Suggested Topics to Raise with MPs and with Local Councillors

Please click on the links to see more detail on each of these topics.

- **Leadership** from the top
- **Re-think the Economics** of GDP driven growth
- **Energy Generation Strategy**
- **Priorities for the Use of Land**
- **International Cooperation** towards a net zero world
- **Population Migration**
- **National Vision**
- **Insulate all Existing Homes**
- **Development Policy** planning law and tax breaks
- **Business Incentives**
- **Transform Meat and Dairy**

Leadership from the top

Greta Thunberg's recently published tome, THE CLIMATE BOOK, asserts that the science concerning the future impact of climate change is clear; **what is missing is the political action to address this.**

Al Gore, lately Vice President of the United States of America, addressing the World Economic Forum at Davos, confirmed that we already have the technology to reach our climate goals for 2030. Further technology is under development to reach the goals for 2050. What is missing is the **political will** to achieve these goals.

'Political Will' means action by all of us - the electorate!

Please inform your MP if you agree that leadership from the top is needed for more government action to address climate change. MPs are aware of what needs to be done but may need a nudge to **raise this to the top of the agenda**. Conservative MP, Chris Skidmore has produced a 340 page report calling for action in many government departments. The House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee 1st Report of Session 2022–23, published 12 October 2022 is entitled "**In Our Hands**: Behaviour Change for Climate and Environmental Goals'. The Oxfordshire based 'Bioabundance' website lists 11 topics to raise with your MP. https://www.bioabundance.org.uk/example-emails-to-mp/

What is missing is the leadership from 10 Downing Street to make this happen. All MPs need to know that their constituents feel that not enough is being done to protect the environment for our children and grandchildren. MPs must use their persuasive powers to raise this high enough up the political agenda for action to be driven forward by leadership from the top.

People power is critical to meet the target of net zero by 2050. Analysis by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) suggests that without changes to peoples' behaviours now, the target of net zero by 2050 is not achievable**.** Polling shows that the public is ready for leadership from the Government. People want to know how to play their part in tackling climate change and environmental damage; the Government is in a unique position to guide the public in changing their behaviours. The Government should provide clarity to individuals about the changes we need to make, in how we travel, what we eat and buy, and how we use energy at home, and should articulate the many co-benefits to health and wellbeing of taking these steps. **A public engagement strategy** is urgently required, both to communicate a national narrative and build support for getting to net zero.

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Re-Think GDP

A key challenge is the global and UK obsession with growth in GDP as the primary indicator of a nation's success, rather than measures that reflect a balance of environmental and societal wellbeing, as well as a healthy economy. We need a dashboard to measure environmental capital and social capital alongside GDP. We should embrace the principles of Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics. Society needs to adapt to 21st Century economics, to moderate outdated ideas of pursuing growth without regard for resource consumption into a set of policies which protect the welfare of all society and reduce the degradation of our natural environment. The need to move towards a 21st Century economic model is explained in this 6 minute TED-ED video.
New Zealand is setting us an example in that direction. The Climate Emergency demands investment in zero carbon energy, a low carbon transport system and infrastructure, the efficient use of energy by insulating our legacy buildings and the development of alternative food supplies to reduce the CO2 and methane produced by agriculture. Growth in the economy must be focussed on sustainability and zero carbon.
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Energy Generation Strategy.

We lack a strategy to plan for the increasing need for electricity, whilst rapidly reducing our use of fossil fuels. We should use the current energy and interconnected inflation crisis as an opportunity to rapidly realign our economy to deliver on net zero rather than allowing further expansion of oil and gas. The Energy Generation Strategy must include plans for nuclear power, on shore and off shore wind power, tidal power and locally funded solar and wind power. We need to regulate the energy market so that locally generated power becomes more profitable. Energy storage is a key component including hydroelectric storage, battery development, hydrogen and ammonia. We need to invest in global schemes for energy storage, for example incentivising our energy companies to produce ammonia in countries where wind and sunshine abound.

Tortoise Media reports:
One of the challenges for oil majors is **the shortage of targets for a big clean energy deal**. A shortage of money is definitely not a problem.

Just two new wind turbines were installed in England in 2022, according to research from trade body RenewableUK. Onshore wind is one of the cheapest forms of power generation and, along with solar, one of the quickest to deploy. Yet its rollout in England is choked by a planning framework that says new applications must have the backing of the local community and be in an area identified as "suitable" for wind. Six new onshore wind projects were installed in Scotland last year, accounting for nearly all the new onshore power capacity added in the UK in 2022. The government has announced a consultation on reform of planning rules. Change can't happen fast enough.

