

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change

Annual report 2023-24

About us

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change exists to run events and activities in parliament with the purpose of advancing understanding of policy issues surrounding climate change and enabling cross-party discussion and action on climate policy.

The group is Chaired by Caroline Lucas, MP for Brighton Pavilion and the Secretariat is provided by Uplift.

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this report are those of the group.

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Chair's introduction

Caroline Lucas MP



This year, I have been delighted to drive forward the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change (Climate APPG), and alongside my committed cross-party colleagues, we have made huge strides in Parliament.

As we take time to reflect on the successes of the previous year, we must acknowledge that the background to our work was one of increased climate breakdown. The world surpassed the critical 1.5 degrees of warming for twelve months, and the fossil fuels that are fuelling climate change are causing further havoc to people's lives in the UK and across the globe. The impacts of our broken energy system continue to be felt in high energy bills and worsening fuel poverty, as the cost of living continues to bite.

That's why the Climate APPG has focused its efforts on tackling the root cause of the cost of living crisis - the UK's over reliance on fossil fuels.

By accelerating the transition away from oil and gas towards renewables, we know that the UK will not only be able to support the delivery of a safe future, but protect households from volatile gas prices permanently. Moreover, championing cleaner alternatives means warmer homes and high quality secure jobs across the UK.

I would like to thank all of the external experts who have given their valuable time and expertise to the Climate APPG over the past year, and to our secretariat, Uplift, who have donated their time and resources to building the Climate APPG into a formidable campaigning force in Parliament.

As we look towards the year ahead, we will continue on our mission to be the cross-party voice for ambitious climate action in Parliament. With a general election on the horizon, there is an imperative to continue to work together, cross-party, and show the public that we are united in our ambition on climate change.

Caroline Lucas MP
Chair of the Climate APPG

Comments of Support

“Parliamentarians are critical to delivering on global climate agreements. The All-Party Group on Climate's work in bringing together politicians of different persuasions to legislate for a future free of fossil fuels and full of renewable energy is crucial to building a safe, healthy and prosperous future.”

Christiana Figueres, former Chief Executive of the UNFCCC

“The UK is now in a crucial period for delivering progress on Net Zero. The work of the cross-party Climate APPG shows the support is there to embrace cleaner, cheaper alternatives to fossil fuels. The government must now accelerate actions that harness the opportunities of Net Zero for the UK economy, secure jobs, and reduce our contribution to climate change.”

Professor Piers Forster, Interim Chair of the Climate Change Committee

“The Climate APPG's work demonstrates how politicians of all parties can work together to further UK action on climate and nature issues.”

Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP, Minister of State in the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Our vision: A fairer, greener Britain

This year, we worked towards the strategy adopted at our AGM in 2023, namely to advocate for an urgent transition away from our fossil fuel based economy.

The spike in global gas prices, and the resulting cost-of-living crisis, has created an even greater incentive to accelerate the transition towards a safer energy system. The race to zero carbon will not only support the UK's climate goals and secure a better future, but critically it will unlock immense economic opportunity, enhance the UK's energy security and protect households.

The Climate APPG has been working towards five bold goals designed to repower the UK:

1

Transform the North Sea's economic future: Exploring how the UK can transition away from oil and gas extraction, whilst supporting the alternatives, and bolstering regional opportunities for the energy transition.

2

Boost energy security by scaling the alternatives: Championing the roll out of renewables, energy efficiency measures and the infrastructure needed for a decarbonised grid as well as the benefits these developments can bring to the UK economy and consumer financial wellbeing.



3

Build a net zero workforce: Engaging with unions, academics and business to secure the building blocks of a fair transition for workers, whilst empowering communities across the UK.

4

Align energy development with nature protection: Acknowledging the crucial role that flourishing biodiversity can play in storing carbon and working to honour our commitments to protect and restore nature.

5

Encourage UK climate leadership on the world stage: International rhetoric must be matched by real domestic action, support for the global fossil fuel phase out, and seek to join and lead in international fora.

Progress report

Relaunching the Climate APPG - a new era for fossil fuel phase out in Parliament

In May 2023, the Climate APPG hosted its first Annual General Meeting since Uplift became the group's secretariat. 16 cross-party MPs and Peers attended the meeting with Uplift staff where Caroline Lucas MP was re-elected as Climate APPG Chair alongside a committee of Vice Chairs.

