



**YOUTH
OCEAN &
CLIMATE
MANIFESTO
REVIEW**



YOUTH OCEAN & CLIMATE MANIFESTO REVIEW

WE ARE IN A OCEAN AND CLIMATE **EMERGENCY**

WE NEED **URGENT ACTION NOW**

Last year on World Ocean Day, 100 youth activists gathered to discuss the biggest threats to the ocean and climate.

From this came the Youth Ocean and Climate Manifesto which outlines the actions our leaders need to take NOW, for the future of our planet.

One year on, we've been working with the SAS Youth Advisory Panel to review the progress government has made on our targets.

Read the detailed review below.



Make **30% of UK** seas highly protected by 2030 and divert financial government support away from **harmful** extraction practices.

TARGET



Protect our marine ecosystems from resource over-extraction, with 30% of the ocean highly protected by 2030.



Divest and reinvest for ocean health and sustainability.



Acknowledge the value of the ocean for human and planetary health, and not just as a resource to be plundered.

REVIEW

- Initial pilot of Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) has been consulted on, we are waiting for the results of this. If approved, they will be rolled out by July 2023.
- The UK is a member of the Global Ocean Alliance who aim to set a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMS). This is known as the 30by30 target.

- Government continues to subsidise filthy fossil fuel extraction.
- The World Trade Organization recently agreed a deal to end the subsidies of harmful fisheries. This is a good first step but loopholes exist, and more is needed by the UK Government.

We are yet to see concrete action on this. The value of the ocean has been indicated by governments given their commitment to 30by30 but no set acknowledgement has occurred.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Action is being taken but not enough. We welcome the introduction of HPMAs into government policy with a consultation and plans to roll out successful pilots by July 2023.
- We welcome the UK's signature of the Global Ocean Alliance, but we are concerned about its meaning given the weak protection MPAs provide.

The 30by30 target should mean 30% of the world's oceans are protected by HPMAs by 2030. We recommend this target becomes legally binding for the UK to ensure promises are kept. These areas should also be better to minimise habitat disruption.




Sustainable actions could be encouraged by using taxes from unsustainable actions to incentivize a shift in industrial and personal behaviours.

Whilst the economic value of nature and the ocean was researched by the governments Dasgupta review, there is little evidence on the other value the ocean provides for human and planetary health.



Convene a **Citizens' Assembly** on Climate & Biodiversity to foster a diverse community of voices and ensure all social impacts of emerging environmental policies are **independently evaluated.**



TARGET	REVIEW	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
 <p>Convene an ongoing annual citizens' assembly on Climate and Biodiversity with the ocean at its centre.</p>	<p>The government are yet to coordinate a citizens' assembly.</p>	<p>One citizens' assembly was coordinated between 6 Parliamentary select committees (groups which inform and advise government) but given that this wasn't organised by the government themselves, they are not required to act on findings. The government must coordinate a citizens' assembly themselves to ensure they act on its recommendations.</p> <p>Citizens' assemblies on other issues (including the one in Ireland which informed a referendum on abortion) have been proven to be very effective at solving difficult issues.</p>
 <p>Independently evaluate the socioeconomic and cultural impacts of environmental policies.</p>	<p>This is yet to occur.</p>	<p>It is undeniable that climate action will have significant and far-reaching positive effects on communities and people across the UK.</p> <p>This is a hugely untapped opportunity.</p>
 <p>Financial support to enable all communities, organisations and individuals to make sustainable choices, funded by tax on unsustainable practices.</p>	<p>This is yet to occur.</p>	<p>Sustainable practices can be easily incentivised using funding ring-fenced from taxes and fees on unsustainable practices.</p> <p>As well as helping to protect the ocean and climate, this would provide the win-win of increasing jobs, making people warmer in their homes and protecting people from rising costs of living.</p>



Stop using fossil fuels
and **scale-up renewable**
technologies to become
Net Zero **by 2030.**

TARGET



Achieve NetZero by 2030.

REVIEW

Current government plans for net-zero by 2050.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Not only are government dithering and delaying current targets, but they're also undertaking a review of net-zero. This review is to 'ensure net-zero is delivered in a way which is pro-business and pro-growth'.

This is despite strong existing evidence that a rapid transition to net-zero will be good for business and growth as well as being the best way to secure energy resources and increase affordability.



Stop subsidising and using fossil fuels.

Whilst banning the subsidy of fossil fuel exploration abroad, the UK Government continues to subsidise the extraction and exploration of fossil fuels.

We are particularly disappointed in the recent government plans to increase the extraction of oil and gas in the North Sea.

