

# STOP CLIMATE CHAOS

II

THE  
MARCH 1st  
CARBON  
SPEED  
DATING  
LOBBY

Central Hall,  
Westminster

BRIEFING PACK FOR SUPPORTERS



STOP CLIMATE CHAOS

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PHOTO - Nils Jorgensen/Rex Features  
PHOTOMONTAGE - Polyp

# 1

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### What is Stop Climate Chaos?

Our growing coalition, which contains most of the UK's leading environmental and international development organisations as well as women's organisations, activist groups and faith-based campaigns, aims to build irresistible popular pressure on politicians to act. We will strive to ensure that the UK Government does everything it must at home and abroad - with the utmost urgency - to halt climate change. Combining with like-minded bodies in other countries we will work to ensure that other governments do the same.



# 2

## 2. CLIMATE CHANGE

### Causes, consequences, solutions

The burning of fossil fuels is increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere above natural levels, causing the climate to change and the planet to warm rapidly. This is creating more extreme weather, melting of the ice caps, floods and droughts. In turn this will cost the lives of millions, ruin the livelihoods of hundreds of millions more, severely affect animal and plant life across the globe and cost trillions of dollars. Climate change is already killing 150,000 people and causing five millions serious illnesses a year, mostly amongst the world's poor who are most at risk from climate change. In other words, this isn't just a problem for future generations. It's happening now.

So you'd think world leaders would be taking urgent action to stop this chaos. Wrong. Most of them - and in fact most of us - are carrying on as if we hadn't seen all the danger signs. That's why Stop Climate Chaos has been formed. We are going to build powerful public pressure - through political action and changes to our own lifestyles - to force world leaders to act. The Governments of the world must put in place the necessary policies to switch off fossil fuels, and help us all switch to lower energy lifestyles and cleaner sources of power. And the time for them to do it is now.

But it's not all doom and gloom! This is actually a great opportunity. By dealing with climate change we can also deliver the access to green energy that the world's poorest people have been long demanding, add greater protection to the natural environment, increase global security and adopt smarter lifestyles - not to mention save ourselves a whole load of money in the long run. We know how to do it. All it will take is political will.



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# 3

## 3. THE MARCH 1st LOBBY

### What and Why

This is your chance to tell MPs and peers why you want the government to start taking climate change seriously, and what you want them to do to tackle the problem. The Stop Climate Change Carbon Dating event on March 1st will be the first time that such a wide range of supporters from development, faith and environment groups have come together to persuade decision makers to support urgent and effective action to tackle climate change. Because politicians need to understand the breadth of support for tough action, we've organised a rather different event from the traditional lobby of Parliament. We're calling it Carbon Dating and it's explained below. We think it's vital that politicians hear from you in person about why you care. And we want MPs to meet people with lots of different concerns – not just their own local ones. This is why we are not suggesting you try and see your own MP at this event. We will be encouraging MPs to move round the room to meet as many of you as possible for a series of short discussions with a wide variety of people who care about climate change.

### Programme of the Day

12.00	arrival and registration at Westminster Central Hall,
12.30-13.30	briefing and rally
14.00-16.00	lobbying of MPs
16.30-17.00	final wrap-up and speakers

### Refreshments

Please eat lunch before you arrive at the venue, as unfortunately we are unable to take any food into the main hall. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available during the afternoon.

### What to bring (and what not to bring)

- You might want to bring this briefing with you as a prompt for lobbying the MPs.
- A pen and paper to note down any questions or notes of what the MPs say.
- A packed lunch to eat en route, before you arrive at the event.
- Please do not bring banners or materials from your organisation – we will be displaying all the names and logos of the organisations that make up the Stop Climate Chaos coalition using projections.
- If you are on any medication – make sure you bring it.
- If you are bringing children, keep a close eye on them at all times. Make sure they carry your mobile number.
- Other than guide dogs pets are not allowed as large crowds can be distressing for animals.



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# 4

## 4. CARBON DATING EXPLAINED

### How it will work

No, it's not about guessing the age of archeological treasures! Loosely based on a "speed dating" format, you will join hundreds of other volunteers like yourself from the whole range of organisations that make up the Stop Climate Chaos coalition.