Parliamentarians adopted a 2023-24 strategy for the Climate APPG, focusing specifically on building political support for a science aligned, just phase out of UK oil and gas.

The Climate APPG now has a new website and has been rebranded to mark a new phase of activity designed to help to put the UK at the heart of the green transition.



Building consensus against new fossil fuel projects

Over the past year, members of the Climate APPG have consistently called on the UK Government to reject the development of the Rosebank oil field.

Rosebank is the UK's largest undeveloped oil field, containing the equivalent of 500m barrels of oil, most of which will be exported. Although the field was approved by the Government in September 2023, it is now facing legal challenges due to its environmental impacts.

The Climate APPG is proud to have highlighted the flaws with this development whilst building and strengthening cross-party support for transitioning away from new oil and gas.

Members of the Climate APPG raised the impacts of Rosebank on various occasions, both with Ministers in Parliament and the general public through the press.

Notably the APPG helped to secure and brief MPs for the only dedicated parliamentary debate on the Rosebank oil field, which took place in Westminster Hall during June 2023.

In August 2023, the APPG convened more than 50 parliamentarians to call on the Energy Secretary to halt development plans, securing coverage by the BBC. The Government responded to the letter later in the year.

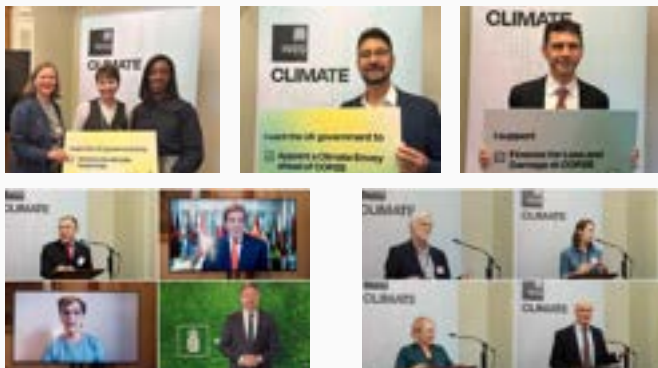


Boosting UK climate leadership on the world stage

In November 2023, the UAE hosted the COP28 climate summit and the Climate APPG supported Parliamentarians to ramp up UK ambition ahead of this critical meeting.

- The Climate APPG played a leading role in securing top-level UK attendance at COP28, including by successfully encouraging the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak MP, to attend.
- APPG MPs and Peers also helped to ensure the UK held firm on its negotiating position to phase-out fossil fuels, as opposed to a weaker phase-down position. This was achieved by holding the Government to account in various select committee hearings, through parliamentary questions, hosting a roundtable with UK Ministers and official negotiators, as well as by publicly making these calls to the Prime Minister.
- Ahead of the summit, the Climate APPG convened a high-level Parliamentary event, attended by over 25 MPs and Peers, and numerous parliamentary staffers, scientists, trade unionists, environmental journalists, campaigners, businesses and diplomatic staff representing several governments, to drive ambition towards a successful outcome at COP28. A high calibre line up of individuals spoke at the reception, including Professor Jim Skea, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Kirsty Townsend, Head of Strategy at Orsted; Kerry McCarthy MP, Labour Shadow Climate Minister; Rt Hon. Graham Stuart MP, UK Climate Minister; Ambassador Roy Barreras, Colombian Ambassador to the UK; Dan Jorgensen, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy (Co-Chair of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance); Secretary John Kerry, U.S. Presidential Climate Envoy; and Christiana Figueres, former Chief Executive of the UNFCCC.

- Notably, at the reception the Danish Government invited the UK Government to join the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, which received press coverage in the Independent.
- As a result of the reception over 50 MPs and Peers wrote to the Prime Minister urging him to:
 1. Appoint a UK climate envoy.
 2. End the fossil fuel era by phasing out coal, oil and gas and advocate for tripling global renewable energy capacity.
 3. Commit new grant-based finance to the Loss and Damage Fund.
 4. Support a just global energy transition for affected-workers and climate vulnerable countries.
 5. Stand up for nature by supporting the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at COP15 in Montreal.
- The Prime Minister responded to the APPG's letter following the signing of the UAE consensus.
- The APPG welcomed the deal at COP28 signed by 195 countries, including the UK, agreeing to "transition away from fossil fuels". This sends a clear signal that the fossil fuel era is coming to an end.
- Since the UAE consensus was signed, members of the Climate APPG have continued to hold the Government to account on COP28 outcomes, including by questioning the Climate Minister at the Environmental Audit Committee's COP28 outcomes hearing in January 2023 on plans to appoint a UK climate envoy, as well as the UK's decision to grant new oil and gas licences since COP28.



