

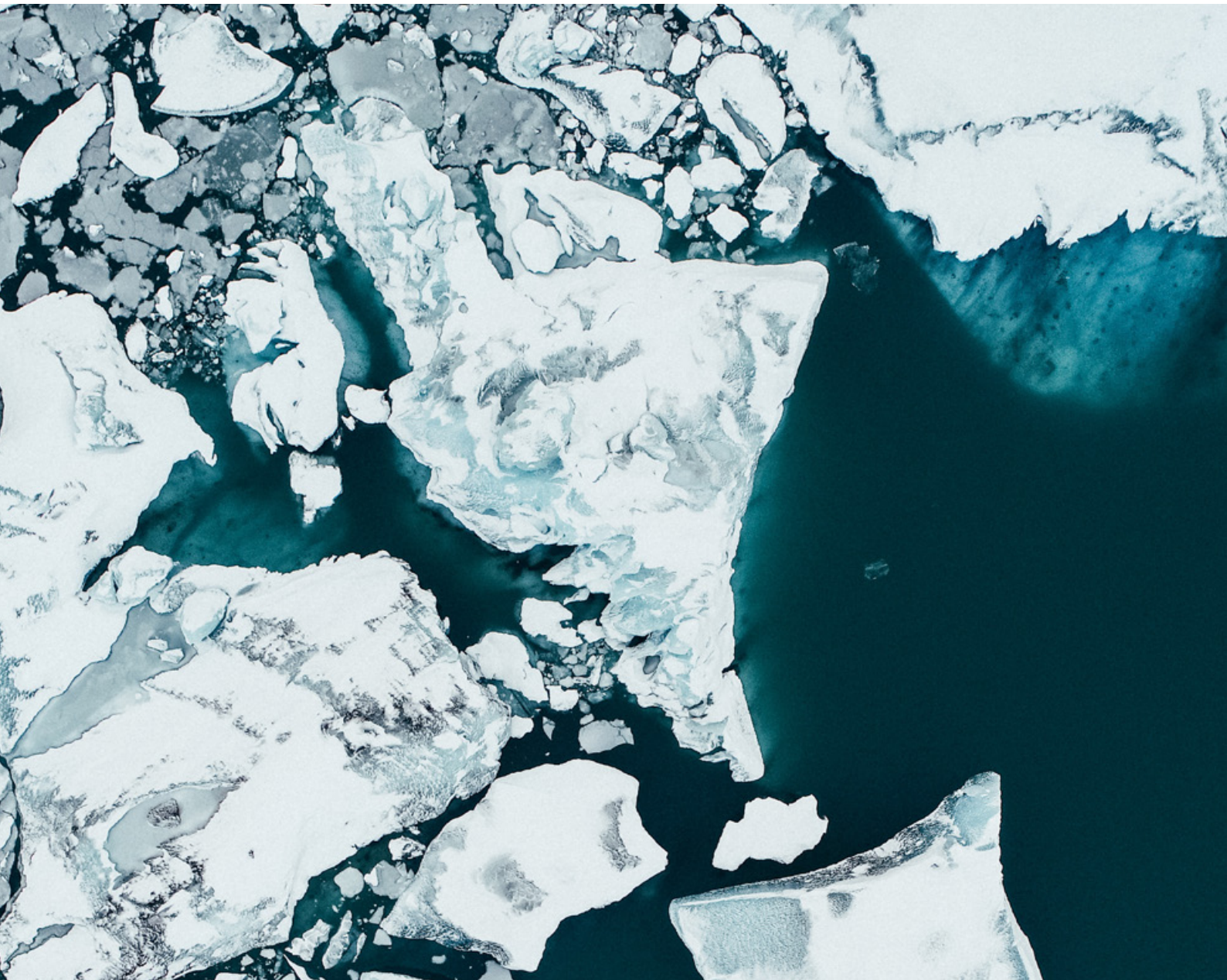


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ENVIRONMENT

Keeping 1.5 alive

Global goals for climate leadership at COP28



Foreword



Chris Skidmore MP
Chair of the
Environment APPG

When I was fortunate enough to sign the UK's net zero by 2050 commitment into law, we set the standard for international climate leadership. Our proud commitment was only feasible after all sides of our political spectrum came together to ensure the UK did its part in mitigating the worst of climate change. This climate leadership culminated in our hosting of COP26 in Glasgow, where we accomplished a negotiated phase down on coal power with 190 nations, which will result in the 76% reduction in planned new coal power plants. Thanks to UK leadership, over 40 countries declared their support for the joint statement on transitioning from coal to clean power sources.

