling;

• What you or your local group are doing to lower your impact on the environment, or other local initiatives that you're proud of (and that your MP should be too!);

• How climate change is affecting—or could affect—your area, such as unpredictable weather stopping your football club from training, gardening in a spring punctuated by snow or even extreme weather events that have impacted on your community;

• Anything you'd like them to take action on in your local area related to climate change, e.g. making it easier to use public transport, cycle or walk, or supporting local green spaces.

BUILD MP SUPPORT FOR STRONGER UK CLIMATE TARGET TO MATCH THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Please ask your MP to show support for the UK to increase its ambition in line with the Paris Climate Agreement by signing up to a joint letter to the Prime Minister, asking her to back a UK net zero emissions target before 2050: This means that by mid century the UK will no longer be contributing to climate change. ***A copy of the letter is on page 4, and there's more detail on this on page 2-3.***

A list of MPs that have signed up to the letter will be available at ***theclimatecoalition.org/joint-letter*** from early June. Do check this before your meeting as your MP will be more likely to sign up if they can see their colleagues have done so already. Please let us know if your MP agrees to sign up to the letter by sending us an email at ***campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org***

WHAT IF...

MY MP HAS ALREADY SIGNED UP TO THE LETTER?

Then your meeting is a great opportunity to say thank you and encourage them to take further steps to meet our climate targets (some tips below).

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT ***MEETING*** OUR CLIMATE TARGETS

You're right, there's lots of work to do to cut emissions and meet the UK's targets. We'd like to see energy waste cut from our buildings, carbon pollution taken out of our transport, our land use helping to absorb emissions, and generation of energy from renewable sources accelerated.

For a briefing on these issues, please contact campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org

JOINT MP LETTER

*Please check our website **theclimatecoalition.org/joint-letter** just before your meeting with your MP to print a version of the letter with the latest list of MPs that have signed up. A briefing on the content of this letter is below on pages 3-4. You can use this to provide talking points for your meeting, or you can just hand it to your MP at your meeting.*

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

Net Zero Emissions

We are writing to you to welcome the announcement that the Government will ask the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) for advice on a net zero emissions target, with the aim of bringing our greenhouse gas emissions reduction target in line with the Paris Agreement.

Given the existing advice from the CCC, the likely conclusion of the upcoming Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, and that other countries have set net zero targets with dates between 2030 and 2050, including France, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and New Zealand, we believe this must be a target of net zero for greenhouse gases before 2050.

British ingenuity, from Isambard Kingdom Brunel to Dorothy Hodgkin, has kept the UK at the forefront of science and engineering for more than two hundred years. Setting ourselves the goal of net zero emissions will put us at the forefront of the race for investment in clean industries, creating jobs all around the UK and inspiring the next generation.

A net zero emissions target, fully implemented, will cut energy bills by improving the efficiency of our homes and businesses, it will get rid of the exhaust pipe emissions that pollute the air we breathe, and it will help to bring about the restoration of our natural habitats so they become stores of carbon, from forests to peatlands. We can have a greener Britain with cleaner air – and by making a clean break from harmful emissions, we'll be sending a signal to our friends and allies around the world that Britain is shouldering our responsibility and leading the fight against climate change.

Thanks to the actions of Governments of many different parties, and the cross-party consensus that exists in the UK on the need to tackle climate change, since 1992 we have led the world in emissions reductions. We can continue in this proud tradition of leadership by becoming one of the first countries in the world to set a net zero target in law. A recent poll by Opinium shows that 64% of UK adults agree the UK should aim to cut its emissions to zero over the next few decades.

The Paris Agreement commits parties to "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels". In order to achieve this, we will support you in setting a before-2050 net zero greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, and hope that you will enshrine this in law within the lifetime of this Parliament.

Yours sincerely,
[***MP Name***]

BRIEFING FOR MPS

British ingenuity, from Brunel to Dorothy Hodgkin to Stephen Hawking, has kept the UK at the forefront of science and engineering for more than two hundred years.

