



The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

26th October 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Shropshire Climate voluntary organisations stand fully behind you and the team working hard to achieve the global agreement we need at COP26 next month to fully implement the Paris Agreement.

We also recognise the uncomfortable truth that our emissions footprint is twice the global average and the UK has an ignoble world leadership position with the largest outsourced carbon footprint from manufacturing and food production.

From Shropshire, the birthplace of the first industrial revolution that fuelled the growth of UK global influence and wealth, we feel a special responsibility to lead with emissions reduction.

We know that the changes we need to make will radically impact the way we live, but we also know that we already have the technologies and solutions that we need and that investing in these changes clearly represents the biggest economic opportunity of our age.

We urge your government to approach the Climate Crisis as a national emergency calling for an effort comparable to that occasioned by World War II, requiring concerted priority action and a ‘full systems’ approach across all government departments.

For Shropshire, as a large rural county and economy, our expectations of government actions are:

1. A large public engagement and awareness programme at all levels to make change socially compelling;
2. Massive financial support for energy efficiency measures, including buildings insulation and the consequent local economic activity, including local job creation and ‘levelling-up’;
3. Significant change to the funding and regulation of public transport. Car usage cannot be reduced in rural areas until public transport provides a viable alternative for most journeys;

4. Support and incentivise purchase and use of non-fossil fuel and electric vehicles in rural areas; for example electric charging points and cycling infrastructure;
5. Advice and funding to support farmers and landowners to produce food sustainably while also increasing carbon storage in land and enabling recovery of nature and ecosystems including waterways, peatlands and woodlands;
6. Revision of Ofgem regulation concerning investment in infrastructure by generators and Distribution Network Operators to allow increased investment in local renewable energy generation and storage;
7. Wholesale revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (and the corresponding National Infrastructure framework) to place an obligation on the planning process to refocus planning requirements, compelling climate and nature recovery actions to be central to all decisions regarding development. There should be an immediate application of low-carbon Building Regulations, applied to all developments that already have planning consent but are not yet under construction.

By taking these actions you will set our county's path towards a sustainable future by 2030. You will unleash our spirit of innovation and enterprise, boosting jobs and wealth creation in Shropshire and the other rural economies of the UK.

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of:

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership	Chris Deaves, Acting Chair
South Shropshire Climate Action	Jane Cullen, Chair
Stretton Climate Care	David Howard, Chair
Lightfoot Enterprises	Alison Weeks & Helen Fairweather, Co-Chairs
Ludlow 21	Tish Dockerty, Chair
Bishop's Castle Climate Action Group	Mike Watkins, Chair
Green Shropshire Exchange	Tony Green
Sustainable Bridgnorth	Kath Norgrove, Chair
Generation Zero Carbon Shropshire	Jess Walton, Co-Chair
Sustainable Newport	Simone Whitfield
Wellington LA21	Robert Saunders, Secretary
Fossil Free Shropshire	Kris Welch, Founding member
Transition Telford	Lynn Mann, Chair

Copies to:

Philip Dunne MP, Owen Paterson MP, Daniel Kawczynski MP, Lucy Allan MP, Mark Pritchard MP

Replies to:

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