

No New Oil: MP Engagement at Parliament on Tues 21st Nov 2023

Preliminary action information: this a live document undergoing updates

Sign up at tinyurl.com/Form21Nov

Briefings [Tuesday 14th November 6:30 pm](#) & [Friday 17th November 3 pm](#)



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Introduction

Building on September's [visit to Parliament by over 100 scientists](#), who used the 'green carding' approach to speak to their MPs, we invite a coalition of people and organisations to join us in holding constructive conversations with our elected representatives. We need to communicate that new oil and gas licensing is incompatible with our near-term wellbeing, climate commitments, and a liveable future.

We are inviting participants to join us in any or all of the following actions:

- **Contact their MPs** about new oil and gas
- **Try to arrange a meeting** to talk with their MP face-to-face about new oil and gas
- **'Green card' their MP** at Parliament on Tuesday 21st November (or another time).
- **Share their knowledge** of MP's position on new oil and gas to inform future approaches.

More detail available below (see [I would like to take part! What shall I do next?](#))

On the day (Tuesday 21st November):

- Co-ordinators will be in the Westminster area from 9am
- You can **enter Parliament to 'green card'** throughout the working day, so we encourage you to do this **at the time that works best for you**. Please note, *it could take over an hour* to get through the queue and to wait for a response from your MP
- There will be a **group photo at noon**
- There will a **social/drink after the action** and opportunities for discussions with other participants throughout the day

More detail available below (see [Detailed timings and locations on the day?](#))

Aims & Rationale

Primary aim

To engage as many MPs as possible about the cross-party importance of opposing new oil and gas.

We want to get the facts to them and also the reality that their constituents/voters are deeply concerned about the climate, environmental and societal impacts of recent decisions to expand fossil fuel production. We also want to guide MPs to opportunities to understand the climate issues they're legislating on in more depth, and signpost the specific possible routes they may wish to use to accelerate action from within their roles.

Note: Broader and/or more specific conversations with MPs are appropriate (and will depend on the MP's and constituent's positions and relationships), but we will use the unified message of "No new oil & gas" as the lead.

Secondary aims

- **Empowering people** to engage directly with elected representatives and local parliamentary candidates as a means to motivate action. Positive experiences where meaningful conversations occur are a clearly important outcome, but also experiences where participants do not feel their MPs are taking these issues seriously can also be informative, and may compel help drive other forms of collective action to push for change.
 - Note: For those unable to attend London in, we can support them to reach out to both their local MPs, opposition candidates and councillors.
- **Collecting information** about the positions and knowledge of UK politicians on oil and gas, and climate & nature more broadly. This will be valuable in shaping approaches to engaging with decision makers in future.
- **Building relationships / facilitating collaboration** and exchange of knowledge between groups is a valuable co-benefit of this approach.
- **Wider communication with the media and public.** If we are able to have conversations with a significant portion of MPs, and if we have notable supporters, this will increase the reach of our action and message.

Rationale for the date (Tuesday 21st November)

- The date gives us **time to mobilise** large numbers for a weekday where MPs will be in Westminster, and to communicate in advance with our MPs.
- Tuesdays are potentially **the best day of the week to interact with MPs**, especially as many arrive in Westminster mid-Monday and leave mid-Thursday each week Parliament sits.
- This is the **week of the Autumn Statement** (to be made the next day, on the Weds 22nd). It is a time where government spending and priorities are in the spotlight and we can use this as an opportunity to talk about where a climate-conscious government would be targeting its efforts.
- Note that we **can replicate this action**, and we are discussing a range of dates, for instance the first week Parliament sits in the new year.

Who will be there:

Anyone concerned about new oil and gas development is warmly welcomed to take part. So far we are a coalition of concerned citizens and groups comprising - but by no means limited to - scientists, health professionals, educators and campaigning organisations. The number of organisations joining this group is growing but currently consists of:



For the full list of partner organisations, and links to their websites see [here](#)

FAQs

I would like to take part! What shall I do next?

- *****Let us know you're interested and whether you can join us on the 21st by [completing this short webform](#).*****
This will mean we can send all the relevant information to you by email.
 - If you can help us with preparation and communication in advance and/or with support roles on the day we would love to hear from you! Let us know in the box on the signup form :)
- We also have a broadcast-only **Whatsapp group** you can join using this link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GAFAX4tpLqI9NjnysNP74y>. We will use this closer to the action date to spread messages and updates quickly.
- Soon, we will be encouraging everyone to **write to your MPs** (and other political contacts where relevant), to invite them to meet on the 21st November to talk about new oil and gas. Template letters you can base yours on can be found [here](#) and we will also be providing support to help you prepare and make those conversations constructive.
- If you can join us on November 21st, **book the day off** if you need to, and start thinking about travel to Westminster.

