

# Climate Change Bill

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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# BILL

TO

Place a duty on the Government to declare a climate emergency; to amend the Climate Change Act 2008 to bring forward the date by which the United Kingdom is required to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions; to place a duty on the Government to create and implement a strategy to achieve objectives related to climate change, including for the creation of environmentally-friendly jobs; to require the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on proposals for increased taxation of large companies to generate revenue to be spent to further those objectives; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## 1 Declaration of climate emergency and associated objectives

- (1) The Secretary of State must—
  - (a) declare a climate emergency, and
  - (b) achieve the objectives in subsection (2) in accordance with that emergency. 5
- (2) The Secretary of State must prepare a strategy (“the climate emergency strategy”) to ensure—
  - (a) that net United Kingdom carbon emissions are zero by 2040, and
  - (b) that United Kingdom anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions fall at a rate consistent with a global average temperature increase of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. 10
- (3) The emission reduction required under subsection (2)(b) must take into account—
  - (a) the United Kingdom’s greenhouse gas footprint, and
  - (b) the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities of countries given national circumstances. 15

## 2 Climate emergency strategy

- (1) The Secretary of State must publish a climate emergency strategy before the end of the period of six months beginning on the day on which this Act is passed. 20

- (2) The strategy must include—
  - (a) interim targets for meeting the objectives in section 1(2), and
  - (b) plans for the creation of more environmentally-friendly jobs.
- (3) The Secretary of State may publish a revised strategy in accordance with subsection (2). 5
- (4) A strategy under subsection (1) or (3) is approved in accordance with section 3(2).
- (5) An approved strategy is superseded when a revised strategy is approved.
- (6) The Secretary of State must take all reasonable steps to implement an approved strategy. 10

### 3 Consultation on and approval of climate emergency strategy

- (1) Before publishing a strategy under section 2(1) or 2(3) the Secretary of State must consult—
  - (a) the Scottish Ministers,
  - (b) the Welsh Ministers, and 15
  - (c) the relevant Northern Ireland departments.
- (2) A strategy under section 2(1) or 2(3) is approved if—
  - (a) the House of Commons has passed a Motion of the form “That this House approves the climate emergency strategy published on [date]”,
  - (b) the Scottish Parliament has passed a motion of the form “That the Parliament approves the climate emergency strategy published on [date]”, 20
  - (c) Senedd Cymru has passed a motion of the form “That Senedd Cymru approves the climate emergency strategy published on [date]”, and
  - (d) the Northern Ireland Assembly has passed a motion of the form “That this Assembly approves the climate emergency strategy published on [date]”. 25

### 4 Report on taxation of large companies to finance climate emergency strategy

- (1) The Treasury must prepare a report on options for levying a tax on large companies, to be known as the “green corporate responsibility tax” to finance measures in the climate emergency strategy. 30
- (2) In preparing the report the Treasury must consider the merits of—
  - (a) incorporating the tax in the existing corporation tax regime, and
  - (b) creating a new tax for these purposes.
- (3) In this section, a “large company” has the same meaning as in section 1112 of the Corporation Tax Act 2009. 35
- (4) The report must be laid before Parliament before the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.

**5 Consequential amendments to the Climate Change Act 2008**

- (1) The Climate Change Act 2008 is amended as follows.
- (2) In the following places, for “2050” substitute “2040” –
  - (a) the italic cross-heading before section 1;
  - (b) the heading of section 1;
  - (c) in section 1(1);
  - (d) the heading of section 2;
  - (e) the heading of section 3;
  - (f) in section 3(1).

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**6 Financial provision**

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*There is to be paid out of money provided by Parliament –*

- (a) *any expenditure incurred under or by virtue of this Act; and*
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable under any other Act out of money so provided.*

**7 Extent, commencement and short title**

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- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Climate Change Act 2021.

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Place a duty on the Government to declare a climate emergency; to amend the Climate Change Act 2008 to bring forward the date by which the United Kingdom is required to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions; to place a duty on the Government to create and implement a strategy to achieve objectives related to climate change, including for the creation of environmentally-friendly jobs; to require the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on proposals for increased taxation of large companies to generate revenue to be spent to further those objectives; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Colum Eastwood  
supported by Claire Hanna.*

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