



2024 has seen worsening climate impacts threaten lives and livelihoods across the world. From hurricanes in North America, successive typhoons in Southeast Asia, extreme European heat and wildfires, and most recently the devastating flooding in Spain, central Europe and central Africa, climate change is affecting us all, and those who have the least the most, both here in the UK and around the world. The urgency to act has never been greater.

We are therefore deeply concerned by the US President-Elect's stated intent to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. International climate action is needed more than ever to limit global warming to 1.5C and urgently deliver the finance needed to those most impacted and vulnerable to climate change.

The new UK government was just elected with a clear mandate for greater ambition on climate and nature action. Indeed, polling published this week by [Green and Global](#) shows two thirds of the public are in favour of increasing or sustaining UK global climate ambition following the President-Elect's proposals to reverse US commitments. Wider research shows the UK public want us to be leaders on global climate action.

Ahead of the crucial climate negotiations at COP29 in Baku, we are calling on Keir Stamer to make a clear statement that the UK will commit to greater leadership on climate and nature, both at home and on the world stage, despite the negative signals from the US. The UK has a powerful voice on these matters, and has already shown strong climate leadership e.g. through investment in offshore wind.

The UK Government must make climate and nature their legacy and deliver on their electoral mandate for climate and nature leadership.

The Climate Coalition is the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action on the climate and nature crises. Along with our sister organisations Climate Cymru and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, we are a group of over 130 organisations with a combined supporter base of 20 million. This statement is supported by:

Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK)

Climate Outreach

Community Energy England

Equal Right

Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Greenpeace UK

Green Alliance

Hope for the Future

Groundwork

RSPB



Uplift

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Wildlife & Countryside Link

Woodland Trust

Supporting quotes from member organisations

Beccy Speight, RSPB chief executive, said: *“We undoubtedly face a global nature and climate emergency that is bigger than any single nation. Regardless of political change, it will take all of us to save species, protect habitats and tackle climate change. Globally, we have already hit record levels of emissions which risks major damage to our homes, livelihoods and nature. Now is the time for the UK Government to demonstrate solid nature and climate leadership on the world stage, and eyes will be on the Prime Minister at next week’s COP29 to secure a safe climate future for nature and humanity.”*

Jamie Peters, interim chief executive at Friends of the Earth, said: *“We won't let the result of the US election derail global progress towards averting the worst of climate breakdown. It's never been more important for the UK to demonstrate climate leadership. In the wake of devastating and deadly flooding in Europe, hurricanes in the Americas, and record wildfires across Brazil this year, now is a pivotal moment.*

“We urgently need a bold and fair climate plan that details how we'll cut emissions in line with the UK's carbon reduction targets, which are currently veering dangerously off track, alongside far stronger measures in place to protect people, properties and infrastructure from current and future impacts of climate change.

“We know also that many people in the US and around the world will be feeling dismayed by what this outcome will mean for democracy, environmental justice and for the rights of women, people of colour, refugees and LGBTQI+ communities. Now is a crucial time for us to come together as a movement, to continue the fight for climate and social justice. We stand in solidarity with our sister organisation in the US, Friends of the Earth Action. We remain committed to building a fair, green future; united against fear, division and hatred; and undivided in our resistance to attacks on democracy and human rights.”

Cat Pettengell, Executive Director, Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK): *“There has never been a more important moment for this new government to step up and concretely demonstrate its aspirations on climate leadership. COP29 must deliver a breakthrough on climate finance for the Global South, but the outcome hangs in the balance. The climate emergency doesn't go away by ignoring it. Communities at home and overseas need action,*



and deserve Leaders that show up and lead."

"Across the UK, people are doing their bit every day to help tackle climate change. Our concern for climate and nature is not going away. We are looking to the Government for leadership, and the Prime Minister has the perfect opportunity to show this at COP29."

Rachael Orr, CEO, Climate Outreach

Dr Darren Moorcroft, Woodland Trust CEO said: "At a time of turbulence both politically and environmentally, millions of people at home and abroad are looking to the UK for sure-footed world leadership when it comes to tackling the climate and nature crises. The UK Government must draw confidence from a mandate rooted in a powerful national relationship with the landscape, compelling scientific evidence and uniquely strong historic ties with the US to be more steadfast than ever in fulfilling its responsibilities to the planet".

Graham Duxbury, Groundwork's UK CEO, said: "Action on climate change must not become a polarising political issue. We know that it has broad support among the population and responsible businesses are leading the way. To avoid this risk we need to find policy solutions to the climate and nature crises that also create jobs, cut bills and help people lead healthier, happier lives. We urge the UK Government to play a leadership role in delivering a just transition to a more sustainable future for us all."

"People voted for climate action and leadership and this government recognises that the urgent transition cannot happen without people and communities actively involved and empowered to take ownership and control. Whatever changes in politics the climate crisis continues to worsen and this government must not falter in leading the way on the global stage and empowering local leaders to do the same in the UK." Helen Seagrave, Chair, Community Energy England.

"It's more important than ever for communities and their elected representatives to be working together to tackle the climate and nature crisis. We want to see the UK Government providing the world with hope and showing global leadership through actions they are taking at home and abroad. There has never been a more important time for the UK to take bold action for the climate and nature to ensure a healthy, sustainable future for us all."

Nicola Sansom - Director of Delivery, Hope for the Future

