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THE CLIMATE GROUP

This is part of
THE CLEAN REVOLUTION

UK ELECTION: WHERE THE PARTIES STAND ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Ahead of the UK's general election, The Climate Group asked the seven main political parties five specific questions about their climate commitments and low carbon growth policies:

1. If in government, will you continue to abide by the Climate Change Act?
2. What are your party's policies to ensure the UK continues to meet its mandatory carbon budgets and the legislated aim of reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050?
3. Business arguably has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by providing many of the technological solutions and finance to support low carbon growth. What can governments do to support and incentivise low carbon investment by business, and equally what can business do to help ensure policy measures are effective?
4. What will a government led by or including your party do to ensure the outcome at the international climate negotiations in Paris is ambitious?
5. If your party is involved in negotiations to form a coalition government, will your position with regards to climate and energy policy constitute a 'red line' issue?

We gathered their responses together in this briefing paper, so the country's businesses can easily compare side by side which leaders are best positioned to accelerate the UK's low carbon economy.

ON MAY 7 THE UK GOES TO POLLS TO ELECT ITS NEXT GOVERNMENT.

Like many other countries in the world the last five years have been economically challenging for the UK, as the impacts of the global financial crisis hit public spending and business confidence hard.

Climate action has undoubtedly been affected by this economic turbulence.

Although the UK already has in place some of the world's most ambitious climate policies – including legislated national carbon budgets – in recent years, its leaders' efforts have been redirected to focus on deficit reduction and economic growth.

But with the next five years crucial to tackling dangerous climate change globally and avoiding the expensive lock-in of high-carbon energy infrastructure, the UK can no longer afford its low carbon transformation to be a second tier issue.

The financial case for investing in a clean energy revolution is clear. Today the global low carbon economy is worth an impressive US\$5 trillion¹. In 2013 alone, close to 1 million green jobs² were created, led by the solar industry. And last year, for the first time, global carbon dioxide stalled while global GDP rose by 3%.

Yet the UK could risk falling behind other countries in capitalizing on the huge economic opportunity of climate change. Indeed, the country slipped to 8th in this year's EY Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index, behind other major economies such as Germany, France, India, the US and China.³

And business leaders – like our corporate members – know that falling behind in the clean tech economy today will have consequences for tomorrow.

Forward-looking companies support a clean economy in the UK. They are already seeing a 27% internal rate of return on average for their low carbon investments.⁴ But they want to know where political parties stand, as this will affect key investment decisions.

Whichever party, or indeed parties, forms government, must move quickly to demonstrate how they will deliver low carbon investment across the economy, including for critical areas such as renewable energy, transportation and energy efficiency.

Businesses want clear, supportive policy frameworks to enable them to accelerate scale-up of proven low carbon solutions.

¹https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224068/bis-13-p143-low-carbon-and-environmental-goods-and-services-report-2011-12.pdf

²<http://www.theclimategroup.org/what-we-do/news-and-blogs/global-economy-could-save-us71-trillion-with-clean-energy-investment-65-million-people-currently-employed-in-the-industry/>

³<http://www.ey.com/GL/en/Industries/Power---Utilities/Renewable-Energy-Country-Attractiveness-Index---Index-highlights>

⁴[http://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/sites/default/files/The Climate Has Changed_0.pdf.com/press_releases/Green_tech_atlas_3_0.html](http://www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org/sites/default/files/The%20Climate%20Has%20Changed_0.pdf.com/press_releases/Green_tech_atlas_3_0.html)

Such clear direction is particularly crucial ahead of the Paris climate conference this December. Traditionally a champion of ambition at UN climate talks, many will look to the new UK government to help steer negotiations toward a successful conclusion.

Against this backdrop, this short briefing paper sets out answers from the UK's top seven political parties' to five identical questions we asked, which reveal the parties' climate change positions – and what they could mean for the low carbon economy.

Below we present answers from*:



The Conservative Party



The Green Party of England and Wales



The Labour Party



Liberal Democrats



Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales



Scottish National Party



UK Independence Party

1

IF IN GOVERNMENT, WILL YOU CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THE UK CLIMATE CHANGE ACT?



Yes



Yes



Scotland has the world's leading climate change targets. With a target of 42% by 2020 we are ahead of the UK at 34% and well ahead of the EU at 20%. This world-leading climate change legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament demonstrates Scotland's progressive approach to the protection of the environment, and makes Scotland a respected and valued player on the international stage.



