



Committee Office · House of Commons · London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer QC MP
Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10 September 2020

Climate Assembly UK: final report on the Path to Net Zero

Dear Sir Keir,

We are writing to share with you the final conclusions of Climate Assembly UK and to seek your support in forging a cross-party consensus on the pathway to net zero, in line with a key recommendation of the assembly.

Climate Assembly UK was established by six select committees in the last Parliament to gain an insight into public attitudes on the measures that could be taken to reach the UK's net zero target. The 108 assembly members were selected to be representative of the UK population across all four nations, a broad range of demographic characteristics, and levels of concern about climate change. Together they provide a unique insight into the views of an informed, representative sample of the UK population on the pathway to, and trade-offs associated with, achieving net zero. It met over three weekends in Birmingham earlier this year, with the final weekend of discussions being conducted online during the lockdown.

The assembly published an interim briefing in June which gave very strong support for an economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that was designed to achieve net-zero by 2050 and even stronger support for measures to encourage lifestyles to be more compatible with reaching this statutory target as lockdown eases.

The final report, published today, contains a wealth of recommendations on a wide range of measures that could form part of the Government's policy pathway to net zero. We have written to the Prime Minister today to urge him to consider carefully the detailed policy recommendations and to publish a response.

We are writing to you, and all the Leaders of political parties in Westminster, to highlight a key ask of the assembly which you are able to help deliver. There was a strong consensus that actions to meet the net zero target need to be long term, and that this requires a high degree of cross-party consensus, to promote long-term policy consistency that supports the investor confidence that is vital to the transition's success. Assembly members were emphatic in their request that the report should not be used for party political point scoring, but rather that it should form a coherent basis for a set of policies that can command the support of the whole electorate.

We believe that the assembly's framework provides a sound foundation on which to base policies. We on select committees are prepared to play our part in building the political consensus to navigate the path to net zero. A number of the detailed recommendations in the report will be developed and tested as part of our continuing work on committees. We hope that all the political parties will engage in a similarly constructive manner in order to help meet a target that was unanimously agreed by the House last year.

Yours sincerely,



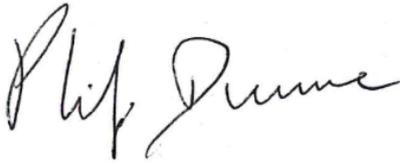
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Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee



Rt Hon Greg Clark MP

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Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee



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Chair, Transport Committee



Rt Hon Mel Stride MP

Chair, Treasury Committee