



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

10 September 2020

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

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to share with you the final conclusions of Climate Assembly UK and to seek a formal response from the Government.

You may recall that the assembly, established jointly by six select committees, 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 information on the preferences of a well-informed representative sample of UK citizens on a wide range of measures that might form part of the Government's policy pathway to net zero. We hope that Ministers and officials across Whitehall will find these to be valuable insights into public thinking that can inform and influence policy making in a range of different areas.

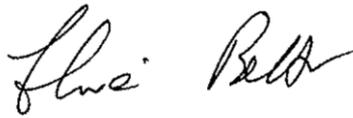
As well as considering detailed policy issues, the assembly discussed over-arching principles that should underpin the journey to net zero. There was a clear consensus that Government should take a lead, but that businesses and individuals also have a part to play. Achieving net zero will be a joint endeavour. In particular, assembly members were clear on the need for strong public engagement, so citizens can understand the nature of the challenge and support the measures necessary to address it. Fairness was also a strong theme for members: a sense that the vulnerable and those potentially adversely affected by the transition to net zero should not be left behind, but be able to share in the many opportunities it presents. Finally, there was an overwhelming sense that the Government should take action for the long term, on the back of cross-party consensus, to bring certainty and a clear sense of direction for everyone.

We believe that these are sound foundations 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.

This report provides a unique insight into the thinking of an informed public to the trade-offs and changes that will be required to help deliver on the objective that Parliament has agreed. We pay tribute to the commitment of the 108 assembly members who dedicated their time to serving the national interest, particularly in light of the year's extraordinary circumstances. We believe that their work merits a response and subsequent action. We therefore urge the Government to consider carefully the recommendations in the report and ask that you publish a response before the end of the year.

We look forward to working constructively with Government over the coming months as it develops the policies needed to meet our climate change obligations.

Yours sincerely,



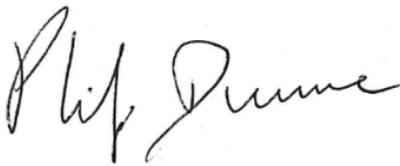
Clive Betts MP

Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee



Rt Hon Greg Clark MP

Chair, Science & Technology Committee



Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP

Chair, Environmental Audit Committee



Darren Jones MP

Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee



Huw Merriman MP

Chair, Transport Committee



Rt Hon Mel Stride MP

Chair, Treasury Committee