



Haringey Labour Climate Action

(formerly Hornsey and Wood Green Labour Party Climate Change and Environment Group – we welcome our neighbours from Tottenham to make it an all borough group)

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We publish this newsletter four times a year for circulation amongst Labour Party members and other concerned people. We would welcome comments, suggestions and contributions from readers. Please contact Chrisjbarker46@gmail.com. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily the views of the Labour Party.

What we stand for

Our general aim is promote action and change through raising awareness that:

- Climate change and environmental degradation are primary and urgent global survival issues - they are already destroying livelihoods and the planet, and need to be urgently and dramatically addressed to prevent further potentially disastrous consequences throughout the world.
- Climate change and environmental degradation are primary and urgent political issues - the main obstacles to tackling climate change are inadequate government and corporate measures, which in turn are due to short term-ism and putting profit before people and planet.
- Therefore tackling Climate change and environmental degradation provides an opportunity for social and political transformation to a green economy based on socialist principles of sustainable growth, equality, and collective social and global responsibility.

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Forthcoming events

Haringey Climate Forum

**Wednesday 5th February at 19.00
At the Civic Centre**

The Zero Carbon Plan for Haringey is due to be published on 4th March for consideration at the Cabinet meeting on 11th March.

Issue include:

- * Sustainability and carbon standards for new council homes
- * Reducing carbon emissions from existing homes – both Homes for Haringey and private sector.

School Strike for Climate

The next strike is on **Friday 14th February**. See <https://ukscn.org/>

Extinction Rebellion's next action

Muswell Hill Saturday 21st March

XR will be targeting all the banks in Muswell Hill that invest in fossil fuels - namely NatWest, Santander, Barclays, Lloyds and HSBC. We want to persuade customers to MOVE THEIR MONEY to eg Triodos Bank (one of the most ethical banks

available). The action will have a theatrical approach with a cleaning up theme. It's also a preamble to a larger XR mass action just before Easter. See <https://rebellion.earth/>

Catherine West MP Update from Parliament

The election of Boris Johnson's Conservative Government is a huge blow for action on climate chaos. Labour's Green Deal would have fundamentally transformed our society, with the most ambitious climate targets of any country in the world and massive investment in green jobs and green energy. Instead the Conservatives want to push the can down the road, with a woefully inadequate 2050 date to achieve net-zero emissions and very little sense that they'll even achieve that. When the Committee on Climate Change – the UK's independent climate advisor – reported last year, they said we remain off-course to meet our interim targets for 2023-27 and 2027-32 and that the gap between our emissions reduction goals and the Government's policies to meet them had increased in the last year.

But we haven't got time to allow ourselves to feel defeated. The science is clear and in Parliament I will hold this Government to account for their inaction and demand better for our children and our planet. Together with Caroline Lucas, I sponsored and helped ensure the first Early Day Motion of the new Parliament set out our shared goal to make this the Climate Parliament and it must remain the priority of any new Labour Leader:

"That this House notes this Government could be responsible for five of the remaining 11 years the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned are left to halve global emissions and limit warming to 1.5C; further notes that the Committee on Climate Change report in July 2019 revealed the Government had delivered just one of 25 critical policies needed to get on track to meet previous, less stringent, emissions targets than net zero by 2050, and that the UK's climate credibility rested on decisive Government action over the subsequent 18 months; considers therefore that this Parliament will be regarded as the Climate Parliament and must seize this opportunity to ensure adequate action is taken to avoid the worst impacts of climate breakdown; welcomes the fact that the UK will host the UN climate summit COP26 in December 2020; considers success at this summit means recognising the moral imperative of doing everything possible to keep temperature rise to 1.5C, and the vast human cost to people around the world, including the UK, from extreme weather, food insecurity, sea level rise, and other events exacerbated by the climate crisis; urges the Government therefore to make addressing the climate emergency the central priority for domestic policy-making across all departments and on the global stage; and calls on the Government to enact a comprehensive Green New Deal, including the release of necessary funding to allow local authorities to lead, to rapidly decarbonise the entire UK economy while creating a fair and just society."

The horrific scenes in Australia over the Christmas period, the horrendous flooding in Indonesia and famine in Zambia highlight the extreme weather conditions that are set to be increasingly common if we fail to act. Climate change is not confined to national borders, and decisions that we take here in Westminster have a direct impact on the future of the global climate, not just our own. At the first sitting of the House of Commons this year I worked with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Australia to approach the Speakers of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords to send their heartfelt solidarity to our colleagues in the Australian Parliament and to the Australian people.

