

Dear local candidate,

Re: Support local action to tackle climate change

[On behalf of insert name of local group if relevant] I am writing to ask you to commit to local action to tackle climate change as part of your election campaign.

Council action on climate change is vital if we are to meet the national carbon budgets and avoid runaway climate change. Councils have a key role to play in delivering climate solutions. They having a huge say in how we plan our communities, how we power and heat our homes, and how we get around.

Tackling climate change also has many advantages for the area: better insulated homes mean warmer homes for the vulnerable, and will slash people's fuel bills in the area; more renewable and decentralised energy projects creates much needed jobs; and better local transport links have been shown to boost local business.¹

Friends of the Earth is calling for every council to do its bit to tackle climate change.

We're calling for [insert name of council] to:

- Commit to cutting carbon emissions in the area by at least 40 per cent by 2020, and produce a climate change action plan showing how the cuts will be made
- Support the introduction of **Local Carbon Budgets** for all councils –limiting the amount of CO₂ each council area can emit

We would like you to support these asks as part of your election campaign.

Councils from across the country have already signed up to action, with Birmingham, Bristol, Durham, Haringey, Harrogate, Harrow, Islington, Leeds, Manchester, Plymouth and Suffolk all committing to CO₂ cuts in their area of at least 40 per cent by 2020.

For more information about Friends of the Earth's campaign, and practical carbon-cutting policies that the council could implement now – including how to pay for them, please visit:

www.foe.co.uk/getseriousreports

The most successful local authorities of the future will be those that grasp the climate change challenge and take steps to plan and systematically implement solutions to slash emissions and mitigate the impacts. I hope you will support this future for our community.

Yours sincerely,

[Insert name]

[Insert local group name if relevant]

¹ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/sustainit/commuting-the-end-of-the-road-1605547.html>