

More than 35 municipalities worldwide, including Edinburgh, Belfast, Norwich, Exmouth, Lambeth and Haywards Heath, have endorsed the call for a Plant Based Treaty, which aims to promote a shift towards healthier, sustainable plant-based diets.

Even if we end fossil fuels today, food emissions alone will send global temperature rises above the 1.5C target of the Paris Agreement. According to the 2021 UN Global Methane Assessment, methane must be cut by 45% by 2030. Doing so will prevent a 0.3C temperature rise by 2045, buying us time for carbon dioxide, a longer-lived gas, to reduce. The largest source of human-caused methane globally is animal agriculture at 32%. However, high levels of meat and dairy production and consumption in the UK put our methane footprint closer to 50%.

134 nations, including the UK, signed a COP28 declaration pledging to incorporate a food system transformation into Climate Action Plans. Following Edinburgh's Plant Based Treaty endorsement, they published a comprehensive action plan in January 2024 to address food emissions city-wide.

More than 720 councillors and 22MPs support the Plant Based Treaty, along with IPCC scientists Dr. Peter Carter, Professor Danny Harvey and Professor Julia Steinberger, and Nobel Laureates including Klaus Hasselmann and Roger D. Kornberg. More than 3,000 groups and businesses have signed on, including the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, Climate Emergency Institute, Ocean Preservation Society and chapters of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth.

Ben Parker, Co-Convenor of the Green group of Councillors in the City of Edinburgh Council, said, "To sign the treaty is to show that we take our climate commitments seriously and recognise the science behind the climate emergency – that is, to know that food systems are key drivers of emissions, and that plant-based foods must figure as part of the solution to tackling climate change."

Please visit [www.plantbasedtreaty.org](http://www.plantbasedtreaty.org), to sign your name in support of the Plant Based Treaty. I would also like you to consider putting forward a motion for our council to endorse and updating our Climate Action Plan. If you email [hello@plantbasedtreaty.org](mailto:hello@plantbasedtreaty.org) they can help provide sample motions.

Sir David Attenborough says, "If we shift away from eating meat and dairy and move towards a plant-based diet then the sun's energy goes directly into growing our food. And because that's so much more efficient, we could still produce enough to feed us but do so using a quarter of the land. Studies have shown that shifting to a plant-based food system could free up an area the size of the United States, China, the European Union, and Australia combined. This space could then be given back to nature."

Thank you for taking climate action today to secure a future for all.