

# Greens call for UK to pay reparations to countries hit hardest by climate change



- Cop26 must provide compensation for historic greenhouse gas emissions from richer countries
- £50bn in Climate Finance a year by 2030 needed to help Global South respond to the climate crisis
- As a former colonial power, UK must take special responsibility for 'reparations'

Greens have warned that Boris Johnson's calls for a Climate Finance package [1] are misguided, nowhere near ambitious enough and ring hollow given government cuts to the international aid budget [2].

At their autumn conference, Green Party members agreed a new policy to increase Climate Finance to £50bn per year by 2030 to help Global South countries respond to the climate crisis [3]. Greens believe a key priority of Cop26 must include assistance from countries responsible for climate damage to the lower income countries that are experiencing its worst impacts. They also call for this finance to be in the form of grants rather than loans.

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"It seems to be dawning on global leaders that without a generous climate finance plan to help low-income countries experiencing the worst impacts of the climate crisis, the Cop26 climate talks will end in failure.

"It is also alarming that the prime minister's apparent conversion to global climate action is being presented as another opportunity for the UK finance sector. It is essential that climate finance is paid in the form of grants rather than becoming another opportunity to exploit the countries of the Global South."

"So Boris Johnson's pledge doesn't go far enough, and worse still, rings hollow given the huge cut his government recently made to the international aid budget [4]."

Azzees Minott, Chair of the Greens of Colour group, added:

"Western countries that have benefited from exploitation and extraction of natural resources, people and land from global south countries should acknowledge the harm caused and compensate them. These countries that are

currently experiencing the worst effects of the climate crisis deserve climate justice.

“Britain has a special responsibility to the world for historic emissions that are causing loss and damage across the Global South. For a period of 100 years, through the industrial revolution and beyond, the UK was the world’s third largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub> [5]. And this doesn’t include overseas emissions under colonial rule.

“The new All Party Parliamentary Group on African Reparations and continued local community education and action will go some way to address planet repairs but we also need further leadership at Cop26.”

Denyer concluded:

“If the prime minister was serious about helping low-income countries, then he would immediately reinstate 0.7% of gross national income for international aid – which was a clear Conservative manifesto pledge. Instead, we see the chancellor using accounting wizardry to cut overseas aid still further [6].

“The Green Party believes that real leadership and responsibility means pledging £50bn a year by 2030 – in grants, not loans – to support low-income countries adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis and help them transition to a clean green future. Climate Justice must be a key priority of COP26.”

Notes

[Climate Repairs: Making Reparation for a History of Colonialism and Enslavement](#) – a paper from the Green party exploring in greater depth the idea of climate justice based on the idea of climate reparations.

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## [Green Party say finance sector net zero commitment is ‘financiers marking their own homework’](#)



2 November 2021

- Glasgow Financial ‘Alliance for Net Zero’ risks encouraging greenwashing
- Strong regulation and political oversight needed, not cosy bankers club
- Urgent political action must include ending all fossil fuel subsidies and introducing carbon tax

Green Party Finance and Economy speaker Molly Scott Cato has questioned the launch by Mark Carney, UN Special Envoy on Climate Action and Finance, of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero.

Professor Scott Cato said:

“To be part of this net zero club, financial institutions are required to measure their investment against a net zero pathway, but they will be undertaking that measurement themselves. Yet again we are seeing financiers marking their own homework. They may give themselves a smug A\* but the world’s citizens are giving them a big fat fail as they continue to finance the very industries that are driving us to destruction.’

“Without strong regulation and political oversight by democratic authorities there is nothing to prevent this cosy bankers’ club from descending into greenwashing. The most urgent shift we need to see for finance to justify itself as “sustainable” is an end to all investments in fossil fuels. Yet this new Alliance will allow investments in dirty coal in the Global South and has fallen for fossil fuel industry spin about gas as a transition fuel” [1].

The Green Party favours government regulation over private initiatives such as the new Alliance:

“This new Alliance is a rebranding exercise by the finance sector when what we need to see is strong action from governments who should immediately end fossil fuels subsidies and make polluters pay with a high and rising carbon tax.”

As Vice Chairman and Head of Impact Investing at Brookfield Asset Management, Carney’s role also raises questions about a conflict of interest.

Scott Cato continued:

“How can we have somebody whose day job is seeking to profit from the sustainability transition be responsible for designing the rules of the carbon market? Climate protestors have rightly focused their attention on banks and finance companies, who have been bankrolling the pathway to extinction in recent years.”

[1]

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-01/carney-says-gfanz-relentlessly-ruthlessly-focused-on-net-zero>

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## Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay warns Budget is “taking us in the wrong direction”

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Responding to the Chancellor’s Autumn Budget today [Wednesday 27 October], Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

“Once again the Chancellor has shown that he simply does not understand the scale of what is required to tackle the climate crisis. In fact, by cutting air passenger duty and boasting about cheaper fuel for cars he is taking us in the wrong direction.

“The public is ready for urgent action on climate – 94% support our policy of a carbon tax and they understand that climate action means better quality of life with warmer homes, cleaner air and cheaper and more accessible public transport.

“We’re being held back by a Chancellor who sees the green transition as a cost rather than an opportunity.

“Did Rishi Sunak miss the memo about us being in a climate emergency?”

ENDS

### **Notes**

1

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2021/10/26/response-to-autumn-budget-2021/>

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27 October 2021

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# “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](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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