Now it is important to double down on this leadership, to be both ambitious and tenacious in our journey towards net zero. We know delaying our energy transition could lead to UK debt being 23% of GDP higher by 2050, just as we know future generations cannot afford for us to delay our energy transition.

As UK parliamentarians, we have both the privilege and responsibility to galvanise the government to fight for the most ambitious climate solutions possible. We know these solutions are highly popular with the public, who expect their parliamentary representatives to be determined in the fight

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COP28 is the vital moment to take the next step forward from the Paris Agreement.”

against climate change. This year will mark seven years since the Paris Agreement, when 196 countries committed to reduce their emissions and work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change. With the goal to keep the rise in global average temperature limited to 1.5°C and well below 2°C, the window for achieving our Paris Agreement obligations is closing.

As Dubai hosts COP28, we are approaching a watershed moment: to have any ability to reach our 2050 transition obligations we must first reach our 2030 goals, both domestically and internationally. COP28 will also feature a Global Stocktake, which will tell negotiators just how far the international community is from limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Already we have seen increasingly intense weather disasters and wildfires decimating forests and wildlife crucial for carbon sequestration, with both record floods and droughts becoming more frequent. Dubai COP28 is, therefore, the vital moment to take the next step forward from the Paris Agreement, to answer how the global climate community and representatives of the COP process will respond to a failure to deliver the required action as set out in their National Determined Contributions. Enforcement of Nationally Determined Contributions must be a preeminent theme throughout early December 2023, as our tenacity for achieving our existing climate goals must match our ambition for setting new goals.

That is why the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Environment is calling for a set of nine ambitious goals for COP28, set out in this publication. These will be a good step forward to meet our necessary climate obligations. The world cannot wait for less than this as time ticks down towards 2030 and 2050, we must look to Dubai as the moment to take the next bold step forward.

The Environment APPG’s nine global goals for climate leadership at COP28

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| 1 | Get the loss and damage fund up and running as soon as possible |
| 2 | Reach consensus on phasing out fossil fuels |
| 3 | Triple renewable energy by 2030 |
| 4 | Double investment in energy efficiency by 2030 |
| 5 | Reduce resource use to address the climate crisis |
| 6 | Transform land use to end deforestation and boost food security |
| 7 | Withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty |
| 8 | Set the gold standard for international marine protection |
| 9 | Follow through on the Global Methane Pledge to ensure the 2030 targets are met |

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The UK must be a climate champion, helping to create consensus around the solutions needed

What is COP28 and why does it matter?

The COP28 climate summit will bring together global leaders and negotiators in December 2023 to discuss the next stage of internationally agreed action on the climate emergency. The conference - known in full as the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - will be a vital moment in efforts to align international work on reducing global warming, as the world heads towards urgent milestones that must be met if wide scale climate-related damage and deaths are to be reduced.

In 2015, at COP21, the Paris Agreement was adopted. It is legally binding and commits signatories to limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, a pledge reinforced in more recent UN climate summits. This requires global emissions to be reduced by 45% by 2030, with net zero reached by 2050. Seven years have passed since the 2015 agreement and seven years remain to turn the 2030 target into a reality. We are at the halfway point.

What must the UK do at COP28?

COP28 needs ambition and leadership, especially from high-emitting countries like the UK. The UK must be a climate champion, helping to create consensus around the solutions needed to tackle the climate crisis, recognising they must be equitable solutions to support nations in the Global South.

The Environment APPG has identified nine priorities for Climate Minister Graham Stuart and the UK delegation. By pushing other countries towards agreement on these important goals, and demonstrating that the UK is taking action, we can ensure that COP28 keeps the aspiration of 1.5 alive.



