

**Q1.** *Would you support The Greenhouse Trust's call for Europe to commit to a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 regardless of any international decisions agreed in Durban?*

**Yes, Europe needs to raise its sights. The EU has agreed to cut emissions by 80% by 2050, but we need a more ambitious target for 2020 to strengthen confidence in achieving this more distant target. The EU has already succeeded in reducing emissions by 17%, so it is highly achievable to get to 30% within 10 years.**

**Calls for stronger targets are growing. Earlier this year, 70 major businesses operating in Europe including IKEA, Coca Cola and Nike signed up to a declaration pressing the EU to aim for a 30% reduction by 2020. Business leaders increasingly recognise that a transition to a low-carbon economy could be the key driver for Europe's economic recovery, and they want politicians to be ambitious.**

**Q2.** *Do you support the Green Climate Fund?*

**I strongly support the Green Climate Fund, as agreed at Cancun. It should provide a balance of funding measures to both mitigate against climate change and also help vulnerable developing countries adapt to the consequences of climate change. To date, financing efforts have focussed on mitigation efforts, such as the roll-out of more renewable energy sources, rather than helping countries who will be subject to the harshest impacts of climate change. Climate change will hit some of the world's poorest countries the hardest. The world's governments have a duty to do all they can to help, and I hope that the Green Climate Fund will prove**

**Q3.** *What sources do you believe the money should come from?*

**The UN High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AGF) report of last year sets out a range of options for achieving finance of \$100 billion each year from 2020. The report shows that the amounts agreed to internationally can be achieved, and the work of the AGF has since been further developed by the IMF and World Bank.**

**Realistic options include pricing emissions from international air travel and shipping (bunker taxes); auctioning emissions allowances in developed countries; eliminating developed country subsidies to fossil fuels and using these resources to support climate action; and introducing a financial transaction tax. I would support progress on all of these options. Bunker taxes are particularly attractive as they originate from some of the fastest growing sources of carbon emissions – shipping and aviation.**

**Q4.** *What sum would you consider an initial Green Climate Fund should control?*

**Q5.** *What should the UK's contribution be?*

Durban should lead to agreement over the structure and governance of the Green Climate Fund, beginning the process of identifying how the UK and developed countries will meet their long-term finance commitment of \$100 billion by 2020. It's too early to say at this stage what contributions to the GCF should be, but a substantial proportion of the UK's climate finance is likely to be channelled through the fund once its effectiveness has been assured.

**Q6.** **Friends of the Earth** has called for an independent public inquiry into the Big Six's power over consumers and influence over politicians. *Do you support this request?*

For too long, energy suppliers have not put the interests of their customers first. Competition has been focussed on a small group of consumers who are prepared to switch around, with the majority not getting the best deals. The recent summit between the major energy companies, Ofgem, the Prime Minister, and the Energy Secretary Chris Huhne has led to new commitments by the energy companies that will lead to better deals for consumers. The 'Green Deal' will be available from October, which will allow households access to significant home insulation and energy reduction measures with no up-front costs. In the longer term, the Government has set out how the UK will be less dependent on imported dirty fossil fuels for our energy which are subject to highly volatile international prices.

Ofgem, the energy regulator, has a vital role to play in ensuring that consumers get a fair deal. However, I would certainly look at the case for a public inquiry and would welcome more information regarding this proposal.

**Q7.** **No Nuclear Power** has stated that: Whitehall has misled MP's (using the Government's own data) in order to attempt to convince Ministers and MPs that nuclear power is necessary. This is a corruption of governance that we ask MP's to assist in exposing. *Would you be willing to assist in promoting this information or assisting the No Nuclear campaign in calling for a full public debate in Parliament?*

Please do send me more information about the allegation of corruption and I will take it up with Ministers.



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