No – we will repeal it.



Yes. The Climate Change Act 2008, passed by Ed Miliband when he was Energy and Climate Change Secretary with just five MPs voting against it, is one of the proudest achievements of the last Labour Government. Labour has always warned that climate change threatens national security because of the consequences for destabilisation of entire regions of the world, mass migration of millions of people and conflict over water or food supplies. The climate change consensus that once existed has frayed. Labour stands ready to work with good people from all parties to do what is necessary.



The Liberal Democrats are the only party that puts the environment at the heart of our thinking. In the first two years of the next parliament we would bring forward five green laws that will guarantee a permanently greener Britain.

One of those green laws in a Zero Carbon Britain Act – this would strengthen Climate Change Act targets, introduce a decarbonisation target for the electricity sector and end the use of dirty coal power stations.

Our other laws as part of our five Green Laws plans include:

- A Nature Act – to introduce legal targets for biodiversity, clean air, clean water and access to green spaces, establish the Natural Capital Committee in law, extend the 'Right to Roam' and establish new marine and coastal reserves.
- A Heating and Energy Efficiency Act – To boost renewable and district heating programmes, bring in tough new energy efficiency standards for homes and set up action on fuel poverty.
- A Zero Waste Britain Act – To Set Britain on a path to a 'circular economy' establishing a 'Stern Report' on resource use, with binding targets and a clear action plan to reduce waste and end landfill.
- A Green Transport Act – To help establish a full network of charging points for electric cars, incentivise greener travel choices and update planning law to ensure new developments are designed around walking, cycling and public transport.



The scientific consensus on climate change has never been greater. With the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment report stipulating a limited global carbon budget, it is now accepted that we must leave the majority of known fossil fuel reserves unextracted and unburnt if we are to keep within 2 degrees of warming.

If the global average temperature rise can be kept to 2 degrees C or less, runaway or disastrous climate change can be avoided, though severe damage will occur in some parts of the world. Higher levels of warming will mean a bigger chance of disastrous climate change and all countries including, the UK, agreed at international climate negotiations in Copenhagen in 2009 to recognise the need to limit the average temperature increase to less than 2 degrees C.

The 2008 Climate Change act, which requires that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline, is too weak to prevent damaging climate change (in any case, the government's own climate change advisers say that even these unsatisfactory targets are unlikely to be met).⁵

To have a reasonable chance of avoiding catastrophic climate change, the Green Party believes that we need a 90% reduction in greenhouse gases in the UK by 2030 (compared to the 1990 baseline) and a zero-carbon economy by 2050.

This is because:

- To meet the 2 degree target we need to limit total global emissions over the rest of the century to about 1,000 Gt CO₂.⁶
- As the UK has about 1% of the world's population our allowable budget would amount to 10Gt CO₂.
- However, the UK is a relatively rich country that has benefited from the world's highest cumulative historical emissions per person.⁷
- Therefore, we believe that the UK should plan to emit only half this amount by 2030 (which amounts to around 80MtCO₂ pa by 2030), and have negligible emissions thereafter.

This translates into our target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 90% of their 1990 levels by 2030⁸ and a zero carbon economy by 2050.

If the Green Party were to form a part of the next government, we would put in place concrete measures to ensure that these targets are met (see response to next question).

⁵<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/15/uk-miss-carbon-targets-climate-change-advisers>.

2

WHAT ARE YOUR PARTY'S POLICIES TO ENSURE THE UK CONTINUES TO MEET ITS MANDATORY CARBON BUDGETS AND THE LEGISLATED AIM OF REDUCING EMISSIONS BY AT LEAST 80% IN 2050?



We have the world's first green investment bank here in Britain. We're building the first nuclear power station for 30 years in this country. We have set out, year after year, carbon budgets for this country. And we have put in place our Energy Market Reform framework to deliver £110 billion of low carbon investment.



Plaid Cymru is committed to establishing statutory greenhouse gas emissions targets for Wales and are pursuing this in the National Assembly for Wales. We have also committed to ensuring Wales produces the equivalent of 100% of our electricity from renewables by 2035 through a combination of increasing generation from renewable sources in parallel with cutting generation from fossil fuel. We also believe Wales needs a much more ambitious programme to reduce energy consumption including rolling out a nationwide retrofitting scheme and raising the efficiency standards for new builds.