Global goals for
climate leadership
at COP28

1

Get the loss and damage fund up and running as soon as possible

Many countries are already facing the reality of climate change, with wildfires, flooding and other extreme weather events resulting in tragic deaths and catastrophic damage to ecosystems, infrastructure and economies. While these disasters are largely fuelled by emissions created by wealthier nations, the impacts are felt most keenly by countries from the Global South, which struggle to find sufficient resources to respond.

At COP27 in 2022, parties agreed to create a loss and damage fund to ensure communities on the frontline can mitigate against climate impacts and adapt. One year on, the loss and damage committee is due to report to COP28 on how that fund will be structured. Following this, urgent action must be taken to make the fund operational and effective as soon as possible, so it can support those nations which increasingly need financial aid to cope with climate disasters.

"The climate crisis is moving faster than our response to it, and communities and ecosystems all over the globe are reeling from the catastrophic consequences of inaction.

Every increment of warming will result in loss and damage, especially to the most vulnerable countries and communities, most of which have contributed little to causing the problem.

Substantial new funding pledges, including from the UK, will therefore be required at COP28 to make the loss and damage fund operational and effective."

Angela Francis
Director of policy solutions
at WWF

"A serious commitment to climate finance for loss and damage at this year's COP28 conference is absolutely essential to support individuals who are made refugees in their own country as a result of extreme weather events.

It is thought there will be 1.2 billion climate refugees in the next 25 years, with the impacts of climate change worsening, acting now is the only viable option."

Afzal Khan MP



2

Reach a consensus on phasing out fossil fuels

At every COP, parties have struggled over the extent of their commitment to phasing out fossil fuels. Agreements have focused on coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel, and wording has tended towards phasing 'down' not 'out'. This needs to change.

Last year, at COP27, a coalition of over 80 countries pushed for previous language on coal phase out to be expanded to include all fossil fuels, including oil and gas. In Dubai, countries like the UK must make this happen. We need to see a clear roadmap to a rapid and equitable phase out of fossil fuels. By consigning all fossil fuels to history, COP28 can be a defining moment in global action for people and the planet.

"Shifting our economies away from fossil fuels is the most urgent climate action we can take to build a more resilient, clean and efficient economy.

At Climate Group, we work with hundreds of major companies that are already committed to using 100% renewable electricity. Governments at all levels can support businesses that are already investing in the clean transition to go all-in on climate action by committing to phase out fossil fuels at COP28".

Helen Clarkson
Chief executive,
The Climate Group

"The importance of securing a rapid, fair and global phase out of fossil fuels at COP28 cannot be overstated. I'm urging the prime minister to seize this opportunity to show strong climate leadership on the world stage, and work with international allies to secure this agreement, otherwise our chance to keep global heating below 1.5oC will be in serious jeopardy."

Caroline Lucas MP



3

Triple renewable energy capacity by 2030

Meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement will be impossible without shifting from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. To drive this, global renewable energy capacity must triple by 2030, compared to current levels, to avoid around seven billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions before the end of the decade.

Whilst ambitious, this goal is entirely within reach. In 2023, renewable power capacity will have its largest ever annual increase, equal to the total power output of China and the United States. G20 leaders have already agreed to pursue a tripling of renewable capacity but, at COP28, firm commitments must be made to reach this goal, followed by action to roll-out investment and develop new wind and solar projects.

"The Environment APPG's 'Keeping 1.5 alive' goals are a clear cut checklist for the PM to take to the COP28 UAE negotiating table.

I give my personal backing to this target. Tripling renewables will provide a clear signal to businesses and innovators globally that the UK is still in the race, and a clear political commitment will allow us to seize the net zero opportunity with both hands."

Chris Skidmore MP



4

Double investment in energy efficiency by 2030

Alongside accelerating renewables, global leaders must make significant investment in energy efficiency measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed worldwide. Not only will this reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will also cut consumer energy bills and tackle the myriad health issues caused by cold homes.

This agenda has already been championed this year by the EU's Ursula von de Leyen, UAE's Sultan Al-Jaber, Kenya's William Ruto and Barbados' Mia Mottley. Almost 50 governments, including the UK, have signed the Versailles Statement, which committed to doubling energy efficiency. At COP28, these countries must rally all parties to make the commitment universal, while understanding that different countries must take different approaches to meeting the target.