Over the coming weeks I will use every opportunity in Parliament to challenge this Government, raise Parliamentary Questions and keep climate top of the agenda. I've already received some helpful responses to my [climate consultation](#) from local residents, and will continue to encourage people to take part as it will help to inform my work.

Catherine West, MP for Hornsey & Wood Green

David Lammy MP

I was pleased to hear that Tottenham Labour are joining forces with our friends in Hornsey and Wood Green to become 'Haringey Labour Climate Action'. It's vitally important that we work with our neighbours and friends both near and far to tackle climate change.

I am still struggling to grapple with the reality of five years of a Boris Johnson government. I feel anguish for those who so desperately needed us to win and for those who will suffer from our defeat. I fear for minorities and migrants who will continue to be scapegoated for economic failures. And I despair for the future of our planet.

Not least because the Conservative government will continue pursuing free-market solutions to a problem that requires substantial government intervention. Climate breakdown is a class issue. It's no coincidence that the world's richest 10% produce 50% of global carbon emissions. Or that since 2015, 33 global banks have invested a combined 1.9 trillion dollars in fossil fuel companies. It's no coincidence because they have been allowed to benefit from the very system of perpetual growth that's killing our planet. I do not believe the Conservative government has the willingness or ability to take on the kind of structural inequality that's responsible for climate breakdown.

Furthermore, climate change does not discriminate based on borders. Climate change is a global problem that requires global solutions. We need to engage at a supranational level if we are going to save our planet. That's why I am also deeply despondent that we are leaving the European Union, which is increasing its efforts to improve and enforce environmental regulations across member states.

What can we do, then, in the face of such institutional adversity? The most important thing to do is to make your voices heard, collectively. Resist, protest, march. Climate breakdown will devastate vast ecosystems, and drive many species to extinction, including our own. Without radical action, the world our children and grandchildren inherit will be unrecognizable. And time is running out."

Many thanks and best wishes.

David Lammy

Haringey's Climate Action Plan

In March 2019 Haringey Council declared a Climate Emergency, stating that 'together as a community and with wider stakeholders, it will collectively work towards making Haringey carbon neutral by 2030, delivering impact on both production and consumption emissions.' The borough can claim good progress as it has reduced carbon emissions by 32.4% between 2005 and 2016; it is the only local authority that it is required by its constitution to report its carbon reduction performance annually. It is also actively developing a district heat network linked to the Edmonton Energy from Waste plant which will provide low carbon electricity and heat made from waste and is the first authority to withdraw 1/3rd of the value of its pension fund from fossil fuel investments and to put it into low carbon investments.

A Fairer and More Equal Society

Climate change is increasingly a global crisis which overwhelmingly affects those least able to bear it and with the least responsibility for causing it. This means that achieving a fairer and more equal society is an integral part of achieving a zero-carbon borough. Achieving a zero-carbon borough will mean us making fundamental changes in everything we do at substantial cost; for residents this will mean changes to homes, businesses, travel and lifestyle, and for the Council to its operations.

Draft Climate Change Action Plan

At Full Council in March 2019 the Council set a date for achieving zero carbon of 2041, a considerable improvement on the previous Zero by 2050 target. The draft Climate Change Action Plan will set out the actions already funded, the additional funding required and the legislative changes needed. It also sets out the delivery routes with national and regional government, and the co-operation from the local community required. The Council can lead on cutting its own emissions, but 92% of all Haringey carbon emissions can only be delivered by the active support of the community of residents, visitors and emissions. The Council says it will show leadership and work with all parties including government agencies to make significant changes through financial mechanisms and legislative changes.

Next Steps

The draft Climate Change Action Plan will be taken to the March Cabinet meeting and the Full Council on 16th March. It will be followed by an engagement process with all the local groups above to be adopted later in the year, and by a Communications Plan aiming to publicise Haringey's actions. Meanwhile actions controlled by the Council will be implemented with the objective of the Council itself achieving Zero Carbon by 2025.

Chapters of the Plan

Six chapters are set out in the Climate Action Plan as follows:

The Council and Its Schools: this will set out how the Council itself and its schools can become net zero carbon organisations, and show leadership within the community.

