

# Briefing: Carbon Budget 7



## YOUR ACTION REQUIRED

**The Vote:** Before June 30th, MPs will get a chance to vote on carbon budget 7. This will set the UK's emissions reduction target for 2038-2042 but not on the policies to achieve it.

Friends of the Earth is calling for all **MPs to press the government in advance of the vote** to make a commitment on policy principles for how the target will be delivered. In our view, asking Parliament to agree a reduction target without saying how it will be delivered is too much like the government asking for a blank cheque from Parliament.

**Timeline:** Before June 2026

### Your Action:

1. **Please write to Ed Miliband NOW** requesting commitment to the 5 policy principles below
2. **Please vote YES** to the CB7 statutory instrument when it comes before Parliament

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## What is Carbon Budget 7?

Carbon Budget 7 (CB7) will set a legally binding limit on the UK's greenhouse gas emissions for the period 2038 to 2042. The government will recommend a target to Parliament, most likely based on advice from the Climate Change Committee. This vote is on the emissions reduction target itself—Parliament will not be voting on specific policies to achieve it, though those policies must follow.

CB7 is the seventh in a series of five-year carbon budgets established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Meeting these budgets is essential to keep the UK on track for net zero by 2050 and to maintain our international credibility—over 100 countries have modelled their climate laws on the UK's framework.

**Friends of the Earth urges you to vote YES to CB7, but first to secure commitments from government that climate action will deliver fairness, lower bills, and good jobs.**

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## Why Carbon Budget 7 matters to people in your constituency

Climate change is driving more extreme weather. Six of the ten wettest winters since records began more than 250 years ago have been in the 21st century. The UK exceeded 40°C for the first time on 19 July 2022 and this will become much more frequent. Floods, extreme heat,

storms and prolonged droughts harm health, damage the economy, and make growing food much more difficult.

Flooding from rivers, seas or flash flooding will increase as climate change worsens. Those least able to protect their home from flooding, escape when it occurs, and recover afterwards are most at risk. Older people and those in poor health are most at risk from extreme heat, particularly those in care homes and hospitals. Researchers studying care homes have reported "endemic overheating across the care homes" they studied, and in 2022-23, the NHS in England recorded 6,822 instances of overheating in hospitals.

**Scientists warn that with 2°C of global warming we could cross tipping points with catastrophic consequences for global food and water security. Pretending climate change does not exist or is unimportant is irresponsible.**

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## **The 5 Policy Principles government must commit to**

**Friends of the Earth is calling on all MPs to press the government to commit to these policy principles before the CB7 vote:**

### **a) Energy bills will fall, not rise**

Wholesale gas prices are increasing yet again because of another global conflict. Renewable energy and energy efficiency can increase the UK's resilience to these fossil fuel price shocks. But over successive governments policy costs have also been added to bills. The government needs to guarantee that energy bills will decrease as a result of decarbonisation efforts, that the UK will become more resilient to fossil fuel price shocks and that they will help those most at risk through, for example, targeted home insulation programmes and the introduction of a social tariff for energy.

### **b) Fairness will be guaranteed**

The socio-economic duty of the Equality Act must be enacted as promised by the Labour Party in its general election manifesto. This would legally require the UK government and local government to consider fairness when making policy. Doing so could result in low-income households being able to afford heat pumps, public EV charging being accessible and affordable, and that those without cars having reliable bus services.

### **c) Communities will have genuine decision-making power**

The government must commit to improve public participation in decision-making, including proactive engagement with communities most impacted by climate change. Better engagement leads to better decisions and greater public support. Friends of the Earth's [Fairness Test report](#) outlines how this could work.

### **d) A just transition with good jobs and thriving industries**

The government's Clean Energy Jobs Plan and Industrial Strategy are welcome steps toward creating manufacturing jobs and supporting workers through the transition. As sectors change due to the global clean energy transition, workers and industries need assurance that government will support them.

## e) No carbon lock-in from high-carbon developments

High-carbon developments—such as airport expansion or large numbers of data centres—should only be approved if mitigation measures are certain, not through assumptions that speculative technologies such as sustainable aviation fuel or greenhouse gas removals will work. Approving projects without certainty risks breaking future carbon budgets, undermining those on the frontline of climate change and damaging UK credibility internationally.

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## The benefits of climate action for your constituency

**Warmer homes** — across all constituencies there are far too many homes poorly insulated. Insulation cuts emissions and reduces health costs from cold homes.

**Cleaner air** — much of the country also has air pollution above World Health Organisation safe levels, particularly harming young people and their developing lungs, as well as those with respiratory problems. Electric vehicles and better bus services reduce pollution.

**Green jobs** — The low-carbon economy is growing much faster than the rest of the UK economy, creating opportunities for good jobs across the country.

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## Why UK leadership matters

The UK cannot solve climate change alone, but our leadership is essential. Yes we emit less than 2% of global emissions but so do most countries in the world - collectively these countries add up to more than a third of the world's CO2 emissions. All countries need to act for our collective future. If a wealthy country like the UK fails to meet its own legally binding carbon budgets, it sends a disastrous signal internationally and undermines the case for climate action everywhere. Over 100 countries have adopted climate frameworks based on the UK's groundbreaking Climate Change Act. The UK must lead by example.

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## Your Action

- **Please Write to Ed Miliband NOW** — Ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero to commit to the 5 policy principles outlined above before the CB7 vote. These commitments could be made through an updated 'Strategy and policy statement for energy policy in Great Britain'.
- **Please Vote YES to the Carbon Budget 7 statutory instrument** — When introduced using the affirmative resolution procedure before June 2026.

To see relevant data in your constituency, visit the Friends of the Earth's [Local Environmental Data tool](#).

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