



# GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK 2023: WHAT YOUR MP CAN DO

Great Big Green Week will see people from all walks of life hosting events across the country to show that the UK public is passionate about tackling climate change and protecting nature. Not only is this week a chance to celebrate the communities everywhere already taking action, but it is also a significant moment in the year to raise our voices to influence and inspire local politicians to step up and take action for climate change and nature, too.



In this resource, you will find a breakdown of what we're asking MPs to do this Great Big Green Week to show their support for a cleaner, greener future. You can find the full briefing we are providing for MPs [here](#), which you can download to either print or email to your MP.

You can use these documents to learn a bit more about these asks and inform your conversations with your MP during the week, and ask your MP to support these actions.

## 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. There are a range of things that your MP can do to keep people safe, the climate stable, and nature protected. This Great Big Green Week, you can ask your MP to take action on climate, people and nature by taking these actions:

- **Climate:** Ask your MP to keep their constituents warm every winter by signing the [Warm This Winter MP Pledge](#).

Signing this pledge publicly shows their support for further action to tackle the energy bills crisis, through policies that will keep people warm every winter and bring down bills permanently. This includes expanding home retrofit schemes, which is the process of making changes to existing buildings so that energy consumption and emissions are reduced, such as installing insulation. The UK has some of the most leaky homes in Europe, which cost a lot more to heat. The Government should provide more funding for a national insulation programme to upgrade every home, starting with those hardest-hit. The soaring price of energy has left a fifth of households unable to afford to heat their homes adequately. The Government should support these people by providing additional financial support for energy bills to those who need it.

Homegrown renewable energy, like solar and onshore wind, is now significantly cheaper than gas, but they are not getting built because of blocks on the system. If the Government were to ramp up the amount of wind and solar energy being





developed, this would provide a cheaper, and more environmentally friendly, energy supply for everyone.

- **People:** Ask your MP to write to the Prime Minister and ask him to support the people hit hardest by floods, droughts and other climate disasters around the world by ensuring the necessary finance is delivered.

The world's richest countries and companies are responsible for the fossil fuels emissions that are driving the climate crisis, while people and countries that have contributed the least to the crisis are bearing the greatest brunt of its impacts. For example, there is currently a catastrophic drought in East Africa, which has affected more than 40 million people and dried up thousands of hectares of crops that millions of people are reliant on for their source of income, livelihood and food.

There are a number of ways that the UK Government can work to make sure that funds are delivered to people around the world. The 'Green Climate Fund' supports the efforts of lower- income countries in responding to the challenge of climate change. Later this year, there is an important pledging conference, in which richer countries will announce funding commitments to the Green Climate Fund. We would like to see the UK Government commit at least £2.16 billion to this fund over the next four years, as this will support people around the world and will signal the UK Government's commitment to climate justice.

Whilst climate change will affect all of us, by far the greatest impacts will be felt in some of the world's least developed nations. 'Loss and damage' refers to these consequences of climate change impacts, such as flooding caused by rising sea levels that damages properties, contaminates drinking water and spreads sickness and disease. The UK Government can generate additional funding for 'loss and damage' by increasing the taxation on fossil fuel companies. The UK should also use its influence to make sure that a global Loss and Damage Fund is agreed this year that builds upon recent progress made at COP26 and COP26.

- **Nature:** Ask your MP to take action to Save Our Wild Isles and become a parliamentary nature champion.

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.

MPs 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. For more information, check out this [additional resource](#) from WWF, which will provide you with everything you need to speak to your MP about these issues.

- **Support local initiatives:** Ask your MP to support local action and initiatives, such as what you're doing for Great Big Green Week, and to help constituents reduce emissions, protect and restore nature, and transition away from fossil fuels. Your MP can specific projects locally by taking part, lobbying for resources and championing these both locally and in Parliament. There are lots of ways that your MP can raise these issues in Parliament, such as writing to a Government Minister, asking a written and oral question, or speaking in a debate.

Local politicians represent you, your community and your needs. They are decision-makers and work alongside those who have the power to call for the funding and policy changes needed within councils, government and more, to fulfil your requests. Talking to your local representatives about climate change helps to provide them with a mandate to act and can help you achieve the change you want to see.

## Why it's important to talk to your MP

You have a powerful role to play in educating your Members of Parliament (MPs). You can inform them about local and national issues, as well as providing a constituency mandate for action - the more people that raise their voice, the more powerful the message. Local politicians often feel as though their constituents have a general concern about climate, but often little guidance as to what action voters would like to see. Your voice matters in translating this general message into tangible and concrete action that your MP can take.

Great Big Green Week is a great opportunity to invite your local politician to an event you're running or attending, or arrange a meeting with them to move climate change and the environment higher up their agenda. Meeting your local politician prior to Great Big Green





Week is a chance to tell them about all of the week's activities happening in your local area, and how much community support there is for local climate action, encouraging them to get involved.

You can find more information and guidance on engaging with your MP during Great Big Green Week in [this guide](#) created by Hope for the Future, and in additional resources [here](#).