Reducing Carbon from Housing: as over 50% of the borough's emissions come from its housing stock the plan will deliver actions on household energy efficiency in the public and private sectors. There is a precedent here in the Smart Homes scheme Haringey and other N London boroughs operated between 2013 and 2015 which successfully persuaded homeowners to retrofit their older houses through the Council effectively setting up its own retrofitting agency.

Addressing Business Emissions: 30% of the borough's emissions come from businesses, of which many are small with marginal profits which will require investment to reduce their energy consumption. This work will also require intensive work from experienced officers.

Tackling Carbon from Transport: 20% of Haringey's emissions come from vehicles. Actions will include:

- Reducing car dependency
- increasing the use of electric cars
- promoting and delivering better public transport
- cycling campaigns
- encouraging walking by providing improved public realm, such as suggested by the Current Liveable Crouch End scheme

Increasing Renewable Energy Generation: the aim is to increase the number of solar panels across all buildings in the borough and deliver wind turbines in the Lee Valley and floating solar panels on its reservoirs as well as District Energy Networks in Tottenham & Wood Green. Experience on the later has been mixed, with Tottenham Hotspur reluctant to participate in a Network.

Engaging and Empowering the Community: this sets out how the Council will communicate and work with residents and businesses and enable more community-led projects such as Community Energy Projects to come forward. This is a vital objective but will require a step change by the Council in its communication practice and in its willingness to place its trust in the community.

Norman Beddington

Conservative Government on Environment and Climate Change **How can we ensure that they at least do what they promised?**

There were gaping holes in the Conservative manifesto environment page <https://assets-global.website-files.com/.../5dda924905da58799...> (page 55) and it was full of weasel words - so how can Labour make sure the Conservatives in Government do as much as possible instead of the usual as little as possible?

The Conservative climate and environment promises

2020-2024 will be an unprecedented period in the battle to preserve our World. Every Country needs to dramatically increase their Paris Pledges by the December 2020 Glasgow 'COP26' to have a chance of restricting global warming to 1.5°C. The Conservatives have promised they will "ask our global partners to match our ambition."

UK GOVERNANCE a new independent **Office For Environmental Protection** has been promised to deliver:

<p>DECARBONISATION TARGETS 2050 target for net zero greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>TRANSPORT Cycling infrastructure and child training - £350 million bus, tram, train services in city regions – upgrade to London level electric buses – first all electric bus town urban areas' buses – flat fares rural bus routes – bring back and protect HS2 - consider Oakervee review Northern Powerhouse Rail, Midlands Rail Hub strategic and local roads – invest £28.8 billion new conventional petrol and diesel cars - consult on phase out date air quality - strict new laws national plug in network Heathrow expansion – if demonstrated meeting air quality and noise obligations Electric and low carbon flight – build on this</p>
<p>ENERGY clean energy -first budget will prioritise clean energy energy efficiency of homes, schools and hospitals - invest £9.2 billion renewable electricity - increasing our commitment wind – offshore wind will reach 40GW by 2030, enable floating wind farms nuclear – support it, including fusion oil and gas – ‘the North Sea oil and gas industry has a long future ahead’ fracking – not support it unless science shows it can be done safely</p>	<p>WASTE AND POLLUTION maritime environment - protect with £500million Blue Planet Fund plastic and glass recycling – deposit return scheme plastic – extended producer responsibility recyclable plastic – levy by proportion waste export – ban to non OCED countries fly tipping – increase penalties parks and streets litter – use of community sentences</p>
<p>GREEN INDUSTRY AND JOBS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy intensive industries to low carbon techniques - invest £500m • electric vehicle infrastructure including Gigafactory • carbon capture storage cluster deployment by mid 2020s - invest £800m • high quality jobs in clean growth - deliver two million </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">http://bit.ly/35Ut8iM</p>
<p>LAND USE AND FOOD environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards – will not compromise these in trade negotiations, Nature for Climate fund - £640 million deforestation – new international partnerships farming – must protect and enhance natural environment peatland – restore it</p>	

*a quick summary of the promises they made
– looks like they quickly grabbed some Labour ones!*

The promises that underpin all other actions are:-

First: the new office for environmental protection

Second: the 'ambition' for 'our global partners' for the UN conference in Glasgow in November ('COP26').

A new Office for Environmental Protection could potentially be very good. It would have to include climate change as well as the peat, nature, farms and forests mentioned. It would have to have authority over all Government Departments and impose strict objectives to reduce greenhouse gases as much as possible as soon as possible.