Driving forward the transition away from fossil fuels

This year, the Government introduced the Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill, which effectively creates annual oil and gas licensing rounds with the intention of accelerating and expanding the production of North Sea oil and gas.

In December 2023, the Climate APPG prepared a briefing for parliamentarians highlighting the flaws within the Bill, and in January 2024 mobilised more than 30 cross-party MPs and Peers to call on the Energy Secretary to withdraw the legislation, securing a Government response in February 2024. Alongside this, the Climate APPG supported a reasoned amendment to the Bill tabled by our Chair, Caroline Lucas MP.

The Climate APPG also supported MPs speaking against the Bill at Second Reading, and brought together senior cross-party parliamentarians, environmental leaders, fuel poverty campaigners and over 30 academics and scientists to oppose the Bill, in a letter to the Guardian following its passage.

The Climate APPG supported drafting and gaining support for several amendments to the legislation which were debated by the Committee of the House. These included tests to ensure a just transition for oil and gas workers and a safe climate, as well as amendments around marine spatial planning and venting and flaring.

MPs were also briefed by the Climate APPG to speak against the legislation at Third Reading in the Commons and the APPG will work to oppose the Bill in the House of Lords.



Parliamentary roundtables

In July, we invited the Interim Chair of the Climate Change Committee (CCC), Professor Piers Forster, to Parliament to brief cross-party MPs and Peers on the CCC's June 2023 progress report. He emphasised the need to restore the UK's climate leadership – one of the Climate APPG's key missions.

In September 2023, the APPG held a parliamentary roundtable to brief cross-party MPs and Peers on how the UK can lead in phasing out oil and gas. This roundtable featured contributions from Uplift, University College London, the RMT Union and the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance. The roundtable brought to life the benefits in phasing out oil and gas for British bill payers, energy workers and UK climate diplomacy.

In November 2023, just weeks before COP28 took place, the APPG hosted the Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP, FCDO Minister with responsibility for International Climate Change, along with senior FCDO officials, for a parliamentary roundtable on UK priorities for COP28 and the FCDO's work on climate and nature action. The meeting was an opportunity for MPs and Peers to feed their views into the Government's preparations for COP28 and wider diplomatic work.

In February 2024, the Climate APPG hosted President Biden's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Secretary John Kerry, for an in-person discussion with cross-party parliamentarians on COP28 outcomes, including the global agreement to "transition away from fossil fuels", priorities for COP29 in Baku and wider climate diplomacy issues.



Parliamentary activity

The Climate APPG secretariat has supported cross-party parliamentarians in making various parliamentary interventions to raise ambition on climate and energy policy as well as holding the government to account. This has included supporting with:

- Securing debates on climate and nature issues.
- Questioning Ministers in Select Committee hearings on support for new oil and projects, granting new North Sea oil and gas licenses, restoring the role of UK climate envoy and more.
- Prime Ministers Questions related to support for new oil and gas projects, energy security as well as fuel poverty.
- Urgent Questions including on COP28 and the development of new gas fired power stations.
- Tabling and gaining support for amendments to legislation including the Energy Bill and Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill.
- Parliamentary questions both written and oral, related to UK membership of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, restoring the role of UK climate envoy, the UK Energy Security Summit, COP28, COP29, CBD COP16, jobs in the oil and gas sector, a just transition for energy workers, impacts of oil and gas activity on marine impacts, fuel poverty, as well as support for renewables and energy efficiency.

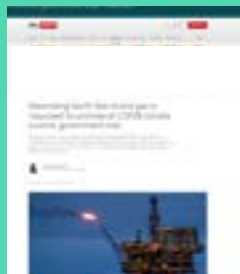
The Climate APPG in the press

The Climate APPG has received a significant amount of coverage over the past year, including both news stories and Op Eds from our Chair and Vice Chairs.

