

# 2010 General Election manifestos – climate change and natural environment policies

In September 2009, the UK's eight leading environment groups published *Common Cause: The Green Standard Manifesto on Climate Change and the Natural Environment*. This set out ten manifesto commitments on climate change and the natural environment, as the basis for action in for the next Government.

The following table contains a summary of the specific commitments in main manifestos of the parties specified, against the ten manifesto priorities. There are a number of additional policies and commitments in each of these parties' manifestos that relate to the natural environment and climate change. These have not been included in the table below. Links to the parties' manifestos are provided at the end of this document.

The listing of parties' policies does not signify any endorsement of the policies or of any party or parties. The inclusion of policies does not imply support or opposition. All organisations involved in *The Green Standard* are entirely independent of all political parties. This document is accompanied by a press notice that provides further context and details of media spokespeople.

	Conservative Party	Green Party	Labour Party	Liberal Democrats
<b>Domestic climate change</b>				
<b>1. Put the UK on track to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and 80 per cent by 2050.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm aim of reducing carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid warming exceeding 2°C, the UK needs to adopt an initial annual carbon dioxide emissions reduction target of around 10 per cent, with the aim of reducing emissions by 90 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030, and 65 per cent by 2020 – starting now.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the next Parliament, we will use our leadership in the EU to push for a strengthening of Europe's 2020 emission reductions from 20 to 30 per cent by 2020 as part of an ambitious global deal. This would mean the UK increasing its current target of a 34 per cent reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set a target for a zero-carbon Britain that doesn't contribute at all to global warming – making the British economy carbon-neutral overall by 2050, reducing carbon emissions in the UK by over 40 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020 as a step on the way.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Ensure future energy and transport infrastructure is consistent with a rapid transition to a low carbon economy by generating at least 15 per cent of energy from renewables by 2020, introducing an immediate ban on new unabated or substantially unabated coal plants and an end to airport expansion.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to generate 15 per cent of our energy from renewables by 2020</li> <li>Introduce an Emissions Performance Standard to limit the levels of greenhouse gases our power stations produce</li> <li>Clear the way for new nuclear power stations – provided they receive no public subsidy</li> <li>Create four carbon capture and storage equipped coal plants</li> <li>Deliver an offshore electricity grid in order to support the development of a new generation of offshore wind power, and establishing at least two Marine Energy Parks</li> <li>Make Heathrow airport better, not bigger. Stop the third runway and instead link Heathrow directly to our high speed rail network, providing an alternative to thousands of flights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim to obtain about half our energy from renewable sources by 2020 and ensure that emissions from power generation are zero by 2030.</li> <li>Not permit any further investment in new coal-fuelled power stations.</li> <li>Enlarge and develop renewable energy feed-in tariffs paying premium rates for large and small producers of renewable electricity</li> <li>Encourage renewable heat and combined heat and power by levying a waste heat tax on new power stations and by helping councils develop heat distribution networks in suitable urban areas.</li> <li>Phase out nuclear power and resolutely oppose any new nuclear power stations.</li> <li>Support Europe-wide renewable energy initiatives such as an under-sea grid for offshore wind and marine power, concentrating solar power plants in southern</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve around 40 per cent low-carbon electricity (renewables, nuclear and clean fossil fuels) by 2020</li> <li>We are committed to meeting 15 per cent of our energy demand from renewables by 2020.</li> <li>Enable a new generation of nuclear power stations</li> <li>Programme of four clean coal plants with carbon capture and storage technology with a levy to fund them</li> <li>Ban new unabated coal-fired power stations</li> <li>A new High-Speed Rail line, linking North and South. We will consult fully on legislation to take forward our high-speed rail plans within the next Parliament</li> <li>Support a third runway at Heathrow, subject to strict conditions on environmental impact and flight numbers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set a target for 40 per cent of UK electricity to come from clean, non-carbon-emitting sources by 2020, rising to 100 per cent by 2050, underpinned by guaranteed price support; and ensure that at least three-quarters of this new renewable energy comes from marine and offshore sources.</li> <li>Set out a clear renewables routemap to 2050, covering grid access and investment in electricity networks</li> <li>Develop new incentives to promote renewable heat.</li> <li>Block any new coal-fired power stations unless they are accompanied by the highest level of carbon capture and storage facilities.</li> <li>Transform the electricity networks into a dynamic electricity grid that can better connect and integrate new, clean energy technologies particularly through the better use of sub-sea connections, leading to the</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Block plans for second runways at Stansted and Gatwick</li> <li>▪ Begin work immediately to create a High Speed Rail line connecting London and Heathrow with Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. Vision to create a national high speed rail network. Stage two will deliver two new lines bringing the North East, Scotland and Wales into the high speed rail network.</li> </ul>	<p>Europe and the North African deserts and the building of highly efficient long-distance high-voltage DC power lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stop airport expansion and shift shorter air journeys to the railways</li> <li>▪ Ban night flying.</li> <li>▪ Support in principle a new north-south high-speed line, which would reduce the number of short-haul flights within the UK.</li> <li>▪ Reallocate the £30 billion the Government has earmarked for road-building in the next Parliament. Spend the money on a programme of investment in public transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No additional runways at any other airport in the next Parliament</li> <li>▪ Press ahead with a major investment programme in existing rail services</li> <li>▪ Targeted motorway widening including on the M25</li> </ul>	<p>development of a European Supergrid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reject a new generation of nuclear power stations</li> <li>▪ Invest up to £400 million in refurbishing shipyards in the North of England and Scotland so that they can manufacture offshore wind turbines and other marine renewable energy equipment.</li> <li>▪ Cancel plans for a third runway at Heathrow and other airport expansion in the South East</li> <li>▪ Further extensions of high speed rail</li> <li>▪ Switch traffic from road to rail by investing in local rail improvements, paid for by cutting the major roads budget</li> </ul>

