



The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
COP President
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Laura Trott MP
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By email

Dear Laura,

24 February 2022

Thank you for your letter of 26 November 2021, regarding the Sevenoaks and Swanley Climate Change Conference, and your kind words following COP26. My sincere apologies for the time taken to respond.

It is encouraging to see the ways in which your constituents are engaging with these issues, and I am glad to read that the event was a success. There is no doubt that climate change is one of the most profound global challenges we face. The decisions we make today will affect the future of our planet for generations to come, and the Government fully recognises that action is urgently needed in our own country and across the world.

COP26 provided a UK-wide legacy through our Together For Our Planet campaign, which built momentum for positive action to tackle climate change across society ahead of the COP26 Summit. We showcased how individuals across the UK were making a difference in their daily lives, from the engineers working on the offshore wind farms now powering our homes and businesses, to local initiatives encouraging children and parents to walk to school. COP26 also helped inspire a generation to tackle climate change. We engaged young people through creative art competitions, the COP26 schools pack, and through local community engagement within the COP26 Green Zone.

As your speakers rightly say, local governments and leaders have a key role in meeting net zero targets. Over 20 UK mayors and councillors were in attendance during the two weeks of COP, with several members of the Advisory Council involved in events on the Cities, Regions and Built Environment Day.

We want to make it as easy as possible for people to shift towards a greener and more sustainable lifestyle, whilst maintaining people's freedom of choice, including on their diet. Our forthcoming Government Food Strategy will consider these issues and set out our ambition and priorities for a food system that will deliver for people, nature and climate. In doing so it will support our farmers to continue to produce the high-quality, high-welfare produce for which they are renowned.

I agree that climate education is vitally important. On Friday 5 November, the COP Presidency successfully delivered Youth & Public Empowerment day at COP26, with climate education featuring as a key discussion topic during the day. At the Joint Education and Climate Ministers meeting at COP26, 23 countries made national climate education pledges. These commitments ranged from decarbonising the school sector to developing school resources on climate education. The UK and Italy also developed a Co-Chairs Statement committing to review progress made against these pledges at the World Education Forum next year.

At the Climate Leaders Award and National Education Nature Park event, the Department for Education ran a Showcase Hour where they announced their Climate Leaders Award and National Education Nature Park. These are new initiatives which will help nurseries, schools and colleagues have an impact on their bio-diversity whilst improving children and young people's knowledge of and connection to nature. At COP26, the Department for Education launched their Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy

You also mention the opportunity for the development of green technologies. Our Net Zero Strategy delivers a comprehensive set of measures to support and capitalise on the UK's transition to net zero by 2050. It sets out how we will end our domestic contribution to climate change with a UK-wide approach where 'green' and 'growth' go hand in hand.

The commitments made will unlock up to £90 billion of private investment by 2030, and support 440,000 well-paid jobs in green industries in 2030. This will provide certainty to businesses to support the UK in gaining a competitive edge in the latest low carbon technologies – from heat pumps to electric vehicles – and in developing thriving green industries in our industrial heartlands – from carbon capture to hydrogen, backed by new funding.

You also raise the importance of the financial sector. Over 450 private financial institutions, which are responsible for over \$130 trillion of assets, have committed to net zero by 2050, through the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), within the UN's Race to Zero. Firms have also committed to come forward with 2025 or 2030 decarbonisation targets within a specified timeline, and over 90 asset managers or asset owners have already set targets for 2025 or 2030.

Working in collaboration with Egypt, the hosts of COP27, we will continue to demonstrate strong UK leadership throughout our Presidency year to make sure the commitments made in Glasgow are delivered.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alok Sharma', written over a light grey grid background.

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
COP President