



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

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I am writing in response to a number of emails we have received as part of a campaign on your website 'Ecointernet', about international climate change and cutting emissions.

The UK Government regards climate change as one of the biggest challenges facing the world today and I agree that if globally we do not act now, the effects could be catastrophic.

The UK Government is committed to play its part and I am personally committed to deliver progress on this agenda. Domestically, we have an agreed set of carbon budgets that will require emissions to be reduced by about 50% by the fourth carbon budget (2023-2027) and we have already reduced GHG emissions by 26.5% in 2012 compared to 1990. We introduced the Energy Act last year, which sets the framework for the world's first low-carbon electricity market. Electricity generation from renewables in the UK has doubled since 2010 and over 15% of electricity was produced by renewables for the first time in 2014.

Since 2010, an average of £7 billion has been invested each year in UK based renewable energy, compared to £3 billion a year in the previous parliament, helping up to meet our target of 15% renewable energy generation and creating up to 250,000 low carbon jobs by 2020. In fact, the UK is ranked as the best place in the world to invest in offshore wind and marine renewables; we are on track to deliver over 10GW of installed offshore wind capacity by 2020, enough to power almost 7 million homes.

But climate change is a global problem that requires a global response. All countries need to be part of the solution. This is why the UK and other countries are working hard to agree an ambitious global agreement on climate change in Paris next year - which keeps the internationally agreed goal to limit the average global temperature increase to below 2°C within reach. It is not only Governments who want this deal - there is huge support for it from business, NGOs and campaign groups. The UK has set out what it thinks is required from a new agreement in its recent publication 'Paris 2015 - Securing our prosperity through a global climate change agreement', which was published in September 2014.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/paris-2015-securing-our-prosperity-through-a-global-climate-change-agreement>

We have made progress internationally. I attended the climate talks that have just ended in Lima where countries reached agreement on the 'Lima Call for Climate Action'.

The UK's leadership has been important in helping deliver this outcome. The negotiations were challenging but we are on track to secure a global deal in Paris – in particular we agreed a process for countries to bring forward their post-2020 targets. We also made progress on the draft elements of a negotiating text which will form the basis of negotiations next year.

And momentum is clearly building towards agreeing a deal. The EU, China and the US, which account for over half the world's emissions, are leading the way in taking ambitious action. The UK led the drive to agree in October an ambitious new EU target of an at least 40% cut in GHGs domestically by 2030 compared to 1990, building trust and generating momentum for the global climate deal in Paris. Following the EU lead, the US and China made announcements, the former that they would reduce emissions by 26-28% by 2025 compared to 2005 and China that their emissions would peak by 2030 and potentially sooner. This represents a significant step forward.

Finally, you rightly refer to the need to tackle deforestation. Tackling deforestation is vital if we are to keep our 2°C goal within reach. At the UN Secretary General Climate Summit last September, which the Prime Minister the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Amber Rudd MP and I attended, we helped lead on the creation of the New York Declaration on Forests, in which governments, companies and civil society partners endorsed a global timeline to cut natural forest loss in half by 2020, and strive to end it by 2030. In addition, the UK's International Climate Fund has to date allocated over £500 million to programmes which aim to help reduce the rate of deforestation and prevent forest degradation, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, forestry and land use activities, improve welfare in forest-dependent communities and enhance protection of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

The UK Government will continue to work closely with other countries, businesses and NGOs to deliver further progress on this important agenda.

We will be publishing our response to your campaign on our DECC website and are also happy for you to share this on Ecointernet.

Yours
Edward Davey

EDWARD DAVEY