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NATURE

# THE TIME IS NOW VIRTUAL LOBBY FOR A HEALTHY, GREEN & FAIR RECOVERY



WWF are proud to be part of the Climate Coalition, that's why we're joining their virtual lobby of parliament on 30 June 2020. Here are some top tips on how you can get your class or even your whole school involved easily and quickly, and some useful resources to enhance your students learning from the event and fun events to join online.

## WHAT IS A VIRTUAL LOBBY?

This virtual lobby is an opportunity for thousands of people across the country to meet their MPs online to talk about how the UK's recovery from coronavirus could be a green recovery which benefits people and our planet. This lobby is also the first of its kind so why not join us and make history?

## WHY NOW?

“As we build back from the current health crisis, we can choose to tackle climate change and nature's decline, and rebuild a resilient economy that benefits everyone in society. Or we can let the moment for change pass us by, go back to old ways and wait for new crises to hit.

We need to tell politicians that #TheTimeIsNow to put a healthy, greener, fairer future at the heart of plans to rebuild a strong economy”.

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## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO GET INVOLVED?

### 1. Sign up as the lead contact for your class

It's quick and easy to sign up and you'll gain access to free resources to help you plan your meeting: <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/virtual-lobby>



### 2. Write to your MP to let them know that you are attending

We have included a handy template in this pack to make it really easy for your class to write their letter or e-mail your local MP.

### 3. Facilitate the meeting between your MP and your class

In this pack we have signposted some resources and activities that'll help your pupils to prepare, and The Climate Coalition have created some [top tips for using Zoom](#) to connect.

## CONNECTING WITH YOUR MP

You can find your MP's email address at [parliament.uk](http://parliament.uk) or [theyworkforyou.com](http://theyworkforyou.com). Please use the template below as a guide but edit it as you wish.

It would be best if you could set up your own video conferencing link so that you can assure that the call is in accordance with your school's safeguarding policies and so that you can monitor attendees. If you have any issues setting this up check out this [handy guide](#).

### LETTER TEMPLATE

**Subject line:** Invitation to meet on 30 June - virtual lobby for climate, nature and people / The Time is Now virtual lobby for a healthy, green and fair recovery

Dear [Joe Bloggs MP],

My name is [your name] and I am teacher at [your school name] which is in your constituency. Thank you for your continued hard work representing [Your Constituency], especially during a time such as this. I know your current focus will be supporting those most affected in our area and continuing your Parliamentary work as far as possible.

I would like to invite you to meet my class and me as part of a virtual lobby for a healthy, green and fair recovery from coronavirus. The UK is at a turning point. As we build back from the current health crisis, we have the opportunity to tackle climate change and nature's decline, and rebuild a resilient economy that benefits everyone in society.

You may remember **The Time is Now** mass lobby last year when 12,000 people took to the streets of Westminster to ask for action on the climate and nature emergency. We can't meet in person this time, so please send me a meeting time on 30 June convenient to you so that we can arrange an online meeting.

I know you're busy, so just 20 minutes of your time would be appreciated. Please confirm the time of our call as soon as is convenient.

Thank you,

[Your school name, postcode, e-mail, phone number]

#TheTimeIsNow

### ON THE CALL

We want MPs to hear from your students about why they care about a green and fair future, so exactly what your pupils say is up to them. The team at the Climate Coalition will provide an optional ice breaker quiz connected to the key things we're asking for to get things going, and this [detailed briefing](#) will give you and other teachers more information on our key asks.

Keep reading for some key resources and events you can use in the run-up to the event to engage your students with the key issues we are hoping they can address with your MP.

## RESOURCES

**1) Climate Change resource hub** (<https://tinyurl.com/yawbza78>).

Our WWF climate hub for teachers has a whole host of resources to engage your students with the issues and inspire them to take action.

**2) How does UK Parliament work?** (<https://tinyurl.com/y88ul8ps>)

Before your students meet with or write to their MP, ensure they know how and why this can be the seed of real change, thanks to the turbulent history of UK politics.

**3) Climate change explainer poster All ages** (<https://tinyurl.com/y9tq7ssy>)

**4) Back to school Key stage 2&3** (<https://tinyurl.com/y8ymzupo>)

**5) Shaping Our Future Key stage 2&3** (<https://tinyurl.com/y7lun4ya>)

**6) The Climate Coalition** (<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/virtual-lobby/resources>)

Our friends at The Climate Coalition have created a detailed guide for the lobby so if you have any questions or are missing any information you are sure to find it here.

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY 26 JUNE - 11AM

The Time Is Now: How to lobby your MP for a greener future.

As part of the leadup to The Climate Coalition Virtual Lobby on Tuesday 30 June, we present a special conversation between WWF's Youth Ambassador Hattie and Cel Spellman. Hattie has built up a great relationship with her local MP campaigning for a more sustainable world and will share her experiences and some top tips that she's learnt along the way. You'll also hear from WWF Ambassador Cel Spellman about why it's crucial for MP's to hear from young people who want positive change.

**Register to be a participant:** <https://tinyurl.com/y72v4zp9>

*If you missed this event, don't worry! You can catch the recording on our [Facebook group](#).*



### MONDAY 29 JUNE - 11AM

Join our Youth Ambassador Will for a special 'Make it' session on our Learn to Love Nature Facebook group as he demonstrates how to create a virtual placard with a powerful message ahead of the lobby. He'll also show you how to make your placards into a personalised background which can be used in your Zoom call with your MP.

**Join:** [www.facebook.com/groups/learntolovenature](http://www.facebook.com/groups/learntolovenature)

### TUESDAY 30 JUNE - JOIN THE VIRTUAL LOBBY

Once you've signed up, you'll receive a link to join the main event. You can also join the Facebook group for your local area to connect with other lobbyists in your community: [www.facebook.com/pg/theclimatecoalition/groups](http://www.facebook.com/pg/theclimatecoalition/groups).



### OPINION PIECE

Hear from teacher Sandra Laville who attended the event last year on why the lobby is so important: [www.theguardian.com/thetimeisnow](http://www.theguardian.com/thetimeisnow)