When you arrive, we will seat you at a table with about 10 other people from different organisations. You will have the chance to talk to a number of different MPs, Lords and MPs' researchers in a format that's a mix between lobbying and speed dating. The MPs will move around the tables, and each table will have a 10-15 minute facilitated discussion with the politician about climate change. You will be given a badge with your name and organisation, so that the MPs can see who they are talking to, and a table number to sit at so that we can ensure a mix of people at each table.

Because it's important that MPs realise the wide range of concerns represented by Stop Climate Chaos, we want to ensure that tables are not dominated by lobbyists from one organisation. So if a few of you have travelled together, please be prepared to spread around a number of tables as directed on arrival.

To make it even easier we are providing you with three key asks to put to the politicians (below). But it will also be your chance to speak from your own experience about why you care about climate change, how it affects your own life, and what you think politicians should be doing about it.

### What we're asking MPs to do

#### a) SUPPORT ACTION INTERNATIONALLY: PREVENTING DANGEROUS GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Stop Climate Chaos is calling on MPs to publicly declare their support for action by the UK and all other countries to ensure that total global greenhouse gas emissions peak and decline by 2015.

Why? If global emissions are curbed, and then put on a permanent downward path by 2015, then the global temperature rise (caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere) can be kept below what the Government itself acknowledges as being the danger threshold: 2°C. The scientific evidence indicates that only by meeting this 2015 target will we have a realistic chance of averting the worst impacts of climate change, which will affect billions of people and have disastrous social, economic and environmental results.

#### b) SUPPORT ACTION AT HOME: LOWERING UK GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Stop Climate Chaos is calling on MPs to support the setting of a UK Carbon Budget by the Government. The objective of this budget should be to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 3% a year. Gordon Brown, as holder of the purse strings and with a leading responsibility for joined-up delivery, should report to Parliament each year on progress.

Why? We need to set ambitious targets for reducing overall UK emissions and, within that, targets for different parts of the economy. The Government must budget for how much can be emitted by each sector (transport, housing, industry etc). It must use all the tax, incentive, regulatory and public communications tools at its disposal to ensure that targets for these sectors are met. This process of allocating targets for the economic sectors and using policy measures to ensure that all targets are met is called Carbon Budgeting. (See annex 1 below for more detail on the Carbon Budget). The Carbon Budget in turn must ensure that UK emissions overall decline by 3% p.a. (with some flexibility year-by-year whilst still averaging 3% over time). This is the amount by which industrialised countries like the UK must reduce emissions throughout the next two or three decades to cap the build up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, such that the global temperature rise is to be kept below 2°C.



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## c) SUPPORT ACTION FOR JUSTICE: ASSISTANCE FOR THE POOREST COUNTRIES

Stop Climate Chaos is calling on MPs to support the provision of additional aid flows, to help poor countries adapt and cope with climate change related disasters. All overseas development assistance should be 'climate proof', i.e. it should be checked to ensure it helps reduce the impacts of climate change and not increase them. MPs should also support technology transfer, training and support for developing countries, to ensure that they can pursue a low-carbon development path in the longer term.

Why? Climate change will hit poor people first and worst. Hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people will lose their lives or livelihoods. They need financial assistance to adapt to the climate change they are already experiencing and which will continue, to some degree, whatever action is taken now. The money currently pledged for this by the UK hasn't been delivered and in any case is far less than the eventual likely costs. Developing countries will also need extra support for dealing with climate-related disasters. Finally, and most importantly, they will need every assistance to eradicate poverty and develop sustainably in the longer term, through the use of low carbon technologies and processes.

