

# **‘THE NATION NEEDS YOU!’—CHRIS PACKHAM CALLS ON VOTERS TO TAKE ACTION AS HE LAUNCHES NEW CLIMATE & NATURE CAMPAIGN**

**LONDON (14 MARCH):** Conservationist and broadcaster Chris Packham has waded into the upcoming UK general election by launching a new climate & nature campaign.

Packham is calling on residents, businesses, and community groups in every constituency across the nation to ask their candidates to back the groundbreaking **Climate & Ecology Bill** if they are elected to Westminster.

The campaign, which officially launched on 12 March, is already having a seismic impact that could have big implications for the general election.

Within twenty four hours of the campaign’s official launch, over 800 candidates (10% of the total number standing for election) had agreed to back the Bill. CE Bill supporters include both incumbent MPs and Westminster challengers from all main parties across the UK, including Conservatives, Labour, Labour/Co-op, SNP, Greens, Lib Dems, DUP, Plaid Cymru, Scottish Greens, SDLP and Alliance.

At the packed online launch on Tuesday night, Chris Packham was joined by a host of special guests including entrepreneur **Deborah Meaden**; climate justice activist **Tori Tsui**; vice chair of Peers for the Planet **Baroness Rosie Boycott**; and Zoological Society London scientist **Prof. Nathalie Pettorelli**. They discussed the aims of the Bill, which would get the UK on track to deliver a serious climate and nature plan, and encouraged the public to pressure candidates to pledge to make it law, if they reach Westminster.

**Chris Packham:** “Whoever wins the general election is going to have a huge responsibility on their shoulders. The next Parliament runs until 2030, which is the key date for the UK to meet its climate and nature targets—before it’s too late to secure a liveable future for our children. The Climate & Ecology Bill, written by scientists and experts, is our last, best chance of ensuring we don’t waste the vitally important next five years, which is why I’m calling on everyone in the UK—from individuals to councils; businesses to charities; faith groups to community organisations—to get behind it. Let’s make sure that the next in-take of MPs take the action we desperately require. Citizens of the UK, the nation needs you!”

**Deborah Meaden:** “Without a proper framework, businesses are forced to behave in a disconnected way. What the CE Bill will do is say, ‘this is the fundamental shape that we expect businesses to behave’, this is the baseline, the framework we need. With elections coming up this year, what I’m going to listen for are the parties who genuinely want to engage. Parties who will support the CE Bill, enshrining the protection of our planet in law, so we can operate within a framework, and know what we are all doing.”

**Baroness Boycott:** “Everything is now about getting the votes, and the right people into positions of power to bring the CE Bill properly into the foreground—and make it happen. It should not be about playing politics with people’s lives and our children’s future.”

**Tori Tsui:** “It’s not a surprise that this upcoming election is absolutely vital for ensuring rapid climate and nature action. We absolutely need candidates to stand by a commitment to the CE Bill. As voters, we have a responsibility and duty to hold our candidates to account. We can’t delay action any longer. It is up to us to make our voices heard.”

- Zero Hour, the UK climate and nature movement campaigning for the CE Bill, has set up online action pages in each of the UK’s 650 constituencies and is asking local people and organisations to sign up.

- The aim is to show candidates standing for election that they have a mandate from their electorate to back this vital legislation. So far, over 60,000 people and over 1,000 organisations have publicly declared their support for the CE Bill.

**Dr Amy McDonnell from Zero Hour, the campaign group behind the CE Bill, says:** “With Chris Packham’s help, we’re mobilising people in every corner of the UK. We know that people care about their communities, which is why every constituency has a unique action page that we can all get involved with. Sign up, ask your friends to sign it, get whichever local groups you know to sign up too. From churches to mosques, rugby clubs to libraries, food hubs to universities, everyone needs to get involved; because the climate and nature crisis threatens everyone, and everything, we care about.”

- The Climate & Ecology Bill is designed to make sure the UK plays its part for our absolute last chance to keep global warming down to 1.5°C, which gives us a chance of avoiding the worst impacts of climate change.
- This means cutting down greenhouse gas emissions fairly and rapidly. While the existing Environment Act only offers to halt the decline of nature by 2030, the new CE Bill commits to putting nature on the path to recovery by 2030.
- Weaning ourselves off fossil fuels requires big changes. So it’s important that everyone is on board with them. That’s why the CE Bill also calls for a climate and nature assembly to help the Government and Parliament develop an emergency strategy on the fairest way forward.

**Chris Packham:** “At the election, we will be making decisions about people who will have to deal with environmental and climate issues; from food, sustainable farming, water pollution, the cost of living, energy security, health, and wildlife. We’ve got to make sure we get the right people in the Commons, that’s why we have to be involved. People power will make this happen. I’m asking you all to please support the CE Bill. But also to make sure that all those candidates who are going to stand—those new MPs who are charged with securing a healthy and sustainable future—are aware of this Bill, and sign up to support it.”

The constituency action pages can be found on Zero Hour’s [website](#).

ENDS.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

- To find the open letter in your constituency, please visit [zerohour.uk](https://zerohour.uk)
- To learn more about the Climate & Ecology Bill, please visit [zerohour.uk/bill](https://zerohour.uk/bill)

## ABOUT THE CLIMATE & ECOLOGY BILL

- The Climate & Ecology Bill was first introduced in Parliament by Caroline Lucas MP in September 2020.
- It has been reintroduced in every session of Parliament since 2020—twice by Caroline Lucas MP (Greens), once by Lord Rupert Redesdale (Liberal Democrat), and most recently by Olivia Blake MP (Labour).
- It will be reintroduced in the current session in March/April 2024. For more about the Bill, see [zerohour.uk/bill](https://zerohour.uk/bill)
- The Bill already has the backing of 180 Parliamentarians representing all major political parties.
- Support for the CE Bill has snowballed since it was first announced, with over 60,000 people across the UK backing it, as well as 350 local councils, 200 scientists, and over 500 organisations.
- High profile backers include The Co-operative Bank, The National Federation of Women’s Institutes, Friends of the Earth, The Wildlife Trusts, Ecotricity, Ecosia, CPRE: The Countryside Charity, UK Youth For Nature, and Greenpeace.

## PHOTOS & VIDEO

- Chris Packham introduces the Climate & Ecology Bill: [youtu.be/VPlfmkfeRI](https://youtu.be/VPlfmkfeRI)

- Video from the launch event: [youtube.com/watch?v=u6rPZZBeYBs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6rPZZBeYBs) (please credit: Zero Hour)
- For photos, please see [here](#) (photo: credit Zero Hour)

## **CONTACT**

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