

“Global emissions are rising—nature is in peril”: Alex Sobel MP introduces new bill to tackle the climate and nature crisis

LONDON (21 MARCH): Alex Sobel MP (Labour/Co-op, Leeds North West) introduced the Climate and Nature Bill into Parliament today with a stark warning to MPs. The private member’s bill is a plan for a new UK law that addresses the full extent of the climate and nature crisis in line with the most up-to-date science. It has the backing of hundreds of national organisations, local councils, and celebrities including Chris Packham and Deborah Meaden.

Says Alex Sobel MP: *‘I’m proud to have introduced the Climate and Nature Bill with cross-party support from MPs of all main parties. This joined-up climate and nature plan is continuing the legacy of the Climate Change Act 2008. This CAN Bill is needed if we want to reclaim our environmental leadership; and finally get serious about reducing energy bills, protecting our wildlife, creating green jobs, and bolstering our energy and food security.’*

‘When made law, the CAN Bill will set the UK on a path where we can properly tackle the interconnected climate and nature crises—whilst making sure that no one is left behind in the long-overdue just transition we need. Global emissions are rising. Nature is in peril. So in this pivotal election year, let’s align our climate and nature laws in line with the science—and our international agreements—and deliver the climate and environmental action the public are crying out for.’

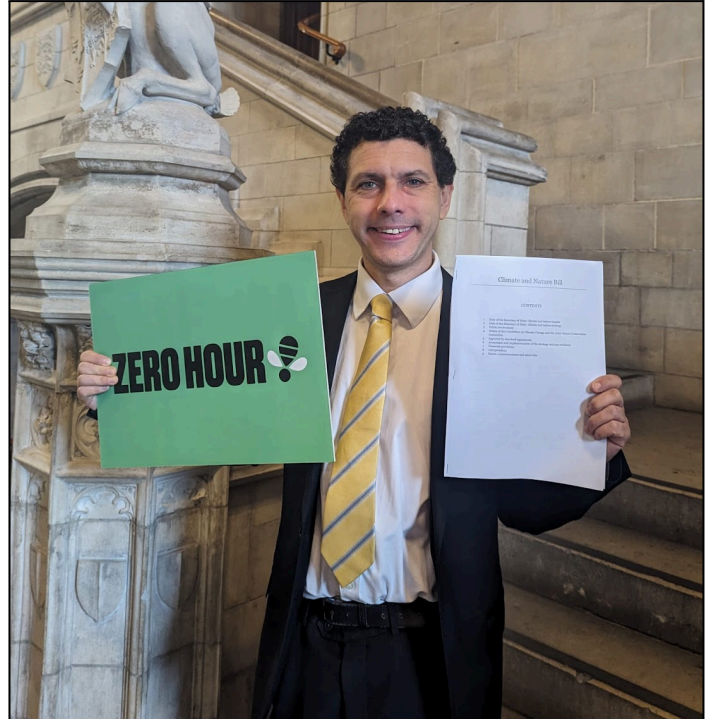
Alex Sobel MP is a seasoned and respected politician with a keen interest in social and environmental issues. In 2019 he set up the Net Zero All-Party Parliamentary Group to help secure a low carbon and clean industrial and economic future for the UK. Between 2021 and 2023 he was Shadow Minister for Nature Recovery and the Domestic Environment in the Opposition DEFRA Team.

The Climate and Nature Bill was introduced today by Alex Sobel MP (Labour/Co-op) alongside a united call from politicians of all parties to back it. The CAN Bill has been co-sponsored by MPs from Labour, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, Greens, SNP, SDLP and Alliance. It was previously known as the Climate and Ecology Bill.

The campaign for the CAN Bill is being run by Zero Hour, an environmental group. The Bill currently has the backing of 200 scientists, 350 local councils, and 500 organisations including The Women’s Institute, The Co-operative Bank, Ecotricity, and Friends of the Earth.

Celebrity backers include broadcaster and wildlife expert Chris Packham, who recently launched Zero Hour’s ‘The Nation Needs You!’ campaign encouraging Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs) to sign up to support the Bill if they are elected to the Commons. In its first week, Zero Hour’s campaign secured the support of 767 candidates from all the main parties (c. 15% of all candidates standing).

Says CAN Bill champion, 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 and Nature Bill, written by scientists and experts, is our last, best chance of ensuring we don’t waste the vitally important next*



Zero Hour: Climate and Nature Bill

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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.'

Dr Amy McDonnell from Zero Hour says: *'It's now or never for the climate-nature crisis. We're incredibly grateful to Alex Sobel MP and his cross-party co-sponsors for introducing the Climate and Nature Bill into the House of Commons today. The Bill will ensure that the UK does its bit to cut greenhouse gas emissions in line with our Paris Agreement targets, as well as halting and reversing the decline of nature in the UK by 2030. Achieving those targets will require big changes and it's important that everyone is on board with them. That's why the CAN Bill also calls for a climate and nature assembly to help the Government and Parliament develop an emergency strategy on the fairest way forward. The world has changed since the Climate Change Act 2008 and it's clear that we need this new law to keep the UK and its citizens safe from the impacts of climate breakdown. We hope MPs from all parties will see how vital it is and throw their support behind it. Together we CAN tackle this crisis.'*

ENDS.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- Zero Hour's new campaign for the Climate and Nature Bill can be found at zerohour.uk

ABOUT THE CLIMATE AND NATURE BILL

- The Climate and Nature Bill was first introduced in Parliament by Caroline Lucas MP in September 2020 (as the Climate and Ecology Bill).
- 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).
- The Bill already has the backing of 180 Parliamentarians representing all major political parties.
- Support for the Bill has snowballed across the UK 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, Patagonia, Friends of the Earth, The Wildlife Trusts, Ecotricity, The Zoological Society of London, Ecosia, CPRE: The Countryside Charity, UK Youth For Nature, and Greenpeace.

PHOTOS AND VIDEO

- Please credit: Zero Hour
- Photos and video, here.
- Chris Packham introduces the Climate and Nature Bill: youtu.be/yUb5Lb_hn1M
- Video of the 'The Nation Needs You!' launch event: youtube.com/watch?v=u6rPZZBeYBs

CONTACT

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Packham video

Goldsmith video

BBC coverage from yesterday

Alex Sobel's article

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