

# Making polluters pay for emissions would raise £80 billion a year for the UK, Green Party says

11 June 2021

- Ahead of the G7 leaders' summit, Greens urge UK government to show real action on climate change and adopt carbon tax and dividend proposal
- Jonathan Bartley: "The world's scientists are telling us that we have to cut fossil fuel usage far more quickly than we are doing at the moment. But we also know that if fossil fuels remain falsely cheap, they will continue to be burned"

The Green Party has urged the UK government to show true leadership ahead of the G7 leaders' summit and commit to making major polluters pay for the damaging greenhouse gases they emit.

The Greens have calculated the UK government would raise around £80 billion of revenue a year if it adopted the party's proposal for a carbon tax and dividend.

The party estimates the UK will be responsible for around 800 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2021 [1]. Its proposal for a carbon tax and dividend, starting at £100 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e, would mean up to £80 billion would be generated, which could then be used to invest in the big changes needed for a rapid transition to a zero carbon economy, and to support UK residents through the transition. [2]

Green Party co-leader Jonathan Bartley said:

"This really is crunch time for the climate. As the world comes out of the pandemic, we urgently need to make far-reaching changes at an international level that can help avoid a much worse, and irreversible, catastrophe. The G7 needs to show that it's more than just a cosy and very expensive club for the leaders of the richest nations.

"The world's scientists are telling us that we have to cut fossil fuel usage far more quickly than we're doing at the moment. But we also know that if fossil fuels remain falsely cheap, they will continue to be burned."

Figures from the insurance industry and the Royal Society of Physicians indicate that the combined costs of flood and storm damage, together with the effects of air pollution from fossil fuels, added up to more than £23 billion for the UK alone [3]. The figure for the world as a whole is estimated at more than £2 trillion. [4]

Bartley said:

“One crucial part of the solution is an internationally agreed framework of carbon tax – in other words, tax paid by the producers of fossil fuels and applied at the point of extraction or import.

“The big producers of oil and gas have made massive profits from pouring greenhouse gases into the world’s atmosphere – the top four oil companies alone have made more than \$2 trillion in profit since 1990.

“Meanwhile, the damage to people’s health, homes and livelihoods continues to climb ever higher. This has to stop if billions of people around the world are to have any chance of a viable future.”

ENDS

## Notes

1

The Green Party has calculated the UK will be responsible for around 800 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2021 – [520m tonnes of production emissions](#), including aviation and shipping; [an additional 30m tonnes for the high altitude factor](#) on aviation; and [302m tonnes from imports](#).

2

The Green Party included its carbon tax and dividend in its 10 point climate plan published last year:

[https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Communications/10\\_Point\\_Climate\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Communications/10_Point_Climate_Plan.pdf)

3

Catastrophe insurance data provider PERILS estimates the total cost of wind and flood damage during the 2019/2020 UK winter at approximately £778 million:

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/perils-sets-final-368mn-estimate-for-feb-2020-uk-floods/>

The Royal College of Physicians report, “Reducing air pollution in the UK: Progress report 2018” calculated the total annual health and societal costs of air pollution in the UK at £22.6 billion:

[https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/outdoor-air-quality-uk-position-statement#footnote4\\_21geeyb](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/outdoor-air-quality-uk-position-statement#footnote4_21geeyb)

4

Greenpeace estimates the total cost of air pollution globally (in terms of cost to health services, lost economic activity etc) as \$2.9 trillion, or just over £2 trillion.

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaign/tracking-cost-air-pollution>

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## **International Green leaders host alternative G7 as governments fail to step up to climate challenge**



8 June 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Global Greens will host an international online event this week ahead of the G7 in Cornwall, UK. The *Burning Questions* forum will bring together Greens from around the world who have experience in government and legislature, in a bid to find solutions to the most urgent and serious global crises.