"Reaching net zero is only cost effective with energy efficiency. Unfortunately, policy has not been sufficiently consistent to give enough householders the comfort and bill savings that come from warmer homes. We must invest now - in heating system and network efficiency as well as building fabric - to ensure households and businesses see direct benefits of the green transition, and that we secure the full potential of the net zero compatible technologies on the market today."

Simon Harpin,
head of policy at BEAMA

"A global drive to boost energy efficiency, particularly in homes, is vital. The benefits of this investment will be myriad: vulnerable families will be helped out of fuel poverty, fewer health problems will be caused by cold homes, and we'll keep our net zero hopes of only 1.5 degrees of global warming alive."

Deidre Brock MP



5

Reduce resource use to address the climate crisis

We cannot keep global warming within 1.5°C unless how we use Earth's resources is addressed. Resource extraction and processing, including food, fuel and raw materials, is responsible for 90 per cent of global biodiversity loss and 50 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. With only seven years left to meet 2030 targets, global leaders must focus on the quick big wins. Improving resource efficiency by reducing the use of all materials and then reusing or recycling them is an under recognised route to lowering carbon emissions fast.

The need to use critical raw materials, like cobalt, lithium and rare earth elements, much more carefully is vital to getting the green transition right. For example, lithium is a necessary component of rechargeable batteries and will be increasingly needed in the transition to wholly electrical power. But there is only a finite amount and most batteries are not currently recycled, wasting this precious resource. World leaders must recognise the need to urgently address the problems around critical raw material supply and invest time, political energy and money in the solutions.

"There is an urgent need to speed up the pace of change and find innovative ways to implement solutions to climate change. Veolia's purpose is 'ecological transformation' and we are committed to reducing carbon emissions and prioritising processes which protect the Earth's precious resources.

This year's COP conference should focus on enabling the biggest levers of change to reduce emissions and support investment in the world's green economies."

Estelle Brachlianoff
Chief executive, Veolia

"We can't afford for another year of COP negotiations to go by without recognition of the impact resource use has on our planet.

If we act fast to tackle resource use and focus on reusing and recycling materials, we can, in turn, lower carbon emissions to meet 2030 targets."

Baroness Young of Old Scone



6

Transform land use to end deforestation and boost food security

How we feed the world's population has a huge impact on climate change and the natural environment. Intensive animal agriculture is not only inefficient, it also harms our most precious natural assets like the Amazon rainforest, where trees are still being felled to make way for crops.

Previous pledges to end deforestation have meant little in practice. Despite the 2021 Glasgow Declaration to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030, deforestation surged in 2022, driven by land clearance for farming. Ahead of COP28, the UAE presidency called on countries to align their national food systems with their commitments on emissions reduction and climate adaptation. That call must be answered with serious systems level change to prevent disruption to food supplies from extreme weather and to produce food alongside nature protection and climate change mitigation.

"The world's rainforests contain more animal and plant species than any other ecosystem, together with vital stores of carbon, yet the demand for agricultural and forest commodities is driving deforestation and habitat conversion.

Regenerative agriculture and sustainable supply chains for commodities like palm oil are already showing the way forward for ending this destruction. So, at COP28, we are calling for a commitment from the world's governments to end deforestation and conversion, create global sustainable food systems and recover the rainforests of the world before it is too late."

Jamie Christon
Chief executive, Chester Zoo

"The UK government passed world-leading legislation in the Environment Act to tackle deforestation in our supply chains. Now the UK must use its influence on the global stage to ensure all countries are committed to ending deforestation."

Selaine Saxby MP



7

Withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty

Originally intended to encourage international investments in former Soviet states, the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) is now actively preventing climate action. It has 56 signatories, including the UK, but states like the Netherlands, Germany, France and Spain are set to withdraw due to concerns that the charter is incompatible with the Paris Agreement.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has been clear that the ECT is blocking climate action. The only part of the charter that remains active allows foreign fossil fuel companies to sue countries who pass laws that restrict their activities. In Italy, a UK oil and gas firm was recently awarded £210 million in compensation after offshore oil drilling was banned. Due to fear of these lawsuits, governments back away from legislating on fossil fuel phase out. To remain a signatory of the ECT, while reckoning with climate disaster, is incomprehensible and must end.