- We will hold **briefings** online (via Zoom) the week beforehand. These will be at
 - 6:30 - 7:30 pm on Tuesday 14th November: <https://york-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/93681351483> (Meeting ID: 936 8135 1483)
 - 3:00 - 4:00 pm on Friday 17th November: <https://york-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/92289240400> (Meeting ID: 922 8924 0400)

If you can't make either of these then please don't worry, you will receive all the essential information via email if you have signed up [via the form](#).

- Check out the **supporting information** we have put together
 - Science [factsheets](#) about new fossil fuels and their impacts
 - [Talking points](#) and information about policy that might be useful for your conversations
 - The '[green carding](#)' process in more detail. You may also want to watch this [one-minute video](#) about the process.

What role can my organisation play?

We are excited to be bringing a broad coalition to groups together to have constructive conversations with those in positions of power and responsibility to change the course of UK policy on new oil and gas, as well as broader related issues. We would love for organisations to encourage your members to join in, to help spread the word, and to shape the action and the detail of the messaging. If you represent an organisation wanting to join this coalition (or to find out more), please get in touch with us via the person who directed you to this document, or with Abi via yorkconnect@proton.me. We are adding a representative from each group into a Whatsapp group chat to aid coordination.

What support will the coordinating team be providing?

A group of volunteers from a range of different organisations have been busy putting together some resources to help make your conversations with MPs as productive as possible. You can find this series of resources in an online folder here. These resources include:

- [Template letters](#) to send to your representatives
- [Template invitations](#) and social media posts to advertise the action
- [Background information](#) about new oil and gas. These fact sheets were created for the scientists' visit in September. Versions suitable for screen readers available [here](#).
- [Talking points](#) about specific policy options available to MPs, and the political context of the decisions around North Sea fossil fuels.

Thank you to everyone who has given their time to create these helpful resources!

We will also be holding **briefings** online (via Zoom) the week beforehand to go through the plans and answer questions. These will be at

- 6:30 - 7:30 pm on Tuesday 14th November: <https://york-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/93681351483> (Meeting ID: 936 8135 1483)
- 3:00 - 4:00 pm on Friday 17th November: <https://york-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/92289240400> (Meeting ID: 922 8924 0400)

We will also be available on the day to answer questions and to help the process run as smoothly as possible.

Detailed timings and locations on the day

Subject to alteration!

- You can **enter Parliament to ‘green card’** throughout the working day, so we encourage you to do this **at the time that works best for you**
 - Important to note: ***It could take over an hour*** to get through the queue and to wait for a response from your MP
 - We recognise that many of you may be restricted by other commitments or transport considerations. If this is you, we recommend prioritising joining the queue to enter Parliament over other activities happening as part of the action.
 - Various [committees](#) are sitting between 09:30am and 5:30pm on the 21st, and at the time of writing it seems that the House of [Commons](#) are sitting from 11:30am. We would probably expect MPs to be in Parliament by mid-morning at the latest, but this is of course quite difficult to predict!
 - Once you have green carded your MP, **let us know whether they spoke with you and if so how that went**. This is really useful information which we are aiming to record on the day to advise future engagement.
- There will be a **group photo at noon**
 - Gather at the North West corner of Parliament Square (near the statues of Millicent Fawcett and an Earl of Derby) at **11:55**
 - <https://what3words.com/random.doctor.good>
 - *Note: this a change from a previous location*
 - **Heath workers photocall** will be in the **same location at 11:30**. You're encouraged to bring/wear scrubs.
 - Feel free to bring banners etc representing the organisations you're joining as part of (N.B. 'branding' e.g. logos of campaigning organisation is welcome in the group photo but will likely not be allowed inside Parliament)
- **Shelter/base/points of contact** throughout the day
 - When you arrive on the day we encourage you to 'check in' one of the coordinators or stewards who'll be present. We will be wearing a "No New Oil" patch to help you recognise us.
 - We are hoping to have these helpful people stationed at several locations who will be able to answer your questions and support you. The locations will **provisionally** be:
 - Near the St Stephens entrance to Parliament (from 9 am). This is the public entrance you'll need to use to green card your MP. It's further down from Parliament Square with respect the Westminster station and the river) where the road in front of Parliament becomes St Margaret Street
 - <https://what3words.com/guitar.fixed.mops>
 - Where you'll exit Parliament, across the road from Parliament Square (from 9:30).

