General Election News Release
Tackling Climate Emergency

Global greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change must decline rapidly to avoid unacceptable levels of global heating. Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) grew nearly 20% faster between 2015 and 2019 compared with the previous five years. Government advisors are warning that UK progress is not fast enough. We are calling on all election candidates to press for a detailed urgent plan of radical action to tackle the climate emergency and bring forward targets to well before the current target of 2050, which will be too late.

Climate Emergency is the biggest issue in this election. In March 2019 a UK Government poll showed that 80% of people were either fairly or very concerned about climate change. Since then a poll by Opinium found that climate change will affect how 54% of voters will vote. We give below questions you could put to each candidate so you can then **vote** for the candidate you think gives the most convincing answers:

We ask all candidates to commit to pressing the government to:

1. Tackle emissions created by international sea and air transport and by the manufacture of goods used in the UK but manufactured elsewhere

- Build on research that suggests that UK-related foreign manufacturing emissions are about equal to those recorded within the UK, and will therefore double the UK's carbon footprint
- Improve data on all external UK-related manufacturing and transport emissions
- Develop a programme addressing how they can all be reduced to net zero.

2. Stop subsidies to oil companies and increase support for clean energy production

- Withdraw the £10 billion per year subsidies for fossil fuel companies
- Develop programmes for funding the rapid roll-out of clean energy production at home and abroad,

3. Clean up UK transport (it produces 58% of Winchester District's CO_2 emissions and 37% of UK's internal emissions).

- Abandon immediately all schemes that will increase carbon emissions (airport expansion, major road widening)
- Set CO_2 reduction targets for the Department for Transport, and rewrite the priorities for Highways England
- Improve public transport rapidly - with cheaper and more frequent buses and trains, more routes and better connections between all routes. Buses and trains are generally 'cleaner' and use less energy than cars.

- Reduce vehicle numbers on UK roads, abandoning the road-building programme, investing in cycling, walking and public transport.
- Invest in electric buses and restore /expand plans for rail electrification
- Expand powers of local government to plan public transport.

4. Reduce emissions caused by heating and cooling buildings

- Phase out gas and oil as a major heating fuel
- Introduce higher insulation and energy efficiency standards for all new houses and offices
- Develop major high-quality insulation and draft-proofing programmes for improving existing buildings.
- Plan legislation to require energy reduction improvements to buildings, even in conservation areas
- Increase the rate paid for fuel.by high energy users

5. Introduce a duty for Local Development Plans to reduce emissions

- Ensure all new developments be built to high density, and only on sites that are close to schools, shops and other facilities, and with ready access to good public transport
- Require all new developments to be designed to encourage cycling and walking and to be situated in places that minimise the need for car use.
- Require all new buildings to include the highest levels of insulation, clean energy production, and rain-water harvesting to collect water for use in toilets and outdoors
- Require each local development plan to demonstrate the extent of CO_2 reduction it will achieve.

6. Clean up the air

- More ambitious targets for reducing both nitrogen dioxide and those smallest soot particles ($PM_{2.5}$) dangerous to health.

7. Clean up the production of energy

- Develop programmes to encourage solar power, wind power, hydropower and electricity storage facilities.
- Turn the moratorium on fracking into a permanent ban and reduce to zero oil- and gas-fired electricity generation which will increase greenhouse gas emissions.

8. Ensure that the economy focuses on reducing CO_2 emissions

- Focus national programmes and Local Economic Partnership funding (LEPs) exclusively on helping all businesses and local councils reduce emissions and deliver clean growth
- Introduce legislation against idling vehicles, leaving shop doors open and single-use containers.
- Fund research and programmes to accelerate the growth of businesses engaged in carbon reduction (e.g. home insulation, solar panel installation, vegan food producers, electric car clubs, repair of appliances, reuse and recycling of materials).

9. Promote climate-emergency-friendly food

- Arguing for increasing production of food with a low-carbon footprint, e.g. by fundamentally revising food legislation and reviewing food production standards
- Promote low-carbon food funding programmes
- Develop a programme to discontinue factory farming.

10. Reduce waste

- Cut down waste incineration
- Develop programmes for reducing waste and increasing recycling rates, with statutory standards for recycling centre provision
- Fund programmes to increase the range of materials collected, eg food waste, and reduce cross-contamination by greater separation and effective enforcement.
- Reduce planned obsolescence by making 5-10 year guarantees compulsory
- Develop programmes to encourage appliance design for easy repair.
- Set up a network of local repair shops

11. Promote care for the land

- Introduce standards that encourage farming to improve the soil, reduce erosion and be more wildlife friendly.
- Expand programmes to encourage the protection of trees and the extensive planting of more trees to remove CO_2 and create shade

12. Strengthen climate emergency action

- Build a strong team in the Cabinet Office to drive forward these ideas
- Set up a UK Climate Emergency Programme with ambitious aims and targets
- Agree targets for each local authority.