A backlash against industrial-size solar farms is brewing. At least 75 big solar projects were vetoed across the United States last year, compared to 19 in 2021. And between January 2021 and July 2022, planning permission for 23 new solar farms was rejected across England, Wales, and Scotland, when only four projects were refused between 2017 and 2020—representing the highest rejection rate in five years. Decarbonization, to some extent, risks getting bogged down by planning objections. People very often don't want solar farms in their backyard. France, though, appears to have a solution: transforming its parking lots

into solar farms nationwide. The French Senate has approved a bill requiring new and existing lots with more than 80 spaces to be at least half covered with canopies of solar panels that sit over the parking spaces. Assuming the bill comes into effect later this year, parking lots with more than 400 spaces must be compliant by 2026; smaller ones with 80 to 400 spaces will be given until 2028.

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Land Use Strategy

We need a Government sponsored strategy to help planners, farmers, forestry and gardeners to gain optimum value from the land both now and sustainably into the future. Soil management is relevant to many areas of land management including: food, fibre, fuel and timber production, biodiversity conservation, water and climate management. Some land must be allocated to recreation under competing demands for space from our society. Soil management is also key to the restoration of soils that have been subject to harmful industrial intervention, addressing issues such as the re-instatement of contaminated land and mineral extraction sites. We need to manage our landscape to reduce the risk of flooding by lowering the existing land creating more capacity for flood water. We need policies to encourage practices in agriculture to sequester carbon into the soil, to grow big high yielding crops that are photosynthesising to take as much carbon out of the air as possible and put it into the soil. In gardens, a few small changes in the way gardens are managed can bring major benefits for the creatures that call it home. In urban areas, relatively small wooded areas and green walls can reduce local pollution and encourage biodiversity. We need to encourage and coordinate planning and implementation of woodland and green wall creation projects.

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International Cooperation

The most fundamental obstacle is the global lack of action and cooperation amongst nations to deliver agreements from COP 26 going back to 1992; for instance a fundamental reshaping of the global oil and gas market is required to ensure global stability. The UK must deliver net zero and honour its commitments made at COP26. This includes cutting the UK's emissions faster than currently planned. The UK should consider carefully its trading partners and actively deselect those that are not following through on COP26 agreements.

The need for international action to force oil companies to capture and store as much CO2 pollution of the atmosphere as their products produce is of paramount importance.

This is advocated by Professor Myles Allen, Oxford's Professor for Geosystem Science. "The key to preventing climate change is reducing carbon dioxide emissions to net zero… there are real (and relatively straightforward) solutions to the climate crisis." For more than a decade, ever since he identified the need for net zero, Professor Allen has championed the idea that carbon capture and storage – whereby carbon dioxide is literally scrubbed out of exhaust gases, or even from the atmosphere itself, and stored safely back underground – should be a licensing condition of continued extraction and use of fossil fuels. "It would come with a cost, of course", he says, "but it can be done: stopping fossil fuels from causing global warming by taking the CO2 they produce back out of the atmosphere would add about 50p to the cost of producing a litre of petrol. Everyone has a different reason for not wanting

to implement it yet. 'But, if Britain imposed regulations to make the polluter clean up [requiring disposal of CO2], it … would be an easily portable policy, which could be copied elsewhere. See Prof Allen's 3 minute video Introducing a Carbon Takeback Policy.
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Population Migration

We are deeply concerned about the impact climate change is already having globally, especially in poorer nations. It is distressing that the current global inertia will lead to disorder, insurrection and wars that will be caused by migration from areas of the world that will become uninhabitable because of climate change. Focusing on securing our borders is not an enduring solution – the work needs to happen at international level to strengthen the economies of poorer nations so that the desire to migrate is reduced. It is to our shame that the UK Government chose not to honour the 0.7% of GDP to the developing world. We must be sympathetic to demands from developing countries who are calling for climate funding promises to be met and significantly increased.

