

AVERTING DANGEROUS CLIMATE CHANGE



We're pushing UK governments and businesses for the strongest ambition and measures to decarbonise, to help tackle the climate emergency.

2021-22 TARGET

We'll press the UK government to commit to making it mandatory for UK-regulated financial institutions to publish their plans for aligning with the Paris Agreement.

The finance sector could be make or break for reaching net zero – because of who they lend to or where they invest our pension savings. So if we can align the sector with net zero and change what gets financed, we can encourage economic activity that benefits our planet – rather than harming it.

We saw a huge breakthrough in this area at the UN climate summit in Glasgow (known as COP26) when Rishi Sunak, as chancellor, committed to creating the world's first net-zero finance centre in the UK and to requiring UK financial institutions and listed companies to publish net-zero transition plans. This development has moved the debate on private sector action on net zero from aspiration to implementation.

It was a big win for us: it follows almost two years of coordinated action across civil society, industry, regulators and government. Our work this year to influence this breakthrough included publishing research (*Turning blue chips green*) which found three quarters of the UK's biggest firms had not published clear climate target plans. Our findings strengthened the case for regulation.

We continued to work alongside our NGO partners to push the UK government to commit to creating a Paris-aligned finance sector. We also co-published a policy position piece with our partner Aviva, outlining our joint call to the UK government, and we engaged directly with government officials. And we worked with others in industry to demonstrate to the chancellor the business support for mandatory disclosure of transition plans and a demand for guidance on how this would be achieved.

In recognition of our role supporting the COP26 commitment, we were invited to join the Transition Plan Taskforce – a multi-stakeholder group set up to develop a gold standard for transition plans.

Our achievements against this target were helped by more than 36,000 of our supporters who emailed their MPs to demand that the government keeps its climate promises.

2021-22 TARGET

We'll continue to advocate for the UK to apply a net-zero test to public spending. We'll publish and apply a pilot net-zero test.

If we're to have a prosperous future that protects climate and nature, it's essential to ensure UK government public spending aligns with its net-zero climate targets. At WWF, we've developed a 'net-zero test' for the UK Treasury to apply to its Budgets and Spending Reviews, to assess if government tax and spending packages will help us achieve our climate targets.

This year, we developed a framework for the test, so it can model the emissions impacts of different spending commitments, such as green infrastructure and clean energy. In autumn, we applied the test to the March 2021 Budget and published a report on the results, demonstrating that the Budget contained just £145 million of spending on climate positive policies, versus over £40 billion on policies that will increase emissions. Our report generated strong media interest.

We then applied the test to the Autumn Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review, demonstrating that the overall package was insufficient to get the UK on track for net zero. Following responses to the Comprehensive Spending Review consultation, including from us, the government committed to investing £116 billion in green priorities, in line with our recommendation.



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We secured cross-party parliamentary support for the test, with endorsement from the Environmental Audit Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and key parliamentary champions. The Treasury also acknowledged the case for a net-zero test in its Net Zero Review; and its Net Zero Strategy referenced the need to ensure spending decisions are informed by their impact on net zero.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC), which advises the government on emissions targets, recommended introducing a net-zero test as a priority for the UK government three times during the year. Its most recent progress report referenced our work, as did the Institute for Government's report on a net-zero test, along with industry bodies such as Energy UK.

2021-22 TARGET

We'll influence the UK government's climate commitments at the UN climate summit in Glasgow.

The COP26 climate summit in Glasgow was a critical opportunity for the UK, as president and host, to demonstrate leadership and secure the action needed to help prevent climate breakdown. While the overall outcome was disappointing, the resulting Glasgow Climate Pact represents significant progress from previous agreements – especially in its formal recognition of the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature if we're to achieve the Paris Agreement goals.

In the run-up to the summit, we launched our We Won't Forget campaign, through which 36,000 of our supporters contacted their MPs, calling on them to keep the climate promises they've made.

We engaged with the UK government's COP26 team to input into their strategies and activities in the run-up to Glasgow, and called on them to show global leadership. And we worked with allies and partners to press for our priorities, such as the need to better integrate nature in the climate negotiations process.

Negotiators from the UK stated that WWF-UK played a key role in securing positive outcomes on nature in the Glasgow Climate Pact – especially through the concrete proposals we shared for the text. Three of our proposals appeared in the final Pact wording: recognising nature as key to keeping 1.5°C within reach; requesting countries to better include nature in their national climate plans and policies; and creating a new dialogue on oceans and climate change.

We capitalised on the strength of our international WWF network to ensure key countries signed up to the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests. The declaration is a commitment to reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030; it has now been signed by more than 140 presidents and prime ministers, including from Brazil, China and Indonesia. The countries represent over 85% of the world's forests. This is a significant achievement that paves the way for greater collective and individual action from countries on ending deforestation. WWF was also instrumental in establishing the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue (see page 23 for more details).

2021-22 TARGET

We'll influence the UK government's vision for UK food and farming to ensure it's compatible with a 1.5°C future. We'll identify emissions targets and develop plans to meet them.

More than 70% of the UK's land area is farmed in some way, and our agriculture sector is responsible for 11% of UK domestic emissions, so solutions that encourage a transition to net zero in the farming sector are crucial.

This year we developed a nature-positive pathway to decarbonise UK agriculture and land use. We mapped this out in our *Land of Plenty* report, which we published in February. It forms the foundation of our work to secure a shared vision – with the UK governments, farmers and others – for landscapes that will support the UK's target of keeping 1.5°C alive.

Our pathway outlines how to cut emissions from UK agriculture by at least 35% by 2030 (from 2018 levels) and turn UK land into a net carbon sink by 2040, while supporting farmers to shift to regenerative approaches, restore carbon-rich habitats and reduce methane emissions.

We demonstrated that we're at the heart of the sustainable food and farming debate, with our chief executive, Tanya Steele, presenting the report at the Oxford Farming Conference. The government department in charge of net zero (BEIS) put our work on its 'key reading' list, alongside the National Farmers' Union's net-zero pathway.

As we developed the pathway, we commissioned a series of sessions to gather views from 142 members of the public from all walks of life to inform our approach. They joined experts to discuss the food, climate and nature challenges facing UK land use – building a picture both locally and nationally. And, as you'll see on page 21, we brought together the chief executives of five major retailers to press the government to deliver an ambitious agricultural policy.

Our pressure on the Scottish Government contributed to more ambitious commitments to reducing emissions from agriculture. WWF Scotland and WWF Cymru successfully secured key food commitments in party manifestos; in Scotland this delivered a new Good Food Nation Act.

OUR 2022-23 PRIORITIES INCLUDE

We'll continue to work with the farming sector and influence the vision and policies of the UK governments on land use and agriculture to ensure they are compatible with a 1.5°C and nature positive future.

We'll influence the COP27 climate negotiations, working with WWF colleagues across the network to get sustainable food systems on the agenda.

We'll influence transition plans in the finance sector, ensuring there are robust standards for climate and nature and a strong legal and regulatory framework.