

Caroline Lucas responds to government ending support for fossil fuels overseas



11 December 2020

The Prime Minister is due to announce ending UK support for fossil fuel projects around the world.

Green Party MP Caroline Lucas said:

“It is good to see the Prime Minister have such a dramatic change of heart. Just three days ago, when I asked him in Parliament to end UK Export Finance’s support for fossil fuel projects overseas, he maintained that hydrocarbons ‘remain a significant industry’ for a number of countries around the world. [1]

“This is a long overdue policy shift from the Government and a victory for all who have campaigned for change. As hosts of COP26 it was untenable for the UK Government to continue fuelling the climate crisis by pouring taxpayers’ money into fossil fuels overseas.

“That said, it’s vital that there is a moratorium on any future funding for fossil fuels overseas until the results of the consultation are known, so that new projects aren’t rushed out of the door in the next few months.

“I hope the Prime Minister will also urgently have a similar change of heart on the Government’s climate-wrecking £27 billion road building plans, and their continued subsidies to the fossil fuel industry.”

ENDS

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At Prime Minister’s Questions on Wednesday 9 December, in reply to a question on UK Export Finance from Caroline Lucas, Boris Johnson insisted that “hydrocarbons remain a significant industry in Scotland and many other places. In so far as there are legitimate contracts that are at risk of being frustrated, we cannot do that.”

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-12-09/debates/B62126B2-4224-4830-9347-4174775A88E7/Engagements>

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Green Party motion to demand basic income pilot in Islington is passed



10 December 2020

Islington Council has this evening passed a Green Party motion, amended by Labour, calling on the government to trial a basic income in the borough in response to the economic shock of the coronavirus crisis. It is the first London borough to do so.

The Council will now write to the secretary of state for Work and Pensions and the Chancellor to ask for a UBI trial in the borough of Islington after passing the motion this evening.

This comes just over a month after Labour Assembly Members did not vote to pass a motion put forward by Green Party AM and candidate for Mayor of London Sian Berry to call for a trial over the whole of London. [1]

Green Party councillor and London Assembly member Caroline Russell said:

“Universal Basic Income is an idea whose time has come. As the Covid crisis deepens and Brexit looms, the need to provide security to every single person has never been greater.

“As we build back from this pandemic, it just makes sense to give people a non means tested payment providing the security of an economic floor below which they cannot fall. Not a safety net with holes, but a solid foundation upon which each and every person can stand and build from together.

“I hope that Labour members of the London Assembly will now take inspiration from their colleagues at a local level here in Islington and back a trial of Universal Basic Income for Londoners.”

ENDS

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<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/assembly/sin-berry/london-assembly-keeps-basic-income-into-long-grass>

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[Greens condemn Conservatives for failing at most basic requirements of government over Brexit negotiations](#)



10 December 2020

- **Molly Scott Cato: “With car plants closing, supermarkets stockpiling, and businesses unable to prepare for an unknown future the government is creating a totally unnecessary emergency”**

Responding to the bleak news emerging from Brussels last night, former MEP and Green Party Brexit speaker Molly Scott Cato said:

“The UK government have totally misjudged this negotiation, preferring to believe their fantasies about sovereignty and Global Britain rather than understanding their partner’s negotiating position and seeking common ground.

“With car plants closing, supermarkets stockpiling, and businesses unable to prepare for an unknown future the government is creating a totally unnecessary emergency. It was their decision to refuse an extension period even in the face of the Covid pandemic, an ideologically motivated misjudgment of historic proportions.

“Many people voted for Brexit in the belief that things would only improve for them. But from 1st January those traveling to the EU will face the prohibitive cost of travel insurance for those with chronic health conditions, the need for a new driving licence and green card for drivers, and complication and expense if taking dogs, cats or other animals with them.

“These are all issues we raised during the referendum campaign more than four years ago and that Vote Leave campaigners who are now ministers dismissed as Project Fear.’

“In the middle of two desperate and unavoidable crises – Covid and climate – the Tories are creating a third that is entirely avoidable and failing at the most basic requirement of government: to ensure safety and security for their citizens.”

The Green Party’s position remains that we should seek to remain members of the EU single market and customs union, providing the best environment for business and continuing free movement for citizens.