"COP28 will be a key milestone for leaders to step up climate ambition and shift energy systems and subsidies away from fossil fuels. To be able to align international climate and trade policies with domestic goals, it is time for the UK to join several other countries, including France, Spain and the Netherlands, and withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty. We are calling on the UK government to announce its withdrawal at COP28."

Laura Clarke
Chief executive, ClientEarth



8

Set the gold standard for international marine protection

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) is a UK overseas territory, made up of a group of islands with no permanent population, located more than 1,050 miles from the tip of South America in the South Atlantic Ocean. These islands are potentially the single largest concentration of marine species in the world, it is home to 95% of the world's population of Antarctic fur seals and the world's largest colony of chinstrap penguins. The UK government counts all SGSSI waters over one million square kilometres as a marine protected area (MPA). However, only 23% is currently off limits to commercial extraction. In the remaining waters, industrialised krill fishing is legal, which undermines protections according to international standards.

The SGSSI government is reviewing the MPA with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office at the end of 2023, meaning there is one chance, ahead of the next general election, to significantly increase the protection of marine species found on the islands. To demonstrate its protection of overseas territories, the UK must use this review opportunity to enhance the environmental protection of SGSSI.

"The health of our seas and the marine life that depends on it is often sidelined in climate conversations. We see some great actions and projects led by our coastal communities and I sense the public is way ahead of politicians in their thinking on ocean protection and environmental wellbeing.

It is vital that this year's COP recognises the important role our ocean plays in tackling the climate emergency.

Working with industry to enhance our marine protected areas, both at home and internationally, would show true leadership".

Douglas Chapman MP

"Rising temperatures and overfishing continue to threaten our marine life, but boosting marine protections, across the overseas territories and in areas like South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, could turn the tide for our blue planet. COP28 is a key moment for the UK government to step up and show it is serious about protecting this natural treasure and supporting ocean recovery."

Sandy Luk
Chief executive, Marine Conservation Society



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Follow through on the Global Methane Pledge to ensure 2030 targets are met

Methane is a powerful but short-lived greenhouse gas, which accounts for around a quarter of the net rise in global average temperature since the pre-industrial era. Rapidly reducing methane emissions in sectors like energy, agriculture and waste is an incredibly effective strategy for keeping global warming within 1.5°C. The Global Methane Pledge was launched at COP26 in 2021 and commits 150 countries to reducing methane emissions by 30%, compared to 2020 levels, by 2030. Very few signatories, including the UK, have taken the necessary action to meet this goal.

As a signatory to the pledge, the UK must show leadership, taking concrete actions to lower its emissions at home and support other countries to do the same. That means implementing easy changes right now, like supporting farmers to use methane suppressing feed for livestock; ending routine venting and flaring of methane in the North Sea (as Norway did 50 years ago); and requiring landfill operators to capture 80% of methane emissions. This is straightforward and achievable climate action, as relatively low cost interventions could bring down UK methane emissions by 43% by 2030.

"As a leading resource and waste management business, we know how important it is to reduce methane emissions if we want to meet our global climate goals. That's why FCC Environment has pledged to achieve 85% methane capture by 2030.

Governments must take action themselves, as well as working with methane-producing sectors like ours, to ensure the Global Methane Pledge translates into action before it is too late."

Paul Taylor
Chief executive, FCC Environment

"Methane has 80 times the warming effect of CO₂, so it is essential that the Global Methane Pledge becomes more than just words on a page.

For the UK, this means we need a ban on oil and gas flaring and venting in the North Sea, and leadership to help other countries take similar steps."

Wera Hobhouse MP



About the Environment All-Party Parliamentary Group

The Environment APPG was established to strengthen the influence of parliamentarians on public policy and provide a forum for debate, as well as access to specialist information. Its activities span across three broad themes: climate and energy, waste and resources, and the natural environment.

The chair of the group is Chris Skidmore MP, and the secretariat is provided by Green Alliance. Its membership is made up of parliamentarians from the House of Commons and House of Lords, as well as businesses and charities as APPG associate members.

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either house or its committees.

All-Party Parliamentary Groups are informal groups of members of both houses with a common interest in particular issues.

The views expressed in this report are those of the Environment APPG.

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