



## SUPPORTER GUIDE - GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

This September, tens of thousands of people will be coming together for the [Great Big Green Week](#), the biggest week of action on climate and nature ever seen in the UK. Great Big Green Week is a unique and special occasion - **both a celebration of nature and an expression of democracy**, with thousands of people engaging their elected representatives in calling for the UK government to lead by example and lead the world on climate change and nature.

Our task is urgent, and your voice matters. During Great Big Green Week, and ahead of COP26, we're committed to making sure you're heard. The purpose of this briefing is to enable you to prepare for, and get the most out of, your meeting with your MP.

### The Basics - What Are We Discussing?

**We are urging the Prime Minister, and the entire UK Government, to lead by example and lead the world on climate change and nature:**

#### Lead on the world stage:

1. **Climate:** Take unprecedented action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees
2. **Nature:** Rapidly escalate the protection and restoration of nature globally
3. **People:** Significantly increase international financial support to communities on the frontline of the climate crisis to adapt to climate change and manage loss and damage.

#### Lead by example:

1. **Climate:** Stop new fossil fuel projects at home and abroad - (this must include current proposed projects in the Cambo Oil field, the Cumbrian Coal mine and the Horse Hill oil development - and make all UK finance decisions support climate commitments
2. **Nature:** Urgently rescue carbon stores like ancient peat and woodland and set strict targets in law to begin to reverse nature loss by 2030.
3. **People:** Spearhead the long-term economic recovery from COVID-19 by investing to create 1.8 million green jobs in renewable energy, green homes, clean transport and nature protection in the next 3 years.

You can find more detailed information on these talking points [here](#).



## What can I ask my MP to do?

There are a number of ways MPs can raise these issues in parliament:

- Ask a minister an oral question: Government ministers are obliged to take questions from MPs in Parliament approximately every 6 weeks when Parliament is sitting. Your MP could ask for example, what Rishi Sunak is doing to support climate finance for developing countries
- Raise the Glasgow Action Plan with ministers: Whether by letter or Parliamentary Question, raise the six-point Glasgow Action Plan with the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the President Designate of COP26 before Great Big Green Week.

## How do I organise a meeting with my MP?

Here is our simple step-by-step guide to meet your MP:

### **Step 1: Invite your MP to a meeting during Great Big Green Week**

First up, you need to contact your MP. To do this, **simply head on over to our [website](#)**, type in your postcode, make the message your own, add in your personal details and then it will be sent straight to your MP's inbox. Easy!

Alternatively, you can get in touch directly. You can find out who your MP is by searching your postcode [here](#), and then emailing or calling their office.

### **Step 2: Invite others to join you**

By inviting others to join in, you can show your MP that they will get support locally if they take action on climate change and nature's decline. You can invite friends, family, neighbours, or members of a local community group you're part of!

You can also use our Facebook groups to find others in your constituency to see if anyone else has contacted your MP. **You can find your region [here](#).**

### **Step 3: Follow up with your MP**

Once you've emailed your MP, you should receive an automatic reply confirming that it has



been received and a time frame for when they will reply (usually 1-2 weeks, but it can be longer).

If your MP doesn't get back to you within the time frame, **it's always worth a follow-up email or phone call**. Sometimes emails get lost in inboxes, or their offices are dealing with a lot of enquiries. You can find your MP's contact details by putting in your postcode [here](#)

#### **Step 4: Confirm your meeting**

Once your meeting is in the diary, it's time to spread the word and **add your meeting to our [Great Big Green Map](#)**.

Simply register for an account [here](#) and then follow the simple steps to add your meeting to the map. Make sure to include your email address in the event description so that others in your community can contact you for the details to join. If you haven't already, invite others in your area to join you (step 2).

#### **Step 5: Prepare for the meeting**

For some, speaking to your MP can be intimidating - but remember, they work for you! Our wonderful friends at Hope for the Future have organised a number of training sessions in September to explain everything you need to make your meeting as productive as possible. You can find out more details [here](#).

Some tips to prepare for everything:

- **Find out what your MP is interested in.** You and your MP may not agree on everything, but it's better to focus on finding common ground rather than starting with the areas you disagree on. Google your MP to find out if they're interested in any particular issues related to climate or nature, or if your area could benefit from investment as part of a green and fair recovery.
- **Hold a pre-meeting.** If you're the host of an event, or know others who plan to attend, why not organise a meeting in advance to discuss your strategy? You could decide who will be chair, as well as who could be those who could talk about climate change and nature's decline locally
- **Suggested agenda**
  - Introductions (if there are 10 people or less). Let the MP know your name, what area you live in, and any community based roles you play.
  - What you're asking for (see Glasgow Action Plan above)



- Actions: What you want your MP to do
- Your MP's response: Give your MP a chance to respond
- Wrap up: Thank your MP, agree how you'll follow up

### Step 6: Meet your MP

Now it's time to meet your MP! The following are some tips to get the most out of your meeting:

- Be confident! When speaking to your MP, remember they're your representative. Tell them your personal story. What led you to feel passionately about this and why are you here today?
- You don't need to be an expert to have a voice on this issue.
- Make it local and personal - for example, how you have noticed the environment change in your own lifetime or during lockdown
- Be clear what you are asking them to commit to. Everyone likes to have a good conversation but ultimately we are here to ask our MPs to take action, so don't leave without getting some commitments (check out the 'What should I ask my MP to do?' section above for examples).

Tips if the meeting is online:

- If the meeting is online, make sure you're ready to join the call at least five minutes beforehand
- Have your video on when you join a meeting if possible. It's always nice if everyone can see each other, making it more personal.
- If your meeting is with lots of people, put yourself on 'mute'.
- When someone else is speaking, be sure to let them finish. If you want to respond immediately, you can use the chat function.
- If you want to say something, click on the 'Raise Hand' feature

### Step 7: Follow up with your MP

To be really effective, MPs need to consistently hear from constituents to ensure they are taking your concerns seriously and acting on them. After the meeting has finished, email them to remind them of what actions were agreed, and when you can meet again if a follow-up meeting was agreed.

Please also let us know how the meeting went! You can do this by contacting us at [campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org](mailto:campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org). Feel free to copy us into any correspondence.