

Mid-Berkshire MPs meet Climate Crisis Campaigners – October 2024

On Friday and Saturday 11th and 12th October 2024 three local MPs met with supporters of Reading Friends of the Earth, Berkshire Greenpeace, XR (Extinction Rebellion), and Global Justice Now.

The meetings arranged by Reading Friends of the Earth were part of a wider 'Common Grounds Day of Action', organised by The Climate Coalition, where constituents around the country met up with their MPs to urge them to show leadership on the climate and nature crises.

The new government has to write a new climate plan in the coming months after a High Court judge ruled that the previous plan - introduced by Rishi Sunak's government - was unlawful, following a successful legal challenge [2] by Friends of the Earth and others earlier this year.

The government must show climate leadership, that has been so seriously lacking, by setting out a clear route map for building a greener future, so everyone reaps the benefits of lower energy bills, warm homes, clean air and better public transport.

The new plan must put UK climate targets back on course and ensure that the benefits of building a green economy, such as new jobs and lower bills, are felt by everyone - especially those on lower incomes.

A bold action plan for building a greener future is essential for resolving the economic inequality that blights our nation, as well as tackling the climate crisis.

We call for a fair and ambitious action plan that reduces our reliance on overseas gas and oil and puts the UK at the forefront of the green industrial revolution.

Friends of the Earth proposals for a 'Big Climate Plan' are at <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/what-we-need-big-climate-plan-thats-bolder-and-fairer>

Reading Central:

Matt Rodda MP and Reading Councillors Andrew Hornsby-Smith and Karen Rowland met constituents Kathy Smith, Michael Brice, and Philip Grimsdell in Christchurch Road (photo).



Because of his role in government Mr Rodda could not comment but the Councillors showed their support by joining the campaigners' line-up with placards (photo).



Earley and Woodley:

Yuan Yang MP met constituents John Booth, Helen Palmer, Nicholas Marshall, John Prior and Tricia Marcouse, and Berkshire Greenpeace co-ordinator Brian Woodgate, in Earley.

After a very positive discussion Yuan Yang showed her support by posing with a 'United for Warm Homes' poster with the group (photo).



Reading West and Mid Berkshire:

Olivia Bailey MP met with constituent Graham Hudson to discuss the need for action and recent activities by Reading Friends of the Earth (photo).

Olivia Bailey agreed to write to the Prime Minister to support the call for a bold action plan.



Notes:

1. The government has to draw up a new climate action plan by early May 2025. This is a legal requirement after the current plan – introduced by Rishi Sunak’s government - was found to be unlawful following legal challenges by Friends of the Earth, ClientEarth and Good Law Project (see note 2).

Friends of the Earth is calling for a fair and ambitious climate plan that ensures that the government’s legally binding climate targets, and its pledge to cut UK emissions by two thirds by 2030, are actually met. Both are currently both off track. The plan must also ensure that the transition to a green economy is fair and tackles existing inequalities through lower energy bills, warm homes, clean air, better public transport and well-paid green jobs.

<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/what-we-need-big-climate-plan-thats-bolder-and-fairer>

2. Landmark High Court judgment finds government’s climate plan ‘unlawful’ – again | Friends of the Earth press release: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/latest/landmark-high-court-judgment-finds-governments-climate-plan-unlawful-again>

3. Friends of the Earth websites: Reading <http://www.readingfoe.org.uk> ; National FoE <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-change>

Version 1 – 16th October 2024

John Booth. booths@clara.net