

OUR COMMON HOME: ENGAGING POLITICIANS

As Catholics, we are called to care for creation and to stand with the poorest and most vulnerable. Climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a moral one. Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si'* that:

“The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.”

With local and national elections approaching, this is an important moment to speak to those who represent us. Democracy works best when people take part and when politicians clearly hear what matters to their communities. You do not need to be an expert. You simply need to care and be willing to ask.

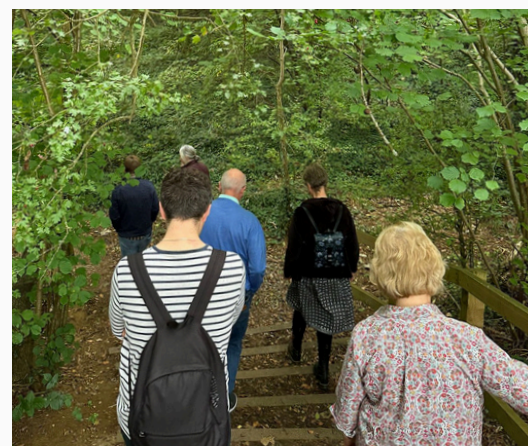
Many people assume climate action is unpopular, but this is not true. Most people in the UK support action on climate change, and politicians often underestimate that support. Hearing from you will help clarify that misunderstanding, and when we speak up, we make it easier for politicians to act.

This is not about endorsing any party or candidate, but about making your voice count. One of the most effective ways to do this is to show that your vote is thoughtful and shaped by the issues that matter to you. You can say, “I want to support someone who will...”, making it clear that these concerns will influence your decision.

You may feel that you do not know enough, or that someone else will take action. However, change happens when ordinary people speak, and politicians respond to their communities.

Your voice matters, especially when it is rooted in care, dignity, and hope. This is not just political engagement, it is part of our vocation: to care for creation, to stand with the vulnerable, and to act with courage and compassion.

May peace take root in place of war and may the Earth be tended with wisdom and care, so that all life may flourish. Hear us, Lord of life. Amen.



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Why this matters now and who to contact

There is a growing political debate about climate targets and net-zero policies. In some areas, climate and environmental commitments are being weakened or removed, and misinformation is becoming more common. At the same time, these debates are closely connected to wider challenges, including biodiversity loss, pollution, land-use change, and the degradation of our oceans, which together constitute a broader ecological crisis.

Local elections often have low turnout, which means that small numbers of voices can have a big impact. Local government plays a vital role in delivering climate and environmental action on the ground, through planning, transport, housing, and nature protection, while the national government sets the overall direction.

This creates both a risk and an opportunity. When people speak clearly and calmly about what matters, they can help shape decisions at both levels. Understanding this distinction helps you ask the right questions to the right people.

Your local councillor

Responsible for decisions affecting daily life in your community: housing, renewable energy projects, public transport, cycling, and local infrastructure. Councillors also shape local climate action plans and support community energy and insulation schemes, often where change is seen fastest.

Your MP in the UK Parliament

Responsible for national decisions. This includes climate laws and targets such as net zero, energy policy and regulation, taxation and funding, and the UK's role in international agreements. MPs also influence how the UK supports communities around the world affected by climate change.



OUR COMMON HOME: ENGAGING POLITICIANS

Engaging candidates and bringing change in your area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find your representative: You can do this through your local council website or the UK Parliament website.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make contact: Attend a local event or “hustings”. Send a short email to invite candidates to parish events or local community activities. <i>(Find out about local hustings by checking community noticeboards, local library listings, council websites, social media groups and local newspapers or residents associations.)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go prepared and keep it simple: Bring two or three questions at most. You may find it helpful to go with one or two other people and to focus on the issues that matter most to your community.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the meeting: Be respectful and calm. Speak from your values and own experience. Remember, politicians are also people who respond to relationships and to what they hear from their constituents.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up: Send a short thank-you email and repeat your key question or request so it remains clear and can be acted upon.

Helpful topics of conversation that are simple and practical:

You could ask what the candidate will do to help families reduce energy bills through better insulation, or how they will protect your community from flooding or extreme weather. You could ask about their priorities for improving local transport and reducing reliance on expensive fossil fuels.

You might also highlight how these issues are interconnected with broader environmental pressures (including animal agriculture, deforestation, pollution, ocean degradation, and biodiversity loss) that together drive the broader ecological crisis we face.

From a values perspective, you might ask how their policies will support the poorest, who are most affected by climate change, both in the UK and globally. You could also ask how they are responding to the call to care for our common home.

