



Please use this briefing to ask your MP some questions about net zero

Climate change affects our health, our homes, our heritage and our beautiful landscapes. Our community centres where we meet, our sports fields where we express ourselves, and our places of pilgrimage where we take time out. Climate change drives the floods, fires, droughts and storms that ruin the work we do to fight poverty overseas.

The government's decision to agree in law a net zero target is very welcome and a vital first step. But the hard work starts now. We need concrete, ambitious policies put in place urgently to make sure we get to net zero as soon as possible.

Catholics are already responding with generosity and commitment: almost every Catholic church is powered by renewable energy and hundreds of communities have committed to living simply and sustainably, in solidarity with the poorest in our world.

Five questions to ask your MP

The government's decision to reach net zero by 2050 is very welcome and makes the UK once again a world leader on climate change. But the strong policies we need to get us to net zero need your support. **Do you agree that we need to rapidly put in place ambitious policies to phase out fossil fuels and slash emissions now to get us on track to net zero by 2045 at the latest?**

The Committee on Climate Change shows that it is possible to reach net-zero without 'offsetting' or 'outsourcing' our emissions internationally. This means that balancing our carbon emissions should take place within UK borders, and the target should include emissions from manufacturing and aviation that are our responsibility, but which occur outside of UK borders. **Do you agree that we ought to take responsibility for all our emissions and not ask countries least able to cope to bear our burden?**

Numerous studies show that acting on climate change now will cost much less than waiting for the impacts to get worse. **Do you agree that we must scale up investment now to tackle the climate and environmental emergency and realise the economic opportunities scaling up low carbon infrastructure would offer?**

Between 2010 and 2017, the UK spent 60% of its energy support overseas on fossil fuels. Our aid budget support goes as much to fossil fuels as renewable energy, according to forthcoming research by CAFOD. This is hard to reconcile with the UK's commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. The UK should ensure all UK public support for energy overseas is consistent with its climate and development goals, supporting the shift to renewable and efficient energy. **Do you agree that the UK should publicly commit now to immediately stop all new ODA investment in fossil fuels, and to phase out all public support for fossil fuels from 2020 onwards?**

Will you write to the new Prime Minister to ask the government to urgently bring forward policies across all government departments to achieve net zero emissions by 2045?

Thank you.