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## To everyone working in the retail sector

In June, the Prime Minister, Business Secretary and I formally launched the **Together For Our Planet 'Business Climate Leaders' campaign**. This encourages and supports small businesses to make a formal commitment to net zero, and reduce their carbon footprint, in the run up to the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow in November and beyond.

As you know, net zero by 2050 means that at that point you are putting no more carbon into the atmosphere than you are taking out of it. Small businesses from a diverse range of industries have come forward to make their net zero commitment, and thousands have visited the [UK Business Climate Hub](#) to get advice on going green.

As recognised by the Retail Sector Council's development of a [Green Guide for SMEs](#), and the British Retail Consortium's launch of their [Climate Action Roadmap](#), the retail sector is a key part of our economy and has an important role to play in making a net zero commitment. Working with us, you have been inspiring businesses to take action, and I am keen this continue. With fewer than 100 days to go until COP26, this can include encouraging more businesses in industries like yours to sign up to our campaign. Making greener choices now can mean savings on business running costs, and also show customers the retail sector continues to be serious about sustainability.

To help businesses to do that the Government, working with industry experts, have developed new advice bespoke to the retail sector, to help you as you continue supporting your members to play their vital role in cutting the UK's carbon emissions.

From offering customers more sustainable products to removing unnecessary packaging, this important advice outlines the small steps retail businesses can take that will collectively make a big difference in helping us fight climate change and create a brighter and more sustainable future. The guidance is available on the UK Business Climate Hub: [https://smeclimatehub.org/uk/#steps\\_to\\_take](https://smeclimatehub.org/uk/#steps_to_take).

Businesses can also take the first step on their journey to a low carbon future today, by committing to cutting your carbon emissions in half by 2030 and to reach 'net zero' by 2050, when you visit the [UK Business Climate Hub](#).

By making this pledge, they will be joining an international community of thousands of like-minded businesses, and will be recognised by the United Nations Race to Zero campaign as one of thousands of 'climate leaders' across the country – companies that are acting as role models and inspiring others in the community to find meaningful ways to take positive environmental action. As part of this, they will get regular newsletters and information from government to support them through you're their net zero journey.

UK businesses are leading the way in our efforts to save the planet, generating new jobs and economic opportunities in all parts of the UK. For the vital part of the retail sector in this endeavour, I would say thank you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Griffith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Andrew Griffith MP, UK Net Zero Business Champion**