This has included coverage in the following outlets:

- BBC
- Business Green
- Channel 4
- Edie
- Ends report
- Evening Standard
- DeSmog
- The Daily Express
- The Guardian
- The Herald
- The Independent
- The Mirror
- The New Statesman
- The Scotsman
- The Yorkshire Post
- Sky News

Press highlights



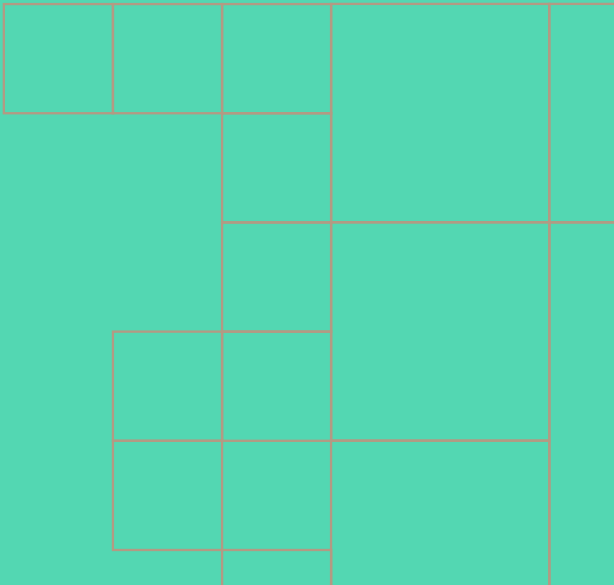
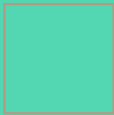
Parliamentary activity highlights



Our plans for 2024-2025

The Climate APPG secretariat will continue to deliver on its vision by supporting parliamentarians in advocating for climate action through the remainder of this Parliament.

Following the next general election, the APPG will play a key role in welcoming new MPs to Parliament and supporting existing MPs with their climate related work.



Financial report 2023-24

Budget Line Item	Amount	Original Budget
Employment Cost	£ 57,172	£ 74,899
Contractors	£ 9,150	
Visits and Events UK	£ 7,907	£ 20,000
• HOC - Event 24/10/23	£ 5,049	
• Climate APPG Name Badges	£ 33	
• HOC - Event Catering	£ 68	
• COP28 Event Placards	£ 115	
• Junipa Productions - Videography Climate APPG event	£ 2,641	
Office and Communication Costs	£ 18,848	£ 22,000
Overall Total	£93,077	£ 116,899

Budget 2024-2025

Budget Line Item	Budget
Employment Cost	£105,000
Contractors	£6,200
Visits and Events	£17,700
Office and Communication Costs	£10,000
Overall Total	£138,900

Secretariat report

Uplift will continue to serve as the secretariat to the Climate APPG. Uplift is a research and advocacy organisation which aims to support a fossil free future, and is funded by philanthropic organisations. Neither Uplift, nor the Climate APPG, receive funding from foreign governments.

Uplift will continue to provide support to the Climate APPG in both (i) staff time and (ii) direct funds, to ensure that the APPG is able to offer quality events and supporting materials, during what is such a crucial time for climate action.

The Climate APPG staff team 2023-24:

- Robbie MacPherson, APPG Lead and Senior Political Adviser at Uplift
- Mabeeb Kamalee, Public Affairs Officer at Uplift
- Gwen Peters, Head of Politics at Uplift
- Graham Banton, Chief Operating Officer at Uplift

Acknowledgements

The Climate APPG's success would not have been possible without the support and dedication of our parliamentary committee and wider membership. We thank them for their unwavering commitment to championing ambitious climate action in Parliament.

2023-2024 Committee:

- Caroline Lucas MP
- Chris Skidmore MP
- Hilary Benn MP
- Olivia Blake MP
- Paul Blomfield MP
- Alan Brown MP
- Dan Carden MP
- Daisy Cooper MP
- Barry Gardiner MP
- Wera Hobhouse MP
- Afzal Khan MP
- Rachael Maskell MP
- Anna McMorrin MP
- Christina Rees MP
- Selaine Saxby MP
- Andrew Selous MP
- Tommy Sheppard MP
- Jeff Smith MP
- Alex Sobel MP
- Alexander Stafford MP
- Zarah Sultana MP
- Nadia Whittome MP
- Baroness Boycott
- Baroness Willis

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