



# GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK 2023: FOLLOW UP WITH YOUR MP

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## OVERVIEW

Great Big Green Week 2023 was truly a national celebration of action to tackle climate change and protect nature, with thousands of events happening across the country in June. Community groups, councils, libraries, schools, places of worship and more got involved to call on our decision makers to take action now.

The week highlights just how many people care about these issues and want to create a cleaner, greener world. We need to keep up the pressure on our politicians to take action - **that's why we want you to talk to your MP about it.**

We're asking anyone who organised an event this year to email your MP to set up a meeting with them in September. These meetings will be a chance for you to talk about your Great Big Green Week events and the impact they have, local climate and environment initiatives your MP can support, and the action you want to see them taking nationally.

The more our MPs hear from us, the more climate and nature will rise up the Government's agenda. We want MPs to know about the success of Great Big Green Week, the impact your events had and show them just how many people are doing their bit and waiting for them to do the same.

## ARRANGING A MEETING WITH YOUR MP

We're asking everyone to email their MP at the end of August to set up a meeting with them in September. There are some dates during summer and autumn when MPs are not available - we've highlighted these dates below so you know when to email your MP and set up a meeting with them.

- **20th July - 4th September: House of Commons recess**





- **23rd September - 11th October: Party Conferences**

During these times, MPs often do not check or respond to emails, and do not have meetings with their constituents.

**We'd recommend setting up a meeting with your MP for between 4th - 23rd September, but you may find you have to set one up after the Party Conferences.**

**Here is an overview of the timings to be aware of:**

**July-August:** Prepare for talking to your MP about Great Big Green Week and climate change - you can find support further on in this document.

**September 1st onwards:** Email your MP to set up a meeting. If you don't know already, you can find out who your MP is and their contact details by [using this tool](#).

**4th September onwards:** MPs will return from recess on this date - if you have already emailed your MP, follow up with a phone call to confirm the meeting. You may be asked to give a short summary of the issue that you would like to raise so that your MP can be prepared. You should also say if you are planning to bring anyone else along to the meeting with you.

Ahead of setting up a meeting, you can prepare for contacting and talking to your MP using the following resources.

### **Email your MP - Template email**

Email your MP to set up a meeting with them. We recommend using our editable online template, but you can send the email yourself. Here is the content of the template email if you'd like to use it:

**Dear [Insert the name of your MP]**

*I am a constituent in [insert constituency]. I would like to meet with you to discuss why taking action on climate change is so important to me. In the Prime Minister's recent announcement he claimed that climate action lacks public consensus, but I want to meet so you can hear that in [insert constituency] this isn't true.*

*Earlier this year, I took part in the Great Big Green Week, along with hundreds and thousands of people in communities across the country, to show my support for a safer, greener future. From the 10th to 18th June, there was a brilliant national*





celebration of action to tackle climate change and protect nature, with events happening up and down the UK, including here in **[insert constituency]**.

**[Here, write about your involvement in Great Big Green Week. You can include details of the events you organised and/or attended, who else in your local area got involved, and taking action is important to you and your community. If your MP attended your event(s) or supported Great Big Green Week in some way, thank them for their involvement]**

Despite this collective show of support for action, alongside multiple polls showing public endorsement of climate policies, the UK government plans to weaken net zero policies.

It wasn't just in **[insert constituency]** that people took action during the Great Big Green Week. Residents in Kingston upon Thames were learning about the benefits of heat pumps; people were cleaning up the canal paths in Coventry; in Stokesley the community came together to make the area more wildlife friendly. People everywhere stepped up to show how much we care - about our communities, about our world, and about creating a more secure, greener future for all of us.

This outpouring of support shows that people across the country, including my fellow residents of **[insert constituency]**, want to see action now. And we don't believe it is a choice between paying our bills and protecting our planet - we believe there is an opportunity to do both.

Will you meet with me to hear more about local action being taken to stand up for nature and fight climate change, and have a conversation about the national action we need to see from the Government?

**[Add in the details for your meeting request here. Include the date and time you'd like to meet, if you'd like it to be virtual or in person, and if others in your community will/would like to attend]**

Please let me know if you are able to meet by responding to this email. I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely,

**[Your name/community group/etc]**





## PREPARE FOR YOUR MEETING

### Invite others along

**You don't have to meet with your MP on your own.** You might have attended an event with someone else, or organised an event with your local community group - invite them to come along to the meeting as well!

### Prepare information to share about your Great Big Green Week event

Part of this meeting with your MP will entail talking about Great Big Green Week. This could include an event that you attended, or an event that you organised, or both!

Gather information about the events - such as pictures, anecdotes from others who attended the events, any media coverage - and come prepared with points on why Great Big Green Week is so important for your community and for communities across the country. You might even want to prepare a case study of your Green Week events and experience!

The more our MPs hear about how many people care and take action during the week, the more it demonstrates the public mandate for action from the Government.

### Top tips for talking to your MP about climate change

We know many people are unsure about how worthwhile contacting their MP will be, and many feel daunted by the prospect of doing so. But, meeting your MP is an opportunity to see real, tangible action on climate change at a local and even national level.

We've put together some top tips to help you have a conversation about climate with your MP - **[read them here](#)**. It may also be useful to have a read through our guide for **[engaging with your MP on Great Big Green Week](#)**.

If you need further guidance, *[Hope for the Future](#)* is an organisation that exists to support you through the entire process of engaging your MP. It provides resources, training and more tailored support to make your engagement as meaningful as possible.

### Ask your MP to take action on climate change

There are a range of things that your MP can do to keep people safe, the climate stable, and nature protected. During Great Big Green Week, we asked MPs to take action to protect climate, people and nature by a number of actions.





- **Climate:** Ask your MP to keep their constituents warm every winter by signing the Warm This Winter MP Pledge.
- **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.
- **Nature:** Ask your MP to take action to Save Our Wild Isles and become a parliamentary nature champion.

**In this resource here,** you will find a breakdown of these asks, further information on them and links to any actions, so you can have meaningful conversations with your MP and ask them to take action.



## **AFTER YOUR MEETING**

Sending a follow up “thank you” will help build your relationship. Send an email or letter to your MP to thank them for attending a meeting with you. You should also remind them of any commitments they made, and ask them to keep you updated on any progress.

You might want to regroup to start thinking about opportunities where you might be able to get in with your MP again, maybe a follow up meeting or by staying in touch on social media. You also could think about other local initiatives or events that your MP could get involved with or attend - or even start thinking about how they can be involved in Great Big Green Week 2024!

Lastly, let us know how your meetings or interactions go by sending us an email at [contact@greatbiggreenweek.com](mailto:contact@greatbiggreenweek.com).