Developing the United Kingdom's offshore wind resource would provide a significant supply of clean, secure energy. Scotland, of course, has huge potential to provide a large proportion of energy from this source with proposals for a number of wind farms around Scotland's coastline. There is however uncertainty caused by UK government policy that could put at risk the offshore wind due to the current "contracts for difference" regime. This is putting in jeopardy the potential to create a substantial number of jobs in Scotland as well as clean, sustainable energy. The UK government needs to make it clear they will continue to support offshore wind.



We have no such policies or objectives.



We must act against climate change both at home and by leading a more ambitious programme internationally. We must get cross party agreement to the 2030 decarbonisation target that Labour has already committed to. We must continue to drive an ambitious EU emissions reduction programme. And set the pace of change for the rest of the world.



As discussed above, as part of our Zero Carbon Britain the Liberal Democrats would end Britain's adverse impact on climate change for good by 2050.

Measures within the Zero Carbon Bill include:

- A new legally binding target for Zero Carbon Britain by 2050
- A new legally binding decarbonisation target for the power sector by 2030 to support investment in all forms of low carbon electricity
- Establishing an Office for Accelerated Low Carbon Innovation to fast-track new green tech including tidal power, renewable heat, ultra-low emission vehicles, energy storage and CCS
- Applying Emissions Performance Standards (EPS) to existing coal plants from 2025 to end use of unabated coal generation
- Full borrowing powers to the Green Investment Bank, to further boost investment in low carbon technology.

⁶See Table SPM.3 in http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/report/WG1AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf accessed 31/10/14. The mean figure there is given as 990 GtCO₂ within a range 510-1505 G tCO₂.

⁷UK tops list of world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters. Carbon Brief <http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/01/uk-tops-list-of-world%E2%80%99s-biggest-greenhouse-gas-emitters/> accessed 19/11/14.

⁸We are already 28% down on 1990 GHG levels in 2013 according to CCC Progress Report to parliament July 2014. To achieve 90% by 2030 requires 11% reduction per year from 2013 to 2030. Between 1990 and 2013 we averaged 1.5% per year.



As mentioned in the answer to Question 1, the Green party calls for the Climate Change Act targets to be replaced by a 90% reduction in greenhouse gases in the UK by 2030 (compared to the 1990 baseline) and a zero-carbon economy by 2050.

We would achieve this through various means including improving energy efficiency, cutting back on industrial and unsustainable farming, funding research and development of new green technologies and the introduction of a carbon quota. The Green Party would seek to phase out all non-renewable energies and would concentrate on expanding mature renewable technologies such as wind energy, small scale hydro-electric and solar photovoltaics.

A Green transformation would have huge benefits – more comfortable homes, better health, less pollution, job creation and substantially increased fuel security.

Concrete measures to progress towards the 2030 and 2050 target include the following:

Dramatically increase investment in renewable energy

The Green party would:

- Invest substantial amounts of public money in new large-scale renewable generation and in the grid, if necessary, to make sure renewable generation grows quickly enough. This capacity would not necessarily be publicly owned and some of the money might be used to assist community owned schemes.
- Concentrate on expanding mature renewable technologies such as on- and off-shore wind energy, small scale hydro-electric and solar photovoltaics in the period until 2030, bringing down costs, in part by reducing planning constraints, including those for onshore wind.
- Offer public subsidies via local authorities to small and medium scale renewable generation schemes.
- Ensure that all schools, hospitals and other public buildings have solar panels by 2020.
- Encourage all social landlords to develop plans to install solar panels on all suitable properties building on the Kirklees pioneering £10m plan to install solar panels on 2,000 council homes over the next two years. Schemes such as these can save people on low incomes the equivalent of up to two weeks rent.
- Support an intensive research programme into other renewables such as wave and tidal stream generators or other approaches, and also into storage technologies.

Renewables can supply all the energy we need for a comfortable standard of living, but only if we invest wisely and manage our demand more sensibly.

Increasing energy efficiency

The Green Party would:

- Provide a free nationwide retrofit insulation programme, concentrating on areas where fuel poverty is most serious, designed to insulate 9 million homes in total to EPC Band C standards as a minimum.
- Require all new homes to be built to Passivhaus standards and give tenants the right to require landlords to achieve improvements in energy efficiency.
- Support research and development into less energy intensive industrial processes.
- Prioritise public over private transport, electrification of the system, and access over mobility.
- Give Councils the power to insist that communal heating schemes, for example using waste heat from industrial sources, are implemented where practicable.
- Work with Councils, financial institutions, and communities to develop investment frameworks

for supporting longer term energy efficiency programmes.

