

*Adapt these highlighted lines to work best for your area as needed

[Your Group] press release

For immediate release/Embargoed until [add date and time]

Charter of Hope calls for action that benefits people and the environment in [insert area]

- [Your Group] spoke to XXX people about their priorities ahead of and following the May elections

Protecting communities from extreme weather and bringing down energy bills for good are among the issues that matter most to people in [insert area].

[Your Group] ran a series of listening activities to understand residents' top priorities before they head to the polls this May.

The results have informed a Charter of Hope, which the environmental justice campaigners are calling on councillors to commit to:

- **Protect our community from extreme weather**, including flooding and heatwaves, by preparing a climate adaptation strategy. [Include any examples of recent flooding or wildfires that have been particularly damaging locally], This should include nature-based solutions such as tree planting and taking action to cut emissions to help prevent far worse climate impacts in future.
- **Say yes to projects that reduce emissions**, such as renewable energy, and say no to harmful developments, including high carbon infrastructure projects such as fossil fuel extraction sites and airport expansion [be specific if there are local examples here, which are fuelling the climate crisis, such as proposed oil and gas extraction project, like fracking].
- **Lower energy bills and warmer homes** through insulation programmes, support for community-owned renewable energy, help for people in financial trouble and approving renewable energy developments. These are the solutions that will end our reliance on volatile gas markets and bring down bills for good.

[Your Group] will be [add location, when and details of any creative stunt or photo opportunity you're planning to publicise your Charter here].

[Full name], from [Your Group], said:

"We've had enough of politicians spreading division and climate denial. Our Charter of Hope is about uniting people around the local action and smart, simple solutions that will benefit everyone and our environment.

"They're affordable, achievable and fair. They tackle some of the biggest worries we face today, like sky-high living costs and a lack of opportunities for the next generation. They are real solutions that cut pollution, cut our bills, protect communities and nature.

"Real change starts with hope that ignites action and it starts in [your area]."

Ends.

For more information and interviews contact [Your number and/or email address].

Notes:

[Include any specific details for either your visual stunt and/or listening exercises that might be of interest. Such as where events were held, how many people you spoke to, which topics came out]

[Not for inclusion]:

Full list of political asks

We have 10 policy asks aimed at getting real solutions on the political agenda. Groups can choose which are most relevant for their areas. Full details for developing your Charter of Hope, including council levers and local data, are available [here](#).

Following local elections in England, Friends of the Earth is calling on all councillors to commit to:

1. **Protect our community from extreme weather**, including flooding and heatwaves, by preparing a climate adaptation strategy, that includes nature-based solutions such as tree planting, and take action to cut emissions to help prevent far worse climate impacts in future.
2. **Say yes to projects that reduce emissions**, such as renewable energy, and say no to harmful developments, including high carbon infrastructure projects such as fossil fuel extraction sites and airport expansion, which are fuelling the climate crisis.
3. **Plant more trees and improve green spaces** to cool our towns, improve health and wellbeing, and create space for nature.
4. **Help local farmers adapt to more extreme weather** by ensuring your council buys local produce for use in schools and care homes, creating Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and giving farms permissions for barn conversions, farm shops and renewable energy developments.
5. **Welcome refugees and migrants**, including people whose lives and livelihoods have been torn apart by climate disasters and extreme weather. Bring communities together and speak out against hatred and division.
6. **Lower energy bills and warmer homes** through insulation programmes, support for community-owned renewable energy, help for people in financial trouble and approving renewable energy developments. Electricity from renewable energy is cheaper than from gas.
7. **Better public transport and healthy air** by improving bus services, investing in public electric vehicle charging, creating safe walking and cycling routes, and curbing traffic around schools to protect children's health.
8. **More local green jobs and training for young people** by working with further education providers to ensure they're providing training for the skills needed for jobs in green industries and that help tackle the climate and nature crisis.
9. **More resilient communities** are better able to respond to the impacts of the climate crisis. By working closely with local charities and voluntary groups, faith groups and

social enterprises, councils can build cohesion and resilience. And support people to stand up to those sowing division and hatred.

- 10. Local climate solutions funded by wealthy polluters** by pushing national government to make polluting industries pay for the damage they've caused through funding climate action and protection against the impacts of climate change, such as flooding.