The discussion will highlight Green leadership on key themes of the G7 Summit including: the Climate and Ecological Emergency and the two Green demands from G7 and COP26 – Carbon Tax and Dividend, and Climate Justice. The forum will also provide a platform for voices from the Global South who are typically excluded from G7 deliberations.

GPEW spokesperson on Finance and Economy Molly Scott Cato said: “We’re clear that the G7, at best, isn’t going to go far enough and at worst it’s a talking shop that won’t lead to any concrete action.

“What the Global Greens are doing is presenting an alternative and addressing the really tangible way that action could be taken right now to tackle the climate crisis and make people’s live better in the process.”

Speakers at the event include:

- Elizabeth May, Member of Parliament & Parliamentary leader of Canadian Greens
- Teanau Tuiono, Member of Parliament, Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand
- Alejandro Aguilera, Member of Parliament, Movimiento Ecológico de Venezuela
- Martin Ogindo, Party Leader of Green Congress of Kenya
- Dorothy Nalubega, African Coordinator for Global Greens Women’s network
- Evelyne Huytebroeck, Co-Chair of the European Green Party

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Notes to editors

Media and the public are invited to register to view the proceedings and submit questions.

**Register:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XVEncBsvSBekwlK1FuFUzw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XVEncBsvSBekwlK1FuFUzw)

The Global Greens is the partnership of the world's Green parties and political movements, working cooperatively to implement the Global Greens Charter. This unique and inspiring document sets out our core values of ecological wisdom, social justice, participatory democracy, nonviolence, sustainability and respect for diversity.

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## Green Party reveals new team of spokespeople



7 June 2021

- Thirteen spokespeople ready to reach new voters in lead up to General Election
- Remits include the natural world, global solidarity and citizen engagement
- Co-leader Jonathan Bartley says: "These aren't just spokespeople, these are megaphones for a movement"

The Green Party of England and Wales has revealed its updated team of spokespeople, ready to reach new voters in the lead up to the next General Election. [1]

The 13 spokespeople will stand alongside the leadership team as experts with lived experience of their areas of advocacy, and with track records of being embedded into grassroots movements on the ground.

Following the landmark election results in May, the new team of spokespeople

will play a pivotal role in reaching new voters in every corner of the country, putting forward fresh thinking and bold solutions for the problems we face together.

Green Party co-leader Jonathan Bartley accompanied the new spokespeople in Calthorpe Community Garden in Kings Cross, London at 10.00 on Monday 7 June, to celebrate the announcement of the new team.

Bartley said:

“When people get involved in the Greens, it’s because we have a deep passion for the issues that we care about.

“Our spokespeople are embedded into networks of grassroots activists and people who have the solutions to the problems we face, whether that’s the collapse of our ecosystems or the brutality of poverty.

“These aren’t just spokespeople, we are megaphones for a movement of people who want real change”

ENDS

## Notes

### [1]

The list of spokespeople in full, in alphabetical order by role title.

#### **Jack Lenox**

*Culture, Sport and Digital Inclusion spokesperson*

Jack has worked as a software developer for over a decade, most recently as a Principal Engineer at Automattic, the company behind WordPress.com. He is a leader in the world of sustainable software engineering, a founding co-signatory of the Sustainable Web Manifesto, and an active contributor to ClimateAction.tech. He stood as the Green Party’s parliamentary candidate for the constituency of Copeland in the 2017 by-election and the 2019 general election. Jack studied Ancient History at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is currently undertaking an MSc in Sustainability and Behaviour Change at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales.

In his spare time he is a keen amateur actor and musician, having performed for several years with the Keswick Amateur Operatic Society. He enjoys cycling, skiing, rugby and football. He supports the Sale Sharks and Forest Green Rovers. He now lives in Lancaster where he is the city’s area coordinator for North Lancashire Green Party. He is also the Internal Communications Coordinator for the North West Green Party.