- Establish mandatory standards for commercial building performance such as ISO 5001.
- Use carbon taxes (based on the present system) to encourage investment in energy efficiency measures, and prepare for the following Parliament a carbon quota scheme to regulate the level of demand for energy.

Phasing out fossil fuels and nuclear energy

The Green Party would:

- Phase out coal generation by 2023 at the latest and nuclear power within ten years.
- Ban all UK fracking operations – following a growing number of nations worldwide – and withdraw all relevant licences as soon as possible.
- Ban other new fossil fuel developments such as other unconventional fossil fuels and open cast coal.
- Legislate to remove the duty to maximize the economic recovery of oil and gas
- End fossil fuel tax breaks, phase out other harmful fossil fuel subsidies (domestic and international) and use the money saved to help fund other parts of our energy programme.
- Work with financial institutions, local councils and others to encourage divestment from fossil fuels and develop alternative investment in efficiency and renewables programmes.
- Support the potential deployment of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) to existing biomass and gas power stations only as a transitional technology.

Decarbonising transport

The major challenge for our transport system is to decarbonise it, and end its reliance on fossil fuels. Domestic transport emissions account for a quarter of UK greenhouse gas emissions. The Green Party would:

- End the wasteful and destructive national major roads programme, saving £15bn over the Parliament.
- Spend part of this £15bn on improving, extending and subsidising public transport, with an average fare reduction of 10%, and invest in walking and cycling.
- Support walking and cycling. In particular ensuring they get their fair share of road space Funding will be allocated flexibly to make safe convenient routes that address the needs of pedestrians and cyclists while reducing any risk of conflict between them.
- Support the re-regulation of bus services to provide a better, more reliable service.
- End the favourable tax treatment of aviation, and have a separate target for aviation emissions below 37.5Mt CO₂e pa.
- Stop airport expansion, in particular no new runways at either Heathrow or Gatwick, and ban night flying.
- Invest in electric vehicle charging points for buses and taxis, and for cars where there are gaps in the network of public and community transport.

Prepare to introduce a carbon quota system after 2020

The Green Party believe that the fairest way to share emissions rights is equally. So we support the idea of an economy-wide system of carbon quotas, with everyone guaranteed the same basic entitlement, regardless of wealth. Those who use less than this can sell some of their quota to those who use more,

rewarding their carbon-thrift.

About half the available carbon units would be distributed, free of charge, to all the adults in the country. The rest of the carbon units would be sold by the Government to companies and other organisations. Whenever you buy fossil fuels or electricity your carbon account card would be debited.

You would be able to sell excess carbon units – or buy extra units if you need to.

We would ask Government Departments to do the necessary groundwork for Carbon Quotas in the forthcoming Parliament with a view to introducing the scheme in the next Parliament.

BUSINESS ARGUABLY HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY PROVIDING MANY OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS AND FINANCE TO SUPPORT LOW CARBON GROWTH. WHAT CAN GOVERNMENTS DO TO SUPPORT AND INCENTIVISE LOW CARBON INVESTMENT BY BUSINESS, AND EQUALLY WHAT CAN BUSINESS DO TO HELP ENSURE POLICY MEASURES ARE EFFECTIVE?

3



Our Energy Bill has laid the foundations for the private sector to invest in new nuclear and other low carbon energy sources. And our investment in renewable energy is already paying off, with the amount of electricity produced by renewables rising by 113% over the last four years. In the next parliament we want to see a significant expansion in new nuclear and gas; backing good-value green energy; and pushing for more new investment in UK energy sources.



Industry accounts for a significant proportion of Wales' energy consumption and helping industry to become more efficient and clean would propel Wales' carbon reduction efforts. Plaid Cymru would encourage businesses to generate energy on-site using renewable sources and our proposed National Energy Company, which would be a publicly-owned, not-for-distributable-profit energy company, could provide finance to businesses pursuing such actions. A Plaid Cymru government would also do more to provide loan finance to communities in order to pay for pre-application planning costs. Finance would only be repayable if applications are successful. We would encourage local businesses to lead on behalf of communities wishing to generate clean energy locally.



