

Historic climate report shows net zero is possible

The UK's climate advisors, the Committee on Climate Change, have published a report advising the UK government to set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero' by 2050.

A net zero target would mean that emissions from cars, planes, buildings and farms would have to be rapidly and urgently reduced. This ambition would end Britain's contribution to climate change.

Global temperature rises cause storms, floods and heatwaves to occur more frequently and with greater severity. A net zero target will be the UK's contribution to ensuring global average temperatures do not go beyond 1.5C, which would spell disaster for many of our brothers and sisters overseas. Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and Cyclone Fani in India are just two recent examples of the devastating consequences of climate change.

Continuing what's already started

A key message from report was that the costs of reductions are manageable, but they need to be distributed fairly – for workers in old industries and for energy bill payers. The UK government will need to set targets across all sectors of the economy. There will need to be more ambitious commitment to renewable electricity, electric vehicles, efficient buildings, and tree planting and soil restoration to name a few.



UK faith leaders have backed this call for a net zero target. Bishop John Arnold of Salford, and CAFOD Chair, said: "This is an ambitious target which will be welcomed by the thousands of Catholics in this country who have responded to Pope Francis' call for us to protect our common home."

Our commitment to 2045

We welcome the report as evidence that net zero is feasible, practical and necessary. But we believe we still need to go further, faster. Evidence from our partners shows that the impacts of a changing climate are being felt now. We must therefore call for the UK government to set a target of net zero by 2045.

As one of the richer nations which signed the Paris Agreement, we believe the UK has both the historical responsibility and the present capacity to reduce emissions by more than the global average. The Committee's report itself indicates that, with greater effort, cuts could be achieved even sooner than the 2050 date it sets.

The growing movement of people calling for climate action is crucial in order to keep the pressure on decision makers, highlighting the number of people across the country, and the world, that want ambitious laws.

We need you to ensure the government acts on the advice!



» Three ways to help your community act on climate today:

- 1) Ask everyone to sign the petition to the Prime Minister.
cafod.org.uk/climate
- 2) Organise a Creation Celebration – a Mass followed by food. Find everything you need online at cafod.org.uk/climate
- 3) Encourage your parish to attend the mass lobby of parliament on 26 June cafod.org.uk/climatelobby

Have you got...

» 2 minutes?

Sign up for *The Time is Now* mass lobby outside Westminster.
Wednesday 26 June.
cafod.org.uk/climatelobby

THE TIME IS NOW

» 5 minutes?

Already got you and your friends organised? Sign up for some of our amazing pre-lobby events!

» 10 minutes?

Already signed up? Promote the event in your parish or invite a friend!

cafod.org.uk/climatelobby

CAFOD Campaigns Update – May 2019

You are signed up to receive this update as a CAFOD Campaigns volunteer. For queries or to order resources, contact CAFOD Campaigns hotline: 020 7095 5692 or campaigns@cafod.org.uk

Photo credits: CAFOD, The Climate Coalition

The Time is Now mass lobby

Plans for the lobby day are starting to take shape. Here's what you have to look forward to:

From 9:30: For those travelling on their own and arriving early, there are various interfaith workshops happening at St Martin-in-the-Fields. You will need to register online.

At 11:30: After the interfaith workshops, join us in Trafalgar Square for a Walk of Witness along Whitehall to Westminster.

12:00 – 13:15: CAFOD is participating in an interfaith event with former Archbishop Rowan Williams. If you would like to attend, you can find out more and register online. If you're joining us on a Climate Pilgrimage coach, you're already registered.

From 13:00: Meet your MP to discuss why you care about climate change and our common home.

16:00: Close the day with Mass to reflect on and celebrate our common home. There is no need to sign up in advance.

For those of you yet to sign up...

Do! You still have time. Be sure to invite your MP too.

We've created a lobby guide which tells you everything you need to know about the day.

» Visit cafod.org.uk/climatelobby for links to the lobby guide, how to register for events, the timetable and lots of other resources.



Fast fact

A net zero world will mean we are all better off. From improved air and water quality to less noise and healthier diets. We'll see enhanced biodiversity, lower risks from climate change, industrial opportunities (e.g. low carbon technologies) and better physical and mental health.

- The Committee on Climate Change

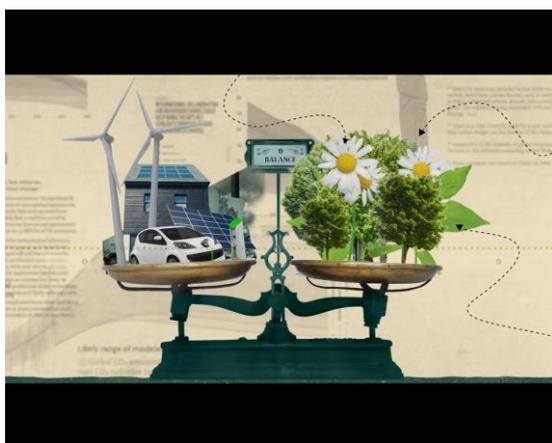


What is net zero?

Do you work in a school, with young people or have children? Do you want to explain to them what 'net zero' means?

We've produced a film which explains it all!

» Watch the explainer film: cafod.org.uk/youth



Meet Phil...

You may have seen Phil Kingston in the news – he's the 83 year old climate activist with Extinction Rebellion. He helped to found Grandparents Against Climate Change and has supported CAFOD for over 40 years, for many years as a campaigner.

It was what CAFOD was doing in Central America that still touches me, particularly when there were [active] attempts to blow up Oscar Romero's radio station. CAFOD replaced his radio station twice, and I thought to myself this is the kind of church I want to be in. CAFOD has been quite an inspiration to me and I know to many other people.

It's really important that we let government know that we are no longer satisfied with half hearted inaction, because it [climate change] is so damn serious. I'm a grandfather and that's what pushes me.

We [Extinction Rebellion] set out to do no harm. The amount of suffering we are seeing – that is a sign of what's to come. It isn't going to stop.

I am not optimistic about the future but I am very hopeful. This is an opportunity to be the people we really are – much less competitive, much more collaborative, much more loving, caring, much more truthful.

The Spirit is in everybody.



» **Feeling inspired? Share Phil's story in your parish to encourage climate action**

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