

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
11 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AB

Monday 06 November 2023

Dear Chancellor,

**We are writing to you as UK businesses and business group representatives to urge you to use the upcoming Autumn Statement to provide coherent, robust and proportionate intervention in the global race to net zero.**

Achieving net zero is an economic, political and moral imperative to avoid catastrophic climate impacts – it is also an economic opportunity and continues to enjoy the support of the public. Sustainable economic growth in the coming decades will depend on the growth of the green economy, as Chris Skidmore's *Mission Zero* report highlighted. Businesses have shown that there are business benefits to the net zero transition – in the form of improved efficiency, reduced costs, a more circular approach, and access to new markets. With over 90% of global GDP covered by net zero targets, markets for low carbon technologies, materials and products are likely to grow rapidly – and the advantages of being a first mover could be huge.

The UK's competitors are not standing still, with the USA and EU both taking steps in recent months to step up their own transition, and in the process aiming to attract low-carbon investment.

**For UK businesses to benefit from the opportunities offered by the transition to a net zero economy the government needs to provide a clear and consistent long-term strategy, develop a supportive policy environment, send better signals to the private sector about the scale and type of investment needed, and continuously engage with businesses and financial institutions.** This will serve to reinforce the UK's commitment to being a leader in the global race to net zero, and to putting in place the enabling factors that allow business to unlock low carbon investment and accelerate action.

The Autumn Statement provides an opportunity to set out some of the necessary details, as well as re-confirming the overall direction of travel, which has become clouded following recent political interventions.

Investment in the supportive architecture that will enable a green transition – such as infrastructure (including nature-based solutions), skills, R&D and innovation – are all required. This should be coupled with the right investment incentives, including tax incentives, to make the UK a go-to destination for low carbon capital, skills and innovation. The Autumn Statement is a chance to set out clearly what the government's priorities are for net zero industries and technologies and how these will be delivered. Building on the Green Finance Strategy can mobilise a step change in green investment into the green industries of the future. This will send the necessary signals to the private sector to move forward at the necessary pace, especially ahead of COP28.

HM Treasury has an opportunity to set the guiding pathway by which we transition the economy, particularly to focus on areas where the UK has a competitive advantage. Much of the heavy lifting will come from the private sector but, as we undertake this transition together, it needs a long-term approach, clear signals, policy certainty and the right level of incentives from government to catalyse transformative action.

A well-managed transition can help to ease the cost of living crisis for households. Government policy that supports a reduction in emissions should also ensure the costs of delivering net zero are fairly distributed, minimising the burden on households, especially the poorest.

**Ahead of its release, we would like to meet with you to discuss how the Autumn Statement may provide a coherent, proportionate, and robust response to the global race to net zero. In the meantime, please see the attached supporting materials that may inform how you do this.**

Yours sincerely,

1. Robert Sheasby, Chief Executive, Agricultural Industries Confederation
2. Rachel Solomon Williams, Executive Director, Aldersgate Group
3. John Boumphrey, Country Manager UK, Amazon
4. Peter Simpson, Chief Executive, Anglian Water Services
5. Jack Harvie-Clark, Managing Director, Apex Acoustics Ltd
6. Caspar Herzberg, CEO, AVEVA
7. Rachel Elwell, Chief Executive, Border to Coast
8. Sylvie Russell, COO, Cambridge Cleantech
9. Sherry Madera, Chief Executive Officer, CDP
10. Anthony Levy, Chairman, Circularity First
11. Champa Patel, Executive Director for Government and Policy, Climate Group
12. Stephen Moorhouse, Vice President and General Manager, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners
13. Allan Dunsmore, Director, Conisbee
14. Avent Bezuidenhout, CEO, Earth Capital
15. Stuart Lemmon, Managing Director, EcoAct Northern Europe
16. Simone Rossi, CEO, EDF
17. Lucy Cullinane, Operations Director, Efeca
18. James Brueton, CEO, EnviroBuild
19. Jacob Hayler, Executive Director, Environmental Services Association
20. Richard Speak, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Finance Earth
21. Balwinder Dhoot, Director of Sustainability and Growth, Food and Drink Federation
22. Basil Demeroutis, Managing Partner, FORE Partnership
23. Tor Burrows, Group Sustainability Director, Grosvenor
24. Jon Lovell, Managing Director, Hillbreak
25. Jonathan Geldart, Director General, Institute of Directors
26. Simon Storer, CEO, Insulation Manufacturers Association
27. Lisa Conway, VP Global Market Sustainability, Interface
28. Jojo Linds de Noronha, Northern Europe President, Kraft Heinz
29. Roy Bedlow, CEO, Low Carbon
30. Richard Watson, CEO, Nestlé UK&I Ltd
31. Jack Broadley, Director, Pelorus Consulting
32. Zahra Bahrololoumi, EVP & CEO UK/I, Salesforce
33. Sandy Begbie, CEO, Scottish Financial Enterprise
34. Barry Jessup, Managing Director, Socius Development Limited
35. Alistair Phillips-Davies, Chief Executive, SSE plc
36. Kevin O'Donovan, UK Managing Director, Statkraft UK
37. Diba Salam, CEO, Founder & Principal, StudioDS
38. Gabriel Wondrausch, CEO, SunGift Solar
39. Jade Lewis, Chief Executive, Sustainable Energy Association

40. Tom Druitt, CEO, The Big Lemon CIC
41. Alistair Allison, Managing Partner, Tuffin Ferraby Taylor (TFT)
42. Beverley Cornaby, Director, UK Corporate Leaders Group
43. Steve Kenzie, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network UK
44. Marc Woodward, Head of Country, Unilever UK
45. Alex O'dell, Senior Market Director, VELUX Company Ltd
46. Dave Worthington, Managing Director, Verco
47. Simon Griffin, Dealer Principal & Director, Watts Truck & Van Limited
48. María Mendiluce, Chief Executive, We Mean Business coalition
49. Andrew Dakers, CEO, West London Business
50. John Keppel, Chief Sustainability Officer, Zurich Insurance Company