In Scotland we have the Scotland 2020 Climate Group which is a business led collaboration to deliver practical solutions to creating a low carbon economy, with 140 leaders from 100 organisations including some of Scotland's largest businesses, SMEs, government, public sector, universities and charities. We would seek to expand such initiatives in order to ensure that everyone takes a role in combatting climate change.



Investment in low carbon initiatives is a misallocation of resources and we will do nothing to support it.



There is no trade-off between tackling climate change and building an economy in which working families succeed. Indeed, success on one will help us achieve the other. Before the last election, the UK was a world leader in the transition to a green economy, with strong growth and investment in offshore wind turbine and nuclear power equipment manufacture. This government, which has long abandoned the pretence of being the "greenest ever", has cut and delayed investment in green technology. While Tory MPs flirt with climate change denial, confused and contradictory signals on energy policy from

ministers have caused deep uncertainty for investors. If Labour wins in May, we will put that right. The last Labour government was the first in the world to put carbon targets into law. The next Labour government will commit Britain to decarbonising our electricity supply by 2030. The last Labour government helped to create new markets for thousands of British companies and more than a million new jobs in the green sector. The next Labour government will give business certainty to invest so we can create another million such jobs over the next decade.



The Liberal Democrats believe it is really important to support businesses in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming more green. We are creating 200,000 new green jobs and have set up the Green Investment Bank.

Britain is a world leader in the green industry. We have more offshore wind turbines than any other country and the potential to develop technology in things like marine energy is huge.

The Green Investment Bank channels public and private investment into green projects, creating new jobs and protecting our environment.

The Bank supports projects in areas such as offshore wind power, waste and recycling, energy efficiency in businesses and the Green Deal.



Businesses have a crucial role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low carbon society. Industry touches everything and everyone, from construction and manufacturing to pharmaceuticals and energy. Industry is vital to the global economy – it provides jobs, security, and the goods we need and want – but often at the expense of the environment and by exploiting people.

Businesses are heavy contributors to greenhouse gas emissions - research in 2013 highlighted how just 90 companies on the list of top emitters produced 63% of the cumulative global emissions of industrial carbon dioxide and methane between 1751 and 2010.⁹

The Greens are proposing a 'Green New Deal' in order to create a modern industrial base making durable, environmentally-friendly products that can be maintained and recycled and fed back into the system.

It would reduce pollution and encourage sustainability whilst simultaneously reviving our economy, boosting employment and contributing to greater well-being.

Sustainable industry is vital to our future economic health, it will be at the forefront of any fight against climate change and environmental degradation and any transition to a resource-efficient society.

The Green New Deal calls, amongst other things, for:

- Increased efficiency in the use of resources by industry, while boosting economic development, decent jobs and improving quality of life;
- Incentives, including state aid, to promote sustainable industrial practices, while phasing out aid to unsustainable processes;
- Public procurement to be used as a powerful instrument for stimulating innovation and driving markets toward sustainable products and services;
- Pursuing active energy savings policies and diversification towards sustainable, non-polluting and safe energy sources in major industrial sectors such as transport and construction.

Greening the economy stimulates job creation, both in traditional businesses and in emerging new sectors such as renewable energies, energy efficiency, and an ever-growing "green service" sector.

However, the exploitation of the full job potential of greening our economy requires investment in adaptation, skills and education to enable people to take advantage of new opportunities.

⁹<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-013-0986-y>

The Green Party will take steps to make this training available to all those who wish to move into emerging sectors, including apprenticeships and on the job training opportunities for those who wish to retrain later in life.

The Green Party also advocates developing and supporting alternative business models such as community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations.

In the energy sector, for example, The Green vision is for a mixed economy of electricity supply and distribution, with a diversity of public and private participants, including community, cooperative and municipal generation and distribution. We are committed to ending the dominance of the 'Big Six' energy suppliers, and supporting a shift to local, community-owned energy.

The current Government is making changes which could sabotage the community energy sector and undermine their potential to end the dominance of the Big Six. The Greens, on the other hand, are committed to stabilising the policy landscape for renewable energy to provide certainty for investment decisions including long term stable feed-in tariffs. Community-owned energy should be at the very heart of our energy system, giving people the ability to generate their own power and reinvest profits locally to help cut bills.