#### **Zack Polanski**

*Democracy and Citizen Engagement spokesperson*

Originally from Manchester, Zack graduated from the University of Aberystwyth (Wales) and the University of Georgia (USA.) He now lives and works in London

and became the party's third London Assembly member in May's elections.

Zack's expertise in engaging and empowering people comes from working in a range of jobs outside of political life – as an actor, communications trainer and a mental health counsellor at Arts Educational, ALRA and the National School of Circus Arts. Zack's work includes an Erasmus project running over several years with young people from every single EU country coming together through the arts to work on community building, activism and how to promote democratic engagement in their home countries.

Whether it's being out on the picket line demanding care home staff receive more than a poverty wage, campaigning for Proportional Representation or working with community groups to advocate for Citizens Assemblies – empowering people lies at the heart of everything he does.

**Molly Scott Cato**

*Finance and Economy spokesperson*

Molly is an economist and writer who has campaigned for green politics all her adult life. Between 2014 and 2020 she represented South West England in the European Parliament where she led the Parliament's work on sustainable finance especially in the areas of mandatory disclosure, climate benchmarking, and the role of central and public banks in funding the sustainability transition.

She has helped to pioneer work on the green economy, based around achieving maximum well-being with minimum use of energy and resources. She was at the forefront of the opposition to Brexit, including launching a campaign for the studies of the impact of Brexit on the economy to be made public that ended up in a legal case and a parliamentary victory, but not the release of the studies. Molly studied politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University and later gained a doctorate in economics from Aberystwyth. She continues to be a Professor of Green Economics at Roehampton University.

**Carne Ross**

*Global Solidarity spokesperson*

Carne is a writer and former diplomat. He served for fifteen years in the Foreign Office, with responsibilities including terrorism, the Middle East and the global environment. He resigned in 2004 after giving secret evidence to the first official inquiry into the Iraq War, the Butler Inquiry (he also later testified to the Chilcot Inquiry), offering testimony about his work covering Iraq at the UN Security Council. After his resignation,

Carne founded the world's first non-profit diplomatic advisory group, Independent Diplomat, which advises democratic governments and political groups all over the world, including the democratic Syrian opposition and Rohingya groups. Independent Diplomat helped create the High Ambition Coalition, which was responsible for some of the most important elements of the 2016 Paris climate agreement. Carne has written two books, *Independent Diplomat*, a critique of diplomacy, and *The Leaderless Revolution* about agent-led political change, and numerous articles for international publications.

**Zoe Nicholson***Green New Deal spokesperson*

Zoe is Deputy Leader of the Lewes District Council and Leader of the Green Group. Through her council work she has come to understand the vital urgency of retrofitting our housing stock as well as ensuring new housing meets the highest energy standards.

She believes a Green New Deal and creating a sustainable economy will entail the creation of millions of good-quality green jobs as well as building wealth locally and tackling climate change. Zoe won the Sussex Business Woman of the Year Award in 2018 for her work as Chief Executive of a non-profit organisation. She is a strong supporter of small businesses and is committed to ensuring that they are put front and centre during the sustainability transition.

**Peter Cranie***Health, Social Care and Public Health spokesperson*

Peter is a university lecturer specialising in the training of further education teachers. He is a former social worker and Further Education lecturer in Public Services and Health & Social Care. He has a record in anti-racism activism and is an active member of UCU and a member of his branch committee. He has been active in the Green Party since 2002 and was a former lead candidate for the North West region in the European Elections. Like many others, he has seen the loss of extended family members to Covid and is passionate about holding the government to account on their mishandling of the pandemic response. Peter studied philosophy, politics and economics at Keele University and later gained an MA in Social Work at Liverpool John Moores University.

