



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

David Gauke MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Energy and Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

www.gov.uk

Your ref: DG/07/01

Our ref: MC2015/07572/NL

2015 July 2015

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 July to Amber Rudd, sent on behalf of your constituent John Bell of 39 Hill View, Berkhamsted, HP4 1SA, about climate change action. I am replying as this matter falls under my portfolio.

As you will know, climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our world. It is not just a threat to the environment. It is also a threat to national and global security, poverty eradication and economic prosperity.

We are already seeing the impacts that extreme climate events, such as droughts, floods and heat waves, can have. This is clear evidence of climate change and underlines the need for ambitious action now.

A global deal is the only way we can deliver the scale of action required. It is the only credible means to leverage more from others and to further drive down the costs of climate action. It will give a clear signal to business and investors that Governments are committed to delivering a global low carbon economy.

I am pleased that at the G7 Summit, the Prime Minister, along with G7 leaders prioritised an ambitious climate package, and agreed language on the need for a deal in Paris, finance and future ambition.

The UK wants to secure an ambitious global deal which drives global mitigation ambition to steer the world back towards the 2°C goal and which sends a strong signal to business and investors. We also want an agreement that promotes transparency and accountability of our commitments and create a long lasting agreement that reviews ambition every 5 years.

The UK has set out what it thinks is required from a new agreement in its recent publication 'Paris 2015 – Securing our prosperity through a global climate change agreement', which was published in September 2014. This Government publication considers the climate science on risks and impacts; the benefits of low carbon action for our prosperity, security and well-being, showcasing many leading businesses and investors in the UK who are already realising the commercial gains of climate action; the gap in global emission reduction efforts and recent progress on global action. It demonstrates that whilst much more is needed a global climate agreement is now within reach and it sets out what that agreement needs to look like. This can be found on the DECC.gov.uk website.

A clear priority is to work towards securing an ambitious global agreement at COP21 in Paris this December, which results in greater action by all countries to reduce emissions within a multi-lateral rules base. This is the only serious way to deal with the issues at the scale necessary and is in our economic interests as it will send a clear signal to business, investors and policy makers. This will help drive down costs and provide opportunities for growth and jobs as the world transitions to a low-carbon economy.

The UK remains committed to the Climate Change Act 2008 and to an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 from 1990 levels. But climate change is a global problem that requires a global response. All countries need to be part of the solution.

With regards to community led energy, the Government is supportive of the role that communities can play in tackling climate change, reducing energy bills and assisting those in fuel poverty. I welcome local initiatives like Berkhamstead Transition Town and recognise their impact locally. The Government has published a strategy outlining how it is working to support community energy initiatives like this. More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-energy-strategy>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

LORD BOURNE