



Demanding UK emissions cuts: a short action guide

November 2017

Under UN climate agreements, the UK is obliged to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to avert climate chaos. Yet recent announcements by the government reveal that the UK is failing to commit to cut emissions fast enough. Quakers in Britain are demanding that the UK government faces up its obligations on climate change. Here's how you can join the call.

The UK's climate obligations

Under the in **2015 Paris climate agreement**, the UK committed to cut emissions in line with limiting global warming to **well below 2°C** above pre-industrial levels by 2100, and to pursue efforts to limit this further to **1.5°C**.

A 2°C limit to global warming was previously regarded by governments as a safeguard against climate chaos. It's why the UK has enshrined it as a national target in the UK Climate Change Act 2008. Yet at the Paris negotiations, governments committed to 'further pursue efforts' to limit warming to 1.5°C in recognition that 2°C warming would probably still lead to prolonged heat waves, crop failures and coastal flooding around the world.

Falling short

However, recent announcements by the UK government reveal that **existing and new policies would fail to meet the UK's commitments** to cut GHG emissions.

In October, the government released its new Clean Growth Strategy. It committed to large-scale investment for an array of green industries. Yet it noted that government policies would still lead to emissions that would exceed the UK's carbon budgets for 2023-32 (which are legally bindings and designed to achieve a 2°C target) by 6 to 9.7%. Failing to meet these carbon budgets leaves the Paris agreement's 1.5°C target as a distant ambition.

The strategy also glosses over many important issues. For example, it omits any mention of the government's current subsidies for fossil fuel companies, and its support for high-carbon industries like fracking and airport expansion.

In November, the government's budget further revealed that it will increase tax breaks for North Sea oil and gas industries and ruled out increased subsidies for renewables until 2025.

Take action

Join Quakers in Britain in demanding the UK government faces up to its climate commitments. Meet or write to your MP and ask them to call on the government to:

- Further develop the Clean Growth Strategy and other climate policy to fully meet the UK's remaining carbon budgets through domestic action.
- Furthering commit to policy and investment that ensures the UK plays its part in further pursuing efforts to limit global warming by 1.5°C.

If your MP is not in the Conservative Party, ask them how they will ensure their party will support policy for a rapid transition to a low-carbon economy.

If you receive a response from your MP, please share this with us. This will help us hold the government to account and support others in their witness.

You can **find out more about this issue**, including a more detailed policy briefing at www.quaker.org.uk/climatejustice.

If you'd like further support on engaging with your MP on this issue, please contact Chris Walker, Sustainability & Peace Programme Manager, at chrisw@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1048.

You can **find out who your MP is**, and how to contact them, at www.theyworkforyou.com.

Chris Walker

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