



Department  
for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Mary Creagh CBE MP  
Minister for Nature  
**Department for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs**

Katie White OBE MP  
Minister for Climate  
**Department for Energy Security  
& Net Zero**

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael  
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select  
Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA  
[carmichaela@parliament.uk](mailto:carmichaela@parliament.uk)  
[efracom@parliament.uk](mailto:efracom@parliament.uk)

15 July 2026

Dear Alistair,

### **‘The State of Nature and Climate’ announcement**

We are writing to inform you that on Monday the UK’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero made an Oral Statement to the UK Parliament on the state of nature and climate. This second annual statement provided the UK public with an assessment of the climate and nature crises we face and the action that this government is taking in response.

You can find the statement [here](#).

Across government, business and communities, action is already underway to build a cleaner, more resilient and more prosperous future. We have taken further steps to accelerate that and this week:

- Published the 30by30 Delivery Plan for land in England<sup>1</sup>, setting out how we will achieve the UK’s commitment to protect and conserve 30% of our land for nature by 2030. This is accompanied by practical guidance for how 30by30 areas will be assessed. To support this, government is backing investment up to £37 million a year over the next three years for National Parks and National Landscapes, alongside the recently announced £30 million Wildlife-Rich Habitat Fund.
- Published an interactive story map<sup>2</sup>, providing a snapshot of our spatial evidence, supporting decision makers to use land more efficiently and for multiple benefits. Announced that we will implement all 79 actions in the Land Use Framework (LUF) by 2030, accelerating the reforms needed to transform how we use, and take decisions, about land, including spatial targeting for Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) and making land digital.

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<sup>1</sup> 30x30 Delivery Plan is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/30by30-on-land-in-england-delivery-plan/30by30-on-land-delivery-plan>

<sup>2</sup> LUF Story Map available here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5e1833cd74654f359e5b894e77106299>

- Announced the Forest of Marston Vale Trust as the development partner for the second new national forest, to be sited in the Oxford-Cambridge growth corridor. In the coming months we will set out how this new forest will help to deliver national renewal for communities, driving economic growth while bringing trees close to where people live.
- Announced an ambitious package on climate change adaptation. We are committed to setting stronger, measurable objectives for climate adaptation, supporting efforts to build our resilience to prepare for a minimum of 2 degrees of warming by 2050, in line with advice from the Climate Change Committee. We are supporting this effort with £30 million in investment in cutting-edge research and innovation, supporting climate-change resilient policymaking with the evidence we need. And we are announcing £3 million in support to Combined Authorities and their partners to improve their resilience.
- Opened applications for our new Youth Climate and Nature Panel, putting the voices of young people at the heart of climate and nature policies, alongside a call for people aged 16 and under to share ideas for how we can all work together to tackle the climate and nature crises.<sup>3</sup>

Today:

- The Met Office has published its annual State of the Climate Report. It provides an authoritative assessment of how the UK's climate is changing, helping us to understand the long-term trends that sit behind events such as the record-breaking heat we have experienced this year.
- We will launch the UK Cleantech Innovation Challenges programme to set out national ambitions in mission-critical areas, mobilise industry, and create a policy environment to catalyse demand for new technologies. The first challenge to be launched, the UK Carbon Management Innovation Challenge, will support cost reduction and scale-up of point-source carbon capture technologies, direct air capture and other forms of engineered greenhouse gas removals.

We have delivered major progress for climate and nature recovery since last year's climate and nature statement, while establishing a stronger foundation for long-term action.

### **A whole-of-society effort**

The benefits of climate and nature action must be accessible to all. In our Energising Britain plan we committed to increasing public engagement, ensuring everyone can have their say and learning from the vital action already taking place.

Change often begins locally and last week we delivered five Energising Britain events across the country to showcase this action. This included hearing from local businesses who have electrified their operations and saved money and community groups supporting local people to build skills and access training. Their leadership, and ours, is essential to building a more resilient, sustainable and prosperous future.

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<sup>3</sup> Youth Climate and Nature Panel application is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-climate-and-nature-panel>

and competition for ideas available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-voices-for-climate-and-nature>

The challenges we face are significant, but they are not insurmountable. People, businesses, communities and governments are already taking action. By working together we can restore nature, strengthen our resilience, create new opportunities for growth and leave a healthier environment for future generations. The choices we make today will help shape a cleaner, safer and more prosperous future for the country we all share.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Creagh'.

**MARY CREAGH CBE MP**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
(Minister for Nature) Environment, Food  
and Rural Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie White'.

**KATIE WHITE OBE MP**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
(Minister for Climate), Energy Security &  
Net Zero