Getting reluctant countries to commit to the actions that could try to limit global heating to 1.5°C would be wonderful - and one upmanship is a powerful force. But the UK 'ambition' will be set in stone when we submit our UK Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to

the UN when we leave the EU from 1st Feb (the current NDC is within the EU one). Unless Labour somehow persuades the Conservatives to be ambitious then other countries are unlikely to step up to the mark by COP26. All hope will be lost.

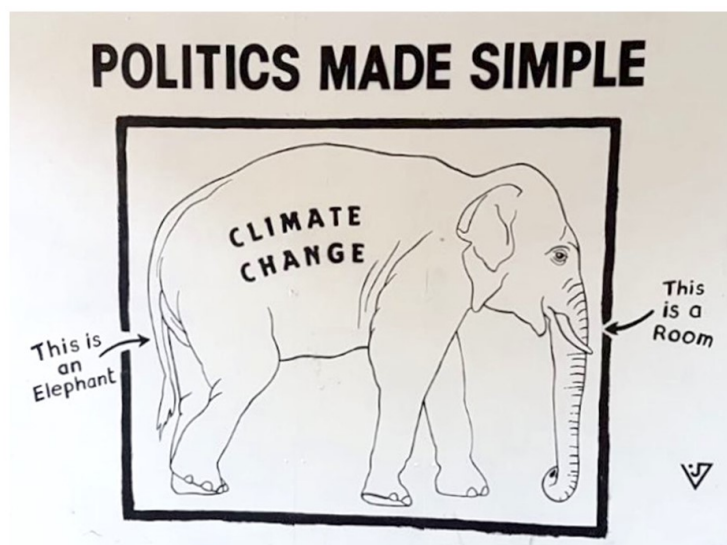
Several of the other manifesto promises regarding waste and environment look laudable and Labour should determinedly keep up the pressure on these. One promise which affects us at the Haringey level is the £9.2bn for energy efficiency of homes, schools and hospitals. We should try to discover how the Government is thinking of using that £9.2bn, how to avoid the Green Deal debacle and how much might come Haringey's way so that Labour can demonstrate how to use this money well.

Other actions the Conservatives did NOT even promise include:

- changing treasury investment rules to count the costs of not acting on climate change
- banning fracking permanently
- stop giving our aid money and export finance to new fossil fuel projects
- stop subsidising fossil fuels, including aviation fuel and the oil/gas industry
- start supporting solar, onshore wind and tidal power to the same extent as nuclear
- stopping new petrol and diesel vehicles being sold straight away.

Actions proceeding as business as usual include the 'consultation' ending in Feb <https://www.gov.uk/.../the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-p...> allowing developers to build new homes with lower energy efficiency standards than current; allowing developers to use worse materials and stopping the right of local authorities to demand carbon standards.

Labour has very few levers to influence Conservative actions now. Exposing step-backs from their manifesto promises is one, exploiting a desire to be seen as leaders at the Glasgow COP is possibly another and getting the court of public opinion onside could be another. Any other ideas?



(From: Climate Jesus versus the Pharisees. Alan Simpson)

Sydney Charles

Weakening Building Regulations
The road to Part L is paved with bad intentions

The Government is consulting (by February 7th see LETI below) on new building regulations (Part L) it wants from 2020.

You would expect them to want new homes built now that we will be using when we are carbon neutral (insert the date of your choice 2030, 2050 etc), to be very low carbon. Right?

No, wrong. That's not what the Government is planning. Because they expect our electricity supply in the future to be lower carbon, the Government is using this as a dodge to relax other requirements. So a home built after 2020 could have *less* insulation than a home built under the 2013 Part L. The new home will use lower carbon electricity, but it will use more than a better insulated home would do, and will be more expensive to run. A much better answer would be to make homes better insulated, more air-tight, and use low carbon electricity as well. An even lower carbon solution. And homes that won't require expensive retrofitting a few years later when standards are tightened again.

But that's not all the bad news. Some Councils, including Haringey, gave adopted *higher* standards than the current Part L regulations. Now the Government wants the same standards all over. So some Councils will have to *reduce* their standards for new build.

Crazy. But if you are a housebuilder making megabucks by building houses that are cheap to build but expensive to buy and run, the new draft Part L regulations might be a very good idea.

See LETI (London Energy Transformation Initiative) for further information.

www.leti.london

Alan Morton