We are continuing this proud tradition today, generating more and more of our own Great British energy through cleaner, more renewable forms and building our very own electric car industry. And one of our best-kept secrets is that thanks to this, we are leading the world in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

Ten years ago MPs across parties came together to create the world's first Climate Change Act. But in ten years the world has moved on: many other governments have set their own laws and targets, some more ambitious than the UK's. And in 2015 the world came together to set the Paris Climate Agreement, which aims to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, exceeding the UK's climate targets. The UK fought for this for many years and showed leadership by ratifying the agreement in 2016.

Now it's time for the UK to begin a new phase of leadership that brings our own climate targets in line with the Paris Agreement.

We are asking MPs to show support for increased UK ambition on climate change by signing up to a joint letter to the Prime Minister, backing a UK net zero emissions target ahead of 2050.

By setting a target to cut our emissions to net zero:

• We can maintain our lead in the global race for investment in clean industries, create jobs all around the UK and inspire the next generation of Brunels.

• The UK will be cutting down on energy waste, making our air cleaner and helping to protect the people, landscapes and wildlife we love.

• We can restore our natural habitats so they help to keep the climate in balance, with habitats like forests and peatlands helping to remove carbon from the air.

• We will be speaking up for the world's poorest communities, who are already experiencing droughts, flooding, extreme weather and other effects of climate change.

• We'll be sending a signal to our friends and allies around the world that Britain is shouldering our responsibility and doing our bit to stop climate change, ensuring that flooding and extreme weather don't become the norm for future generations.

BACKGROUND

THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND NET ZERO

• In the Paris Agreement, governments commit to keeping global warming 'well below 2°C', and to 'pursue efforts' to limit it to 1.5°C.

• Science shows that to stabilise the climate, global greenhouse gas emissions need to fall to zero. Unless we do this, we will never halt climate change.

• It will be hard to bring emissions completely to zero. So, a small amount of 'negative emissions' – drawing carbon dioxide from the air, e.g. by planting more trees – will be needed to balance those emissions that remain. Hence the aim is 'net zero' emissions.

• New science shows that we need to reach global net zero by 2050 to stand an even chance of meeting the 1.5°C target, and a better than even chance of staying 'well below 2°C' [1].

• In Autumn 2018, the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) will release a report outlining how the world can cuts its emissions to meet the 1.5C target.

UK POLITICS AND AMBITION ON NET ZERO SO FAR

• After the UK signed the Paris Agreement in 2016, then Energy Minister Andrea Leadsom said: "we will need to take the step of enshrining the Paris goal for net zero emissions in UK law. The question is not whether but how we do it", and in April 2018, Claire Perry, Climate Minister committed to seeking advice on this from the Committee on Climate Change after the IPCC has released its report in the Autumn.

• Public and political support will help to turn these positive indications into a firm commitment for the UK to reach net zero emissions ahead of 2050.

• The Committee on Climate Change, the Government's statutory advisory body, says that the ministers should look this year at setting a net zero target.

• Polling in April showed that 64% of of UK adults agree that the UK should aim to cut its carbon emissions to zero in the next few decades.

• Polling shows 75-80% support for renewable energy and measures that cut energy waste, with opposition tiny (2% strongly oppose onshore wind farms)

ELSEWHERE

• Other countries are moving. Sweden has committed in law to reach net zero in 2045; others committed to net zero before 2050 include France, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Norway, Bhutan, Iceland and Portugal.

• Seven EU countries have called for a net zero emissions target, with most of them favouring a net-zero emissions date of 2050. The European Parliament has voted for a 2050 net zero target, and the UK risks being left behind.

THE ASK TO MPS

Please add your name to our joint letter asking that the Government commit to setting a net zero emissions target before 2050 in law.

MPs can confirm they are signing up to the letter by emailing ***campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org***

[1] From forthcoming IPCC Special Report