Government has also recently approved a number of new oil and gas exploration areas despite the International Energy Agency stating there must be no new oil, gas or coal development if the world is to reach net zero by 2050.



Facilitate and support the transition to clean and renewable energy through:

- redirected subsidies
- use of tax revenue
- provisions of grants to ensure clean energy is viable for all.

The development of renewables is being encouraged through some government schemes.

But government plans to decarbonise the power system by 2035 is too late and this target is unlikely to be met given the continual attack on renewables, energy reduction schemes and investment in extractive fuels.

We were extremely disappointed to see the removal of green levies from energy bills given the small affect this has on individual households and the large impact it would have on the energy transition.



Adopt legally binding targets and a tax on the manufacture of plastic with less than 100% recycled content.

TARGET



Set legally binding, ambitious targets to stop unnecessary plastic consumption and plastic waste for 1,2,5,10 and 30 years ahead.

REVIEW

- The UK has agreed to sign the Global Plastics treaty set to be agreed by the end of 2024.
- Our current actions are good first steps but the government needs a cross governmental strategy in the UK to tackle plastic production and pollution.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

A good first step, the UK should ensure targets are world leading with a forward thinking and ambitious national action plan.



By 2023, introduce a tax on the manufacture and use of plastic products with less than 100% recycled content.

Tax on 30% recycled content introduced in 2022 but no sign of modulated fee approach.

Whilst a small step towards plastic reduction, a modulated fee approach would ensure polluters pay for plastic waste.



Urgently promote and support circular production and consumption systems.

- Deposit return scheme is promised by the end of 2024. But we've been waiting for a response to a consultation on the scheme for over a year and a half.
- The government have promised to implement an Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for packaging not included in the deposit return scheme by 2024. But even if it goes ahead as planned (currently uncertain), EPR should include more than packaging.
- Bans on a number of single use products.

This is not the large-scale transition to a circular economy needed.



Negotiate an international Global Ocean Treaty to protect and restore the marine environment, which ensures at least 30% of the entire ocean will be highly protected by 2030.

TARGET



Commit to long-term targets achieved through short-term goals to properly protect and restore the ocean, committing to making at least 30% of the ocean highly protected by 2030.



Cooperate and collaborate to create an international Global Ocean Treaty to protect and restore the ocean.



Finance community-led action and research to restore local ecosystems.

REVIEW

- The UK is member of the Global Ocean Alliance whose targets are to set a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMS). This is known as the 30by30 target.
- Initial pilot of highly protected marine areas (HPMAs) currently being consulted on. They will be rolled out by July 2023.

The UK is member of the Global Ocean Alliance whose targets are to set a network of MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMS).

This is known as the 30by30 target.

£500 million Blue Planet Fund promised over 4 years to support developing countries to protect marine environments and reduce poverty.

This is part of the Official Development Assistance budget which shrank last year.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- We welcome the UK's signature of the Global Ocean Alliance, but we are concerned about its meaning given the weak protection MPAs provide for the ocean.
- The 30by30 target should mean 30% of the world's oceans are protected by HPMAs by 2030 not poorly protected MPAs.
- It should also be legally binding.

The Ocean Alliances 30by30 target is a huge step forward.

Now the government must implement these plans to truly protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Whilst a good start, this will need significant improvements to have enough action to hit the UK's target to halt the decline in nature by 2030.



Increase access to blue spaces, and incorporate **Ocean Impact Assessments** into policies to ensure the ocean is central in decision making.

TARGET



Improve access to blue space for all and increase research on the role of the ocean as a mental health and wellbeing oasis.



Embed education and understanding of the ocean's role in all our lives, at all ages, regardless of where we live.

REVIEW

- Plans to increase the number of bathing waters designated is a good first step.
- Government £5.7 million pilot project to tackle mental ill health through green social prescribing since 2020. This is slowly including blue social prescribing.
- NHS Long Term Plan to increase social prescribing with blue prescribing within that plan.
- Current levels of sewage and agricultural pollution are polluting bathing waters making them inaccessible during large parts of the year. Greater action to address this must be taken.

The release of the UK Governments report on 'Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems'.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

More support to access the UK's blue spaces will benefit people country-wide and massively reduce strains on the NHS.

More must be done for people and planet.

The people of today are desperate to learn more about their environment including the Ocean and Climate.

The government could go much further to embed this learning into the lives of people country-wide.



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THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO **WAKE UP TO THE
OCEAN AND CLIMATE **EMERGENCY****

**PLEDGE
YOUR
SUPPORT**