**Carla Denyer***Housing and Communities spokesperson*

Carla is a Green Party councillor in Bristol. In 2018 she proposed the first Climate Emergency declaration in Europe, committing Bristol to go carbon neutral by 2030 and inspiring hundreds of other councils to follow suit. Alongside her work on the Climate Emergency, as a councillor she works to protect local services that support the most vulnerable people in her city, and has a track record of standing up for renters and working to prevent homelessness. This includes lobbying successfully for a landlord licensing scheme, securing funding for homelessness prevention, pushing for better housing for domestic violence survivors, and protecting the poorest households from rises in council tax.

Before entering politics, Carla worked as an engineer in the renewable energy industry, specialising in offshore and onshore wind technology. She is the Green Party parliamentary candidate for Bristol West and was also a candidate in the 2019 European Elections.

**Vix Lowthion***Lifelong Education spokesperson*

Vix is a Secondary school teacher, single parent of three and an outspoken campaigner for a reformed national approach to education. She has been our Education spokesperson since 2016, which has involved sharing platforms with teaching unions, party leaders and educators at events across the country. Vix has led Green Party campaigns to properly fund school and Further Education budgets, to scrap OFSTED and the over-testing of young children, and to increase opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. In addition, she has worked with the Young Greens in their work to ensure greater funding to access college and university courses.

Vix studied History and gained a PGCE at York University, followed by Open University courses in chemistry, renewable technology and Geology when her children were small. She now teaches A levels in History, Geology, Classics and Sociology at a local authority school on the Isle of Wight.

**Benali Hamdache**

*Migration and Refugee Support spokesperson*

Benali is an activist and campaigner based in Islington. He's spent his working career in campaigning and the third sector. For the EU referendum he worked for the official Remain campaign, driven by the belief that we had to fight back against the awful narrative of scapegoating migrants. He's worked as a campaigner in a variety of organisations, including migrants rights, health and disability. He's also served as the co-chair of LGBTIQA+ Greens for three years. During that time he led on a variety of campaigns, including leading demonstrations against the death penalty for gay sex in Brunei and campaigning for trans rights.

**Jonathan Elmer**

*The Natural World spokesperson*

Jonathan Elmer has amassed many years of experience and knowledge of the natural world having spent most of his career working as a consultant ecologist and also as a Countryside Manager for various Councils. A member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Jonathan has broad knowledge and expertise particularly in Botany, and with species identification skills across British plants and animals. Jonathan has detailed knowledge of how ecosystems function and the existential threats to these systems posed by human activities. He studied Environmental Biology at university and also completed an MSc in Environmental Impact Assessment in the early 1990s.

After studying he cut his cloth as an Ecologist for various Ecological Consultancies conducting numerous botanical surveys, river corridor surveys and protected species surveys. After this, he gained employment with Councils working as County Ecologist and as a Countryside Manager with responsibility for the creation and maintenance of numerous nature reserves. Throughout his career, Jonathan has sought to influence people from all backgrounds regarding the vital importance of natural systems to our own survival on the planet.

**Shahrar Ali**

*Policing and Domestic Safety spokesperson*

Dr Shahrar Ali was Deputy Leader of the Green Party from 2014-2016, the first BME deputy of a UK parliamentary party. He has been a prominent campaigner for policing by consent against the hostile environment pursued by successive governments, which have disproportionately affected already marginalised communities; whether as a fierce critic of the disproportionate targeting of black people through stop and search or racist UKBA van slogans, to the role of shoot to kill in the fatal shooting of De Menezes and the Islamophobic effects of Prevent in schools.

He is a formidable campaigner against the abuses of civil liberty carried out in the name of domestic safety, from the release of British detainees in Guantanamo to the right of a UK citizen to a fair trial here without fear of politicisation (Begum). Shahrar has considerable media experience, whether taking on politicians on live TV or policy panels to Ted Talks or festivals at the Battle of Ideas and Bloomsbury. He is author of two popular books in Green politics, including Why Vote Green 2015, and, on a lighter note, managed to cause something of a stir on The Mash Report.