### International climate change

<b>3. Commit to strong UK leadership at the highest levels in the EU and globally, to deliver EU energy and climate targets and to ensure global greenhouse gas emissions are falling by 2015.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work towards an ambitious global deal that will limit emissions and make available substantial financial resources for adaptation and mitigation.</li> <li>▪ End use of Export Credit Guarantee Department to support investment in dirty fossil fuel power stations, and instead use it to help spread new green energy technology to developing countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The UK should play a leading role in the EU and at international level to secure a fair, ambitious and binding deal</li> <li>▪ Support the Contraction and Convergence framework for mitigating climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work for an ambitious, fair and legally binding climate change agreement, building on the Copenhagen Accord to limit global temperature rises to two degrees Celsius.</li> <li>▪ Europe should agree a second Kyoto commitment period, provided all countries are brought within a clear legal framework.</li> <li>▪ The EU has a critical leadership role to play in securing a legally binding UN agreement, reducing its emissions by 30 per cent on 1990 levels in the context of an ambitious global deal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong and credible EU ambition, with effective UK leadership, are essential for achieving a global agreement, so that total greenhouse gas emissions peak no later than 2015</li> <li>▪ Committed to securing a legally binding global agreement on limiting the increase in global temperatures to below 1.7 degrees Celsius.</li> <li>▪ Agreement must be based on the principle of contraction and convergence.</li> <li>▪ Promote the transition to a low-carbon economy in Europe, by moving unilaterally and immediately to an EU emissions reduction target of 30 per cent by 2020, adopting new long-term targets and policies for clean energy and energy efficiency; and expand investment in energy technology innovation, within Europe and internationally.</li> <li>▪ Engage with major emitters and deepen diplomatic co-operation between the EU and emerging economies and developing countries, provide enhanced financial support for low-carbon solutions and lead international efforts to promote the transfer of technologies that will help to tackle climate change.</li> </ul>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work through the EU to make sure that the environment is fully integrated into the objectives of international institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organisation</li> <li>Work with other countries to establish new sources of development financing, including bringing forward urgent proposals for a financial transaction tax and a cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions from aviation and shipping.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Provide the UK's fair share of finance for adaptation, low carbon development and to reduce deforestation in the developing world (at least \$160bn/yr from 2012).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will tackle illegal logging by pressing for financial support from within a reformed EU budget to be given to developing countries to halt deforestation</li> <li>We will explore ways to help the very poorest developing countries take part in international climate change negotiations, and work to make our aid 'climate-smart'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any global climate change treaty must involve a transfer of resources of well over US\$150 billion a year from rich countries to poorer countries channelled through the UNFCCC</li> <li>Promote an international Financial Transactions Tax and introduce unilaterally a small levy on foreign currency transactions involving the pound sterling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 2013 we will provide climate assistance additional to our commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of national income in overseas aid.</li> <li>No more than ten per cent of our aid will be counted towards climate finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation and mitigation measures for developing world financed by industrialised nations additional to existing aid commitments.</li> <li>At the UN level, we will support the provision of UN Adaptation Funds for developing countries, financed from international emissions markets, such as a cap-and-trade system for international emissions from aviation and shipping</li> <li>Bring forward proposals for a financial transaction tax</li> <li>We will argue for an international target of zero net deforestation by 2020; support a new system of payments to developing countries to enable them to reduce deforestation</li> </ul>