### Top tips for lobbying MPs

- Be polite and friendly, not aggressive (even if you disagree with their position!).
- Explain why you have come to lobby them, and why you personally care about climate change.
- Pick one of the 3 asks to focus on (your table's facilitator will make sure that all the points are covered by different people on your table).
- Feel free to mention what kind of solutions you would like to see developed to tackle climate change, but please note that none of the organisations involved in Stop Climate Chaos believe that nuclear power is a solution to climate change.
- Let others on your table speak too! MPs won't have long at your table, and while all 10 of you will not have a chance to speak to every MP, they should leave with a sense of the breadth of people and experiences around each table.
- Ask the MPs what they personally will commit to do, or what action they would support, and take a note of this to feed back to the organisers at the end of the event.
- Ask the MP if they will pass on your concerns and requests to Gordon Brown.
- There will be time in between the MPs' visits to meet the other volunteers at your table from different organisations, share experiences and swap tips.



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# 5

## 5. LOGISTICS

### Venue:

Central Hall,  
Westminster,  
London, SW1H

### Travel to Westminster:

Please use public transport wherever possible.

If you are organising a coach party please let us know by email:

[info@stopclimatechaos.org](mailto:info@stopclimatechaos.org) or by phone: **020 7324 4750**.

For general information about coach drop off points and coach parking in central London visit:

[www.tfl.gov.uk/vcs/coach-parking](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/vcs/coach-parking)

### Bus

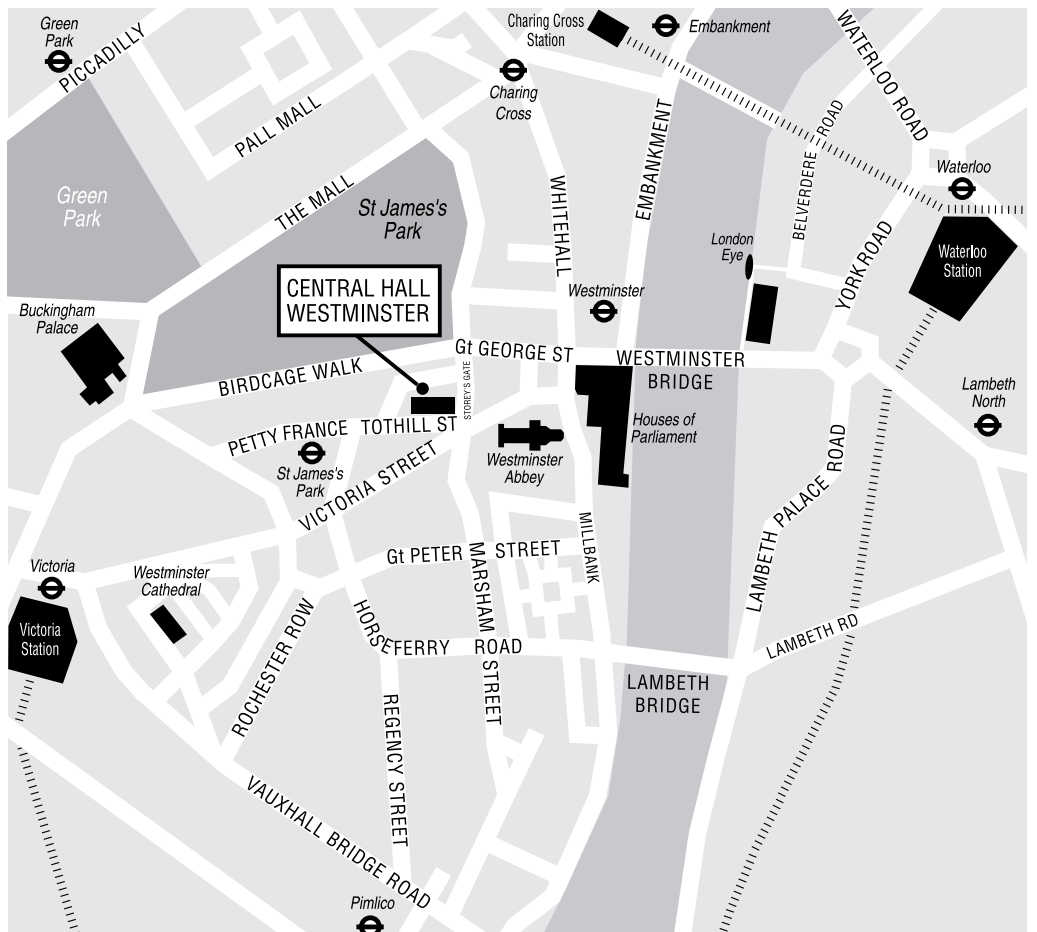
Nearest bus stops are in Victoria Street for routes 11, 24, 48, 211, night buses and also express coach 757 (Stops S and R towards Whitehall and T and V towards Victoria). In Parliament Street/Whitehall stops A and C towards Trafalgar Square outside the Treasury Building and F and G towards Parliament Square on the opposite side of the street serve routes 3, 11, 12, 24, 53, 77A, 88, 159, 453 and express coach 741 as well as night buses.

