



BRIEFING FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

www.greatbiggreenweek.com

The Great Big Green Week

The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Every year, people come together to show support for action to protect the planet, with over a quarter of a million people participating last year. In 2023, Great Big Green Week will take place between 10th and 18th June.

During Great Big Green Week, thousands of events organised by local groups will take place - from a repair cafe in Stratford-Upon-Avon, a butterfly safari in Norwich, and a Fairtrade fashion show in Melton Mowbray, to a cycling celebration in Richmond, quilting in Glamorgan, and a wind turbine tour in Reading.

About The Climate Coalition

Great Big Green Week is coordinated by [The Climate Coalition](#), which is the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action on climate change. Along with its sister organisations, Stop Climate Chaos Cymru and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, The Climate Coalition is a group of over 130 organisations - including the National Trust, Women's Institute, Oxfam and RSPB - and represents 22 million voices across the UK.

Public attitudes to climate change

The British public has never been so concerned about climate change and the destruction of nature. The range of activity happening during Great Big Green Week shows how much people across the UK are already doing locally to address these concerns, and their support for a safer, fairer and greener future.

New data published by The Climate Coalition recently shows that only a quarter (26%) of the UK public believe the Government has a plan and is capable of tackling climate change and the destruction of nature. The polling also found that nearly half (43%) of people in the UK are likely to lobby their MP or vote for a particular candidate to tackle climate change and protect nature, and that almost 60% think that tackling climate change should be one of the Government's biggest priorities at the moment.

Asks for MPs

Science tells us that this is a make-or-break decade for the planet we live on. Time is short, and this must be a decade of delivery. MPs can work to keep people safe, the climate stable, and nature protected by taking action in these key areas:





- **Climate:** Help keep your constituents warm every winter by signing the Warm This Winter MP Pledge and urging the Government to rapidly expand home retrofit schemes, support the swift deployment of homegrown renewables to speed up the net zero transition away from volatile fossil fuels, and provide further financial support to vulnerable households.
- **People:** Support the people hit hardest by climate disasters around the world by writing to the Prime Minister and asking him to increase and deliver the necessary mitigation and adaptation finance commitments, and ensure the Loss and Damage fund delivers for communities on the frontline of the climate crisis.
- **Nature:** Take action to Save Our Wild Isles by becoming a parliamentary nature champion and working to strengthen and enforce the protection and restoration of our precious natural habitats including ensuring that their many benefits are available to everyone and delivery is properly resourced.



Please find more information on each of these areas, and how you can support, below.

Climate

Since Spring 2022, the energy crisis has left millions of families facing strain. In partnership with the [Warm This Winter campaign](#), we are calling on the UK Government to provide further targeted emergency support for people struggling with their energy bills, as well as a coherent plan to move the UK away from volatile fossil fuels, through a national rollout of home insulation and affordable renewables, to bring down energy bills once and for all.

Whilst important steps have been taken, even with the extension of the government's Energy Price Guarantee, 7 million households spent the last winter in fuel poverty. The Government has an opportunity to tackle the root causes of this crisis head on by adopting sensible, economically credible measures, to protect households every winter.

By signing the Warm This Winter MP pledge at warmthiswinter.org.uk/mp-pledge, you can demonstrate your support for further action to tackle the energy bills crisis, by expanding home retrofit schemes, supporting the swift deployment of renewable energy, and providing more support to vulnerable households. These measures will help your constituents be warm every winter. If you'd like to add your name to the pledge, please get in touch with contact@warmthiswinter.org.uk. The Warm this Winter team can also provide pledge cards for photos and a list of other ways parliamentarians can support, including through backing priority amendments to the Energy Security Bill.

