**PRESS RELEASE**

**Tuesday 21st July 2020**

**10 POINT NET ZERO ACTION PLAN LAUNCHED**

**COVID-19 Recovery: a missed opportunity to scale-up Net Zero ambitions**

In a letter to the [Chancellor](https://netzeroappg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NZ-APPG-Letter-to-Chancellor-21st-July.pdf) and [BEIS Secretary](https://netzeroappg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NZ-APPG-Letter-to-COP26-President-21st-July.pdf), the Net Zero All Party Parliamentary Group (NZ APPG) calls for immediate action to accelerate the Net Zero economy. Parliamentarians, from all parties, have joined business leaders to urge Government not to miss the opportunity to scale-up its Net Zero commitment in its COVID-19 Recovery plans. The Net Zero APPG’s **10 POINT NET ZERO ACTION PLAN** sets out recommendations which the Government needs to urgently adopt to get the UK back on track.

Welcoming the launch of the Net Zero Action Plan, Alex Sobel MP, Chair of the NZ APPG said:

*“The NZ Action Plan makes it clear that we need to dramatically scale-up our efforts if we are to achieve Net Zero by 2050.”*

*“The climate announcements made in the Budget 2020 and Chancellor’s Summer Statement are steps in the right direction but go nowhere near far enough. The scale of the challenge ahead means the UK economy can no longer afford to miss the opportunity to accelerate plans to reach the 2050 target.”*

*“The German and French government’s announcements last month provided great examples that we could have followed, but the Government has only gone a fraction of the way they have.”*

*“Our 10 point Net Zero Action Plan will put the country on track to achieve Net Zero. The Government must accelerate its plans, implement these recommendations and get us on track.”*

The Net Zero Action Plan recommendations are based on the evidence heard by the NZ APPG in its recent ‘Decarbonisation Series: Putting Net Zero at the heart of UK policy’ and support the view that the Government have missed critical opportunities with its recent announcements to embed and accelerate the Net Zero agenda into the COVID-19 recovery.

Alex Sobel went on to say, *“We are writing to the Chancellor and the BEIS Secretary asking them to develop an expansive and ambitious COVID-19 green recovery package to boost economic growth, create jobs and reduce emissions. We need a Net Zero Roadmap to give business, industry and the community clarity on how it will achieve Net Zero and boost the economy.”*

**10 POINT NET ZERO ACTION PLAN**

1. **Develop a clear and systematic Net Zero Roadmap** for sustainable delivery of Net Zero at scale that clarifies urgent short-term priorities, sets interim (5-year) targets, and includes robust implementation, review and governance arrangements;
2. **Build an expansive and ambitious COVID-19 green recovery package** that:
   * **is guided by the economics**, noting that green projects create more jobs, deliver higher short-term returns per Pound spend and lead to increased long-term cost savings, when compared with traditional fiscal stimulus;
   * **focusses on green job** **creation** **and workforce retooling**, especially in disadvantaged areas, wedding the COVID-19 recovery and Net Zero transition goals;
   * **prioritises energy efficiency**, with a particular focus on decarbonising space heating;
   * **incentivises green infrastructure and technology development** through strategic seed investment and enabling regulatory environments in priority areas, such as renewable and firm low carbon energy, energy storage, clean industry, EV charging infrastructure and purchasing subsides, electric buses, expanding rail networks and cycle-lanes, green hydrogen, CCS and carbon removal technologies, and adaptation; and
   * **maximises local impact** through coordination with local and regional government and industry on implementation and supply chain localisation;
3. **Make access to the Covid Corporate Financing Facility conditional upon enhanced climate commitments**, including clear corporate Net Zero business plans;[[1]](#footnote-1)
4. **Enhance electricity demand response tools and incentives** for consumers and industry to increase grid management flexibility and allow higher renewable and low-carbon energy penetration;
5. **Develop an ambitious green hydrogen strategy** to position the UK to capitalise on the opportunities green hydrogen presents;
6. **Bring forward ban on sale of new internal combustion engine vehicles to 2032** (from 2035) and set interim EV sales targets;
7. **Launch a cross-departmental review of building standards** to ensure regulation, and enforcement, serves as a cohesive catalyst towards achieving Net Zero and leverages sectoral interdependencies, low carbon materials, circular economy thinking, and emerging technologies;
8. **Establish a ‘Carbon Takeback Obligation’** for fossil fuel extractors and importers, and airlines, requiring them to permanently store an increasing percentage of the CO2 generated by the products they sell, rising to 100% (net zero emissions) by 2050. Shifting leadership to industry will bolster existing UK plans for permanent storage of residual CO2 emissions by increasing investment, accelerating innovation, lowering costs, and assigning responsibility more equitably;
9. Use post-2020 UK carbon pricing architecture and the forthcoming Environment Bill to **create incentives for nature-based emissions reduction and enhanced CO2 uptake activities**, with particular potential to offset short-lived climate pollutants from agriculture (e.g. methane); and
10. **Invest in a major communications and awareness campaign** to build popular support for the green recovery and galvanise community and individual action towards Net Zero. Key strategies could include promoting behaviour change through education and self-assessment tools, highlighting leadership and innovation through public competitions (e.g. 2030 Homes Competition).