### Underground

Westminster station is served by the Jubilee line and the District and Circle lines. St. James's Park station is served by the District and Circle lines. Both are no more than 5 minutes walk from Central Hall, Westminster.

### Rail

Central Hall, Westminster is within easy walking distance of Victoria, Charing Cross and Waterloo mainline stations.



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# 6

## 6. ANNEX 1

### What is a carbon budget?

When householders need to reduce their annual expenditure they make a household budget: they look at all the things they spend money on, e.g. transport, heating bills, clothes, entertainment and so on, and set a limit for each so that the total bill doesn't exceed the amount of income they have available for the year as a whole. We need to do the same thing with the UK's annual carbon emissions, in other words we need to make a national annual Carbon Budget. This means setting a target each year for our total annual carbon emissions and then limiting how much each sector of the economy can emit so that the target is not exceeded. The point is that every sector of the economy - from transport and manufacturing through to domestic heating and lighting - produces carbon emissions and each must therefore play its part in meeting the overall Carbon Budget.

Everyone has a responsibility in this, but the Government has the key role. It alone has the ability and authority to assess how much carbon each sector of the economy currently emits and set future limits. It also has the ability to pass laws and regulations, and offer incentives and support, to ensure that the overall Carbon Budget is met. Without such Government action the UK will not gain proper control over its carbon emissions, which we must do if we are to meet our responsibilities to help stop climate chaos.

That leaves another question though: by how much should we reduce our annual carbon emissions every year? The answer is that industrialised countries like the UK need to lower their carbon emissions by about 3% annually over the coming decades – starting right now - if we are to limit the total amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent climate change from reaching dangerous levels and, in particular, will cap the global temperature rise at 2°C or less.

The Chancellor has a pivotal role to play in keeping us within budget. Whilst managing the financial economy he can also set taxes to penalise excessive carbon emissions, create incentives to reduce emissions and enact regulations to promote low carbon technologies, so that the overall Carbon Budget is met. Just as the Chancellor is held accountable via the annual financial Budget for the performance of the UK economy and the state of the public finances, he should also have a lead responsibility for setting, enforcing and reporting to parliament and the public on the performance and state of the UK's carbon economy.



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Greenpeace / Morgan



Greenpeace / Luedes

**Stop Climate Chaos  
is currently:**

Airport Watch

BMS World Mission

CAFOD

Campaign Against  
Climate Change

Centre for Alternative  
Technology

Christian Aid

Climate Outreach and  
Information Network

Friends of the Earth

Greenpeace

Medact

Operation Noah

Oxfam

People & Planet

Practical Action

Road Block

RSPB

Save our World

Sustrans

Tearfund

The Wildlife Trusts

Transport 2000

National Federation  
of Women's Institutes

Woodland Trust

World Development Movement

WWF-UK.



**STOP CLIMATE CHAOS**

**For more information about the March 1st Lobby contact:**

**Stop Climate Chaos  
The Grayston Centre  
28 Charles Square  
London N1 6HT**

OR

**Alex Phillips  
Friends of the Earth  
26-28 Underwood Street  
London N1 7JQ**

e-mail: [info@stopclimatechaos.org](mailto:info@stopclimatechaos.org)

email: [alexp@foe.co.uk](mailto:alexp@foe.co.uk)

Telephone: 020 7324 4750

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Stop Climate Chaos is the public  
campaign of the Climate Movement,  
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