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YOUR
WORLD



WARNING

CLIMATE EMERGENCY



UK CLIMATE EMERGENCY PACKAGE: IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO AVOID RUNAWAY CLIMATE DISASTER

Climate change is wreaking havoc on our wildlife and habitats, while putting more and more people's lives and homes at risk.

The UK government says it is committed to tackling climate change, but it is failing to take action at anything like the scale and speed necessary if we are to avert disaster. The government continues to support fossil fuels to the tune of £10 billion a year and to approve major new transport and energy projects that are committing us to a pathway of increased emissions.

WWF is calling on the government to declare a climate emergency. This means the Prime Minister must ensure departments prioritise action on climate change with immediate effect.

The government needs to put Britain on a path to a very rapid transition, and towards a future in which we end our contribution to climate change. This means getting to net zero emissions as quickly as possible – by 2045 at the latest. Our research shows that this is possible – and climate science tells us this is necessary for our survival.

Our planet has warmed by 1°C over the last century. We are running out of time, and we're the last generation with the power to avert a climate breakdown. The time to act is now.

The UK must stop support for fossil fuels, such as oil and gas, and invest in renewable energy, electric vehicles and climate-neutral homes as well as protecting and restoring natural habitats such as forests at home and abroad. This transition can and should be delivered in a way that creates high quality jobs, reduces inequality and helps communities to thrive.

PRIME MINISTER



- Declare a Climate Emergency.
- Instruct Ministers to take immediate action to respond to the Climate Emergency.

BUSINESS ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY



- Immediately set a legally binding target to eliminate UK greenhouse gas emissions.
- Ban all new oil and gas extraction in the UK, including fracking.
- Triple renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- Manage a rapid transition plan for heat, including district heating, electric heat pumps, and clean alternatives to natural gas.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT



- End the sale of all new petrol and diesel road vehicles by 2030.
- Allocate annual spending per person of £20 to promote cycling and walking in England.
- Cancel plans for any airport expansion in the UK, including a third runway at Heathrow.

DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



- Fund behaviour change campaigns to accelerate public shift to predominately plant-based diets.

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



- Increase the UK's commitment to international climate funding.

TREASURY



- Launch a green spending review to fund the response to the Climate Emergency.
- End all support for fossil fuels in the UK.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES & LOCAL GOVERNMENT



- Commit £1 billion a year to 2035 for energy efficiency, unlocking £3.5 billion of private investment, focused on low income households.
- Ensure all new homes in England and Wales are zero-carbon from 2020.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS



- Create domestic agriculture policy for England to achieve a carbon-neutral, resilient farming and related land-use sector by 2040.
- Ensure mass reforestation and restoration of the UK's carbon-rich ecosystems.

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE



- End the use of any UK export finance to support fossil fuel infrastructure and projects anywhere in the world.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE



- Deploy UK climate diplomats to promote ambitious decarbonisation in line with a 1.5°C pathway around the world.

WE CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER TO:

- Declare a Climate Emergency.
- Convene and chair a cross-governmental emergency planning working group to coordinate the government response to the Climate Emergency and to ensure a rapid and just transition.
- Name a lead Secretary of State to oversee the Climate Emergency response.
- Instruct all UK government departments, non-departmental public bodies, agencies and govcos to develop and commit to science-based targets in line with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT THE CABINET OFFICE TO:

- Draw up plans for convening the cross-governmental emergency planning working group, with staff from relevant parts of Whitehall and the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, and involving relevant Ministers and senior officials from the Scottish and Welsh governments and Northern Ireland Office.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT HM TREASURY TO:

- Launch a green spending review to compile an emergency funding package for national government, devolved governments and local government for a comprehensive Climate Emergency response.
- Deliver a Climate Emergency budget in the autumn that will match delivery of net-zero emissions in the UK by 2045.
- Work with BEIS to launch a one-year project to deliver an ambitious plan to phase out all forms of support, including subsidies and tax breaks, for fossil fuels in the UK; with a clear, timed plan for a managed decline of the UK oil and gas industry taking into account the implications on jobs and lower-income households.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT TO:

- Legislate an end-date for the sale of all new petrol and diesel road vehicles by 2030.
- Work with the private sector – across industries and local authorities – to leverage private funding to deliver a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging.
- Commit to annual spending per person of £20 to promote cycling and walking in England.
- Commit to limit maximum aviation CO₂ emissions in absolute terms to 37.5Mt by 2050.
- Cancel plans for any airport expansion in the UK, including a third runway at Heathrow.
- End aviation tax breaks and identify appropriate fiscal mechanisms (such as a frequent flyer levy) to adjust the pricing structure so it accommodates risks to the climate budget.
- Fund the development of transformative clean aviation technologies to scale, as set out in the Aerospace Sector Deal and Future Flight Challenge.
- Commit to taking the leading role in developing a long-term goal consistent with a 1.5°C - compliant emissions reduction strategy in the 2019 ICAO Assembly.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY TO:

- Prepare a response to the advice from the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) on delivering net-zero greenhouse gas emissions within one month of receipt of its report.
- Prepare legislation to enshrine a target of reaching net-zero by 2045 and the necessary delivery mechanisms in law – to be brought before Parliament by autumn 2019.
- Draw up a programme, funded by a carbon tax on gas, gradually introduced with a clear plan on how the revenues will be used to benefit households and to retrofit 20 million homes to bring them up to at least EPC standard C by 2035 at the latest.
- Launch an investigation into the benefits of decentralised low-carbon energy to better coordinate and ensure regulation and policies are aligned with the CCC's new net-zero advice.
- Increase renewable energy to at least 40GW solar and 56GW wind by 2030.
- Let the cheapest forms of new electricity generation – onshore wind and solar – compete in CfD auctions with volume allocation based on the renewable energy capacity needed to meet climate targets consistent with a 1.5°C pathway.
- Ensure the government's export tariff scheme (Smart Export Guarantee) offers fair market payments (or a fair minimum floor price) for any clean power that households may contribute to the grid, in line with EU law.
- Develop a plan that commits to a phase-out date for natural gas power generation and a reducing emission performance standard in line with the CCC's advice on achieving net-zero.
- Deliver a plan for the rapid decarbonisation of heating that considers district heating, electric heat pumps, and clean alternatives to natural gas in line with the CCC's advice on achieving net-zero, with clear ambitious interim targets.
- Establish a panel of experts to develop a funded programme for the decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries in line with the CCC's advice on achieving net-zero.
- Commit £1bn to a programme to demonstrate, scale up and deliver carbon capture and storage for use in industry and greenhouse gas removal technologies.
- Develop an ambitious and strategic innovation policy that focuses on long-term energy storage solutions.
- Transpose EU-derived regulation into UK law, with clear enforcement to fill the potential gap posed by Brexit.
- Bring together trade unions, relevant community representatives, and a cross-party group of politicians into a transition taskforce to support a Treasury/BEIS plan for the managed decline of UK oil and gas.
- Investigate and complete a detailed analysis on extending the life of existing UK nuclear where it is safe to do so, to avoid the need for new nuclear and fill the gap with renewable energy.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS TO:

- Amend the UK Agriculture Bill and create domestic agriculture policy for England to support the NFU's target for a carbon-neutral, resilient farming and related land-use sector by 2040.
- Set ambitious biennial targets as part of the carbon budget process for reducing emissions from the agriculture sector, with the requirement on the lead Secretary of State to report to Parliament on progress on reducing carbon dioxide and methane emissions.
- Roll out funding for habitat restoration of UK carbon-rich ecosystems to deliver carbon sequestration of at least 2Mt CO₂ by 2030 and 4Mt CO₂ by 2045.
- Create biennial carbon sequestration targets from 2020 for reforestation, and fund new woodland to capture at least 6Mt CO₂ of negative emissions by 2030 and increasing to 13Mt CO₂ by 2045 while limiting land-use change to no more than 6%.
- Regulate compulsory soil testing on all farms within the next two years, and establish a nitrogen balance sheet and nitrogen-use efficiency targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050.
- Set targets that all soils in England are managed sustainably by 2030 and deliver an increase in soil organic matter.
- Enforce the end of management practices in England that damage peatland carbon potential, habitat and hydrology in line with a 1.5°C-degree trajectory.
- Implement a rigorous monitoring regime for the sustainability of the biomass and bioenergy supply to the UK.
- Introduce binding targets to halve UK food waste from farm to fork by 2030.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES & LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO:

- Commit additional public capital investment of £1bn a year to 2035 for energy efficiency that can unlock £3.5bn of private investment, focusing on supporting low-income households.
- Introduce legislation requiring all new homes in England and Wales to be built to zero-carbon, Passivhaus standards from 2020.
- Regulate to introduce incentives – through stamp duty and mortgages – for homeowners in England to pursue energy efficiency, and small-scale storage and renewables improvements to their homes.
- Increase minimum energy efficiency standards for all rented properties in England of EPC level C by 2030, including strict enforcement considerations.
- Work with local authorities to support Climate Emergency action in every part of England.
- Require local authorities to produce credible heat and energy efficiency investment plans for their area, and empower local authorities to deliver their plans by allocating funding on their delivery needs.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT THE DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TO:

- Enshrine a principle of maximising the health benefits of reaching net zero through, for example, increases in active transport, healthier diets, and reductions in air pollution.
- Prioritise a 'less and better' approach to public food procurement, including guidance on school meals and hospital meals to require public institutions to serve a minimum of 50% plant-based meals.
- Fund behaviour change campaigns to accelerate a public shift to predominately plant-based diets.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO:

- Ensure all Overseas Development Assistance is spent on development that is compatible with climate targets, and in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Prioritise ODA spending that targets the intersection between poverty reduction, environment and climate change.
- Increase transparency around safeguards and screening of programmes, including ensuring there is evidence in the public domain to tell if DFID's current programming is consistent with doing no harm from a climate or environmental perspective.
- Review its Economic Development Strategy to take greater account of the role of the natural environment in underpinning sustainable economic development and place greater emphasis on climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation.
- Increase the UK's commitment to international climate funding and renew the UK's contribution through DFID's International Climate Fund from 2020-25.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE TO:

- End the use of any UK export finance to support fossil fuel infrastructure and projects anywhere in the world.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD INSTRUCT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TO:

- Deploy UK climate diplomats to promote ambitious decarbonisation and support development and implementation of ambitious NDCs including net-zero targets in line with a 1.5°C pathway.
- Coordinate with DIT to ensure all future trade policy promotes climate action including the adoption of net zero targets.

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April 2019



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