

“Did the Chancellor not get the climate emergency memo?” – Response to Autumn Budget

26 October 2021

- Greens set out bold proposals for Budget ahead of crucial climate talks
- Includes carbon tax as well as pledge to spend on Green New Deal
- Adrian Ramsay: “We’re being held back by a Chancellor who sees tackling the climate crisis as a cost rather than an opportunity”

The Green Party has produced a bold and timely series of budget proposals ahead of the Chancellor’s budget on Wednesday and just days before crucial climate negotiations in Glasgow.

The proposals, published today [Tuesday 26 October] as world leaders prepare to gather for COP26, include a high and rising carbon tax to be paid by polluters with the revenues raised to be reinvested in warm homes.

Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

“We’re being held back by a Chancellor who sees tackling the climate crisis as a cost rather than an opportunity. Did he not get the climate emergency memo?

“Repeated surveys have shown that the public are way ahead of the Chancellor when it comes to climate action. We know that 94% support our policy of a carbon tax [2] and they understand that climate action means better quality of life with warmer homes, cleaner air and cheaper and more accessible public transport.

“We have pledged £100 billion every year to a Green New Deal including a massive home retrofit programme across the country [3]. This puts the scale of spending offered by the government into the shade.

“Tackling the climate crisis also gives us the opportunity to address the inequality that has disfigured society in the UK and across the world. We have seen a number of British millionaires begging the Chancellor to pay more [4] and we agree with them. Our plan for a wealth tax would provide money for Green investment while reducing inequality.

“And globally we need to reverse the morally repugnant decision to cut our overseas aid spending and take seriously our historic responsibility for the climate crisis. Our pledge to increase overseas aid to 2.5% of GDP is essential for a globally just climate deal that will help poorer countries around the world become more resilient to the effects of climate change.”

The Greens’ carbon budget also includes:

- A pledge to take our global climate commitments seriously by increasing Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and Climate Finance to a projected £50bn per year by 2030, £1.3trn in total to help developing countries respond to climate change
- Introducing a wealth tax to ensure that the green transition is financed by those with the broadest shoulders
- Reversing the National Insurance increase on working people and removing the NI upper earnings loophole for higher earners

Notes

1

The Green Party's full Carbon Budget proposal can be viewed here:

https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Communications/GPEW_Carbon_Budget_Oct_2021.pdf

2

Demos and WWF report The Climate Consensus:

<https://demos.co.uk/project/the-climate-consensus-the-publics-views-on-how-to-cut-emissions/>

3

Green Party 2019 General Election Manifesto:

<https://campaigns.greenparty.org.uk/manifesto/>

4

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/oct/25/millionaires-petition-rishi-sunak-to-introduce-wealth-tax>

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