People

The world's richest countries and companies are responsible for the fossil fuel emissions driving the climate crisis, while countries that have contributed the least to the crisis are bearing the greatest brunt of its impacts. For example, the current catastrophic drought in East Africa has affected more than 40 million people, killed more than 13 million livestock and dried up thousands of hectares of crops. We are calling on the Government to:





- Increase the UK's contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in this vital second replenishment year, by committing at least £2.16bn over 4 years. The GCF is a cornerstone of fair and democratic climate finance governance and a strong UK pledge is important to demonstrate the UK Government's commitments to these important climate finance principles.
- Tax profits of fossil fuel companies to generate new and additional finance for loss and damage from climate change in climate vulnerable countries and support the adoption of a governing instrument for a global loss and damage fund at COP28. At COP27 the UK played a leading role in creating a new funding mechanism for loss and damage. "Loss and damage" refers to the consequences of climate change impacts which cannot be or have not been mitigated or adapted to. The UK should continue to drive this progress forward by ensuring that a global Loss and Damage Fund is agreed this year for the benefit of impacted communities on the frontline of the climate crisis.
- Play a positive role by increasing and delivering upon its climate finance commitments, increasing the share of funding for adaptation to countries and groups that are most affected but can least afford to address the climate crisis, and maintaining the UK's approach to provide majority grant-based finance. The UK needs to lead by example as in 2018 only 15% of climate financing went to LDCs and trends show that there is not enough climate finance available for adaptation.



MPs can support climate justice by writing to the Prime Minister to raise these issues, and ask that he takes action to support communities on the frontline of the climate crisis.

Nature

UK wildlife is amazing – but it's in crisis. We are one of the most nature depleted countries on earth. 38 million birds have vanished from our skies since 1970, we've lost 97% of our wildflower meadows since the 1930s, and a quarter of our mammals are at risk of extinction. We know that nature is fundamental to our way of life, yet we risk losing it for good if urgent action is not taken to reverse its decline.

The Sir David Attenborough narrated BBC Wild Isles series and [Saving our Wild Isles](#) documentary brought the wonders of UK nature to our screens, but also showed its vulnerability. Governments must take key actions to address the nature crisis. This includes restoring key habitats, strengthening existing protections for nature and providing the resources for public agencies to enforce them effectively. Farmers are also vital for the recovery of nature and governments must reward them properly for taking the right action for wildlife through effective policies and increased funding.

Parliamentarians can make a difference for nature by becoming a nature champion through the Save Our Wild Isles campaign, and respond to the recommendations of the [People's Plan for Nature](#). The People's Plan for Nature was created in collaboration with thousands of





people across the UK, and sets out a vision for the future of nature and the actions that we all need to take to protect and renew it. It calls for nature to be considered in decision-making at all levels, and for UK-wide and regional targets to increase biodiversity.

Other opportunities to support the Great Big Green Week

There are other ways that you can support The Great Big Green Week and show your constituents that you believe in a greener future:

- **Attend an event in your constituency** and hear why your constituents are taking action locally. You can find out what's happening in your constituency at greatbiggreenweek.com/find-an-event, or contact us for a list of activity.
- **Share your support on social media** by using the #GreatBigGreenWeek hashtag. There are some suggested tweets and images below.
- **Support local action and initiatives** to help your constituents reduce emissions, protect and restore nature, and support local people in the transition away from fossil fuels. Support specific projects locally by taking part, lobbying for resources and championing these both locally and in Parliament.



Suggested tweets

- This week, I'm joining my constituents to be part of #GreatBigGreenWeek, the biggest event for climate and nature in the UK. We are celebrating local action on climate change and nature in [insert constituency name].
- It's a make-or-break decade for the planet we live on. This #GreatBigGreenWeek I'm committing to take action on climate change and nature, for a safer, greener and more secure future for everyone.
- This #GreatBigGreenWeek I pledge to keep my constituents warm every winter and am urging the Government to expand home retrofit schemes, support homegrown renewables and provide further financial support to vulnerable households.
#WarmThisWinter
- The Government must take more action to #SaveOurWildIsles. I'm proud to sign up as a parliamentary nature champion this #GreatBigGreenWeek and support habitat restoration and greater protection for nature.
- Join me in calling on Prime Minister @RishiSunak during #GreatBigGreenWeek to #MakePollutersPay and support the people hit hardest by climate disasters around the world and ensure that the Loss and Damage Fund and climate finance delivers for communities around the world.

Accompanying images for social media posts can be found [here](#).

For more information, please visit <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/get-involved/mp/>, or get in touch with Hannah McLean-Knight at The Climate Coalition on hannah@theclimatecoalition.org.

