

The UN COP 26 climate conference - and why it matters

Weds Dec. 2nd 6pm

www.oxfoe.co.uk/the-un-cop-26-climate-summit-whyit-matters-to-all-of-us/



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021



COP26 - what is it?



The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021.

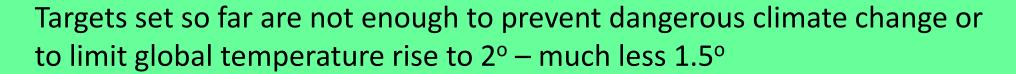
The summit will bring 'parties' (the governments who have signed the UN Convention) together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Delegates will include heads of state (for the last few days), climate experts and negotiators aiming to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change

One of the largest gatherings of world leaders ever seen in the UK – Coming to discuss solutions to the biggest global crisis of our time.

COP 26 – what needs to happen?

The 2015 UN 'Paris Agreement' set COP26 as the point when governments must improve their own commitments – their 'Nationally Determined Contributions'.



The main agenda item for COP26 is to finalise "implementation guidelines" for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which has to do with "cooperative approaches" to tackling climate change. This includes the contentious issue of carbon markets.



A critical year...

The decisions made at this COP "will decide the quality of life for every living thing on this planet for at least the next century."

Christiana Figueres, who led the UN work on the Paris Climate Agreement



COP26 and the UK



The UK leads the summit. Alok Sharma MP, BEIS Minister, has been appointed as 'President' of the event.

Thus real UK leadership may be critically important. That means doing five things. Britain must:

- 1. Use its diplomatic influence to close the gap between existing Paris Agreement pledges and those needed to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 °C.
- 2. Push for more support to help poorer countries adapt to climate change
- 3. Support and fund nature-based solutions
- 4. Stop all new support for fossil fuels overseas and phase-out existing investments
- 5. Get our own house in order

Action towards Glasgow by civil society

There is fast-developing activity going on across the world.

- The COP26 Civil Society Coalition based in Scotland, most major NGOs and many smaller ones, with focus on 'frontline communities and indigenous groups in the global south'; based with FoE Scotland.
- COP26 Climate Fringe planned activities around the COP including a major demonstration (most likely on Sat. 6 Nov.)
- The recent youth 'MOCK COP'
- Friends of the Earth working with FoE International and FoE Europe to push for global ambition at COP, and with TCC and COP26 Coalition maximising pressure on the UK Gov to step up its ambition internationally and domestically.
- UK government supported activities 'Together for our planet'
- Local government activities / conferences on their role
- The Climate Coalition (140 organisations) is also organising action.





So what can we do locally?

We here in Oxfordshire (and in towns and cities across the UK) have roles to play. We need to:

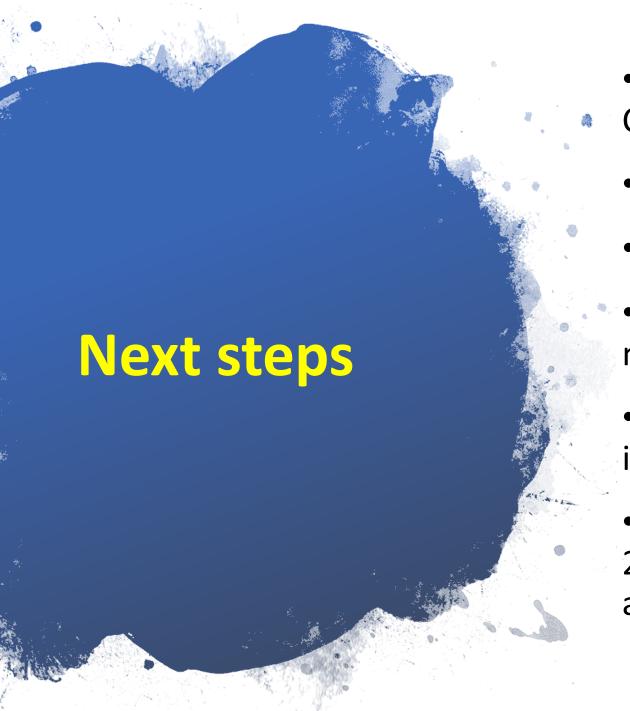
- Lobby our MPs and push the UK government to show leadership
- Make new commitments for action here
- Ensure people understand the importance of COP26
- Encourage our councils to be active partners
- Organise local events to build support
- Support people to take part in events in Glasgow during COP26



One possible action

One part of our work around COP26 can be to produce a report at city or county level ('from Oxford to Glasgow'?) setting out:

- Actions that we are taking now to tackle climate change a record or 'catalogue' of activity by organisations of all types (communities, councils, businesses etc.)
- Commitments on actions that we as local organisations will take over the next five years to parallel the Government 'NDC's – these could be our own 'Locally Determined Contributions' (LDCs)
- A way to inspire more action and to put some weight behind our lobbying?



- A local action alliance towards the COP?
- A report?
- Local events?
- OxFoE will discuss this at our monthly meeting next week.
- Stay in touch please add your email
 in the chat box
- https://www.oxfoe.co.uk/the-un-cop-26-climate-summit-why-it-matters-toall-of-us/