**QUOTES FROM KEY CONTRIBUTORS:**

**Rachel Maclean MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport**

*“Our long-term focus needs to be on a green COVID recovery, so our stimulus measures must be aligned with this goal. It will provide a major opportunity for levelling up the country.”*

**Lord Teverson (Vice-Chair), Liberal Democrats**

*“Now that our commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050 is written in law, we must get serious about setting out how we’re going to get there. The Government needs a clear, cohesive and systematic Net Zero Roadmap.”*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 10 POINT NET ZERO ACTION PLAN CONTACT:**

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Net Zero APPG, Secretariat – [netzeroappg@devoconnect.co.uk](mailto:netzeroappg@devoconnect.co.uk) or 07495 364 892.

**NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

* The Net Zero APPG works to accelerate policy change, promote zero carbon solutions, support clean growth technology and ultimately embed the UK’s commitment to deliver a net zero carbon economy. It provides a unique and dynamic forum for MPs and Peers of all parties to work collectively and make the case for urgent Government action to secure a low carbon future for the UK
* The 10-point “Net Zero Action Plan” recommendations to Government are the result of the evidence gathered in the NZ APPG ‘Decarbonisation Series: Putting Net Zero at the heart of UK Policy’
* Through the course of the Decarbonisation Series, the NZ APPG heard evidence from Parliamentarians:

Lord Teverson

Alan Brown MP

Lord Birt

Feryal Clark MP

Barry Gardiner MP

Lord Oates

Nadia Whittome MP

Selaine Saxby MP

Baroness Walmsley

Dr Alan Whitehead

Andrew Selous MP

Lord Stunell

Philip Dunne MP

Wera Hobhouse MP

Liz Twist MP

Matt Western MP

Lord Whitty

Bernard Jenkin MP

Deidre Brock MP

John McNally MP

Baroness Sheehan

Duncan Baker MP

Jerome Mayhew MP

Kerry McCarthy MP

Baroness Young

Lord Berkeley

Sara Britcliffe MP

Lord Deben, Professor Keith Bell, Dr Rebecca Heaton, **Committee on Climate Change**

Dr David Cole, Sukhy Duggal, Vicky Hutchinson, **Atkins**

Paul Spence, Emily Follis, Vincent de Rul, Steve Hargreaves **EDF Energy**

Natasha Mahmoudian, Neal Coady, **Centrica**

Katherine Jackson, Rachel Skinner, Barny Evans, Charles Mallisard, Jim Coleman, **WSP**

Bukky Bird, **Barratt Developments**

Greame Cooper, **National Grid**

Myles Allen, Brenda Boardman, Gavin Killip, **University of Oxford**

Sir David King, **Centre for Climate Repair, University of Cambridge**

Guy Newey, Dr Rose Chard, **Energy Systems Catapult**

Lara Juergens**, Energy Industries Council**

Chantelle de Villiers, **British Retail Council**

Hywel Lloyd, **UK100**

Trevor Hutchings, **Gemserv**

Andy Eastlake, **Low CVP**

Greg Archer, **Transport and Environment**

David Brissenden, **Cenergist**

Jonathan Atkinson, **Carbon Coop**

Victoria Mills, **Royal Town Planning Institute**

Philip Box, **UK Green Building Council**

Lulu Shooter, **Federation of Master Builders**

Christina Kaiser, **Local Government Association**

Naomi Baker, **Energy Saving Trust**

Jonathan Morgan, **Electricity North West**

Jake Sumner**, SERA**

1. See, for example, UNFCCC Race To Zero criteria for net zero commitments (<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)