



Philip Dunne MP  
Environmental Audit Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

21 August 2020

Dear Mr Dunne,

Thank you for inviting Amazon to provide evidence as part of your ongoing inquiry into electrical waste in the circular economy on the 16<sup>th</sup> July. Robert ter Kuile, Director of Worldwide Environmental Affairs, has asked that I follow up on his behalf.

We hope you found our evidence useful and informative and we are keen to watch how the inquiry progresses over the next few months. During the panel session, Robert highlighted a number of Amazon sustainability programmes and we thought it would be useful to follow up in writing to provide some further detail on a couple of these.

#### **Commitment to sustainability**

As mentioned throughout the session, Amazon is committed to building a sustainable business for our customers and the planet. In 2019, Amazon co-founded The Climate Pledge—a commitment to be net zero carbon across our business by 2040, 10 years ahead of the Paris Agreement. As part of this pledge, Amazon has made ambitious commitments toward reaching this goal, including:

- Deploying our technology and our people to reach net zero carbon across the company by 2040
- Powering our operations with 100% Renewable Energy by 2025
- Making all Amazon shipments net zero carbon, with 50% of shipments net zero carbon by 2030
- Deploying Electric Vehicles globally, including purchasing 100,000 electric delivery vehicles, the largest order ever
- Investing \$100 million in reforestation projects and climate mitigation projects through the Right Now Climate Fund
- Investing \$2 billion to support the development of technologies and services that decarbonise and help preserve the natural world through the Climate Pledge Fund

The Pledge is a global commitment and this includes investments across the UK, building on existing initiatives, such as the 2018 deal for 100% renewable electricity to power our UK buildings.

We have a number of UK sites powered by on-site solar, and in July 2020 we completed the solar panel roof installation on our Tilbury Fulfilment Centre. With more than 11,500 modules, the solar panels will have a capacity equivalent to the annual consumption of around 700 homes. This follows on from other recent installations, including our fulfilment centre in Daventry – equivalent to three and a half football pitches – which was fitted with more than 2,000 solar panel modules. At their peak capacity they can generate enough electricity to power 200 homes. We also launched the UK's largest wind Corporate Power Purchase Agreement, [located](#) in Kintyre Peninsula, Scotland. The new Amazon Wind Farm is expected to produce 168,000 MWh of clean energy annually – enough to power 46,000 UK homes every year.

Further details on all of our efforts can be found on our [sustainability website](#) and in our [sustainability report](#).

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### **Extended Producer Responsibility – a new compliance model**

Robert also set out details on Amazon's proposals for a simplified compliance model, which advocates for online marketplaces to take a more central role within the circular economy and manage EPR obligations on behalf of their sellers. Attached is some further information about our proposal, and the benefits this would bring to small businesses selling on-and offline, enforcement agencies, producer recycling organisations and online marketplaces.

We also wanted to share [this video](#) by E-commerce Europe, one of our trade associations, which exemplifies the journey of a small online seller intending to sell their products across different EU Member States. It highlights the complexity, administrative burden and cost the seller encounters on the way, due to complying with extended producer responsibility laws separately in every EU country.

We have also just announced that the [Amazon Trade-In programme](#) for Amazon Devices will be available in the UK, giving customers the option to trade in old devices and receive an Amazon.co.uk Gift Card. In addition, Amazon Trade-In offers a promotional discount of up to 25% for the purchase of a new device, making it easy for customers to upgrade. Devices that have been accepted for trade in are tested and graded to determine the condition of the device. The device is then internally certified by Amazon and made available for purchase as an Amazon Warehouse deal on Amazon.co.uk. If a device does not qualify for re-sale, we recycle the device through an Amazon certified recycler. Amazon trade-In is part of Amazon Second Chance, which we mentioned in the evidence session and is a one stop shop where customers can find easy ways to trade in, recycle, or return Amazon products or buy used and refurbished items.

Thank you again for providing us with an opportunity to discuss these important issues. We care deeply about the environmental impact of our activities and we are committed to, and invested in, sustainability across our business in the UK and globally.

We are keen to continue to build a constructive dialogue on these issues with policymakers and wanted to extend an invitation to yourself and the Committee to visit our Tilbury Fulfilment Centre, so you can see some of the innovations we are making in person. We would be delighted to arrange a tour at your convenience (and current circumstances permitting).

Best wishes



Monica Ariño

Director, Public Policy UK & Ireland