

Dear **[insert name of MP]**,

I am a member of **[insert name of group]** Friends of the Earth group, and as part of the Get Serious About CO<sub>2</sub> campaign, I am working to mobilise public support for strong action by my council on climate change.

To meet our national climate commitments and do our bit to avoid dangerous climate change, all sectors of the UK economy will have to play their part in cutting CO<sub>2</sub>.

Local authorities are crucial to delivering climate solutions because they have a huge influence over local emissions and are best placed to understand the interests of their communities.

But although some councils have shown leadership on climate change - creating green jobs and slashing fuel bills - most are simply not doing enough. A response on a wholly different scale is needed.

**[Add one of the three points that most closely reflects your council's action]**

- a) My council, **[insert name of your council]**, is doing great work on cutting emissions. It has signed up to a target of **[X percent cut by 2020]** and is developing an action plan to show how the cuts will be made. We need a system to ensure every council does its bit like **[insert name of your council]**.

**[or]**

- b) My council **[insert name of your council]** is taking some steps to cut emissions, but could do much more. We need a system to ensure every council does its bit and cuts emissions in line with the science.

**[or]**

- c) My council **[insert name of your council]** isn't prioritising action on climate change. We need a system to ensure every council does its bit and cuts emissions in line with the science.

I welcome the government's support for local carbon budgets for councils, and broad backing they have from the Local Government Association, the Energy Savings Trust and the Carbon trust.

I support Friends of the Earth's call for local carbon budgets that would place a cap on emissions in each local area and be:

- **For all councils** – not just those currently prioritising action
- **Set in line with the science**, and local circumstances (with advice from new Technical Advisory Bodies and the Committee on Climate Change)
- **Supported by national government** including more and better-coordinated financial support, and technical advice.
- **Use high quality and accessible data** – for robust measurement of emissions cuts, and accountability for local people
- **Timed in line with national carbon budgets** – with five-year budget periods and transparency on annual progress

The government is formulating how local carbon budgets would work, and will draw conclusions in January. Please write to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, John Denham, to ask him to take the above points into account.

For more information about local carbon budgets and the Get Serious About CO<sub>2</sub> campaign, visit [www. Getseriousaboutco2.com](http://www.Getseriousaboutco2.com)

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

**[Insert name]**