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[Green Party condemns extreme and violent measures taken by police forces across India against farmers engaged in peaceful demonstration](#)



10 December 2020

Satnam Deuchakar, international policy officer for Greens of Colour, said:

"The Green Party of England and Wales fights for social and climate justice. We support the farmers in India who are resisting market-driven legal changes that will destroy their livelihoods. And we defend their fundamental right to peaceful protest as the cornerstone of any functioning democracy.

"The images emerging of the use of water cannons and tear gas against an unarmed group of citizens are deeply concerning. This action goes against the fundamental right to peaceful protest as enshrined in Articles 9 to 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the 1966 International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

"Farmers are the backbone of the Indian economy and are protesting peacefully against the mass privatization of the agricultural sector and unjust and damaging changes to farming laws. We urge the Indian government to return to the negotiating table and to seek peaceful measures to resolve the situation.

"The Green Party of England and Wales stands in solidarity with the Indian farmers."

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“This is what real climate ambition looks like”: Greens set out plan to keep within 1.5 degree warming limit



9 December 2020

- **Jonathan Bartley:** “This plan would take some of the radical, but absolutely necessary, steps the UK needs to make to play its part in ensuring the world stays within the 1.5C warming limit it agreed to five years ago”

The Green Party has set out a climate programme of real ambition as the UK government continues to fail to deliver on its promises ahead of the five year anniversary of the Paris Agreement.[1]

While the UK remains nowhere near achieving the targets it signed up to at the historic UN climate summit in Paris in 2015, the Greens have set out ten priority policies to match the scale and urgency of the climate crisis. [2]

Green Party leader Jonathan Bartley said:

“This is what real climate ambition looks like.

“The Conservative government has failed to propose a detailed plan so we are putting forward what should be included in a climate plan of real ambition.

“The government has had five years to make good on the promises it made in Paris. It has so far done next to nothing.

“This plan would take some of the radical, but absolutely necessary, steps the UK needs to make to play its part in ensuring the world stays within the 1.5C warming limit it agreed to five years ago.”

The plan includes:

- A carbon tax of £100 per tonne of carbon dioxide rising to £500 by 2030
- Develop offshore and onshore wind to provide at least 100 GW of electricity by 2030. This should provide around 70% of the UK’s electricity demand by this time
- Government investment to improve the insulation of every home that needs it and provide major heating upgrades and the highest standard of energy efficiency for one million homes a year.
- Stop all airport expansion, apply carbon tax to aviation fuel and introduce a Frequent Flyer Levy as part of a drive to reduce air miles by 70% by 2030.
- Cancel the hugely carbon intensive road-building programme including the

A303 at Stonehenge and the Lower Thames Crossing, take all fossil fuel cars and vans off the road by 2030 and invest in public transport, active travel and support for disabled people to reduce car miles by 50% by 2030

- Increase land for forests and woodlands by planting 700 million trees by 2030 and encourage the restoration of peatland through new subsidies to capture carbon and protect nature

The UK's Committee on Climate Change has today published its sixth carbon budget, which sets out the volume of greenhouse gases the UK can emit between 2033 and 2037 if it is to remain on track to reach net zero by 2050. [3]

Bristol Green Party Councillor Carla Denyer, who proposed the UK's first climate emergency motion, said:

"The government has so far failed to meet any of its targets to reach net zero by 2050 – a target which in itself may not be enough to address runaway climate change.

"Even worse, in many areas they are going in the wrong direction. We should be looking to swiftly reduce the amount of travel that is necessary by car, yet this government is going ahead with its £27 billion road building project."

"Meanwhile, thousands of people across the country are living in fuel poverty this winter, unable to afford to heat their homes. This simply should not be happening. The Green Party's plan to provide insulation and heat pumps would mean such inequalities would be a thing of the past.

"It is only the Green Party that is putting forward the bold and ambitious plans to reduce the UK's carbon emissions as quickly as is feasible and provide new opportunities for everyone to live happier and more secure lives."

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement>

2

A full breakdown of the Green Party's 10 point plan for climate is available here:

https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Communications/10_Point_Climate_Plan.pdf

3

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/sixth-carbon-budget/>

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