



Clara Goldsmith
The Climate Coalition
Romero House
55 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7JB

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

15th June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

As the UK recovers from this global health crisis, focus will turn to how we build back better and forge an economy that is more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

We commend the approach set out in the video address, given on your behalf by the Foreign Secretary, at the Petersberg Climate Dialogue, when he said: *"It will be the duty of every responsible government to see that our economies are revived and rebuilt in a way that will stand the test of time. That means investing in industries and infrastructure that can turn the tide on climate change."*

We agree that we are at a crucial juncture in history when the actions taken now to respond to the pandemic and rebuild our economies will determine whether humanity succeeds in our goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, halt and reverse the decline of nature and eradicate poverty. Only then can we build the prosperous and just net-zero future envisioned in the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

A resilient economic recovery will only be possible with a just, sustainable and clean energy transition at its core. Both public and private sector investment will play a critical role in forging the recovery and policies are also needed to accelerate investment in the energy and wider net-zero transition. This is a unique moment for the UK Government to future-proof the UK economy by unleashing investment in the net-zero transition, protecting nature and improving the quality of people's lives.

Recovery is also a chance for the government to 'level-up'; creating a more equitable society whilst accelerating the net-zero transition. This includes boosting employment in clean energy industries in the areas of greatest need, helping affected workers move to new green jobs and ensuring the most vulnerable at home and abroad are not left behind.

This crisis has also laid bare the fundamental connection between healthy, flourishing and productive communities and thriving ecosystems. The degradation of the natural world is both increasing pandemic risk and driving climate change. Restoring nature and robust environmental protection will help build resilience and reduce the risk of future global health and economic shocks. Many have also found personal resilience through engagement with nature. The natural world is a precious asset upon which our survival depends and our response to this crisis must take account of its significant value.

As you begin the process of planning the economic recovery, we enclose our 'Plan for a Green, Fair and Healthy Recovery', which sets out our recommendations for some of the policies needed to forge a resilient and inclusive net-zero economic recovery. We set out seven priority areas for action:

1. Turbocharge a more productive, inclusive and resilient economy by **prioritising and increasing public capital investment, training and reskilling in renewable energy, energy efficiency and zero carbon transport infrastructure**, creating over 100,000 clean energy jobs in the areas of greatest need.
2. **Accelerate private sector investment in the net-zero transition**, including by setting up a Climate Infrastructure Bank, increasing financial powers for local authorities and developing a Climate Finance Plan.
3. **Set the economic policy foundation for a sustainable recovery** by adopting a new economic rule to ensure the UK economic recovery plan, public spending and taxation get us on track to net-zero and 1.5°C & ensure all bailouts for business are conditional on plans and action to do the same.
4. **Prioritise investment in the transition to a UK land use and farming system that delivers for nature, climate and human health** by protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, on land and at sea. Future UK trade deals must support this transition.
5. Enhance global leadership on climate action by **aligning all UK public finance abroad with a just energy transition**, ending fossil fuel finance and helping developing countries to transition or leapfrog to sustainable renewable and efficient energy instead, with energy access for all.
6. **Build a resilient, sustainable and inclusive global recovery by strengthening international support for the most vulnerable countries and communities worldwide.** The UK must support debt relief to enable developing countries already drowning in debt to tackle both the COVID-19 and climate crises, as well as champion significantly increased grant-based climate finance for impacted communities.
7. **Engage with the international community to halt and rapidly reverse the decline of biodiversity and nature globally**, given nature's vital role in limiting catastrophic climate change, ensuring future generations' ability to produce food, to have enough water, to remain healthy, and to thrive.

As leading civil society organisations, we ask you to set up a high level committee, led by a Minister, to work with civil society to discuss these priorities and our detailed recommendations. We would also like to meet with you to discuss them.

Next year, the UK will host the UN Climate Summit, COP26, to deliver a strong global lead on climate action. The best way to show this leadership is to put resilience at the heart of our economic recovery by accelerating the transition to net-zero, restoring nature and supporting the most vulnerable at home and overseas. By doing so, the UK Government can help to forge a brighter and more resilient future. It is time for decisive action to deliver economic renewal and we are committed to working with you to achieve it.

Yours sincerely,

The Climate Coalition

Clara Goldsmith
Campaigns Director, TCC

Jo Lewis
Director of Strategy, Soil
Association

Lauren MacCallum
Manager, Protect our Winters

Jacqueline Bourne
CEO, One World Voice

Melissa Green
General Secretary, WI

Christine Allen
CEO, CAFOD

Tom Ballantine
Chair, Stop Climate Chaos
Scotland

Darren Moorcroft
CEO, Woodland Trust

Barbara Davies-Quy
Kevin Rahman-Daultrey
Co-chairs, Stop Climate Chaos Cymru

John Sauven
CEO, Greenpeace

Max Wakefield
Director of campaigns,
Possible

Danny Sriskandarajah
CEO, OXFAM

Miriam Turner and Hugh Knowles
Co-CEOs, FOE

Tanya Steele
Chief Executive, WWF UK

Tufail Hussain,
Director, Islamic Relief UK

Amanda Mukwashi
CEO, Christian Aid

Nigel Harris
Chief Executive, Tearfund

Nick Mabey
CEO, E3G

Shaun Spiers
CEO, Green Alliance

Crispin Truman OBE
Chief Executive, CPRE

James Robinson
Conservation Director, WWT

Michael Gidney
Chief Executive, Fairtrade

Tim Wainwright
Chief Executive, WaterAid

Shane Holland
Executive Chairman, Slow Food

Dave Turnbull
CEO, BMC

William Eccles
CEO, The Commitment

Paul Chitnis
Director, Jesuit Missions

Jenny Carpenter and Craig Gamble-Pugh
Co-Chairs, Sheffield Climate Alliance

Beccy Speight
CEO, RSPB

Alana Sinclair
Manager, Cambridge Carbon
Footprint

Rachel Berger
Chair, Climate Friendly
Bradford on Avon

Andrew Copson
Chief Executive, Humanists UK

Jock Macdonald
Chair, Winchester Action on Climate
Change

Stuart Dawks
Interim CEO, PECT

Richard Benwell
CEO, Wildlife and Countryside
Link

Hugo Tagholm
CEO, Surfers against Sewage

Shanon Shah
Interim Network Coordinator, Faith for
the Climate

Kate Metcalf
Co-Director, WEN

Anuradha Chugh
Managing Director of Ben &
Jerry's Europe

Ian Dunn
CEO, Plantlife

Emma Bridge
Executive, Community
Energy England

Deborah Tomkins Co-Chair,
Green Christian

Mike Davis
CEO, Global Witness

Nicky Bull
Chair, Operation Noah

Katrina Judge
Young Climate Warriors, CEO

Seb Beloe
Transition Town Berkhamsted

Xavier Brice
Chief Executive, Sustrans

Tom Waring
Chief Officer, St Nicks

Professor Nathalie Seddon
Nature-based Solutions Initiative

Sean Mallon
CEO, Environmentally
Conscious

Charlotte Timson
CEO, Traidcraft Exchange

Glenn Hurowitz
CEO, Mighty Earth

Sarah Hirom
Trustee, One World Week

Andy Atkins
CEO, A Rocha UK

Suzanne Jeffery
Chair, Campaign against
Climate Change

Colin McQuistan
Head of Climate and Resilience, Practical
Action

Farah Nazeer
Deputy Director, Advocacy, ActionAid
UK

Craig McGuicken
Chief Executive, NIEL

Patrick Begg
Outdoors and Natural
Resources Director, National
Trust





global witness

The Commitment x



Wildlife and Countryside



The countryside charity