**Caroline Russell**

*Transport and Healthy Streets spokesperson*

Caroline Russell was elected to the London Assembly in May 2016. Caroline published a report on the climate change risks for London and proposed the motion that persuaded the Mayor of London to declare a climate emergency in 2018.

Caroline came into politics through campaigning for people friendly streets, after a career as an artist, retraining as a civil engineer and a period of parenthood combined with community activism. Since becoming the chair of the Assembly Environment Committee in 2018, Caroline has led investigations into the environmental impacts of single use plastic unflushables like wet wipes and period products, the role of ventilation in tackling cold damp mouldy homes, embodied carbon, farming in the green belt, aircraft noise and concentrated flight paths. Recent investigations have looked at tube dust, the implications of the proposed third runway at Heathrow which the Committee continues to oppose and air pollution.

**Professor Catherine Rowett**

*Work, Employment and Social Security spokesperson*

Catherine currently holds a part time teaching and research position in philosophy at the University of East Anglia. From May 2019 to January 2020 she served as Green Party MEP for the East of England, and participated in debates and votes concerning Brexit and the European Green deal, and oversaw files on freight transport and aviation. In Norwich she worked with local councillors, Clive Lewis and UBI Labs to win support for a local pilot for Universal Basic Income. She attends the European Network of Green Basic Income Supporters, which is supporting Green parties across Europe under the aegis of the Green European Foundation. In December 2020 her online Public Lecture for the Royal Institute of Philosophy explored the philosophy of

universal basic income. She is also involved in revising the Party's policy chapter on Europe. Catherine is currently deputy coordinator of the Eastern Region Green Party.

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## **Green Party to replace Batley and Spen by-election candidate**



6 June 2021

We were very sorry to learn of Ross Peltier's historic but highly offensive tweets. We are clear that people grow and change and should not be limited by youthful mistakes. But, as a party that champions the rights of LGBTIQA+ people and their support communities, we do not feel it is right for Ross to be the party's candidate for Batley and Spen by-election.

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## **Green Party urges Prime Minister to be more ambitious over global tax agreement**



2 June 2021

- **Molly Scott Cato: "As leaders of the G7 countries the UK should pledge to foster tax justice and to close UK tax havens"**

The Green Party has welcomed support for global tax cooperation to prevent corporate tax avoidance at the G7 in Cornwall later this month but called on the UK government to push for a much more ambitious agreement.

Green Party finance spokesperson Molly Scott Cato said:

“Tax shifting by global corporations has drained public coffers and led to growing inequality within and between countries across the world. We welcome President Biden’s initiative to fix a minimum corporate tax rate at the G7.

“Global tax cooperation is a classic example of enlightened self-interest where, by working together, every country can benefit, while the race to the bottom encouraged by corporations only swells their profits.

“But we need the UK government to be much more ambitious and to cover all global corporations rather than just 100 of the largest digital companies and to extend to smaller companies that drain wealth from the majority world by using tax havens. [1]

“The G7 countries should stick to Biden’s original proposal of a minimum global tax rate of 21%. Watering this down to 15% would add to pressure on many countries that currently have a corporate tax rate of higher than 15%, including the UK, and merely encourage the race to the bottom.”

The amount being lost is vast. The Institute of Public Policy Research has estimated that the Biden proposal would yield an extra £14.7bn annually for the UK, money that is vitally needed as we build back from the pandemic. [2]

Scott Cato said:

“To show real leadership as the chair of the G7 summit the Prime Minister needs to pledge to shut down the UK tax haven network based in our overseas territories. Working through the City of London these make us the centre of the global tax avoidance industry. Without action on the UK overseas territories, all other promises of global tax cooperation ring hollow.”

ENDS

## Notes

1

The deal under discussion will do little to help developing countries who lose most from global tax avoidance:

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/may/27/global-fair-tax-deal-on-a-knife-edge-says-uk-treasury-source>

2

IPPR

report: <https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/ending-the-race-to-the-bottom>

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