At a national level, it may be appropriate to ask whether they support the UK’s net zero target, whether they will support a transition away from fossil fuels, and what specific actions they will take in the next year. You might also ask about support for international climate funding and assistance for countries most affected by climate change.

OUR COMMON HOME: ENGAGING POLITICIANS

Organising a parish or group meeting

If you would like to take this further, you could invite a local candidate to speak at your parish or attend a community activity. Keeping the gathering small, welcoming, and well organised helps to create a constructive atmosphere.

It can be helpful to prepare a few shared questions in advance and to involve different groups within the parish, such as social justice, youth, or environmental groups. Working together strengthens the message and shows that these concerns are shared.

It is important to remember that this is not about debate; it is about dialogue. The aim is to build relationships and encourage thoughtful engagement.



Simple actions you can take as a parishioner:

- Pray for our leaders and Common Home
- Attend a local meeting or hustings/surgery
- Talk to others in your parish
- Reach out to ecumenical/interfaith circles
- Work with groups like CAFOD or SVP
- Vote with care and conscience
- Join a local community action
- Raise awareness in your Church bulletins
- Attend a councillor/MP clinic or open office
- Discuss what matters to your community
- Reduce your energy use where possible
- Support local food and reduce waste
- Make more sustainable travel choices
- Stay informed, question misinformation
- Live simply, sustainably, and in solidarity

Invite a local candidate to your parish for:

- Parish open forum or listening session
- Care for Creation reflection and prayer
- Local litter pick
- Conversation with Confirmation candidates
- Parish Justice and Peace group meeting
- Film screening
- Tree planting
- Care for local green spaces
- After Mass tea/coffee gathering
- Meeting with the Parish youth group
- Visit to a local food bank/outreach project
- Community meal or shared table

(Remember to know what your 'asks' and 'hopes' are and be patient and respectful)

OUR COMMON HOME: ENGAGING POLITICIANS

Speaking with confidence and hope

When speaking with politicians, it is important to go beyond technical language and speak from values. Issues such as energy costs, housing, transport, and climate are deeply connected. Framing the conversation around people's daily lives, dignity, and well-being helps to make these connections clear.

Faith calls us to speak not only with facts, but with hope, imagination, and compassion. In a political environment often dominated by economic concerns, these voices are needed more than ever. Building relationships takes time, so do not be discouraged if progress feels slow. What matters is consistency, honesty, and perseverance.

Spotting misinformation (and responding calmly)

You may hear claims that people do not support climate action, that net zero is too unpopular, or that ordinary people do not want these changes.

It is important to remember that most people do support climate action, and that this support often crosses political divides. The idea of a widespread "backlash" is often exaggerated, and negative voices can sometimes appear louder than they really are.

A simple, calm response might be to say that, from what you have seen, many people support practical climate action, especially when it helps with the cost of living and community wellbeing.

The [Climate Election project](#) helps voters see candidates' views on climate change and net zero, including when their stance was last updated and whether they've actively confirmed it. Please help to populate and update this by following the [instructions](#).

Contact your Diocesan Environmental Lead:

The principal role of the DEL is to support and encourage change across our Dioceses in keeping with Laudato Si', sharing good practice and building on the group's combined expertise. For further information, [click here](#) or email: diocesanenvironmentalleads@gmail.com

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Video recording of the speakers: <https://vimeo.com/1183122264/>

Following our recent meeting, we've pulled together a range of links, campaigns, and resources to help us move forward with clarity and purpose. This is a great opportunity for us to engage more widely, raise awareness, and make a meaningful impact. As we do this, we remain committed to keeping our faith and values at the heart of everything we do, so our actions reflect what we believe as we actively put our faith into action.

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- Diocesan Environmental Leads webpage: <https://theecg.org/del/>
 - The Reform UK party's approach to climate change and net zero in local councils: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Reform-UK-approach-to-climate-change-and-net-zero-in-local-councils.pdf>
 - Bridging the Perception Gap in Parliament: UK MPs underestimate climate policy support and overestimate polarisation: https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/hrwz3_v1
 - Climate Election: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/climate-election/>
 - Climate Election Participant Guidance: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/climate-election/what-can-i-do/>
 - Faith for the Climate's April e-news: <https://mailchi.mp/faithfortheclimate.org.uk/april2026>
 - Subscribe to Faith for the Climate's regular updates: <https://faithfortheclimate.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f1af7e90f404c19c9e6708fb7&id=d7b2871bd8>
 - National Emergency Briefing: <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>
 - CAFOD: Time for the UK to lead at the Santa Marta Conference: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/188580/action/1?locale=en-GB>
 - Fossil Fuel Treaty: <https://www.fossilfueltreaty.org/>
 - Holy Rosary for Peace: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leoxiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260411-rosario-pace.html>