

## How can I make a difference? – Action on climate change

Our climate is changing, and the people who are already suffering most from this are some of the world's poorest. The people who can do most about limiting this change are those who have more, and use more, of the world's resources.

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference will be held in Paris from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>. Why is it important? It will be 21 years since the first UN Climate Change Conference and according to the organising committee; the objective of the 2015 conference is to achieve a binding and universal agreement on climate from *all the nations of the world*, the agreement being to limit the global temperature rise to less than 2 °C.

Since the start of the year countries have been pledging what they will do to limit climate change. Their deadline was October 1<sup>st</sup>; UN researchers analysed over 140 climate action plans and on November 1<sup>st</sup> published their synthesis report on what the collective climate action plans can achieve. Unfortunately although they will bring average emissions per capita down by as much as 8% in 2025, the action plans have only the capability of restricting forecast temperature rise to 2.7 °C by 2100.

So what can we do? We can act – we can write to our MPs to tell them of our concerns and to ask them to live up to the promises in their party manifestoes and in the European Union Climate Action Plan.

**Actions for Now:** We can make small changes to our life style to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that we ourselves produce, but more importantly we can write to politicians now, to tell them that we expect them as a minimum to press our representatives at the Paris Conference to honour the pledges made earlier this year.

Writing this sort of letter is not easy, so you will find letters on [sustainable-blewbury.org.uk/](http://sustainable-blewbury.org.uk/) that you can download, personalise, and either email or print and post to your MP.

**Actions for after the conference:** The leaders of the individual nations will need to decide what their country will commit to as a result of the conference, so it is important that we also write to our MP after the Paris conference. A second letter will be available for you to use if you would like to.

### Local MPs email addresses

Abingdon & Oxford West: [nicola.blackwood.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nicola.blackwood.mp@parliament.uk)

Wantage: [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk)

Henley: [howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk)

Oxford East: [smithad@parliament.uk](mailto:smithad@parliament.uk)

### Local MPs postal addresses

All addresses have the same format:

(Your MP's name) MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

## Writing a letter to your MP

Find your MP's postal and email address here: <http://bit.ly/12yXnuu>

Here are some ideas for how you may wish to structure your letter to your MP...

- Put your address and the date of your letter in the top right hand corner
- Address the letter 'Dear \_\_\_\_\_ MP', for example, 'Dear Ed Vaizey MP'.
- Start by explaining why you are writing. For example  
**"I am writing to you today because I am deeply concerned about the impact that climate change is having on countries overseas and the threat that it poses to us here in the UK."**
- You may then wish to add why you particularly care about climate change, for example:
  - Your Christian faith
  - Your children/ grandchildren
  - Concerns for rising sea levels and increased flooding in the UK
  - Communities you know overseas who are affected
  - Forced migration caused by climate change
- Ask your MP to help make action on climate change a priority for the UK Government. For example, you can ask them to...
  - Pass your letter to Amber Rudd MP, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
  - Challenge or explain some of the Government's recent climate policy (see <http://www.hftf.org.uk/climate-policy> )
  - Raise the issue in parliament
  - Commit to campaigning on local issues such as better public transport, solar panels on council house roofs or more cycling routes and green spaces.
- Include something about the importance of the Paris Climate Summit, November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup> A brief (and readable) summary of the cumulative effect of 140 nations' climate action plans is here: <http://bit.ly/1M4Ghbh>
- Try to include some questions in your letter – it improves the chance of receiving a more personal answer.
- You can finish your letter with 'I look forward to hearing from you' and sign it 'Yours sincerely', followed by your name.