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Vision of a Net Zero World

What is required is **a clear vision** for how communities would look in a net zero world and suitable roadmaps and funding to deliver them. We must inform industry and the public of the very difficult choices that the UK and other countries need to make. We need annual and five yearly measurable targets of progress towards carbon net zero by 2050 as advised by leading academics including Kate Raworth, Tim Jackson and Jason Hickelas. In the UK, we must annually measure progress towards The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

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Building Insulation

This must provide incentives to insulate the existing housing stock. Heat loss from our buildings is a major component of the UK carbon footprint. We must establish a programme to insulate all existing homes. Encouraging businesses to specialise in home insulation will create hundreds of jobs. Householders and businesses will need incentives to get this done.

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Development Policy

The Government growth policy forces extra local development at the expense of the environment, and the planning system results in too few truly affordable homes, as developers prioritise larger homes with higher carbon footprints and more profit. We need to review tax and incentives, for instance stamp duty on new builds, so that building social housing becomes more profitable to the builders than building market value housing. We need a change to building regulations to insist that all new builds use the most up to date environmental standards rather than those in place when planning permission was granted.

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Incentives for Businesses

We need to encourage Industry to deliver the Green Industrial Revolution. We need to create a framework of industrial policies, taxes and incentives so that businesses, consumers and other groups can feel the financial consequences of the carbon impact of that business. We need to incentivise climate friendly innovation; and to remove subsidies from legacy high carbon industries, such as fossil fuels. We should use changes in corporation tax to be based on both profit and environmental impact, in order to elevate environmental measures to the same level of importance as profit for businesses. We need to more closely define advertising standards to make businesses tell customers about actual progress towards real and measurable climate targets.

Tortoise Net Zero reports: Less than half of FTSE 100 companies are on track to meet their emissions reductions targets,

Companies are coming under growing pressure from investors, consumers and regulators to prepare for the transition to net zero. But while some of the UK's biggest companies have grasped the need for change, far too many are still focused on business as usual.

The UN said last year that there was "no credible pathway" to holding the global temperature rise to 1.5C. Above this level, millions more people around the world will be exposed to extreme heat waves, rainfall and drought, while the risk of forest fires and the spread of invasive species and pests increases.

Tortoise reported last year that if everyone decarbonised at the same rate that the FTSE 100 collectively plans to, the world would be on track for warming of at least 2.8C. The full list of companies and temperature pathways is **published here**.

The analysis found:

- Autotrader, Next, SSE, Tesco and Whitbread are among just 16 FTSE 100 companies that have set targets aligned with a 1.5C rise in global temperatures and are also on track to meet that target.
- A total of 29 companies in the FTSE 100 are aligned with a temperature rise of more than 3C, including Shell, Rio Tinto and BAE Systems.

One of the challenges for oil majors is the shortage of targets for a big clean energy deal. A shortage of money is definitely not a problem.
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Reduce Meat and Dairy

Animal agriculture causes 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions – equivalent to all the planes, trucks, cars, trains and ships on Earth. Research by Oxford University shows that the world cannot meet its climate targets without shifting away from conventional animal agriculture. But in Europe, meat consumption is increasing. Moving to plant-based and cultivated meat could reduce climate emissions by up to 92% compared with farming animals – enabling people to eat familiar foods, without accelerating the climate crisis.

Cellular agriculture allows us to produce genuine animal proteins through microbial precision fermentation. Public sector investment in open-access research can address foundational issues and support the growth of a whole sector. Governments can transform meat production in a systemic way – maximising the societal benefits of plant-based and cultivated meat. See market research to uncover commercial white spaces, research gaps, technological needs, and investment priorities at each stage of the plant-based, cultivated meat and fermentation value chain.

Dairy has become a growing topic of concern in the conversation around aligning our dietary choices to a 1.5 degree world. Western dairy consumption practices are incompatible with keeping within planetary boundaries. Government sponsored collaboration across the food system is needed to tackle the interconnected challenges of planetary and human health. Moving from an understanding of these issues, to action, is complicated and controversial. In Henry Dimbleby's National Food Strategy, it is recommended that if the UK cut its meat and dairy intake by one-third by 2050, a fifth of our farmland could be restored to nature or low-intensity farming, which would help conserve wildlife and create carbon sinks. Government intervention is required in order to help farmers make a greener transition.

New Zealand is introducing a levy for farmers who meet the threshold for herd size and fertiliser use by 2025. Their consultation involved engaging with farmers, businesses and policy makers, in order to co-create an equitable and climate-sensitive path forward.

The alternative dairy market is expected to grow 16 per cent annually until 2027. In 2021, the industry was valued at $20 billion, of which almost $18 billion comes from plant-based milk.

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