## Natural Environment

<p><b>5. Commit to making significant progress towards restoring the natural environment by 2020, including the doubling of UK woodland cover, meeting other habitat targets and ensuring that protected sites</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote new green spaces and wildlife corridors</li> <li>Produce a White Paper on protecting the natural environment, including a focus on restoring habitat.</li> <li>Pioneer a new system of conservation credits to protect habitats</li> <li>Maintain national Green Belt protection, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other environmental designations.</li> <li>Launch a national tree planting campaign, planting up to one million new trees in the next Parliament</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with support for smaller farms, organic agriculture, local food markets, and measures to increase biodiversity</li> <li>Promote landscape-scale conservation, using reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the planning system to encourage restoration of heathlands, woods, marshland and other important habitats.</li> <li>Reduce dramatically the use of pesticides and introduce measures such as 'buffer zones' around sprayed fields to protect humans as well as wildlife.</li> <li>Press to extend the amount of land covered by the EU Habitats Directive in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce a new framework for managing our land</li> <li>Sustain area of Green Belt</li> <li>Maintain target that 60 per cent of new development should be on brownfield land.</li> <li>New areas for protected landscape and habitat status, focusing on green corridors and wildlife networks to link up existing sites.</li> <li>Commit to increasing the area covered by forest and woodland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep the pressure on for reform of agricultural subsidies so that farmers, consumers and taxpayers get a fair deal, and the environment is protected.</li> <li>Introduce a new strategy to bring the UK back on target to halt the loss of habitats and species and as far as possible restore biodiversity by 2020.</li> <li>Aim to double the UK's woodland cover by 2050.</li> <li>Use the money freed by our reform to Single Farm Payments to provide extra support for hill farmers, cheap loans to help farmers invest in environmentally friendly biogas digesters and a new Farming</li> </ul>
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<b>are in good condition: through utilising reforms to agricultural incentives, planning policy and other measures to create high quality landscapes rich in nature and able to adapt to climate change.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the Campaign for the Farmed Environment and seek to create a more effective system of environmental stewardship</li> <li>▪ Fight for wholesale reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and bring an end to the scandal of fish discards</li> <li>▪ Take forward the Marine and Coastal Access Act and ensure that its conservation measures are implemented effectively, including the creation of Marine Conservation Zones</li> </ul>	<p>UK, and ensure that protected sites are in good condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimise encroachment onto undeveloped 'greenfield sites' wherever possible by reusing previously developed sites that have fallen into disuse</li> <li>▪ Replace the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) with policies that prioritise protection of the oceans and provide sustainable support to fishing communities</li> <li>▪ Assist financially those whose homes become uninhabitable because they cannot be protected from flooding in a sustainable way,. Invest £1bn in sustainable flood defences and sustainable drainage systems, creating 20,000 jobs, and ensure that insurance is available for flooding.</li> </ul>		<p>Apprenticeship scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work within Europe for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, while continuing direct support for farmers, especially in upland and less favoured areas. We believe that a greater proportion of that support should be targeted at conservation, the environment and tackling climate change, as well as at providing food security for a rapidly growing world population. Organic and reduced-input foodstuffs should be encouraged.</li> <li>▪ Introduce landscape-scale planning policies with a specific remit to restore water channels, rivers and wetlands and reduce flood risk by properly utilising the natural capacity of the landscape to retain water</li> <li>▪ Protect greenfield land and built heritage by reducing the cost of repairs. Equalise VAT on new build and repair on an overall revenue-neutral basis</li> </ul>
<b>6. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience and enjoy nature by providing access to natural green space within walking distance of where they live.</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Everyone should live within walking distance of natural green space.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a new designation – similar to Site of Special Scientific Interest status – to protect green areas of particular importance or value to the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning</b>				
<b>7. Commit to reorienting the planning system so that sustainable development rather than simply economic development is at its heart, requiring all major</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a presumption in favour of sustainable development in the planning system</li> <li>▪ Introduce a new 'open source' planning system</li> <li>▪ Abolish Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) and replace it with an efficient and democratically-accountable system that provides a fast-track process for major infrastructure projects.</li> <li>▪ Abolish entire tier of regional planning including Regional Spatial Strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Require all major development plans and planning applications to show how they will contribute to carbon reduction targets.</li> <li>▪ Introduce stronger planning policies to support onshore wind, tidal, wave, solar and geothermal energy schemes, and help local planning authorities to make more consistent decisions.</li> <li>▪ Oppose the introduction of a non-elected Planning Commission,</li> <li>▪ Ensure that sustainable development, not just economic development, is at the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Infrastructure Planning Commission will – within a democratically determined framework – help streamline and speed up decision-making on major projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission and return decision-making to local people</li> <li>▪ Create a third-party right of appeal in cases where planning decisions go against locally agreed plans.</li> <li>▪ Reform Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to focus solely on economic development.</li> </ul>

