

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

26 October 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: Business calls for a new era of UK climate leadership**

As 55 businesses, investors and financial institutions, we welcome your missions to kickstart economic growth and make Britain a clean energy superpower, that both support delivering net zero. To strengthen this commitment, **we call on you to use the UK's presence at COP29 to reassert the UK's global climate leadership position through announcing an ambitious and investable 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**, which is underpinned by credible delivery mechanisms and encourages other countries to follow suit.

In 2023, due to a slowing of efforts to scale up climate action, the Climate Change Committee stated that the UK had lost its clear global climate leadership position. However, this government's commitment to driving an ambitious domestic policy programme leaves it well placed to lead by example at upcoming international summits.

It is now time for the UK to take firm and consistent action to regain that position.

Setting out an ambitious and investable 2035 NDC at COP29 as one of the first countries globally represents a major opportunity for the UK to increase its global influence. Announcing a plan that is at least in line with the Paris Agreement and the UK's 2050 net zero emissions target, and reflects the Climate Change Committee's advice, will not only demonstrate a clear commitment to decarbonisation, but will also support the government's mission to crowd in vital private investment needed to drive economic growth.

We call for a 2035 NDC that is:

- **Aligned with business targets:** We represent businesses, investors and financial institutions, many of whom have set their own net zero targets and are aligning their portfolios to the goals of the Paris Agreement. An NDC that reflects this goal, recognises the critical role of business in financing and implementing net zero, and is supplemented by clear delivery plans would provide stability and further strengthen investor confidence in the UK economy.
- **Embedded in UK policy and implementation plans:** While ambitious targets signal a direction of travel, climate leadership is ultimately built upon delivery and implementation of plans. By setting an NDC that is backed up by an updated and credible UK Net Zero Strategy, which includes strong and long-term sectoral policies and clear timelines, we can work collaboratively to create a virtuous circle of private investment, accelerated action, and increasing ambition.
- **Supporting global ambition and levelling the playing field:** While the UK must lead by example, it cannot do this alone. We are ready to work with you to raise global ambition and support more countries in raising ambition levels and delivering on their commitments. This includes continuing to support the push for clear fossil fuel phase out roadmaps and opportunities for multilateral collaboration.
- **Connecting climate and nature plans:** Government should connect climate and nature plans globally and domestically through its plans to deliver the NDC, alongside National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and National Adaptation Plans. These plans should be connected and delivered through cross-government cooperation to ensure the UK is proactive in building a resilient economy that is also well prepared for the impacts of climate change.

**By working together as businesses, investors, financial institutions and government, we can be a powerful catalyst for global change.** We hope you will take this opportunity to match our ambition to reassert the UK's role as global climate leader and announce an ambitious and investable UK NDC.

Yours sincerely,

1. Stephen Sykes, Co-Founder and Director, 2030hub
2. Alessia Gotti, Managing Director, AG Textiles Studio
3. Robert Sheasby, CEO, Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)
4. Rachel Solomon Williams, Executive Director, Aldersgate Group
5. Monica Arino, Director of Public Policy, Amazon UK
6. Tim Morris, Group Head of Corporate Communications, Associated British Ports
7. Caspar Herzberg, CEO, AVEVA
8. Chris Oglesby, Chief Executive Officer, Bruntwood SciTech
9. Rich Marsh, Sustainability Director, BT Group
10. Carlos Jaureguizar, CEO, Bupa Global, India & UK
11. Duncan Price, Partner, Global Sustainability & Climate Leader, Buro Happold
12. Tania Kumar, Net Zero Director, CBI
13. Chris O'Shea, Chief Executive Officer, Centrica Plc
14. Tim Rook, CMO, Clade Engineering
15. Julian Hunt, VP, Public Affairs and Communications, GB, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners
16. Robin Mills, CEO, Compass Group UK & Ireland
17. Chidi Oti Oti Obihara, Lead Author, COP26 climate action plan
18. Chris Norbury, CEO, E.ON UK
19. Prof. Miranda Barker OBE, CEO, East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce
20. Susan McGarry, Director of Sustainability and Public Affairs, Ecocem
21. Dhara Vyas, Deputy Chief Executive, Energy UK
22. James Brueton, CEO, EnviroBuild Materials Ltd
23. Richard Speak, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Finance Earth
24. Tor Burrows, Group Sustainability Director, Grosvenor
25. Thomas Woldbye, CEO, Heathrow Airport
26. Peter Jelkeby, CEO and Chief Sustainability Officer, IKEA UK and Ireland
27. Simon Storer, CEO, Insulation Manufacturers Association
28. Emma Hoskyn, UK Head of Sustainability, JLL
29. Liam Condon, CEO, Johnson Matthey
30. Roy Bedlow, Chief Executive and Founder, Low Carbon
31. Robert Lambe, Chief Executive, Melius Homes Limited
32. Mark Caskey, Managing Director, Projects, Mitie
33. Richard Watson, CEO, Nestle UK & Ireland
34. Jack Broadley, Founder/Owner, Pelorus Consulting
35. Alex Whitehouse, CEO, Premier Foods
36. Prof. Miranda Barker OBE, Chair, RedCAT
37. Royal London
38. Salesforce
39. Keith Anderson, CEO, ScottishPower
40. Nico van der Merwe, Cluster Leader – Europe West, Signify
41. Nicola Stopps, CEO, Simply Sustainable LTD
42. Alistair Phillips-Davies, CEO, SSE
43. Diba Salam, Founder & Principal, StudioDS
44. Gabriel Wondrausch, Founder, SunGift Solar
45. Alistair Allison, Chief Executive Officer, TFT
46. Leah Seligmann, Chief Change Catalyst & CEO, The B Team
47. Karen Betts OBE, Chief Executive, The Food and Drink Federation

48. Bevis Watts, CEO, Triodos Bank UK
49. Beverley Cornaby, Director, UK Corporate Leaders Group
50. Steve Kenzie, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network UK
51. Marc Woodward, Head of Unilever UK & Ireland, Unilever UK & Ireland
52. Alex o'dell, Vice President Great Britain & Ireland, VELUX Group
53. Dave Worthington, Managing Director, Verco
54. Andrew Prag, Managing Director - Policy, We Mean Business coalition
55. Andrew Dakers, CEO, West London Business