We would:

- Split up the large vertically integrated companies so that they can't both produce energy and supply it to consumers.
- Encourage community or municipally owned, or cooperative not for profit organisations to generate and supply electricity at the retail level.
- Secure public control over the strategic direction and policies of the national grid.
- Support long term stable fixed price feed-in tariffs for renewable energy generators.
- Ensure that consumer energy tariffs are progressive, so small consumers pay less per unit than larger ones, that special needs are recognised, people are not cut off when they can't afford to pay, and that they are not forced to have pre-payment meters.
- Ensure that there is a single scheme of regulation for the entire industry, whose objectives include achieving climate change targets as well as protecting consumer interests.

The Green Party would use carbon taxes (based on the present system) for businesses to encourage investment in energy efficiency measures, and provide additional support for small businesses to improve their energy efficiency. The Greens are also committed to ending unwanted investments, such as tax breaks for the fossil fuel industry and using the money saved to help fund other parts of our energy programme.

As well as incentivising industry investment, a Green Government would make a significant investment in the research and development of new green technologies, which would be funded in part by a Robin Hood tax. Approximately half of the money would be committed to an intensive research programme into renewables such as wave and tidal stream generators, or other approaches, and also into storage technologies.

We also support research and development at an EU-wide level in order to support and promote better coordination of member states research programmes to achieve improved sustainability, better quality of life, social advances, the creation of sharable knowledge and the creation of quality jobs in Europe.

4

WHAT WILL A GOVERNMENT LED BY OR INCLUDING YOUR PARTY DO TO ENSURE THE OUTCOME AT THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS IS AMBITIOUS?



We will push for a strong global climate deal later this year – one that keeps the goal of limiting global warming to two-degrees firmly in reach. We have set out our vision for a global climate change deal which will be discussed in Paris in December 2015. For the first time this would set legally-binding emissions reductions commitments from all countries



It is clear that an ambitious agreement in Paris is key to the fight against climate change. It would be a priority to establish a strong position ahead of the negotiations as well as a strong presence during the negotiations themselves. This would be catalysed by a groundswell of public opinion achieved following a successful public awareness campaign that would put pressure on leaders to conclude an ambitious deal. Plaid Cymru would seek a consensus on emissions targets and strive to see the conclusion of the strongest agreement possible.



On Paris, we have been working on a new international narrative on the benefits of the low carbon economy, particularly emphasising the business message, which has been helped by the 2020 group. We are supporting the UN Government and engagement and presence at UN meetings in 2015, and the Environment Minister is meeting the French Ambassador next week to discuss how Scotland can help ensure success at Paris. The UNFCCC has said that the main Scottish themes – high ambition, the importance of sub national government and cities, human rights and climate justice and gender will all be important to Paris.



Quite the reverse: we shall oppose any such commitments.



The general election means 2015 is a critical year for Britain. It is also a critical year for the world on climate change. Within months of Britain voting, the UN is holding a summit in Paris to agree a binding global agreement to tackle climate change. Labour will work for an ambitious agreement, which includes: Ambitious emissions targets for all countries, reviewed every five years, based on a scientific assessment of the progress towards the 2C goal; A goal of net zero global emissions in the second half of this century; Transparent, universal rules for measuring, verifying and reporting emissions with all countries adopting climate change adaptation plans.; An equitable deal in which richer countries provide support to poorer nations in their efforts to combat climate change.



Whatever the result on May 7, we need a clear commitment from all of the main parties to achieve a landmark global deal in Paris and secure Britain's low carbon future.

Climate Change has no respect for borders, job titles or the political divide. It demands leadership at a local, national and international level.

It's one of the central reasons the Liberal Democrats believe the UK's continued membership of the EU is so important. If we're to safeguard the future for our children and their children, then we need to stand tall in the world.

That starts with us leading in Europe, working with our partners to deliver an ambitious green agenda in Paris and beyond.

The Liberal Democrats are working for a greener world, a better future for our children and an ambitious agreement in Paris.



A global climate disaster can only be prevented if the whole world works together. It is an absolute priority of The Green Party to secure a major new international agreement, in particular at December 2015's UN meeting in Paris, with a wide-ranging workable plan to arrest climate change and share global resources more evenly.