- Approximately <https://what3words.com/kicks.sticky.violin>
- Inside [St Stephen's Tavern](#) next to Westminster station (from 10 am)
 - <https://what3words.com/rams.chill.jazzy>
- One of our team has checked in with staff at the [St Stephen's Tavern](#) which is directly next to Westminster Tube Station and should have plenty of space available in the daytime. It is open from 10am (and serves hot drinks).
- We encourage you to get involved in discussions and networking with other participants on the day
- There are public toilets in the subways (signposted from above ground at the crossroads at the parliament end of Westminster Bridge).
- We are also confirming a space a short walk from Westminster available from early evening for a **social/drink after the action** for anyone who would like to join us.
 - We think this will most likely be a pub close to Trafalgar Square from 4pm

We had hoped to be able to set up a gazebo close to Parliament Square where our scientists and health workers would be present to answer questions and share their knowledge about climate, nature and health with participants and politicians; unfortunately we weren't granted permission to do this, but this doesn't stop us from having these conversations with one another throughout the day.

What is 'green carding' and how does it work?

This is a method that any constituent is entitled to use to try to speak to their own MP at The House of Commons. Constituents wishing to visit their MP without making an appointment can go to the central lobby and fill in a 'green card' stating their name, the name of the member sitting for their constituency and the reason for their visit. The card is passed to one of the attendants in the central lobby who can then contact the relevant MP. They may then come down to speak to the constituent - if they do not they are obliged to respond to you in writing. We have compiled more information and detailed instructions about this process [here](#).

What if my MP is not there or doesn't meet me?

It's very possible that your MP will not be available, or might otherwise decline your request, to meet on the 21st in Westminster. This does not mean that your journey and efforts have been wasted; handing in your green card means that your visit to Westminster will be officially recorded, and your MP will know you have come directly to them to request a meeting. After this your MP should then respond to you in writing to let you know their views, which will ideally form the basis on which you can start a dialogue and/or arrange to meet.

Can we adapt the "No New Oil" messaging for our particular group?

We think there is great power in many groups coming together united with one clear simple message, but of course this isn't the only issue MPs need to understand! We encourage groups to use No New Oil as their central message and welcome versions that make it relevant to your particular group (see example placards at the top of this image). If a constituent does manage to

have a conversation with their MP having green-carded them to speak about new oil and gas, they can subsequently take that discussion in whatever direction feels appropriate given the MP's and constituent's priorities, positions and relationships.

I can't get time off work/ be there in the daytime on the 21st. Can I still participate?

Absolutely! We encourage those unable to attend on the day to write to (template letters [here](#)) and arrange meetings with their MPs (and constituency opponents) on the issue of new fossil fuel extraction, and will provide resources to support this. Our hope is to create momentum on this issue, and the climate and ecological crisis more generally, which will grow over the next year until the election. If you are able to arrange a meeting with your MP, or if you 'green card' them on another day that Parliament is sitting [let us know](#).

Useful links

Short links

Who is involved? tinyurl.com/Orgs21Nov

More information and FAQs (this document): tinyurl.com/FAQs21Nov

Sign up form: tinyurl.com/Form21Nov

Template letter to MPs: tinyurl.com/MPLetter21Nov

Signup form

https://actionnetwork.org/forms/no-new-oil-join-us-to-engage-directly-with-mps-in-westminster?source=direct_link&

Resources folder

- All resources are available via this Google Drive [Folder](#)
- Click [here](#) for a guide to what's in the folder

Whatsapp group for updates

A broadcast-only channel for updates closer to the action date. Join via

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GAFAX4tpLqI9NjnysNP74y>

Template letters for inviting your MP

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aw5oFJbrWT2mrkRkEC5yz11G0hOqbku7iXFNdUdtxyg/edit>

Template messages/posts/invitations to send to potential participants

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VN0dQCQkeHfDCgAd5sRWEYSxLLaULxVpiacYHhTCieo/edit>

Background information to support your conversations

- You can find some [factsheets](#) about the science behind the No New Oil demand, prepared by Abi in advance of a similar action in September. A version of this document suitable for screen readers can be found at <https://hjmb.co.uk/blog/2023-09-01-no-new-oil/>. Thank you to Hex for creating this more accessible version.
- [Talking points](#) and information about UK government policy that might be useful for your conversations
- We have been compiling what information we can about [what we already know about individual MPs stances](#) from other campaigns and our previous conversations.

Meeting your MP and the 'green card' process

- This [document](#) contains information about the steps involved in detail, as well as some suggestions about how you might want to approach conversations with your MP:
- You may also want to watch this [one-minute video](#) about the process.
- And check whether we know anything about your MPs stance [here](#).

Any outstanding questions?

Please get in touch with us via the person who directed you to this document, or with Abi via yorkcliconnect@proton.me.