

A large graphic for COP 26 Glasgow. The text 'COP 26' is in large blue letters, and 'GLASGOW' is below it in the same style. The text is framed by a circular border of green icons representing various environmental and climate-related concepts like wind turbines, solar panels, recycling, and temperature gauges.

COP 26

GLASGOW

The UN COP 26 climate conference - and why it matters

Weds Dec. 2nd 6pm

www.oxfoe.co.uk/the-un-cop-26-climate-summit-why-it-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’.

Targets set so far are not enough to prevent dangerous climate change or to limit global temperature rise to 2° – much less 1.5°

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.**





**Friends of
the Earth
Oxford**

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?



Next steps

- 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-to-all-of-us/>