The Green Party believe the basis of this agreement should be Contraction and Convergence, meaning that:

- Countries that currently emit very little carbon dioxide would be allowed to increase their emissions, using their energy resources to reduce poverty and improve their people's well-being.
- All other countries should be required to reduce their emissions down to a small per-capita limit, fixed to be consistent with a global limit that keeps temperature rises below 2 degree C.
- We recognise the special responsibility of countries like our own that have become wealthy from 200 years of fossil fuel-based industrialisation. Some of this wealth will need to be shared with poorer countries that have left their fossil fuels in the ground and their forests still standing.
- In these ways, by an agreed date, every citizen of the world will have a fair and equal share of global emissions potential. Being rich will no longer permit people to unfairly affect the whole world's atmosphere and climate.

The Green Party actively endorses the leading role played by the UN and its subsidiary bodies in striving for the necessary international agreement, global monitoring and implementation of the required policies; and will endeavour to support their ongoing activities.

The Green Party calls for the establishment of a number of targets for global and national greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and for the establishment of effective enforcement mechanisms. The Greens are committed to a target of 90% reduction in greenhouse gases in the UK by 2030, and a zero-carbon economy by 2050 (relating to a baseline of emissions in 1990). This is much more challenging than the Government's complacent 80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050, as set out in the Climate Change Act.

At the EU level, the Greens/EFA group are pushing the EU internally to make sure that it can play a strong leading role on the international stage and ensure it can push for an ambitious and fair global climate agreement to be agreed by all parties and implemented by 2020 under the auspices of the UN.

To be truly effective and fair, the future international agreement will need to set out strong and fair emissions reductions, a guaranteed, agreed and fixed amount of funding for adaptation, and prevent deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

5 IF YOUR PARTY IS INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT, WILL YOUR POSITION WITH REGARDS TO CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY CONSTITUTE A 'RED LINE' ISSUE?



We are campaigning for a Conservative majority Government.



Plaid Cymru will be seeking the best possible outcome for Wales in any potential post-election negotiations. Climate and energy policy is important to us and it is very likely this would feature in any discussions.



The SNP has made clear we would not have formal or informal agreements with the Conservatives. We would be open to discussions with the Labour party and would expect this to be around support for a

minority government or a confidence and supply arrangement not a formal coalition. Our manifesto will set out the priorities for the SNP in the election including our commitment to tackling climate change.



We cannot set out any such conditions until we see the outcome of the election. The only such demand we can commit to at this time is for an immediate in/out EU referendum.



I have only one focus, which is a majority Labour government after the next election. We have set out very clearly the policies that we will implement: creating a fairer energy market for consumers, improving the energy efficiency of our housing stock, driving investment in low-carbon energy with a decarbonisation target for the power sector for 2030, and working with our international partners to secure an ambitious agreement in Paris. We are absolutely committed to these policies.



The Liberal Democrats were the first party to talk about climate change in Parliament - back in the 1980s when the environment was an unpopular issue.

Ever since, we have worked to make Britain greener. In the Coalition Government, our Environment Minister, Ed Davey, has worked to make sure the environment stays at the top of the agenda, even though it isn't a priority for the Conservatives.

We cannot build a stronger economy for the long term without creating a greener, more sustainable economy too.

That's why we have put our Five Green laws plans on the front page of our manifesto - the environment is one of our top priorities.



The Green Party will not form part of a coalition government. We want to be free to vote according to our principles. Tackling climate change is high on the Green Party's agenda and we will push for it at every opportunity.

*We asked these questions to the climate and energy spokespeople for the key parties. The responses came from the following:

- Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales - Llyr Gruffydd AC/AM, AC Gogledd Cymru a Gweinidog Cysgodol dros Gymunedau Cynaliadwy, Ynni a Bwyd, North Wales AM & Shadow Minister for Sustainable Communities, Energy & Food
- Scottish National Party** - Mike Weir MP, Westminster spokesperson for trade, industry, business, energy and climate change, SNP Angus
- UK Independence Party - Roger Helmer MEP, British Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the East Midlands region and Head of Delegation for the UK Independence Party
- The Labour Party - Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and MP for Don Valley
- The Green Party of England and Wales - Keith Taylor MEP, Climate Change and Environment Spokesperson, on behalf of The Green Party

Responses from The Conservative Party and Liberal Democrats came from their press offices.

**SNP commented: "We are in a slightly different position to other Westminster parties in that we are in government in Scotland at present and the answers reflect what is being done in Scotland and we would hope to carry over these actions in a wider UK context should we have influence within the next UK government."



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