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Climate Action Event – Can the UK lead on climate change? The CEE Bill and our future December 11th 2020: 5.00-6.30pm

To mark the 5th anniversary of the signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the CEE Bill Alliance Oxfordshire will be facilitating an online event to discuss the [Climate and Ecological Emergency \(CEE\) Bill](#). The day after our event the UK will host an international [Climate Ambition Summit](#) where the UK government is expected to announce its updated national targets - the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) - and invite other countries to announce their own NDCs.

The CEE Bill offers a bold approach to dealing urgently with the Climate-Nature Emergency and seeks to enshrine the UK's Paris Agreement commitment into law. The election of Joe Biden as president of the US and Boris Johnson's green industrial revolution announcement could alter the course of discussions around the climate crisis. In the lead up to the UK-hosted COP26 next year could the goals of the Paris Agreement be strengthened and within striking distance?

To discuss this, we will be holding a Climate Action Event to include the following experts:

THE CLIMATE ACTION EVENT EXPERTS

- Clare Shakya, Director, International Institute for Environment and Development
- Professor Nick Eyre, Professor of Energy and Climate Policy, University of Oxford, recently appointed scientific advisor to Oxford City Council
- Estelle Bailey, Chief Executive, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)
- EJ Fawcett, UK Student Climate Network
- Dr Amy McDonnell, co-founder of the CEE Bill
- Jane King, CEE Bill Alliance
- Mike Barry (former Marks and Spencer's Sustainability Director)

"The UK has much to be proud of in the way it has commenced the decarbonisation of its economy. But these important first steps should not make us complacent. The climate crisis, even with 'just' 1 degree C of heating, is unfolding far faster and with greater impact than we could ever imagine. The UK has a huge opportunity as COP26 looms to accelerate the transition to a Net Zero society and supporting economy. In doing so not just demonstrating moral leadership but also seizing the enormous economic opportunity of Green Growth." **Mike Barry**

(Experts will be available for interview upon request)

All six Oxfordshire MPs, businesses, members of the public, representatives from schools, charities, youth, environmental and community groups are invited to attend. This will be an opportunity to understand more about the CEE Bill and to participate through online Question and Answers.

The event is sponsored by Oxford Human Rights Festival (CENDEP dept, Oxford Brookes University) and will be facilitated by [Thalia Carr](#).

The CEE Bill background

The current Climate Change Act of 2008, whilst instrumental at the time in restricting CO2 emissions through carbon budgeting and establishing the Committee on Climate Change, has gaps which urgently need addressing. The current climate change legislation:

- does not allow accounting for UK emissions levels to include emissions for goods and services produced elsewhere but consumed in the UK
- does not make reference to nature or the loss of biodiversity
- makes the assumption that technologies that are not yet available will be able to remove carbon in sufficient volumes to contribute to our targets

If passed, the CEE Bill will ensure, with the help of a Citizens Assembly, that a strong climate legacy is in place for the future.

The **Climate Action Event** will provide an opportunity to reflect and celebrate climate success in the UK so far:

- UK CO2 emissions have reduced by 42% since 1990 whilst the economy has continued to grow
- The UK was the first country to put their climate ambition into law, with tougher amendments to the Climate Change Act made last year
- Climate Change Act set up an independent expert body – the Climate Change Committee - to monitor progress against our targets and advise on how the UK can do better
- The UK's climate targets were previously part of the overall EU target. With Brexit, the UK has the opportunity to demonstrate more ambitious targets.

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Note to Editors:

The CEE Bill Alliance Oxfordshire are a newly formed group of citizens, scientists, communities, business and council networks, environmental groups and campaigners across Oxfordshire working to raise awareness of the climate and ecological emergency and the CEE Bill.

Events like these are taking place across the UK to build a groundswell of pressure on the government ahead of COP26 in Glasgow, postponed until Nov 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.

Close to home the county of Oxfordshire has much to celebrate in terms of being at the forefront of climate action and local progress:

- Oxford City Council implemented the UK's first Citizen's Climate Assembly and has a plan to reach net-zero emissions by 2030.
- Oxford City Council is installing a 'Super-hub' – a massive lithium-ion battery and flow storage that will support a network of 100 fast electric vehicle charging points and enable the electrification of Oxford's fleet.
- Oxfordshire has been a leader in climate innovation, technology and policy as shown through Oxfordshire Greentech, a business network supporting the growth of the low-carbon sector in Oxfordshire, which has more than 200 members.
- The University of Oxford this year made the historic decision to cut ties with the fossil fuel industry.

- Low Carbon Oxford is a network of over 40 organisations with a shared vision of Oxford as a low carbon city. They include hubs in west, east and north Oxford working together to achieve the city's ambitious target of reducing emissions in Oxford by 40% by 2020.