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<b>development plans and planning applications to show how they will contribute to carbon reduction targets.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use private or hybrid Bills to promote major projects</li> </ul>	heart of the planning system.		
<b>Green tax and subsidies</b>				
<b>8. Dedicate all EU ETS income after 2012 to tackling climate change in the UK and internationally.</b>				
<b>9. Protect and increase Defra and DECC budgets and introduce new policies to stimulate private investment in the low carbon economy and natural environment.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage private sector investment to put Britain at the forefront of the green technology revolution, creating jobs and new businesses across the country.</li> <li>Create Britain's first Green Investment Bank – which will draw together money currently divided across existing government initiatives, leveraging private sector capital to finance new green technology start-ups</li> <li>Create green Individual Savings Accounts</li> <li>Reform the Climate Change Levy to provide a floor price for carbon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support new institutions like a green investment bank and local community banks in the financial sector, and new ways of investing in the green economy, such as green national savings bonds.</li> <li>Introduce a massive programme of direct Government investment in large-scale wind and other renewable generation, and investment in the grid, spending as much as £20bn over the Parliament and creating 80,000 jobs in installation and equipment manufacture.</li> <li>Modify the regime for Corporation Tax Capital allowances so that the allowances are only available for investment in sustainable technologies, raising £7bn in 2010 rising to £10bn by 2013</li> <li>Make tax concessions on savings, such as ISAs, only available for investment in sustainable technologies, raising £1.8bn</li> <li>Increase the rates for the Climate Change Levy and for Landfill Tax, raising £300m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will establish a Green Investment Bank to invest in low-carbon infrastructure, with the Government's stake funded by the sale of infrastructure assets. The Government will seek to match its contribution with at least £1 billion of private-sector investment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up a United Kingdom Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) to deliver expansion of Britain's transport and energy infrastructure This will: (i) Create a new route to provide capital, guarantees and equity to infrastructure projects, using public money to attract upfront private investment; (ii) Increase the funding available from the private sector by tapping into the funds of institutional investors, namely annuity funds looking for a home in the UK; (iii) Reduce the cost of long-term funding as compared with the Private Finance Initiative; (iv) Provide the opportunity for retail investors to save in safe long-term assets; (v) Be a stand-alone public entity, independent from government but with a long-term strategic remit. It would have the ability to reject or accept proposals based on whether they are financially viable or within its remit; (vi) Start with government seed funding which it can use as a capital base to borrow against</li> </ul>
<b>Green Living</b>				
<b>10. Launch a nationwide housing retrofit programme by</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will create a 'Green Deal', giving every home up to £6,500 worth of energy improvement measures – with more for hard-to-treat homes – paid for out of savings made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce a free home insulation programme for all homes that need it, with priority for pensioners and those living in fuel poverty, aiming to insulate 4 million</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Pay as you save' home energy insulation</li> <li>Requirement that energy companies provide subsidies for insulation, to ensure all household lofts and cavity walls are insulated,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin a ten-year programme of home insulation, offering a home energy improvement package of up to £10,000 per home, paid for by the savings from lower</li> </ul>

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<b>2011, which will deliver improved energy efficiency and renewable energy systems across the UK.</b>	on fuel bills over 25 years.	homes every year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduce incentives totalling £2bn per annum to encourage homes to become more energy self-sufficient by aiming for 1,000,000 solar roofs, and support generous feed-in tariffs for micro-generation, creating 40,000 jobs in the installation industries</li> </ul>	where practical, by 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By 2020 enable seven million homes to have a fuller 'eco-upgrade'.</li> </ul>	energy bills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Launch an 'Eco Cash-Back' scheme, for one year only, which will give you £400 if you install double glazing, replace an old boiler, or install micro-generation. If you choose micro-generation, you will be able to sell the energy back to the National Grid at a profit, with a more attractive feed-in tariff than under current government plans.</li> </ul>

Links to main manifestos of parties listed:

- The Conservative Manifesto 2010 [http://media.conservatives.s3.amazonaws.com/manifesto/cpmanifesto2010\\_lowres.pdf](http://media.conservatives.s3.amazonaws.com/manifesto/cpmanifesto2010_lowres.pdf)
- Green Party Manifesto 2010 [http://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/resources/Manifesto\\_web\\_file.pdf](http://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/resources/Manifesto_web_file.pdf)
- The Labour Party Manifesto 2010 <http://www2.labour.org.uk/uploads/TheLabourPartyManifesto-2010.pdf>
- Liberal Democrat Manifesto 2010 [http://network.libdems.org.uk/manifesto2010/libdem\\_manifesto\\_2010.pdf](http://network.libdems.org.uk/manifesto2010/libdem_manifesto_2010.pdf)