



# Why the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill is Essential

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## NET ZERO BY 2050 IS JUST TOO DANGEROUS

### THE DANGER

- Net zero by 2050 only gives the world a “greater than 50% chance” of staying below 1.5°C, according to the Committee on Climate Change (CCC).<sup>2</sup> That’s gambling our children’s future on the toss of a coin.
- Even if we took that dubious bet at global level, the UK must go faster.<sup>3</sup> The CCC’s 2050 roadmap sets emission reductions too low, backloads them to the 2030-40s and heavily relies on unproven technologies.
- “Climate change could make insurance too expensive for most people,” warns Munich Re, the world’s largest reinsurance firm.<sup>4</sup> Extreme weather, causing coastal erosion and unprecedented flooding, is making UK communities uninsurable now.
- Reasonable worst-case scenarios predict a sea-level rise of two metres by 2100. That would displace nearly 200 million people and lead to “unimaginable social breakdown”.<sup>5</sup> Entire villages in the UK are already preparing to move.<sup>6</sup>

### 1.5°C – AN IMPERATIVE ACCORDING TO THE BEST SCIENCE

1.5°C is the highest we can go while still being able to manage these dangers.<sup>7</sup>

Along with the rest of the international community, the UK has committed to trying to keep global warming at 1.5°C.<sup>8</sup> We urgently need policies that make these targets credible. As co-hosts of COP 26 next year, we must show the world that we will act.

Humanity is crossing four of the nine critical planetary boundaries: climate change, loss of biosphere integrity, land-system change and biogeochemical cycles.<sup>9</sup> *Going over just one of these boundaries significantly increases the risk of catastrophic changes at continental scales.*

*Science tells us that the only sensible and fair way forward is for global heating to be kept to 1.5°C.*

#### **That’s why the CEE Bill needs to become law.**

Local authorities are already taking a lead. 230 councils have passed motions setting targets of net zero by 2030 or earlier and over 200 councils are supportive of 1.5°C.

Despite declaring a Climate Emergency last year, Parliament is being left behind.

## THE WAY FORWARD: WHAT THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY BILL SAYS

The Government must develop an emergency strategy that:

- requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures;
- ensures that all the UK's consumption emissions are accounted for;
- includes emissions from aviation and shipping;
- protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;
- ensures that all efforts are made to reduce emissions. In sectors where emissions are unavoidable, such as agriculture and construction, natural climate solutions are prioritised. Negative emissions technologies may only be used in these sectors and only where there is evidence that they cause no environmental damage;
- restores and regenerates the UK's depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states;
- sets up an independent Citizens' Assembly, representative of the UK's population, to engage with Parliament and Government to develop the emergency strategy.

### Why a Citizens' Assembly?

As the IPCC notes, 'rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society' are required if we are to stand a chance at limiting heating to 1.5°C.<sup>10</sup> Citizens' Assemblies are a tried-and-tested tool of ensuring broad support for policies that will significantly impact on people's lives.<sup>11</sup> Climate Assembly UK demonstrated how these processes can be successfully delivered at a national scale.<sup>12</sup>

### UNREALISTIC? NOT ACCORDING TO BUSINESSES IN EVERY SECTOR:

- **Companies:** 300 businesses (including household names like Tesco, Sainsbury's, Unilever and Ford) have signed up to the 1.5°C target.<sup>13</sup>
- **Finance:** The Bank of England<sup>14</sup> and City financiers<sup>15</sup> are scrambling to reduce climate crisis risks to capital assets and investment returns. Lloyds is the first high street bank to apply an explicit 1.5°C aligned target to its loan book.<sup>16</sup>
- **Steel:** The world's first fossil-free steel making starts in northern Sweden. "Net-zero emissions is possible. We must seize this chance," Martin Lindqvist, CEO of SSAB.<sup>17</sup>
- **Car Manufacturing:** Ford is planning for 1.5°C.<sup>18</sup>
- **Chemicals:** UK company Croda International and 6 other businesses are committed to 1.5°C.<sup>19</sup>
- **Cement:** Heidelberg Cement has pledged to achieve net-zero emission production by 2030 in its northern European factories.<sup>20</sup>

## Endnotes

- 1 Officially known as the Climate and Ecology Bill
- 2 <https://www.carbonbrief.org/in-depth-the-uk-should-reach-net-zero-climate-goal-by-2050-says-ccc>
- 3 <https://theconversation.com/new-net-zero-emissions-target-wont-end-uks-contribution-to-global-warming-heres-why-116386>
- 4 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/21/climate-change-could-make-insurance-too-expensive-for-ordinary-people-report>
- 5 <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2203700-sea-level-rise-could-hit-2-metres-by-2100-much-worse-than-feared/>
- 6 <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg24332453-800-communities-in-east-anglia-are-deciding-whether-to-abandon-their-towns/>
- 7 <https://www.carbonbrief.org/in-depth-qa-ipccs-special-report-on-climate-change-at-one-point-five-c>
- 8 [https://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/convention/application/pdf/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf)
- 9 <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2015-01-15-planetary-boundaries---an-update.html>
- 10 <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments>
- 11 <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/09/19/politicians-should-take-citizens-assemblies-seriously>
- 12 <https://www.climateassembly.uk/report/read/final-report-exec-summary.pdf>
- 13 <https://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/blog/leading-businesses-raise-the-bar-for-1-5c-climate-ambition/>
- 14 <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/climate-change>
- 15 <https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/the-financial-sector-is-waking-up-to-climate-change>
- 16 <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/jan/21/lloyds-set-to-halve-carbon-emissions-it-finances-in-10-years>
- 17 <https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/climate-crisis/2020/09/worlds-first-fossile-free-steel-plant-starts-operation-northern-sweden>
- 18 <https://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/blog/leading-businesses-raise-the-bar-for-1-5c-climate-ambition/>
- 19 <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/events/climate-action-summit-2019/business-ambition/business-leaders-taking-action>
- 20 <https://www.cemnet.com/Forum/thread/166045/in-support-of-the-cement-industry.html>